

They came to Richmond, Virginia to shape a Black Agenda for the 80s — blacks who had led the battles of the 50s and 60s — faces and names that had first come to be known in the 70s. A cross-section of black leadership was there:

Conference coordinator, Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary, Indiana; Illinois Congresswoman Cardiss Collins; Andrew Young, Vernon Jordan, California Congressmen Ron Dellums and Gus Hawkins, Benjamin Hooks, Jesse Jackson, Mrs. Coretta King, Dick Gregory, Dorothy Height, Maryland Congressman Parnell Mitchell, SCLC's Joseph Lowery, New York Secretary of State Basil Patterson, Pennsylvania Congressman William Gray, California State Senator Willie Brown, Texas Congressman Mickey Leland, California State Representative Maxine Waters, Michigan Congressman Charles Diggs, Eddie Williams of the Joint Center; Congressman Walter Fauntroy, Host Mayor Henry Marsh, Oakland School Superintendent Ruth Love, labor leaders Bill Pollard, Bill Lucy and Addie Wyatt.

But there were others, too: an impressive array of professional, business, academic and political leadership from virtually every state in the nation. Along with the staffs of the Urban Coalition, the Urban League, Congressional Black Caucus and the Joint Center for Political Studies, they drafted the critical issue papers, ran the workshops, battled — and ultimately triumphed over logistical problems, a sudden snowstorm and a sometimes adverse press.

With the exception of the black press and a fraction of the majority media, much of the coverage focused almost entirely on the failure of three presidential can-

THE BLACK AGENDA FOR THE 80s CONFERENCE

By M. Carl Holman

didates to appear on the day following the closing plenary, some booing of one of the country's outstanding mayors by those who felt he had broken the rule against partisan political statements, and the grumbings of the usual handful of nay-sayers who float around the fringes of all such gatherings.

Nevertheless, the political leaders and organizations representing millions of black people completed the first phase of the job they had come to do.

Some had been worried about the closing plenary session, remembering the explosive discord which ended the Gary Convention in 1972. The 1980 session, co-chaired by Hatcher and Holman, benefitted from the skill, good humor and firmness of its parliamentarian, Republican attorney Samuel Jackson, whose credentials go back to *Brown vs. Topeka*. The delegates made their way through more than five hours of critical economic, social, political and foreign affairs goals. Though disagreements had sometimes been sharp at the end of the session, the participants joined hands and, led by Dorothy Height and a young volunteer from the audience, sang the Black National Anthem.

A group of black businessmen and corporate executives pledged the resources necessary to help the twelve-person continuing Conference Secretariat disseminate, through a network of more than 300 private organizations and black political leadership groups, an agenda for the 80s which includes:

- A closely coordinated campaign to close the jobs and income gaps between blacks and whites in the 80s.
- An aggressive, nationwide voter mobilization program aimed at increasing by twenty per cent each election, the number of black elected officials; and the measuring of candidates for the Presidency, the Congress and state and local offices against the priorities set in the agenda.
- Opposition to crippling cuts in the federal human needs budget and to the unwarranted and even more inflationary growth of the military budget.
- Support for a national drive to sharply increase black ownership and management of business and economic enterprises, assisted by a new black business and economic development action and information exchange.
- A cut-off of all relations with apartheid South

Africa and increased aid to other African and Caribbean nations.

• Formation of a national Black Youth coalition to involve young blacks, directly, in increasing job and educational opportunities and in opposition to the draft, drug abuse, police brutality, and violence within the black community.

• Responding to increased Klan activity and reduced public support for civil rights through a new campaign, among black organizations and their allies, in support of affirmative action, black colleges, and the ERA — linked to support by the Women's Movement of the basic Black Agenda.

Perhaps two examples may bear out the conviction of most of the active participants that the coming-together in Richmond was not too late, but "on time." The wire to the President authorized by the final plenary urged postponement of the White House Conference on Africa, announced for this month, because of inadequate involvement of blacks. After a flurry of consultations, the Conference was postponed. Even before the upcoming follow-up meeting of the Conference Secretariat, it had urged the President and the Congress against projected budget cuts that would fall most heavily on minorities and the poor. Alliances of organizations from the Richmond meeting are now working together in support of job programs, Headstart and other potential targets.

As intended, the Richmond conference was a beginning. In the difficult days ahead, the real test will be the degree to which those who were there and those who were not can translate the Black Agenda into significant results.

THE PEOPLE DESERVE SOLUTIONS — NOT CAMPAIGN VICTORIES

By Alfreda L. Madison

because of heating and electricity costs. High interest rates affect utility cost which is passed on to the consumer. So the \$250 energy stipend does not keep up with the fuel cost.

We have over thirty million retired workers and dependents and three million disabled people on social security, with retired persons receiving \$3400 annually and disabled persons \$3840. These are poverty level incomes. Neither retirement nor social security is a government gift. These are monies the retirees have worked for and paid into the social security funds.

The Administration is making the elderly the sacrificial lamb for inflation reduction and budget balancing.

Hopes for freeing the hostages have again turned to gloom, and the hostages families' patience has begun to wear thin. President Carter, who emphasized very strongly that the decision to bring the Shah to this country, for health reasons was his alone, needs to explain to the American people why he ignored the advice of the proper advisors who warned of the danger of such actions. Since the Shah is still sick and needs another serious operation that is going to be performed outside of the United States and performed by a doctor being flown from our country to do so, Carter needs to explain why such could not have been done in the first place.

His lone decision has fifty of our citizens languishing as hostages. It certainly appears that the President is using the hostages as a shelter from public debate on his deteriorating foreign and domestic policies. This present Shah illness and treatment, makes the President's original compassion excuse seem ludicrous. Yet any

criticism of his actions, causes him to yell unpatriotic and damaging to freeing the hostages. It is time that the press, leaders and presidential candidates break Carter's gag rule and give the American people the truth.

With the primary victories, there is no wonder the President continues to remain in the Rose Garden until the hostages are freed. There is little doubt that his campaign strength lay in the hostages incarceration.

Bits & Pieces

By Jesse H. Walker

Wallace L. Ford II, executive vice president of Amistad DOT Venture Capital, Inc., headquartered in Washington, chastized black lawyers in the February issue of the National Bar Bulletin for not being as active in the field of economic development for the conditions of black people as they have in the law-directed fields of civil rights and human rights. He suggests more acquisition, expansion and organization of new business ventures through minority enterprise small business companies (MESBICS) "to provide investment capital to American minority enterprises."

The International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT) honored its own Black Achievers prior to the Harlem YMCA's Annual Black Achievers Dinner at the Hilton Hotel. ITT gave a reception for its own the day before in the Madison Avenue Executive Dining Room, with heads of various minority organizations as guests. ITT's Achievers this year were John R. Quarles, Regional Shipping/Transportation Manager, New York Regional Office; Sharlin Ray Batten, Divisional Manager, ITT Gwaltney; Bernard Ford, Director, Export and Marketing Services at O.M. Scott & Sons Co., and Bob Sanders, Microwave Design Specialist, ITT Gilfillan. M.C. Woodward, Jr., executive vice president and chief financial officer of ITT and a member of the Board, presented the four Achievers, whose names were engraved on a plaque along with previous honorees at ITT World Headquarters.

Nancy Hicks, former national correspondent for the *New York Times*, has been named president of the Institute for Journalism Education (IJE) a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation whose sole purpose is to aid the newspaper industry in desegregating the nation's newsrooms.

W. Napoleon Rivers, Jr., 82, retired chairman of the department of foreign languages at the old D.C. Teachers College, now part of the University of the District of Columbia, died last week of cancer in Washington's Hadley Memorial Hospital. Dr. Rivers played baseball and football at Talladega and for 26 years was a referee for football games at black colleges.

Arnold deMille, onetime NYC-based reporter-photographer for the *Chicago Defender*, is the new president of the Society of the Silurians, the association of men and women who, fifteen or more years ago, worked on the staffs of NYC newspapers.

The Retirement Income and Employment Subcommittee of the House of Representatives has been holding oversight hearings on the report of the Advisory Council on Social Security. These committee members are appointed by the President. One of the proposals is to tax fifty per cent of an individual's social security income. Representative Don Albosta has introduced a bill prohibiting this taxation. He stated that the Advisory Council shows a lack of concern for these elderly people who have already paid their dues. Even though income tax was paid on the social security when the employee was working, the Advisory Council is seeking to tax it again. With the present inflation rate, Albosta says people living on social security can't afford to pay income tax on money they have always felt was coming to them on a tax-free basis. The congressman says that since there has never been a tax exempt social security benefit written into law, he will offer a resolution in congress to that effect.

The reason given by the Advisory Council for such a tax is to provide for the social security trust fund.

Representative Downey states that there is nothing in the Advisory Council's proposal to ensure that if this tax is passed, the money will go to social security trust fund. Some favor this proposal as a means for reducing the federal deficit, but Downey says the better way to reduce the deficit is not to increase taxes but to reduce them. He says it's unconscionable for the government to go to a retiree who has contributed to the social security trust fund from ten to forty years with the expectation of having a modest stipend in old age to say, "sorry, the rules have changed." This is another instance of some of our leaders really blaming the elderly and needy for inflation.

The Advisory Council is also considering raising the age for receiving social security benefits.

The present law provides payments to social security recipients and federal retirees to be adjusted with each major cost-of-living increase. The Administration wants to eliminate housing and home loans as a determining cost-of-living factor. The average social security benefit is \$280 a month. The thirteen per cent July raise will raise that amount around thirty dollars, while the actual living cost will have risen to around \$75 or \$100 a month

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT — THE COUNTRY'S MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM

By Alfreda L. Madison

The Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities, chaired by Congressman Augustus Hawkins, has been holding hearings on youth initiatives. There are three bills that deal with the youth training program. One is Congressman Jefford's bill. It requires joint grant applications prepared by local governments and the schools and specifies the content of those applications. This proposal assures that the funds will go to the students that need it.

Representative Hawkins' bill is similar to the Jefford's bill, but in addition he proposes that the present 22 per cent set aside which requires collaboration between the local governments and the youth employment training programs be continued.

The President's bill fails in requiring collaboration or even sustaining the progress that has been made between the local education agencies and CETA. It eliminates the present 22 per cent set aside for youth employment training programs and replaces them with provisions that will channel resources to the areas that will need them the least. Title II of the President's bill has no teeth for requiring schools and local governments to change their practices to meet the needs of the disadvantaged youth.

A very dramatic but alarming picture of the ghettos was noted at these hearings. Rev. Leon Sullivan of Opportunities Industrial Center, said that as he passed through the neighborhoods, he saw thousands of youths idle, frustrated, not knowing what to do with themselves or their time, and being angry and disillusioned, and incorrigible, believing America has turned its back on them. He said besides the vacant buildings, many of those that are lived in, are just about unlivable. He stated that the President and congress must declare war on youth unemployment. It must have equal importance to Middle East peace, Iranian and Afghanistan crises, enough oil, stopping inflation and balancing the budget.

It was emphasized that extraordinary legislation is required of congress to get the youth employment job done. As a youth job prescription, the suggestion was made that a campaign be launched in congress and in every state and local community to give all businesses incentives to help with youth jobs — tax credits. The poor education that the schools are giving must be strongly changed. These schools were characterized as an education mockery, disgrace and tax ripoff. Schools must give children the communicative, number skills and personal work verities that will enable them to get and hold jobs. This training must begin with elementary schools and these special programs for disadvantaged children must continue through junior and senior high schools. Failure of the President, congress and local governments to give youth unemployment equal or even greater priority than is given other concerns will create a problem far more serious than any foreign crisis.

Turning these minority youths from criminals into profitable citizens, will prove to be a contributing factor toward beating inflation, since it costs \$35,000 to keep a youth in prison and only \$13,000 to train him in a job corps program.

The committee witnesses strongly emphasized that both the executive and legislative branches of government must implement the mandates of Humphrey-

Hawkins for youth employment and strengthening our economy.

Minority youth must not be sacrificed for anti-inflation policies and budget balancing. Congress and the President should go beyond the stop-gap measure of CETA. The failure of our leaders to act now — five years from now there will be six million out-of-school, unemployed youth; and ten years from now ten million out-of-school unemployed youth — will create chaos across America, paralyzing the nation.

Eleven NCSU Freshmen Awarded Scholarships

RALEIGH—Eleven engineering freshmen at North Carolina State University have been awarded scholarships from the National Fund for Minority Engineering Students (NFMES).

The scholarships are awarded annually to minority students who have demonstrated academic ability for success in engineering.

The winners are: Ms. Felicia Diane Stevenson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Stevenson, 1319 Rotherwood St., Greensboro; Micheal Lee Burge, son of Mr. and Mrs. G.L. Burge, Greensboro.

Ms. Octavia Gail Matthews, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.K. Matthews, 119 Danbury Dr., Fayetteville; Ms. Cheryl Lee Reid, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.L. Reid, 5827 Weatherford Rd., Fayetteville; Terry Lynn Alford, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Alford, Rt. 1, Fayetteville.

George Donald Alston, son of Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Alston, Rt. 2, Pittsboro. James L. Covington, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Covington, Rt. 1 Denver.

Anthony Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Miller, Pinkwood Dr., Rutherfordon.

Benjamin Harold Lanier, son of Mrs. Isabell Lanier, Rt. 2, Snow Hill.

Deith Felton, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Felton, 410 Massachusetts St., Elizabeth City.

Averell Mattocks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lonell Mattocks, Maysville.

NFMES, whose aim is to increase the nation's supply of minority engineers, makes grants available to engineering schools that increase their enrollment and graduation of minority students.

Dr. John F. Ely, assistant dean of engineering at NCSU, reported the school's minority enrollment now stands at 400. Of these, 258 are black students.

"In 1973, less than fifty black students were enrolled in the school," said Ely. "This increase of over eighty per cent is largely due to the engineering school's special efforts to inform minority students in North Carolina of the career opportunities open to them in the engineering profession."

Voter Registration

Are You a Registered Voter?

Have you moved to a new address and failed to update your voter record? Are you registered as an "Unaffiliated" voter and wish to select a party affiliation in order to vote in the upcoming May 6th primary? All of these things may be accomplished

Saturday, March 29th

10:00 AM — 4:00 PM

If you are a citizen of the U.S., a permanent resident of Durham Co., at least 18 years old by the date of the next General Election and have good identification with a current Durham address, they you qualify to register to vote.

REMEMBER: Sat., March 29th

10:00-4:00, At Following Locations:

Parkwood Library
Oak Grove School
Northern High School
Hillandale School
Riverview Library
Bragtown School
Brogden Junior High School
Lakewood School
Main Library
Northgate Shopping Center

Board of Elections Office
(2nd Fl, Judicial Bldg.)
Holloway Street School
Holton Junior High School
Forest Hills Library
Stanford Warren Library
Burton School
Hillside High School
Friends Meeting House
South Square Shopping Center

Also: Mon-Fri 8:30-5 p.m.
Durham County Board of Elections (Judicial Bldg.)
and
All Public Libraries (During Regular Library Hours)

Registration Books Close for Primary - April 8th

•Your vote may be challenged if your voter record has not been updated with current address precinct.