

Jacob blames Reagan

From Page A1



John Jacob: Government must cooperate with the Urban League.

they've been doing is cutting the funds we need to do what we're supposed to do."

Jacob also said that if the Urban League is going to make a significant difference, the government must cooperate.

"I believe that we could really be instrumental in making improvements in society if the government would work with us and not against us," he said. "It's almost as if they believe that our work is unimportant."

"The administration has constantly been making efforts to slow progress," said Mildred Love, vice president of Program and Field Services. "They haven't made it easy for us at all."

The National Urban League, located in New York City, has 113 affiliates throughout the nation.

There are several other things which hinder the progress of the National Urban League, said Jacob. He said that another problem is lack of sufficient staff.

"During the last seven years, the national office staff has dropped from 350 to 200 workers," he said. "Those we have are now performing multiple duties and we can't handle things the way we'd like to."

Jacob also said that the organization has not had the funds needed.

"We would like to do more towards helping people acquire skills and secure jobs," he said. "But acquiring sufficient funds have been a problem."

Jacob spoke to the delegates about programs he believes the National Urban League should begin in the near future. He said that they should start education, voter and AIDS programs around the country.

"The academic performance of some black kids is very poor," he said. "Getting this program started is going to be very high on our agenda."

About 26,000 parents and students were actively involved in the educational programs established by the league last year.

"We want the offices who aren't involved to get involved," he said. "The education of our black children is a very important issue."

Jacob also said he believed that too many people are not concerned about politics and voting.

"A lot of people don't know or care anything about politics and voting. They also don't recognize the importance of it," he said. "I

think we need to start educating the community about these things and encourage them to participate in the elections."

According to Jacobs, Afro-Americans make up 12 percent of the country's population, but they also make up 25 percent of reported AIDS cases.

"The AIDS problem disproportionately affects the black community," he said. "One-fourth

of the victims reported are black and I think a program on AIDS education and prevention is very necessary."

Jacobs also mentioned that the Urban League would try to expand throughout the South.

"We really would like our presence to be stronger in this area," he said. "But for that to happen people must want us in there."

Jacob said that the organiza-

tion was considering opening an office in Raleigh. Leonard D. Benton, director of the Urban League Regional Service, said that he has been working towards that goal, but everything is in the preliminary stages.

"As of now, we're just looking around the area and considering it as a possible site for another office," he said. "There haven't been any commitments made yet."

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