



### Relief supplies

Kenyans load sacks of split peas donated by the U.S. onto trucks at the Wajir, Kenya, airport. U.S. relief planes have been flying into the northeastern Kenya town of Wajir, which has become a center for feeding more than 1 million Kenyans and Somali refugees.

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## Black lawmakers plan to use numbers

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Blacks will use their growing numbers in the Mississippi Legislature to put issues such as minority set-asides and appropriations, says one lawmaker.

Rep. Aaron Henry of Clarksdale, who also is president of the Mississippi NAACP, said Wednesday blacks may have enough votes to influence state spending and pass legislation to double the minority set-aside in state contracts from 10 percent to an amount similar to

Arkansas and Alabama. Blacks are assured of 30 seats in the 122-member House of Representatives after Tuesday's party runoff elections. Passing spending bills takes 74 votes, a three-fifths majority, so only 48 votes would be enough to halt one. "The thing that will force more cooperation on things that are pertinent to the black community is ... our ability to make sure that no appropriation is passed without our consent," Henry said. House Speaker Tim Ford of

Tupelo said he has met with members of the Legislative Black Caucus and "they expressed no real indication of upheaval in the way things are done."

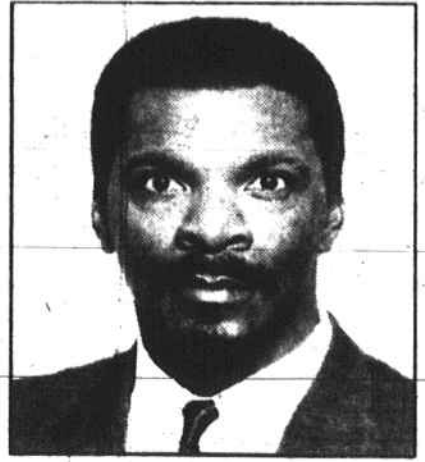
Ford said black lawmakers will most likely have a greater say in overriding a governor's veto. It takes a two-thirds vote, 81 votes, to override a veto. Only 42 votes can stop a veto override. Blacks now are assured of holding seven of the 52 seats in the Senate.

Tuesday night, blacks won one

Senate and two House seats.

In November, blacks will be involved in general election races for 10 more legislative seats. Six are contending for Senate seats and four are seeking House seats.

Five of the general election matchups, two in the Senate and three in the House, have black candidates facing each other. Those five races bring the number of blacks assured of seats in the 1993 Legislature up to 30 in the House and seven in the Senate.



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## If I were a black preacher, I'd say . . .

I have been accused of being a cloath cleric, a would-be-preacher on the lam, hiding out as it were, like Jonah, running, doing anything to put off the inevitable. This week I have decided to head the call and I hereby offer my first sermon.

Brothers and sisters, we need to have a meeting of the minds. We need to come together and have a frank conversation about the problems facing black folks in this community, state, in this nation and what will it take for us to solve them.

This meeting would have to take place without the use of the

others to be either trampled to death or seriously injured.

Brothers and sisters it is time that we come together and ask ourselves some of the hard questions about what it is that we and only we must and can do for ourselves to save ourselves.

All too often, whenever we gather together to talk about our problems, inevitably the conversation turns to white folks and how racist this world is.

But what has that got to do with you and me, us black folks getting together to solve our own problems? What has that got to do with

of white folks, would have the gall, the audacity, the pure guts to say that the policeman are the real problem facing our black youth in this community?

Isn't there anybody with the guts to say that drugs, teenage pregnancy, illiteracy, unemployment, and a decline in moral values are really what is killing us?

Yes, there are problems with the police department. But are you rally seriously expecting to make the case that black folks should be more concerned about the police and what they might be doing to black folks in this community than young "niggaz" who have nothing better to do than terrorize people's grandmothers, grandfathers and their grandchildren too? When you walk in certain neighborhoods at night are we more afraid of the police or are we more afraid of each other?

I could be wrong (but since I am now a preacher that couldn't be the case) but to my simple mind there is *no* good reason, given all of the resources we have at our disposal, why we as a black community do not come together at least once in a while to debate one another — not white folks — on the merits of proposals that would lead to true liberation for black people in this community.

Why are we so reluctant to talk about what it is going to take for us to make it in this community?

Imagine if the Chinese and Koreans had the resources we have in our community. What do you think they would do? If they had all of the churches, the money, the facilities, the organization. What do you think they would do?

So my brothers and sisters, I ask you, when are we going to use the God-given ability that we have? When are we going to stop blaming white folks for things white folks



## ON THE AVANT-GARDE

By TANG NIVRI

dreaded "R" word, racism, which nowadays is used all too frequently by Black folks to explain every thing from having your damned toilet stopped up (ooops) to marrying the wrong spouse.

It is long since past the time for us Black folks to come together and begin to think analytically about our future — to use our God-given empirical minds to analyze and evaluate what we are doing wrong and what price we must pay in order for us to make things right.

Brothers and sisters, right now, we are mired in the morass of blaming white folks so much so that a great deal of us are now addicted to the pleasure of identifying white folks as the cause of all that befalls us.

There are those of us who are right now preparing a defense of the thug who brought the gun to the Dudley Football game, shot somebody, and then nearly caused some

us being able to honestly look at ourselves and talk about what and who is killing us? What do white folks have to do with us being honest with ourselves?

Sisters and brothers, are we so naive as to continue to give white folks that much credit? Are we willing to pass on to yet another generation of black children the legacy of white superiority in that we black folks are still yet unable to come to grips with ourselves, unable to criticize ourselves for fear of the white gaze?

Are we willing to leave our children with the mental impotency of being afraid to look into their own mirrors of self responsibility?

### Police department controversy

The controversy about the police department is a good case in point. Is there anybody black in this community who, not in the presence

implemented its own leave policy, has recently reported that the policy is saving the company \$2 million yearly due to reduced absenteeism and employee turnover.

A 1990 nationwide survey commissioned by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) concluded that "the net cost to employers of placing workers on leave is always substantially smaller than the cost of terminating the employee." Data from the SBA study indicated that family and medical leave legislation would cost employers only \$6.50 per covered employee per year.

Many women of color share stories similar to these. In an election

season so heavily focused on "family values," enactment of the FMLA would show bipartisan commitment to helping families when they need it most. President Bush should sign this measure, and give millions of women of color and their families a better chance at economic security and some badly needed peace of mind.

For more information on the Family and Medical Leave Act, including voting records for Senators and Representatives from your area and updates on upcoming action, please contact Virginia Sassaman at the Women's Legal Defense Fund at 202/986-2600.

## Women need leave

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who lose their jobs—and their health insurance — risk spiraling downward into debt, destitution, and even homelessness.

The lack of parental leave alone costs working women and their families \$607 million annually. Working mothers without job-protected leave receive \$108 million more in public assistance from such programs as unemployment insurance, supplemental security income, and welfare than do mothers working for employers with parental leave policies.

In contrast, the costs of family and medical leave to businesses are small. Aetna Life Insurance and Casualty, Co. which voluntarily

- EAST**  
4 BROTHERS AMOCO (NEW WALKERTOWN RD)  
311 GROCERY  
3 GIRLS  
BOJANGLES (MLK DR)  
BP (MLK DR)  
MECHANICS & FARMERS BANK  
MODEL PHARMACY  
HAIR BY JIMI  
JONES CHEVRON  
PIC N PAY (EWSO)  
REYNOLDS HEALTH CENTER  
SHOP RITE  
SMITH CLEANERS  
SPECIAL OCCASIONS (MLK DR)  
T.T. JONES GROCERY  
WILCO (NEW WALKERTOWN RD)  
WILCO (MLK DR)  
WINSTON LAKE YMCA  
WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

- I-HOP**  
KROGER (UNIVERSITY)  
ECKBERG DRUGS (LOBMAN'S PLAZA)  
ECKBERG DRUGS (ROBINHOOD RD)  
ETNA (COUNTRY CLUB)  
ETNA (STRAITFORD)  
WILCO (UNIVERSITY)

- WEST**  
4 BROTHERS AMOCO (JONESTOWN)  
4 BROTHERS AMOCO (CLOVERDALE)  
4 BROTHERS AMOCO (PETER'S CREEK)  
BAPTIST HOSPITAL (CAFETERIA)  
BAPTIST HOSPITAL (VISITOR'S ENTRANCE)  
CAMEL CITY CLEANERS (REYNOLDA MANOR)  
CAMEL CITY CLEANERS (STRAITFORD RD)  
CROWN DRUGS (HANES MALL)

- REVCO (WAUGHTOWN)**  
SAM'S PIT STOP  
SERVICO (WAUGHTOWN)  
SHONBY'S (OLD SALISBURY RD)  
U. S. POST OFFICE (PLEASANT ST)  
WILCO (S. MAIN ST)  
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GALLINS VENDING (RUR PLAZA)  
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