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Welfare

Rolls

Decline

The Nation's welfare rolls increase in February was substantially less than the January increase, Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger reported last week.

The February increase was 84,789--or an .08 percent increase over January, the Secretary said. In January the increase was 1.3 percent or 141,447 more than December. The February total was 11,239,611.

The rolls have been rising since August 1974, when they turned upward after declining almost steadily from the March 1973 level.

The decline has been attributed in part to the continuing Federal State "Quality Control" effort aimed at reducing the number of ineligible on the rolls and minimizing payment errors.

The slow rise beginning in August accelerated in December and January as the unemployment figures increased.

James S. Dwight Jr., Administrator of HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service, said he found the reduced rate of increase in February encouraging. He added, "While the rolls are still rising, the smaller proportion of newcomers suggests that the adverse economic pressures on low-income people are beginning to moderate."

Unemployed AFDC fathers, who make up a small proportion of the QC caseload, totaled 114,431 in February 1975, rising by 8,937 or 8.5 percent more than in January, and 15.6 percent more than in February 1974. The AFDC rolls as a whole were 366,933 or 3.4 percent higher in February 1975 than in February 1974.

Total Federal State public assistance expenditures, including Medicaid--were \$1,949,842,000 in February--about \$4.5 million over January costs. Of this, AFDC money payments totaled \$736,221,000 in February 1975, .9 percent over January but 15.6 percent more than a year ago. For the Nation as a whole, the average AFDC family payment was \$216 a month, about the same as January but \$17 higher than in February 1974.

Total medical assistance payments were \$1,117,356,000 in February 1975, down 0.4 percent from January but up 31.4 percent from February 1974. Medicaid payments in any given month do not necessarily correlate closely with AFDC caseload in that month.

Mrs. Stephen

Won Fourth

Place

Charlotte's candidate for the NAACP North Carolina Mother of the Year came back from the State Convention recently with a fourth place prize.

Mrs. Willie Stephen, proprietor of the Trinity Beauty Shop raised \$1,000 in her pursuit of the title and thanks "everyone for helping me out."



MISS DEBORAH CLARK ...Livingstone Bound

Deborah Clark Is "Beauty Of Week"

By Polly Manning Post Staff Writer

The campus of Livingstone College, Salisbury, will be graced with a new face when its fall semester begins in August. The face will belong to none other than our "Beauty of the Week," Miss Deborah Denise Clark.

"I have heard a lot about Livingstone," explained Deborah. "I was fortunate to visit the campus earlier in the year and I found it to be very interesting. I especially enjoyed the students there. Everyone seemed so friendly, almost as if they knew me all along."

At Livingstone our beauty plans to major in Secretarial Science. "I am interested in becoming a secretary, or maybe even a teacher. In any case I feel that with this major I will be qualified to be either."

Deborah is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Clark who reside at 1524 Griers Grove Road.

Miss Clark is presently a senior at North Mecklenburg High School. She is a member of the Student Council, the Decca Club, and President of her homeroom class.

Her hobbies are singing,

Burn Center

Festival Set

For Saturday

The Mecklenburg County Ladies Fire Auxiliary Association will sponsor a Burn Center Festival at Freedom Park Saturday, May 31, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Proceeds from the Festival will be used in the establishment of a Burn Center Hospital in Chapel Hill.

There will be food, drinks, handicrafts, clowns and groups performing at the new Alan Newcombe Park Shell, plus an auction with a signature pen from President Gerald Ford and a tie tack from Governor James Holshouser.

The festival will be coordinated by Mrs. Judy G. Cook, president of the Auxiliary Association is composed of members of the auxiliaries to Mecklenburg's 24 Volunteer Fire Departments.

Commission Recommends Strong Civil Rights Support

MEAC To

Pick Site

For Tourney

Durham, N. C.-- The Delegate Assembly of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) which is composed of Presidents Chancellors, Athletic Directors and Faculty Representatives of the seven member institutions, will decide the site for the conference annual Basketball Tournament during its annual Spring Meeting which will be held this weekend in Columbia, South Carolina at the Sheraton Inn.

In its four years of existence, the MEAC has conducted its annual basketball tournament in Durham for the first two years and at Baltimore Civic Center for the last two years.

Thus far, the Baltimore Civic Center and the Greensboro Coliseum have made proposals to the MEAC to host its 1975-76 basketball tournament. The Delegate Assembly will vote during the three-day session on these proposals.

Other important items on the agenda for the meeting include discussion and decisions concerning the proposed economic cuts in intercollegiate athletics by the NCAA. The MEAC will take a look at some of these proposals and decide how the MEAC will go about these issues. In addition to studying the current NCAA proposals, the MEAC will adopt recent NCAA legislation passed at the last NCAA meeting held in Washington, D. C. last January.

The MEAC Delegate Assembly will also consider recommendations by the MEAC baseball and track coaches to decide the 1974-75 track and baseball championship which were cancelled because of inclement weather.

Following a meeting in Dover, Delaware May 4 when inclement weather forced cancellation of the championships, the track coaches voted to recommend to the body that the team champion be determined on qualifying an semifinal times and distance in the events held May 3. If the Assembly accepts this recommendation, Delaware State will be declared the track champion.

All the Coaches Associations will meet May 29th and they are expected to recommend some economic guidelines to the body to cut back on cost. Among the expected proposals is compact scheduling of the spring sports.



MRS. BETTY CLAWSON ...Charlotte Area Manager

Mrs. Clawson Is Vice Chairman

Mrs. Betty R. Clawson, manager of Dudley's Beauty Center, 2020 N. Graham St., has been named to serve with a distinguished group of business people as vice-chairman of a testimonial honoring S. B. Fuller, a founder of Fuller Products Co. of Chicago, manufacturer of cosmetics and toiletries.

More than 2,000 persons will attend the event which will take place on Fuller's 70th birthday, June 4, at the Conrad Hilton Hotel. Dinner committee members and guests represent a cross section of the country's interracial business leadership.

Co-chairmen of the tribute are two of America's most outstanding Black entrepreneurs, George E. Johnson, president of Johnson Products Co., Inc., and John H. Johnson, president of Johnson Publishing Co. Both Johnsons, who are unrelated, credit Fuller with having been a major inspiration and success model in their lives. Each is now a millionaire in his own right. George Johnson as manufacturer of Ultra Sheen and Afro Sheen toiletries, and John Johnson as publisher of Ebony magazine.

Like Fuller, the two Johnsons were born in poverty in the rural south and migrated to Chicago while very young. Fuller's inspiration came from his mother who believed strongly that door-to-door selling held the key to success. She died when he was 17, leaving him head of the family of eight children. He married at age 18, and eventually became the father of five children.

In 1935, with \$25 in capital, Fuller began Fuller Products Co., rising from door-to-door salesman to millionaire manufacturer and civic symbol in the 1940's. Within two decades he built a national network of distributors and salesman and expanded into other ventures, including commercial real estate, farming, beef cattle production and publishing.

Mrs. Clawson is very active in the Charlotte community and has held several helping sessions for home economic classes in the public schools. On occasions when she has free time she discusses the secrets of beauty with the neighborhood children.

Recently, she was the guest speaker at a Mother's Day program in one of the local churches.

Forces Abound To Weaken Civil Rights Movement

Atlanta, Ga.-- Officials from eleven southern State and local human rights agencies were warned that without strong support for existing legislation on civil rights may hard earned gains may be lost.

Addressing a throng of about 150 officials gathered at the third U. S. Commission on Civil Rights conference here in the Atlanta International Hotel, under the theme of "Making the Constitution Work for all Americans," former HEW Secretary Arthur Fleming declared that there are forces around whose aim is to weaken or destroy the civil rights movement.

Fleming, presently serving as chairman of the Commission, said in the keynote address delivered on the first night of a three day conference that, "there are still people who believe that only white people can render quality service."

Thus, he said, "we must not let them dilute such programs such as affirmative action because any success by our opponents in any area of civil or human rights will weaken the foundation of all of our civil rights."

The Commission, established by Congress under the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is authorized to investigate complaints alleging that citizens are being deprived of their right to vote because of racial or sex discrimination.

Governed by six commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, the Commission also studies legal development constituting a denial of equal protection of the laws under the Constitution and submit reports of its findings to the President and the Congress.

Elder Citizens

To Be Informed

Of SSI Rights

An attempt to reach 85,000 elderly citizens to inform them about supplemental security income (SSI) is in progress.

The N. C. Council of Churches, which sponsors the project called "Operation Shepherd," has distributed SSI screening forms to over 11,000 churches across the state. Ministers of churches will distribute the forms and will return those completed to local social security offices.

Appointments will then be made for applicants. Of the estimated 160,000 persons 65 years of age and over who are below poverty level in North Carolina, only 75,429 were receiving SSI in December 1974.

"We feel that 'Operation Shepherd' is one of the best ways to contact people who need these benefits and are not getting them," said Robert Q. Beard, director of the Governor's Coordinating Council on Aging, which is providing a \$7,700 grant for the project.

The project will help us find isolated people who are eligible for SSI and will help the religious segment of the community minister to the needs of the elderly," Beard stated.

In recent months state, federal and private organizations have made a major effort to reach persons who should receive supplemental security income. North Carolina ranks fourth in the nation in the number of new persons filing and receiving SSI benefits.

SSI is a national program for citizens over 65 years old and the blind or disabled, who have little or no income and limited resources.

Chairman Fleming, who serves as HEW Secretary under the Eisenhower Administrations in differing capacities, drew warm praise from Staff Director Buggs.

"We were extremely surprised when the President chose Dr. Fleming. We thought he had made a mistake," mused Mr. Buggs, "really, I don't think he realized what he did when he picked him."

See Rights on page 3

Ben Chavis Supporters Head For Washington, D. C. Rally

By James Cuthbertson Post Staff Writer

A bus trip to a Washington, D. C. rally is to be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday in front of the Justice Department in support of Rev. Ben Chavis and the Wilmington Ten and all other North Carolina Political Prisoners.

The chartered bus will leave Charlotte Friday night at 12:30 a.m. from the administration building parking lot of Johnson C. Smith University at 100 Beatties Ford Road.

"The bus will leave Washington Saturday evening for the return trip to Charlotte," said Dr. Helen Othaw, who is

organizing the trip. For information call 394-6963.

The trip is being held to protest the treatment that black political prisoners have gotten in the State of North Carolina.

According to the officials of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, the Rev. Benjamin Chavis Jr. and his co-defendants known as the "Wilmington 10", were denied a hearing on Wednesday, May 7, that has not been announced publicly by the court.

The veterans civil rights activists, sentenced to a combined 282 years in prison for

defending a church in Wilmington's Black community from a four-day siege by the Ku Klux Klan, will now appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Defense Attorney James Ferguson of Charlotte has asked the North Carolina court for a stay of executive execution of sentence and a continuance of the \$400,000-bond pending the appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. Ordinarily such requests are granted as a matter of course, but in the Wilmington 10 case the state court has not yet made a decision.

The National Alliance See Chavis on page 10



Rev. Ben Chavis ...Civil Rights Activist

TURTLE-TALK



Setting your head together in your OLD AGE could simply mean ASSEMBLING TEETH, GLASSES AND A TOUPEE.