

In Philadelphia

NNPA Appeals For Black Reporter On Ford-Carter Debate Panel

The Board of Directors of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (Black Press of America) has dispatched an urgent appeal to the League of Women Voters that it assign a black reporter to the media debate panel assigned to ask questions in the Ford-Carter debates. The board noted that the League has already selected an all-white panel and that more than 25 million, a majority of the nation's minority groups will be deprived of "a black viewpoint" at the presidential debate beginning in Philadelphia next week.

In firing off a letter to the League, Dr. Goodlett, NNPA president, said he was acting after a unanimous vote on a resolution of the board that "a distinguished black reporter sit in the press panel to assure a complete coverage of America's Civil Rights and the candidates' viewpoints regarding black Africa which at the moment is the focal point of world politics."

The directors met at the Summit Hotel in New York City last week to project a wide-ranging program for the 1977 Sesquicentennial year of

the founding of the Black Press. The group stressed that the vast black market is reached by NNPA editors of more than 200 newspapers and magazines read by more than 6,000,000 subscribers. "This is not a too minuscule an audience," Dr. Goodlett pointed out.

Goodlett, president and publisher of the San Francisco Sun Reporter and eight other Bay area newspapers, laid before the board a sesquicentennial celebration program which would touch upon: "An assessment of the present status of black Americans 150 years after the founding of Freedom's Journal in March of 1827, and the 114th Anniversary Year of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation -- a Search for a Black Ideology." He set tentative dates (January 14-18, 1977) for a meeting of 30 to 50 black behavioral and interdisciplinary scientists to a Think-Tank and Discussion Colloquium to make that assessment.

Other Goodlett proposals: a Mid-Winter Workshop at San Diego (January 19-22) whose theme would be "The Search and Development of a Black

Ideology; an annual National Black Press Week (March 13-19) with the first one marked by the dedication of the Archives of the Black Press and Gallery of Distinguished Black Newspaper Publishers at Howard University, W.O. Walker, chairman; a seminar on the obligations of the Federal Government and all governmental contractors to be maintenance of a constitutional mandate for a free press; a National Black Leadership Conference (May 15-18); "An Agenda for Total Freedom," the 37th annual NNPA convention (June 22-25) at St. Louis, Missouri; and establishment (July 3-6) of a commit-

tee for a First International Congress of Blacks in Diaspora consisting of black leaders in Diaspora whose representatives shall be all Afro-Americans, Afro-Hispanics and Afro-Latinos, as spokesmen for 65 million blacks in the Western Hemisphere; "United," said Dr. Goodlett in summarizing his program. "We can become the matrix of the new mosaic portraying the sum total of a victorious black experience, as we labor in our use of every resource at our

command to defeat all forms of individual human political and economic tyranny."

The directors also passed a resolution encompassing a stepped-up war on crime: "the unacceptable weight" on Black Americans seeking jobs; a foreign policy advocating majority rule for South Africa; aid to urban centers facing the prospect of becoming prisons for the disadvantaged; election of candidates "most sympathetic" to Black aspirations, and a demand that presidential candidates "cease appeals to fear and suspicion based on racism."

Besides Dr. Goodlett those at the board meeting include the following publishers: NNPA first vice president Jerrel Jones of the Milwaukee Courier; second vice president John Procope of the N.Y. Amsterdam News; secretary Ophelia DeVore Mitchell of the Columbus Times; assistant secretary Robert W. Bogle of the Philadelphia Tribune; treasurer Marjorie Parham of the Cincinnati Herald; C.A. Scott of the Atlanta Daily World; Kenneth Stanley of the Louisville Defender; NNPA general counsel T. Carlton Richardson, Washington attorney;

William L. Rowe, NNPA's acting executive director; Ms. Lenora Carter of the Houston Forward Times; Garth Reeves, Sr. of the Miami Times; L.M. Quinn of the Michigan Chronicle; William O. Walker of the Cleveland Call & Post; John Murphy of the Baltimore Afro-Ameri-

can; John Sengstacke of the Chicago Defender; Earl Davis, Jr. of the San Diego Voice News; Nathaniel Sweets of the St. Louis American; Dr. Alfred Morris of the Philadelphia Tribune; John Smith of the Atlanta Inquirer and Ken Drew of the N.Y. Voice, non-board members.



MRS. BEULAH WILLIAMSON
...Gracious, humble lady"

Mrs. Williamson Named "Woman Of The Year"

By Audrey G. Wall
Special To The Post

Mrs. Beulah Williamson, by secret ballot, was elected Greater Gethsemane's "Woman of the Year" last Sunday by members of the Church.

This honor could not have gone to a more worthy, devout, hard working, Christian than this humble lady. She is the daughter of a Methodist minister, the late Rev. William Mackey and her mother, the late Mrs. Emma Benson Mackey who provided the Christian atmosphere in the home which has permeated her life since infancy.

The Church is still the focal point in her life which causes her to work so diligently, seldom missing a Sunday even though she is incapacitated by painful, crippling arthritis. She doesn't complain but goes about her Christian duties anyway. Having been a member of Greater Gethsemane since 1931, Mrs. Williamson is a member of the Excelsior Sunday School class, member of the W.H. & F.M. Society, member of Missionary Circle No. 3, Life member of W.H. & F.M. Society, member of the Willing Workers Club which is made up of conference workers of Gethsemane. She has been president of Stewardess Board No. 1 for quite a number of years and was instrumental in planning the first pastor's appreciation services at Gethsemane. This effort has continued and grown each year and she was responsible

for its existence.

A native of Lancaster, S.C. she was married to the late George Henry Williamson. They were the parents of five children. The

eldest daughter, Mrs. Lucille Summers, is an employee at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church. Mrs. Louise Latimore, a directory assistant for Bell Telephone, Mrs. Betty J. Wirt, a teacher in Washington, D.C., Mr. Odell Williamson, an employee with an advertising company in Philadelphia, and Mr. George E. Williamson, an employee with the Charlotte Police Dept. Not only did Mr. and Mrs. Williamson rear their own children successfully, but at the death of Mrs. Williamson's sister, they took her five children and reared them successfully as well. Those were very difficult years but they met the challenge. Now a family of ten, they moved to Charlotte in 1930 and in 1931, they became members at Gethsemane where many of them are still very active.

Mr. Williamson passed several years ago shortly after they had been married for fifty years. Gethsemane is very proud of Mrs. Williamson, her family, and the many contributions that they have made and are continuing to make to the Church and community as well. She will be honored on this Sunday morning at 11 o'clock at Greater Gethsemane's 1976 Woman of the Year.

Mecklenburg County To Distribute New Handbook

The Mecklenburg County Public Service and Information Office has available for distribution a new handbook which answers many of the frequently asked questions about the State courts system and about local court-related agencies.

The 12-page booklet is called "A Judicial Handbook for Citizens of Mecklenburg County," and it may be obtained, free of charge, by calling 374-2475 or by writing to the Public Service and Information Office, 720 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28202.

The first publication of its kind to be produced in Mecklenburg County, the handbook answers many of the questions that have been received by the City-County Action Line Desk, a telephone service which is operated by the City and County Public Service and Information Offices. Action Line receives more than 8,000 court-related calls a year, which is more than the number of calls received in any other category.

Typical questions include the following:
What is the Magistrate's Court?...How do I file a claim

in Magistrate's Court?...What is a grand jury?...What is Pre-Trial Release?...Who is the District Attorney?...Who is the Clerk of Superior Court?...What office do I contact about child support and alimony?...What is judicial commitment?...How do I find out if someone has been arrested?...How are jurors selected?...What is the jurisdiction of the Superior Court?...What is the jurisdiction of the District Court?

In addition to a question-and-answer section, the handbook has a two-page list of telephone numbers for the convenience of citizens who wish to call some particular court office or court-related agency.

Under North Carolina law, County Government is responsible for providing court facilities: The County furnishes the buildings, the courtrooms, the offices, and related judicial physical facilities for the North Carolina General Court of Justice. The State is responsible for all operating expenses including salaries of all court officials as well as legal services for indigents and juror and witness fees.

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