

Black Unemployment Rate Jumps To 13.1 Percent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The unemployment rate for blacks increased to 13.1 percent up from 9.9 percent, between 1974 and 1976, according to a U.S. Labor Department report.

The report, "Manpower Groups Which Have Historically High Incidences of Unemployment," was submitted by Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall to Congress as required by law. When Congress enacted the 1974 amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act, it requested the department to conduct a continuing study of such groups and to issue a report every 2 years. This is the second report covering 1974 to 1976.

According to the report, the highest increase in unemployment was among 20 to 24 year old veterans, rising from 10.9 percent to 17.4 percent.

Other labor force groups identified as experiencing historically high unemployment rates are: females, persons of Hispanic origin, teenagers and 20 to 24 year olds. The elderly were specifically cited for inclusion by Congress.

The average unemployment rate for teenagers increased from 16.0 percent to 19.0 percent between 1974 and 1976. For 20 to 24 year olds, the rate was 9.1 percent to 12.0 percent; for women, 6.7 percent to 8.6 percent, and 8.1 percent to 11.5 percent for persons of Hispanic origin.

The study also found that for the first time in years, the unemployment rate for the elderly (65 years and over) exceeded five percent, up from 3.4 percent in 1974.

Other findings reported are that between 1974 and 1976 the civilian labor force grew by 3,762,000 workers, an increase of 4.1 percent, and employment increased from 9.7 weeks in 1974 to 15.8 weeks in 1976, or over 60 percent.

Many persons who have been unemployed for long periods of time join the statistical category of "discouraged workers," people who are technically not in the labor force, but who want jobs. They are not looking for work only because they think they can not get jobs. The number of discouraged workers rose from 686,000 in 1974 to 910,000 in 1976, a 23 percent increase.

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STATUESQUE BETTY KEARNS
 ...Production secretary

Ms. Betty Kearns Is Beauty Of Week

By Jeri Harvey
 Post Staff Writer

Statuesque Betty Kearns yielded to the pressure of friend and fellow Ebony Group member, Martin Chisolm, and made her acting debut recently. "I enjoyed it," she said, "but I don't care to try it again. It's not worth the nervousness and tension I experienced. I prefer to remain behind the scenes as I've been doing as production secretary for the group." All we can say is, it's a pity to waste that much beauty and charm behind the scenes.

Betty appeared in the role of the mother in "The Train Ride Ends Here," written and directed by Chisolm and produced by the Ebony Group this past summer. She has been with the group since its inception and said she is very proud to be secretary of the Executive Board. She told us, "I see a lot of things happening for the individuals and the group as a whole. We're becoming recognized by more and more people all the time. They no longer say 'Ebony Who?' when our name is mentioned."

A native Charlottean who attended West Charlotte High School and Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC), Betty is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther A. Kearns and is employed with Southern Bell as a special clerk. During high school Betty toured with the singing group, "Up With People" for a year and visited most of the 50 states, including Hawaii. "It was a grand experience," she said with a touch of nostalgia. "We performed before so many famous people - President Eisenhower, President and Mrs. Kennedy - and many more. I wouldn't trade the memory for anything." She completed her high school credits through correspondence while touring.

Since returning to the Queen City Betty has been a participant in several beauty pageants. She was Miss Congeniality in the 1971 Miss Charlotte Contest and first runner-up in a Miss CPCC pageant and a finalist for Miss OIC.

Now she has decided to seriously pursue a modeling career and has enrolled in a local professional modeling school. "I think this may be what I've been looking for," she told us.

Describing herself as an "eligible bachelorette," Betty is a stately 6 feet tall and has measurements of 36-26-36. Being somewhat taller than the average hasn't presented any problems for her, she said, adding, "I have two sisters who are proportioned about the same as I am and many of my relatives are tall so I've never felt unusual."

Betty has been described by a friend as "a very cool lady, intelligent, serious and highly intuitive. She has the potential for success in any area she selects." We're proud to add her to our list of POST beauties and wish her luck and happiness.

White House Seeks More Minorities

The White House has announced that it is seeking more minority group members to be White House Fellows.

The White House Fellowship program was started twelve years ago to give outstanding individuals a unique firsthand experience in a President's administration.

Fear Looms As Black Political Leaders Face District Problems

Howard Lee's Hiring Record Reviewed

Raleigh, CCNS — Howard N. Lee, the first black to head a state department, said last week that departmental reorganization, has concentration on hiring blacks in policy-making leadership positions, a desire to be fair, and elevation of blacks within the department should be put into perspective when analyzing hiring during the period that Lee has been at the department's helm.

From January 1 to June 30, 1977, a total of 209 employees were hired in the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD). Twenty of that number, or ten percent were black. But that number included both temporary and permanent employees.

Public Hearings Set On Food Stamp Program

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will hold a nationwide series of public hearings if Congress and the President approve pending food stamp legislation, Assistant Secretary Carol Tucker Foreman announced today.

"We in USDA will have a tremendous job to do in writing the rules and regulations that will put the new food stamp program into effect," Assistant Secretary Foreman said. "We want to make sure these new rules assure effective service to those in need and sound administrative operation."

A House-Senate conference committee agreed on a compromise food stamp reform measure just before Congress adjourned for its summer work period. Both Houses will vote on the conference report after Congress returns Sept. 7. The legislation, part of the omnibus farm bill, then goes to President Carter for signature.

Mrs. Foreman stated that USDA's hearings are intended to seek comment on the new food stamp program from people in both urban and rural areas. Urban hearings are scheduled for the following seven major cities: Oct. 4 in Boston, Oct. 11 in Los Angeles and Atlanta, Oct. 13 in Denver and Chicago, and Oct. 18 in Dallas and Baltimore. The hearings will be continued a second day in each city if public demand warrants. Ms. Foreman explained that the Department will make a special effort to seek comment from people in rural areas by holding additional hearings in smaller towns.

since January saw blacks get a small increase of 14 percent. Total permanent employment during the six month period was eighty (80) persons with eleven (11) blacks hired. Whites got 90 percent of the temporary and permanent positions.

While Secretary Lee says he thinks Black employment, "has been substantially high," the ratio of blacks to whites employed during the period in permanent and temporary positions still remains lower than the ratio of blacks to whites in the population of North Carolina.

Lee notes that his emphasis has been on hiring blacks to top leadership positions who can hire other blacks under them. Since April, Maria Spaulding, a black woman, has been hired as personnel director of the department. Lorena Warner, Lee's deputy is black.

So far as salary range is concerned, six of the eleven blacks have a salary of more than \$10,000. Included in that number are two salaried between \$16,000 and \$25,000, Lee and his deputy.

While expressing the need "to move aggressively ahead to bring blacks as well as other minorities, such as Indians" into state government, Lee said, "I want to make sure that I emphasize that I am going to be exceedingly fair. Recognizing that if I don't set the example other departments will not. But I certainly want my department to reflect the fact that all people in this state will have a chance, and that includes black, both female and male."

The statewide average of 22 percent blacks hired during the period of January - June 30 is far higher than the 14 percent in Lee's department.



PRESIDENT MEETS WITH BLACK CAUCUS — President Carter discussed the problem of unemployment in a meeting with members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Attending the meeting, from left to right, beginning with the President, were Representatives Shirley Chisholm, D-N.Y., Yvonne Burke, D-Calif., Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y.,

Charles C. Diggs, Jr., D-Mich., Vice President Walter Mondale; Representatives Walter F. Fauntroy, D-D.C., Augustus F. Hawkins, D-Calif., John Conyers, Jr., D-Mich., Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, Harold Ford, D-Tenn., William L. Clay, D-Mo., Parren J. Mitchell, D-Md., Chairman. (White House Photograph)

President Carter Meets With Congressional Black Caucus

President Carter has met with members of the Congressional Black Caucus and expressed his concern about the high rate of unemployment among blacks, especially the black youths of America.

Carter said: "There's got to be a re-emphasis on addressing government sponsored employment opportunities among those who need the opportunity most."

"I expect criticism, I think it's been valid in the past. I accept criticism from you," the President told Caucus members. He said he would place top priority in reversing what he called the "horrible" jobless rate among minorities.

Rev. Abernathy Will Lead University Park's Revival



Rev. Ralph Abernathy ...Internationally known and succeeded him as leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference after his assassination.

The Sunday evening concert will be aired live over radio station WGIV, which also carries the regular evening worship service from University Park each Sunday at 8 p.m.

Music for the revival services will be by visiting area choirs and the University Park Choir.

Rev. James Palmer, pastor of University Park extends a cordial invitation to the public to attend the revival and hear what he describes as "a dynamic speaker and man of God."

Candidates Face Mass Confusion

By Hoyle H. Martin Jr.
 Post Executive Editor

Black political leaders have noted that one of the strong arguments presented to blacks for support of district representation has been that they could nearly guarantee themselves at least two district council seats and strongly influence a third. This point of view, some now believe, may very well turn out to be a myth because black voter power faces a triple threat.

The threat, according to veteran political leaders, stems from the fact that while blacks make up 70, 65 and 50 percent respectively of the populations in districts one, two and three, they comprise only 41, 62 and 44 percent of these districts' registered voters. The threat arises also from some apparent confusion among many black voters about what district they reside in, and some confusion about voting for both at-large and district candidates.

District 1 is Charlotte's oldest geographic area and the poorest part of the city. The district has a median income of \$11,000 annually and a black population of 28,700 or 70 percent of the total. However, the median income figure is at \$11,000 because of the apparently relatively higher incomes of the 30 percent of the whites living in the district.

Significantly too, is the fact that while blacks represent 70 percent of the population, they make up only 41 percent of 4,812 of the district's registered voters. On the other hand, whites have a population of 12,300 (30 percent), but have 5,962 registered voters or 59 percent of the total. Therefore, from the standpoint of registered voters, whites hold the political power in a district that is overwhelmingly populated with black people. This fact reportedly led one of the three white candidates, C.L. Brasfield to comment, "Personally, I think a white will win."

District 2 has a black population of 26,650 or 65 percent of the total with 7,847 registered voters or 62 percent of the total. Significantly, the nearly equal percent of black registered voters to their proportion of the total district population is related to the greater degree of political awareness and involvement by blacks in the city's political process. Residents of the district include County Commissioner Robert Walton, former commission candidate L.C. Coleman, president of the Black Political Caucus Robert Davis, publisher of The Charlotte Post Bill Johnson and past president of the Northwood Estates Community Association.

District 3 has a black population of 26,650 or 65 percent of the total with 7,847 registered voters or 62 percent of the total. Significantly, the nearly equal percent of black registered voters to their proportion of the total district population is related to the greater degree of political awareness and involvement by blacks in the city's political process. Residents of the district include County Commissioner Robert Walton, former commission candidate L.C. Coleman, president of the Black Political Caucus Robert Davis, publisher of The Charlotte Post Bill Johnson and past president of the Northwood Estates Community Association.

TURTLE-TALK

The reason some parents no longer LEAD their children in the RIGHT DIRECTION is because the parents aren't going that way THEMSELVES.