



Winston-Salem - Hanes Group Corporate Affairs Director, Elynor Williams (far right), joins with (left to right) Dr. Manderline Scales, president of the North Carolina chapter of National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Dr. Dorothy Height, national president of NCNW and Helenna Tidwell, local president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, following Dr. Height's address

at the Delta Fine Arts Center. During that time Ms. Williams presented a check to Dr. Height on behalf of Hanes Group for NCNW programs. The Hanes Group is composed of several companies, including Hanes Hosiery, Hanes Knitwear, Hanes Printables and L'eggs Products. It is an operating unit of Sara Lee Corporation of Chicago.

New Regulations Developed

President Reagan Endorses Efforts Of Resident Management Groups

Special To The Post
President Reagan and Congressman Jack Kemp endorsed the efforts of successful resident management organizations and pledged their support for resident management and homeownership for public housing residents at a 16-city teleconference last week.

More than 1,000 public housing residents and local officials from across the country met with policymakers in Washington, D.C., without ever leaving their hometowns during the live telecast sponsored by the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (NCNE) and broadcast from the Biznet studio in Washington.

The conference, "We Made it Work: The Revolution in Public Housing," brought leaders of resident management groups from Boston, Jersey City, Louisville, New Orleans, St. Louis, and Washington, D.C., together with a panel of policy experts: Congressman Kemp; NCNE president Robert L. Woodson; June Koch, assistant secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; Stuart Butler of the Heritage Foundation; and Paul Pryde of Pryde, Roberts and Company, a Washington-based consulting firm specializing in small business development.

The resident managers and policy specialists answered questions from conference participants in each city.

Robert Woodson, in his keynote to the conference, said, "There's a revolution going on in America today, particularly in public housing, where throughout the nation, residents are coming together, organizing their communities into public housing management corporations. And they are successfully reducing crime, lowering maintenance costs, and reducing the overall operating cost of public housing."

Woodson said that resident management corporations were succeeding where others had failed in improving the quality of life in public housing communities. And the resident managers agreed.

"From a jungle to a neighborhood," is how Bertha Gilkey of the Cochran Plaza Tenant Management Corporation in St. Louis described the transition.

President Reagan acknowledged this community revitalization in his taped address to the conference. "Let's give families who live in public housing a chance to feel the pride of homeownership," the President said. "As the leaders of the resident management movement can attest, not only can that pride transform individual homes, it can work magic on whole neighborhoods as well."

"When we give people a stake in their homes, we give them a stake in the future," said President Reagan. "Resident management is clearly an idea whose time has come."

Congressman Kemp said that resident management groups represent "signs of hope in the inner cities." Kemp discussed the provisions of his Urban Homesteading Bill, which would allow public housing residents to purchase their own homes once resident management has paved the way. Kemp said that homeownership would not cut the stock of housing for low income Americans. "It is not a zero-sum game," he said. "The renter becomes an owner and gets a stake in our participatory democracy."

Kemp urged continued support for resident management groups, saying, "There should be no cutback in these programs that serve poor people."

HUD Assistant Secretary June Koch described efforts under way at HUD to remove some of the obstacles to resident management. She

announced that HUD is developing new regulations to assist resident management groups and to encourage cooperation between public housing authorities and resident management organizations. "We have worked closely with Bob Woodson and the tenant management groups," she said, "and we have learned from them."

The participants chosen for HUD's Public Housing Homeownership Demonstration will be announced next week, Koch said. She added that HUD is also developing a demonstration project for small business development, an important element of neighborhood revitalization.

Woodson stressed the importance of grassroots involvement in solving the problems of poverty that plague America today. He said, "We would like to reaffirm the proposition that when people are allowed to have input into solving their own problems, they are far more capable of finding solutions than those who are not living with the problem." The best role for the government, he said, is in facilitating the solutions designed by the residents themselves.

The resident managers whose groups have become models of success and who appeared at the conference to share their knowledge and experience are: Kimi Gray, Kenilworth-Parkside, Washington, D.C.; Mildred Hailley, Bromley-Heath, Boston; Bertha Gilkey, Cochran Plaza, St. Louis; Rev. Robert Blount, A. Harry Moore, Jersey City; Bonnie Downs, Iroquois Homes, Louisville; and Viney Reynolds, B. W. Cooper, New Orleans.

If you have any questions about the teleconference or about resident management of public housing, please contact Pam Taylor at NCNE headquarters in Washington, D.C. (202) 331-1103.

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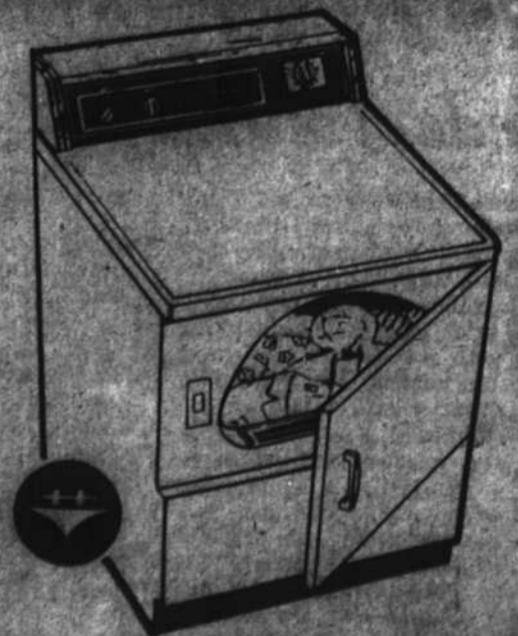
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