

Congressman William Gray Is JCSU Founders Day Speaker

"Without education there is very little hope for equal opportunity." That, according to Rep. William H. Gray, III (D-PA), is an important theme for educators and Americans generally, to keep as a constant reminder. "American institutions of higher education have come a long way with respect to desegregation," according to Gray, but they have a long way to go." Gray made these remarks at the annual meeting of the American Council on Education, in January.

He was the keynote speaker at a luncheon commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He told the audience, which included JCSU President, Dr. Robert L. Albright, "Our institutions of higher education must keep the doors of opportunity open for the economically and socially disadvantaged."

Gray will bring his message highlighting the importance of higher education when he arrives as speaker and guest for the 121st observance and celebration of the founding of Johnson C. Smith University, April 10, 1988.

On the occasion of his Founder's Day speech, the JCSU Board of Trustees will confer on the Pennsylvania Congressman an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. It is the highest award given by a college or university, and is typically presented to persons who have distinguished

themselves on a national level. Congressman Gray has distinguished himself as Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget. A position which has placed him center stage in the battles on Capital Hill to shape Federal budget priorities.

Gray also serves on the House Appropriations Committee, where he is a member of the Subcommittee on Transportation, the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, and on the District of Columbia Committee. In addition, he sits on the influential Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, and is an at-large member of the Democratic Whip Organization, an arm of the leadership that organizes party efforts in the U.S. House of Representatives. The five term congressman has also served as Vice Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Gray has been a leading spokesman on African policy. He authored the House version of the Anti-Apartheid Acts of 1985 and 1986 designed to limit American financial support for apartheid.

In 1983, Gray authored the first in a series of provisions to require the U.S. Agency for International Development to include participation on AED's development assistance programs by minority and women business persons, historically black colleges, and minority private



Rep. William Gray

agencies. As a result, minorities and females played a role in \$130 million in AID programs in the past two years, with \$1 billion anticipated over the next ten years.

Also in 1983, Gray was one of the first congressional voices to warn of famine conditions in Africa. He sponsored the Emergency Food Aid bill for Ethiopia in 1984. The list of his work and accomplishments is long and fruitful.

Raised in North Philadelphia, Gray attended Simon Gratz High School. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Franklin and Marshall College in 1963, his masters in divinity from Drew Theological Seminary in 1966 and his masters in theology from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1970. He did further

graduate study at the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University and Oxford University in England.

He has been the senior minister at Bright Hope Baptist Church in North Philadelphia since 1972, and was the minister at Union Baptist in Montclair, New Jersey, from 1964 to 1972.

Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he is married to the former Andrea Dash, of Montclair, N.J. They are the parents of three sons: William H. IV, Justin Yates and Andrew Dash.

Efforts To Increase N.C. Low-Income Housing

RALEIGH--Efforts to increase North Carolina's supply of low-income housing got a \$1.3 million boost from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency's (NCHFA) new Low-Income Tax Credit Program last year. The program, which became operational in the first half of 1987, helped add more than 820 low-income housing units in 28 counties during its first calendar year of operation.

The program, which is designed to encourage both for-profit and nonprofit organizations to buy, construct or rehabilitate housing for low-income persons, could provide as much as \$8 million a year in tax credits in both 1988 and 1989.

"Last year's accomplishments kicked off a new initiative in North Carolina and one that provides a resource to improve the housing stock for low-income North Carolinians," Pope said. "We have reached more counties with this program and produced more small scale projects that are suited to the needs of our rural state," he added.

The tax credit allows investors a maximum federal tax deduction of four percent or nine per-

cent of the cost of housing rented to low-income occupants. The credit may be used each year for 10 years, as long as the rental units remain occupied by low-income persons for a minimum of 15 years.

Of the \$8 million of tax credits available in 1988 and 1989, 20 percent is reserved for nonprofit organizations. In addition, NCHFA has set aside \$600,000 of interest on available Agency funds as an incentive to assist nonprofit organizations with pre-development costs, initial operating expenses and construction cost overruns.

To qualify, projects must meet federal guidelines to serve low-income occupants. "Low-income" is defined as projects with at least 20 percent of the units reserved for families earning no more than 50 percent of area median income; or, 40 percent or more of the units occupied by families with incomes at 60 percent or less of area median income. Income limits are adjusted for family size.

Projects receiving tax credits in 1987 ranged from a 100-unit apartment complex in Mecklenburg County to a three-bedroom single family house in New Hanover County.

Fulani Faces Long, Hard Road Ahead

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer

Independent presidential candidate Lenora Fulani realizes she has a difficult road ahead.

The major parties look down on her. The white-controlled media ignores her. And the League of Women Voters won't even let her participate in its debates.

All of that will change, she hopes, once America's have-nots join forces to make a difference.

"I'm fighting against exclusion, which is unfair," Fulani, a New York psychiatrist, said in a telephone interview last week from Philadelphia. "The major media will never seek me until they're forced to."

Fulani, the leader of the New Alliance party, is the first black woman to secure federal matching funds for a presidential campaign. This is not her first leap into the political waters, however. She garnered 25,000 votes in her 1986 run for governor of New York, the most for an independent in 30 years.

Being an independent, Fulani takes aim at the major political parties, charging that they ignore the concerns of average Americans.

"I think they're listening to big business and that means they're not listening to us," she said during a telephone interview last week from Philadelphia.

Fulani said she supports Democratic candidate Jesse Jackson, but that's the extent of good things she has to say about the party. Fulani contends that the Democrats take the black vote for granted and refuses to allow black input in the political process.

She believes the best way to make the Democrats take notice of black voting strength is to take the votes elsewhere. Fulani supports a "two roads" campaign where progressive whites and blacks support Jackson in the



Fulani: "I'm fighting against exclusion."

Democratic primaries but in the event Jackson doesn't get the party's nomination, they could join her campaign.

"The Democrats relate to (black voters) as something they already have," Fulani said. "The only way that vote can be conditional is if they have somewhere else to go."

Fulani said she agrees with Jackson's stand on the issues so she doesn't feel that there is a competition for the same voters. If Jackson wins the Democratic nomination, that's fine, she said, but in the event he doesn't, Jackson's supporters have an alternative.

"I'm literally running for president now, although I support Jesse's campaign," Fulani said. "It's really about giving people who've been disenfranchised the opportunity to have a voice."

Fulani is suing the League of Women Voters for refusing to in-

clude her in its series of presidential debates. The league, a non-profit organization that sponsored the debates, say that unlike Democrats and Republicans, independents don't have a primary season.

Fulani maintains that since she has been given federal matching funds, the Federal Elections Commission acknowledges that she has gone through a process similar to primaries--collecting 1.5 million signatures to get on the ballots of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The league, in effect, Fulani charges, is renegeing on its obligation to conduct debates in a non-partisan manner.

At present, Fulani is on the ballots of 22 states and anticipates adding 14 more by July. North Carolina, however, has been a difficult state to secure. To get on North Carolina's ballot, independents have to gather

45,000 signatures and pay a registration fee of five cents for every signature. Fulani said she has 26,000 signatures.

Response to an independent candidacy has been good, Fulani said, acknowledging that there is discontent among American voters.

"Whenever people are allowed to see me, the response has been good. These forces are finally getting an outlet," Fulani said.

"Getting into the White House is a position granted to wealthy white men. Most of us haven't had a chance to get in the White House from the Democratic Party."

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Ada Jackson To Keynote NAACP Dinner

Special To The Post

A noted educator from Nashville, TN, Dr. Ada Work Jackson, will be the keynote speaker at the annual dinner of the North Carolina Fundraising Committee of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF). The event will be held April 9 at the Adam's Mark Hotel, beginning with a 5 p.m. social hour followed by dinner at 6 p.m.

Chairpersons for the annual statewide event are Zoel and Esther Hargrave of Charlotte. The Hargraves are avid supporters of the fund and outstanding community leaders.

Former Charlotte attorney Julius Chambers heads the LDF, headquartered in New York, which provides legal assistance to persons throughout the United States.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Jackson, is associate principal at McGavock Comprehensive High School in Nashville, and is a well-known lecturer and consultant in the education field. In addition to several administrative posts in the public school system, she has taught in elementary and secondary schools, served as reading specialist, child development specialist, guidance counselor and as a group counselor for a mental health center. Dr. Jackson is also active in National Pan Helene Council activities. She is a



Dr. Jackson

member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

The Hargraves are urging the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community to support this fundraising event. "In these times of hostility, rage and denial of the rights of others, we need everyone's help in the escalating struggle for equal rights. We invite all citizens, organizations, businesses and churches to join us in this effort."

Tickets are \$35 each. Tables for eight are \$300. Those who elect to be sponsors at \$100 will receive two tickets. Checks for tickets or contributions should be made payable to The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and mailed to the North

Carolina Fundraising Committee for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 16038, Charlotte, NC, 28216.

For more information, contact Esther Hargrave at 399-8897.

Griffin Supports

Continued from page 1A

of students bused while the board looked into the prospect of building mid-point schools.

"It shows that even back then, I was on the cutting edge," he said.

Mid-point schools would provide an equitable solution to the busing dilemma, placing an equal share on black and white students.

"There's nothing new in the concept" of mid-point schools, Griffin said. "It's time we acted on it."

The school system should also look into developing magnet schools and high-tech schools that emphasize computer skills and industrial training.

Griffin also favors hiring support personnel like guidance counselors and psychologists, and paying them a more competitive salary.

Griffin, a 39-year-old paralegal and the father of two elementary-school students, called for the 13 other candidates to participate in a debate on the issues facing county schools.



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