Negroes Make Gains During Economic Boom

WASHINGTON - Negro citi- lies with incomes of \$7,000 zens have made substantial social and economic progress during the past seven years although the gap between Negro and white levels of living re-

This is a key finding of a report released recently by President Johnson. The stud, was prepared jointly by the Labor Statistics and the Bureau of the Census.

As the Nation rode 'a great tide of prosperity," President Johnson said, "Negroes in America not only kept up with the general advance, but in important ways moved ahead

In education, jobs, income and housing, "most Negroes have made substantial gains over the past few years," he said. "Today, for the first time, a substantial number of Negroes in America are moving into the middle class."

But, in releasing the report, the President warned there is also a "grim" meaning to the data in this document. Commenting on the continuing wide gap between Negroes and whites, he said:

"What is most troubling is that in many of the worst slums of America, life is not getting better for Negroes -- it is getting worse."

These are some of the highlights of the report:

Income--While Negro family income remains comparatively low, the incomes of both Negroes and white are at alltime peaks and the gap between the two groups narrowed "significantly" last year.

More than 28 percent of nonwhite families (about 92 percent of them Negro) receive more than \$7,000 a year--more than double the proportion seven years ago, as measured in constant dollars taking into account price changes.

Outside the Southern Region, the percentage of Negrofami-

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or more rises to 38 percent.

Six years ago, one out of two nonwhite families was poor, Though the incidence of poverty among nonwhite families remain high, about one out of three are now classified as poor. Last year alone, the number of nonwhites in poverty was reduced by 151,000 families.

Unemployment -- The jobless rates for nonwhites are still twice those of whites, but the level for both groups has dropped dramatically.

For nonwhite married men, the chief providers in nearly three-fourths of the nonwhite homes, the unemployment rate dropped at a faster rate than for white married men during the past five years.

Employment -- The number of nonwhites in professional, white collar and skilled jobs rose by nearly half during the past six years. Still, Negroes are far less likely to be in better jobs.

Since 1960, there has been a net increase of about 250,000 nonwhite professional and managerial workers, 280,000 clerical and sales workers, 190, 000 craftsmen and 160,000 operatives in the steel, automobile and other durable goods manufacturing industries.

Education -- Six years ago, nonwhite young men averaged two years less schooling than their white counterparts. The gap is only one-half year today. These are some of the grim

findings of the report: -- Negro family income is only 58 percent of white in-

-- The nonwhite teenage unemployment rate continues at about 26 percent.

-- A nonwhite man is still about three times as likely as a white man to be in a lowpaying job as a laborer or a service worker.

-- About 43 percent of Negro youth are rejected for military service because of "mental" reasons, compared with 8 percent of white youth.

After pointing to the pressing need for adequate funds for Federal programs aimed at reclaiming the country's slums, President Johnson said:

"Our job in the coming days and the coming years is to continue and to intensify our efforts to offer people a

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OMEGA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS - On the left, Harold H. Webb, basileus, Iota Iota Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is presenting the "Omega Man of the year" award to Brother Clarence Lightner. On the right, Rev. Howard Cunningham is presenting the "Citizens of the Year" award to Mrs. W. W. Finlator, in the absence of her husband, Rev. W. W. Finlator, who was given the honor for having made the greatest humanitarian contribution to the Raleigh community.



"KING AND QUEEN" - The Parent's Club of Tuttle Community Center sponsored the King and Queen Contest, which started Oct. 20 and ended Nov. 15. The King was John Baker III and the Queen, Deborah Newsome. The Court is as follows, from left to right of the Queen, the first runner up, Cheryl Perry, second Doris Lucas, and third Wanda Moore. From to left of the King, the first runner up, Richard Barfield, Jimmy Gibbs, third runner up, and second runner up is Xavier Christmas. The children participated in the Shaw University Homecoming Parade Sat-

1st Black Man Named To Miami Bd.

has become the first black man named to the Metro Charter Review Board. The board is studying proposals to change the sys-

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MIAMI - Joseph J. Poitier tem of electing commissioners in the metropolitan area.

Negro leaders have maintained that countywide elections give black candidates little chance of winning and that elections within districts would be

Poitier, a 43-year-old pharmacist, will take part in the deliberations on the proposals. He believes the board must "catch up" with the growth of the Greater Miami area. A native of Miami, he attend-

ed Florida A&M University and graduated from Xavier University in New Orleans. Poitier, chairman of the political action committee, Young Democratic association, was

Mayor Chuck Hall. The CRB study of revamp proposals was sparked by Earl Carroll, insurance executive.

named to his new post by Metro

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In Appeal Of Conviction CORE, SNCC Come To Leroi Jones' Aid

NEWARK - Two black power groups have come to the aid of playwright LeRoi Jones, convicted of illegally possessing weapons during this city's riots last summer.

Floyd McKissick, CORE Chairman, said his group would provide legal defense for Jones' appeal of his conviction.

And H. Rap Brown, SNCC chairman, said "We'll do anything to free Jones" whom he described as "a patriot of the black people." Declaring that he would sup-

port Jones' appeal, Brown asserted, on the other hand, that seeking legal redress in American courts "is futile for the Black man in this country." Jones described his case as "the testing point for black people throughout the nation.

"If they can rough us off in

Obituaries

MRS. AGARTHA B. CROSS Mrs. Agartha Bobbitt Cross of 6 Hoke Street, died Friday at her home. Funeral services were conducted from the Raleigh Funeral Home chapel Wednesday afternoon at 1 O'clock by the Rev. T.C. Ha-

mans. Burial followed in the National cemetery. She is survived by one sister, Miss Janet Hall of the home; four aunts, Mrs. Sallie S. Bobbitt, Brooklyn, N.Y., Mrs. Ethel Simmons, Mrs. Alberra Dunn, and Miss Rivina Hall, all of New York City; one uncle, Phill M. Hall,

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Newark, where we are a clear majority, we are in terrible shape all across the country," Jones said.

According to McKissick, Jones' appeal will raise the question of Negroes' right to bear arms.

Describing the playwright as a ''political prisoner," Mc-Kissick said, "we recognize in this country today an organized effort to curb black militants -- people who speak out and act."

Ligon's Band To Travel

BY ABRAHAM GREEN The J. W. Ligon concert and marching band travelled to Hillside Nov. il. They gave a great performance at half time They formed an "H" and played "Hi Neighbor." Then they formed a record player and played "Three Jacks." From there they formed the letters LHS and played the Alma Ma-

The band had a wonderful



JOINS STAFF AT A&T - JO nah Smith, former administrator of Community Hospital. Martinsville, Va., has been appointed bursar at A&T State University.

marching season this year and is now looking forward to a great concert season.

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