

# Blacks Are Gearing Up For New Nixon Welfarism

## What's Your Bag?



BY REV. JEROME LEDOUX

600 TO 1  
"Mrs. Carter, guess what I want to be when I grow up!" The young teacher turned half in enthusiasm, half in anxiety over what her small black charge would say. Almost anything can pop up in class for the retarded. "What do you want to be?"

"I want to be a sniper!" the youngster returned with great firmness and seriousness. His remark followed closely on the heels of the bizarre chain of events on January 7, 1973.

Ghostly curtains blew through broken windows with chilling, ghoully rhythm from a number of rooms in the Howard Johnson motor hotel. From the adjacent New Orleans civic center huge chanted areas were visible and the rapid pop-pop of small arms fire punctuated a growing confusion. Though the scene looked like a melo-dramatic cut from a TV movie, it was frighteningly live and very real. It was so real that police deputy superintendent Louis Sirgo and Patrolmen Paul Persigo and Philip Coleman were slain along with four civilians.

"I can't agree with what happened on the top of Howard Johnson's," said one young black but maybe this has shown the white community what can happen if they frustrate us too much. Just think if one person can pin down 600 policemen."

Psychiatrists have been enjoying a held day attempting to explain Mark Essex's reverse metamorphosis from a beautiful butterfly into a repulsive caterpillar. One may well speculate whether he was partially motivated by Walker Percy's novel, "Love in the Ruins" or by the movie version of the same, "Dirty Harry," depicting a black guerrilla atop a Howard Johnson motel.

There seems to be no doubt that this occurs in some cases, as was obvious in the telephoned hijack threat against a giant Boeing 747 leaving Madrid for the States in late December. The pressure bomb-fake, as event proved—set to go off when the plane descended to 3200 feet.

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## Organizations, And People Are Ready

National Black News Service  
WASHINGTON - National black organizations and individuals as well as others concerned with social welfare are girding themselves for the Nixon Administration's 1973 thrust on welfare reform.

Unable to take definitive positions on the sweeping welfare reform proposal sent to the White House by outgoing Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Elliot Richardson, they nevertheless are wary of its contents. Labeled within HEW as the "Mega" Plan because of its broad scope the proposal now being studied by the White House is said to be compatible with President Nixon's New Federalism philosophy. Accordingly, it provides for state- and individuals to have more discretionary power than they now have in developing and administering aid programs for the needy. The apparent intent of the plan is to outmaneuver special interest groups and enable the states to have broader spending and decision-making power.

One of the "Mega" plans most potentially repressing features would be its tougher work requirements and benefits for fewer people than even Nixon's previous welfare plan called for. The National Welfare Rights Organization is in the midst of internal reorganization after the departure of its first director, George Wiley who had not seen the "Mega" plan. However, new NWRO director, Mrs. Johnnie Tillmon, strongly denounced any possible employment requirement for mothers of pre-school children.

"I think it's wrong for the administration to be taking political potshots at poor women with children who need to be at home providing them with the proper care so that the children won't have the same kind of problems that their mothers are having now," said Mrs. Tillmon. "Furthermore, I basically wonder why the administration concentrates so heavily on work programs for women when there are so many men, even with degrees, who are looking for work and cannot find it," said the outspoken welfare rights leader.

"Until we see the plan I wouldn't want to say we are opposed to it," said Moskowitz. "Sometimes we have to read behind the language to see what is really being said."



DRAMA DRAWS BIG CROWD—New York—While most New Yorkers were spending this bright Sunday with family and friends, this group crowds behind police barriers to watch drama unfold between police and four gunmen held up in Brooklyn sporting goods store with nine hostages here January 21. The gunmen surrendered four hours after the hostages they had held for more than 40 hours finally managed roof top escape. (UPI).

## Additional Cutbacks In Housing Program Announced

WASHINGTON - The cutback in the nation's housing programs has been broadened to include the rural program as well.

The Administration has ordered a sharp reduction in new applications for low-income rural families. The project administered by the Agriculture Department is a Farmers Home Administration program. It permits poor rural families to purchase new homes with interest rates on their mortgages as low as 1 percent.

Officials of the Farmers Home Administration, though making no formal announcement of the action, confirmed that telegrams were sent out ordering an immediate halt on new applications for housing loans and some other programs. A number of other programs were also affected by the order including projects providing rural rental and cooperative housing, grants to small communities for building sewer and water systems, and credit for farm labor housing.

Darrel A. Dunn, deputy administrator of the Farmers Administration said more than 30,000 single-family housing loans for low-income rural families between now and June 30 would be cancelled. Dunn said the cancellations were part of a moratorium on new subsidized rural and urban housing approvals.

He pointed out that the actions were all part of a basic review of national housing subsidy policy. Outgoing HUD Secretary George Romney has already announced that the department had placed a "temporary hold" on all subsidized housing applications which have now been "feasibly" approved. Under the Farmers Home Administration single-family

home loans for both low and moderate income families were planned for a total of 117,000 loans, totalling close to \$2.07 billion in the fiscal year ending June 30. About 70,000 of these loans were due to go to low-income families, most of them with incomes under \$7,000 a year.

## Dr. Thorpe Re-elected To The SACS

ELIZABETH CITY - Dr. Marion D. Thorpe, chancellor of Elizabeth City State University, has been re-elected to serve on the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Serving with the Commission since 1969, Dr. Thorpe has held membership on the Committee on Membership of colleges and universities in the Association and the Committee on Re-creditation.

According to the letter from Dr. Gordon W. Sweet, Executive Secretary of the Commission, "It will be gratifying to have you continue in the work of the Commission as it develops programs for higher education in the south." Chancellor Thorpe, who also holds membership on: the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities; the Education Commission of the States; the Committee on Public Affairs of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities; and other higher educational organizations, will be notified of committee appointments for 1973, by the chairman of the Commission.

## Future Of Black Theatre In United States

National Black News Service

WASHINGTON - Black Theater is swiftly winging its way across the country and actor Robert Hooks contends, "This is not a passing phase. Black theater is here to stay."

The 35-year-old veteran of Broadway and television stardom says, "Black theater to me represents black culture. It provides a needed outlet for black expression. What has been happening up to now, before the black theater movement, is that another kind of culture has been forced on black people. It didn't have much to do with our culture as black people in America."

A few weeks ago, Hooks showed off a sample of the kind of "revolutionary" production that he considers relevant to black audiences. In 1970, Hooks returned to the city where he was born and announced plans to open a D.C. Repertory Company that would do for Washington blacks what he helped do for blacks in New York as co-founder of the New York Ensemble.

Says Hooks, "The reason I came to Washington was to cultivate a black theater-going audience. Needless to say, black theater also provides an outlet for talents that have gone untapped. My greatest challenge is to bring black theater to black people."

With the opening performance recently of "Coda," a play written by Evan Walker, the D.C. Repertory Company opened the way for a season of black professional theater that Hooks says will portray an array of black life-styles.

"Coda" is the story of a black family's conflicts and frustrations that are aggravated by differing attitudes held by three generations that make up the family structure. The time is

1969, in a Harlem tenement, and centers around a son returning from Vietnam. Unlike his father, he is bitter and militant, questioning and unaccepting.

Not long after the premiere performance of "Coda," Hooks sat in the newly-carpeted lobby of the Last Colony Theater, located close to Howard University, and talked about the problems that black theater groups are having to face. High on the list of handicaps is "money." He confides that in his own situation, most of the money comes from white backers.

With thin hands flailing the air, Hooks leaned easily back in a chair, exclaiming that the Last Colony Theater was a place that was real "a place you can see, something you can touch." Even so, groups like his are finding that blacks are reluctant to put their money into

cultural institutions. "Money is green," Hooks said emphatically. "But I would like to see more support from black sources. Unfortunately, they consider this a gamble."

Casualty dressed in jeans and turtle neck sweater, "Bobby" Hooks indicated that he had always been involved in some form of community effort. The only difference now is that it is at "a higher level."

The Job Opportunities in the Business Sector (JOBS) Program, administered by the Manpower Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, is a partnership of government and business working together to hire hard-core unemployed to begin work and be paid—as they train for that job. The National Alliance of Businessmen (NAB) was formed by business and industrial leaders to help the JOBS Program achieve that goal.



PARTICIPATES IN INAUGURATION - Staff Sergeant Douglas C. McBroom, son of Mrs. Lucy McBroom, Rt. 1, Durham, N.C., was among U.S. Air Force personnel participating in Inauguration Day activities last Saturday in Washington. Sergeant McBroom will be a member of the contingent of armed forces personnel who will help provide crowd control along Pennsylvania Avenue during the gigantic parade. The sergeant is permanently assigned as a protective coating specialist with the 1100th Civil Engineering Squadron at Bolling Air Force Base. He has 10 years military service and has completed 24 months combat duty in Vietnam. Sergeant McBroom is a 1962 graduate of Hillboro (N.C.) High School. His wife is the former Gloria D. Collins.

LIFT PRE-TRIAL CONFINEMENT - FACING courts-martial because of racial brawls which broke out on the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk last October, 17 black sailors have asked Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas to release them from the brig so they can help prepare their defense. Douglas is not expected to act on the request - which has been turned down by the U.S. Court of Military Appeals - until Navy Secretary John Warner states his opinion. However, the Justice Department said Wednesday the high court lacks the authority to free the sailors because they had not submitted their appeal first through a lower court. The Department called the move "entirely inappropriate and constitutionally unauthorized."



DIRECTS UNIQUE BUREAU FOR BLACKS - Producer Sue Booker directs a unique news bureau in the Los Angeles black community for public television station KCET. The bureau, called "The Storefront," functions as a community center as well as a news-gathering office. Miss Booker also hosts the station's weekly program of black news and cultural affairs, "Doin' It at the Storefront."

**PREGNANCY PLANNING AND HEALTH**  
BY GLORIA RIGGSBEE

Dear Mrs. Riggsbee: I have a problem that is beginning to worry me. I have always had trouble with my periods. When I first started, I used to skip several months at a time. I didn't worry too much then because I was just starting. I am a 19 year old virgin, and I am still skipping months as before. The pains during my periods are severe. I went to one doctor for these pains and he gave me some pills to take for cramps. He told me that they would lessen whenever I got married and had a child.

Shortly after this visit, my period stopped completely. About 3 months later I went to another doctor. He checked me and said he could find nothing wrong. He even went as far as to give me a pregnancy test (I knew that was impossible.) He told me to wait a few more months and see what happens. About two months later, after not having had a period, I went to a third doctor. He couldn't find anything wrong either and advised me to wait longer and see what happens. I waited, but to no avail. I went back to him and he checked me again. This time he told me a gland in my body was not producing enough fluid or something to that effect. He gave me some pills to take. I think they are birth control pills. They work fine whenever I take them for a month. If I don't take them, I skip a month in my period.

I feel just fine whenever I don't have a period. But I am worried because it is not normal for a girl of 19 not to have regular periods.

I am planning to get married the middle part of next year. Do you think this condition may back the chances of having normal and healthy kids in the future?

Any help or advice you can give will be greatly appreciated.  
E.M.

Dear E.M.:

Many, many women have irregular periods. In fact, more women have irregular periods than regular ones. Each woman is different, so each woman's body works on a different type of schedule. Some women have periods every 28 days, some every 35 days, some have even longer spans between periods. What is "normal" for one person is not necessarily "normal" for another. There is nothing "abnormal" about a 19 year old girl having irregular periods. Skipping periods does not harm your body in any way. Of course, not having a period for five months, is something that should be checked into. Since you have seen a number of doctors, I think you can be quite sure there is nothing seriously wrong with you, or they would have told you. You may be just irregular - like millions of other "normal" women in the world. Being irregular in having periods does not lessen your chances of having babies or endanger them in any way.

On the other hand, you may have a condition in which your ovaries do not release eggs, causing you to skip your period for several months. Birth control pills may not be good treatment for this condition, since they may make it harder for your ovaries to release eggs when you want to get pregnant. Why don't you see an endocrine specialist, or a fertility specialist, to find out if you have this condition (Stein-Leventhal Syndrome), and how you should manage your family planning when you get married. The condition is not dangerous or difficult to treat if it is spotted by an expert.

Address letters and requests for a free booklet on birth control to Mrs. Gloria Riggsbee, 214 Cameron Avenue, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514.



ST. AUG.'S "MISS UNCF"—Lovely Miss Pauline T. Darlington of New York City, has been named "Miss United Negro College Fund," at Saint Augustine's College. Miss Darlington is a junior history and government major. She is a member of the student Government Association, History Club, and Pre-Alumni Club. Her hobbies are tennis, crocheting and swimming.

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