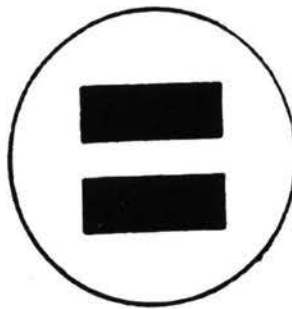


NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

PRESS CLIPS



JANUARY 1 – MAY 15, 1997

William Raspberry

The Masai Model

"Masai warriors in Africa have a greeting that Americans ought to embrace. 'Eserian nakera,' they always say when passing one another. It means: 'And how are the children?' Their traditional response is: 'All the children are well.'"

—Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League.

Hugh Price has a knack for getting past the racial and political posturing and getting at the heart of things. Last week, in a wide-ranging session at the National Press Club, he got to the heart of urban education. It's time, he said, to teach *all* our children. "No excuses."

His message was not just exhortation; it was also reminder. If the educational system is to work for those children who are not being well educated, he said, we all have to be involved.

Teachers must teach to high standards—and those who can't must either be retrained or encouraged to seek other work. Parents have to send their children to school ready to learn, or most of them won't learn. Community groups and employers have to work together to create a climate of support and opportunity so that children can resist the anti-academic tide that is engulfing inner-city schools. And the children themselves must behave as though academic achievement matters. No excuses.

"The landscape of urban public education is dotted with teachers, classrooms and even entire schools that deliver the goods," he said. "The needed innovations have been designed and field-tested and are now ready for mass market. It's time to put them to widespread use. If we adults—educators, elected officials, parents, employers and community groups—will only do what we're supposed to do for the children, then they will do what we expect them to do."

It is that simple—and that difficult.

The Urban League chief is not the first to observe that successful education requires both a competent teacher and an engaged student. The former can be developed by our colleges and universities. The latter often requires the entire village.

Parents obviously play a major role in exciting their children's interest in learning. But too many parents, having enjoyed little success in learning, don't know how to do it. They can be taught: in church basements, recreation cen-

ters—and in school rooms, years before they become parents.

That training will be much easier if we can manage to build communities that value academic achievement the way we value athletic prowess.

"For reasons that aren't evident, black youngsters, more so than others, are susceptible to the pernicious message that achievement is tantamount to acting 'white,'" Price said. "The negative pressures can even reach the point that achievers try to mask their intelligence. What's perhaps worse, many African American children operate under the delusion that they'll be able to get ahead even if they don't do well in school. With technology replacing marginally skilled workers with lap tops and robots, and with affirmative action under sustained assault, this delusion is a surefire recipe for economic disaster for our children—and for our people."

It is interesting to ponder the source of this anti-achievement attitude. Surely some part of it must come from years of well-meant emphasis on the limits imposed by racism rather than on the potential of what serious exertion can unleash.

And part of it must come from what too many of our children see as self-evident: that except for a super-gifted few, there ain't no making it.

As Price and other presenters at last week's conference noted, there is now plenty of evidence that children of ordinary intelligence—entire schools of them—can make it if they are respected, held to high standards and taught well. And given that evidence, there's no excuse for not making such success a general thing.

It will take money, of course. "It is shortsighted and unacceptable," said Price, "for educators and elected officials to impose loftier standards and then shirk responsibility for providing the resources and quality of schooling required for youngsters to succeed."

But more even than money, it will take the rest of us—the village. I think too many of our children sense that they are no longer the center of our concerns—and that may be why they pay so little attention to our exhortations. We've got to make them the center again.

Eserian nakera?

Not well. Not well at all.

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON, DC
DAILY 834,641

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Blacks, Jews getting together to work on improving relations

One-day conference
in NYC to air concerns,
seek common ground

By Joseph A. Kirby

NEW YORK—There is little that surprises residents of Crown Heights, a Brooklyn enclave shared by blacks and Hasidic Jews that in 1991 erupted in four bloody days of rioting that left one dead and a city divided.

But just three weeks ago, even the most jaded were caught off guard by what happened after a jury found two black men guilty of violating the civil rights of the Jewish scholar who was murdered in that race-driven mayhem: Nothing.

No harsh rhetoric. No fiery protests. No one grabbing a brick to bludgeon a neighbor. According to community leaders, it was another average day in a neighborhood that, over the years, has transformed residents' mistrust and anger into an imperfect, yet respectful, coexistence.

"Slowly we are learning to live with one other and to once again work with each other," said Richard Green, an African-American community activist in Crown Heights who worked with Jewish leaders to re-establish peace. "Blacks and Jews are tired of fighting."

On Tuesday, prominent civil rights, political and business leaders will hold a conference in New York to air concerns about relations between the two groups and, perhaps, begin formulating the foundation for cooperation in the next century.

Conference officials say the deeds of many blacks and Jews

nationwide indicate that cooperation may already be under way.

"The perception by many out there—that blacks and Jews are at each others' throats—is not the reality," said Rabbi Marc Schneier, president of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding. "We are not saying there's not conflict. Yes, there is conflict. But by and large people are reaching out to one another and establishing lines of communication."

As evidence, conference organizers plan to release a report that points to dozens of joint projects, programs and seminars held by black and Jewish houses of worship, schools, social groups and colleges in cities across the nation from Hartford, Conn., to Omaha, Neb., to San Francisco, that have stressed alliance.

For example, the Cleveland Jewish Committee gave its annual leadership award last year to a black Cleveland pastor and civil-rights advocate. In Washington, D.C., students from predominantly black and Jewish elementary schools visited museums that featured histories of the other's Hanukkah and Kwanzaa celebrations. And Jewish groups throughout the country helped provide for congregations that suffered during a spate last year of church burnings in the South.

"The number of voluntary encounters between Jewish and African-American(s) ... indicates a desire to repair whatever fissures have outcropped in their relations," the conference report states.

The one-day conference is the first time in several years that leaders such as NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, World Jewish Council Secretary General Israel Singer and National Urban

League President Hugh Price have met publicly to discuss a relationship that evolved during the early 1900s, flourished during the civil rights movement and has experienced rocky moments more recently.

Officials said they did not invite a representative from the Chicago-based Nation of Islam. Nation leader, Minister Louis Farrakhan, as well as some of his aides, over the years have made anti-Semitic comments that have outraged Jewish leaders and severely strained their ties with the heads of African-American organizations, whom they have asked to disavow Farrakhan's comments.

During the past decade, leaders of black and Jewish organization have butted heads over a number of other issues, including the opposition of affirmative action by some Jewish organizations, and the controversial comments of Leonard Jeffries, a City Colleges of New York professor who made remarks in a class that some Jewish organizations considered anti-Semitic.

But the Urban League's Price said that blacks and Jews should put disagreements behind them and use Tuesday's conference to find a common issue, such as education or the improvement of urban areas, that would serve the interests of both communities and then unite to channel their energies and resources.

"We are not going to agree on everything—ever," Price said. "There will always be sticking points because, while we are very similar, both sides have different beliefs. But what we can come away with is the understanding that we can deepen the collaboration, that we can work together for a goal."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO, IL
DAILY 691,283

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MAR 4 1997

Newsday

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER

<http://www.newsday.com>

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1997 • SUFFOLK

50¢

Jews, Blacks — Eye to Eye

Conflicts and cooperation discussed at city conference

By Martin C. Evans

STAFF WRITER

In 1956, when Hazel Dukes believed her application to a Roslyn apartment complex was rejected because of her skin color, she turned to Jewish housing activists to help her win the right to move in.

"It would have been horrible without the help of the Jewish community," said Dukes, who is director of the New York State Conference of NAACP Branches.

Dukes was among about 300 people who met at Yeshiva University in Manhattan to discuss the sometimes fragile state of relations between America's blacks and Jews, and to reflect on the history of cooperation between them.

The conference was organized by Rabbi Marc Schneier, a Westhampton resident who is president of the Manhattan-based Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

The conference drew several black and Jewish leaders, including former Maryland congressman Kweisi Mfume, president of the national NAACP, Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League and Israel Singer, Secretary General of the World Jewish Congress.

Several participants said conflicts involving blacks and Jews — such as the 1991 murder of a Hasidic Jew during a riot in Crown Heights, Brooklyn — often overshadow less sensational interactions between the two groups.

Rabbi Gilbert Rosenthal, of Great Neck, said he became convinced of the need for healing between the two groups after seeing squabbles between Jewish and black leaders dominate the news.

"There was a general mood of discouragement that the beautiful cooperation between blacks and Jews that flowered during the civil rights movement of the sixties was being fractured," said Rosenthal, who is executive vice president of the New York Board of Rabbis. "People were being swept up in the rhetoric of [Nation of Islam leader Louis] Farrakhan and all the vitriolic language of the Crown Heights tragedy which led to the murder of an innocent Jew."

Jewish individuals helped found the NAACP and the Urban League. And Jewish donors have made huge contributions to these and other black organizations, including a \$50-million challenge grant to the United Negro College in 1990 by philanthropist Walter H. Annenberg.

But participants in the conference acknowledged that blacks and Jews often differ on key social policy issues, such as affirmative action, funding of religious schools, and the insistence of some orthodox Jews and Muslims that they are God's chosen people.

"We have to be honest enough to say they exist, because they do, but daring enough to talk about them," Mfume said.

Mfume said although the relationship between blacks and Jews has often been strained, "we know the partnership between the black and Jewish community was formed out of a righteous indignation to injustice in our society."

Several participants also said housing segregation — which was exacerbated by the flight of Jews from the inner city to the suburbs — kept them from getting to know members of the other group on a personal level.

Deny Steinhauser, a 1980 graduate of Lawrence High School who is now a social worker and lives in Manhattan, said she had little contact with blacks growing up in Woodmere, and was ill equipped to deal with tensions.

"We were segregated in a lot of ways socially," she said. "I didn't dialogue with black people on a daily basis."



AP Photo

Kweisi Mfume



AP File Photo

Israel Singer



AP File Photo

Hugh Price



120 WALL STREET

New Digs For National Urban League 9595

NEW YORK (2/5/97)—The National Urban League has leased 48,000 square feet in Silverstein Properties' 35-story office building. The 20-year lease is valued at more than \$20 million.

NUL becomes the largest nonprofit tenant at the 120 Wall St. building which

was created with the NYC Economic Development Corp. to house nonprofit organizations.

Formerly, the NUL was located at 500 E. 62nd St. where it occupied the 21-story building with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) for 23 years. While UNCF relocated to Virginia, the NUL was interested in finding increased space in New York.

Many other nonprofits have relocated to 120 Wall St. which is also known as the Association Center.

"The move of the nonprofits to downtown and the success of 120 Wall St. buoys and underscores the rapid revitalization and renaissance of lower Manhattan," said David Lebenstein, director of sales and leasing for Time Equities who with Arlene Wysong negotiated the lease.

REJI/TRI-STATE

SILVER SPRING, MD
WEEKLY 7,200

FEB 10 1997

Parents' Guide to the Information Superhighway

The Children's Partnership, along with the National PTA and the National Urban League, has developed a resource to help parents enable children to explore the information superhighway.

The Parents' Guide to the Information Superhighway: Rules and Tools for Families Online is designed to help parents meet the challenges of parenting in the new media environment and to raise awareness of the importance of technology to children. The guide will help equip and encourage parents to get involved with their schools and in important policy decisions in their communities.

Contents of the guide include:

- What's at Stake? Why New Technologies Matter to Your Child

- What Is the Information Superhighway?
- What Does Using Computers Actually Do for My Child?
- How Do I Get Started?—A Parent's Primer
- How Can I Find Good Places To Go and Things To Do in Cyberspace?
- At School—Getting Involved with Technology
- Rules and Tools: How To Keep Kids Safe Online and Having Fun

The guide is available online at <http://www.childrenspartnership.org>.

Copies are also available for \$8, Parents' Guide, 1460 4th Street, Suite 306, Santa Monica, Calif. 90401. Make check payable to the Children's Partnership/Tides Center. ■

NASSP NEWS LEADER

RESTON, VA
9 TIMES/YEAR

MARCH 1997

Citizens, officials must tackle welfare

In an unprecedented show of concern, more than 45 local organizations have joined together to hold a "town meeting" on welfare reform and what it could mean not just to the lives of recipients of public assistance, but to the region as a whole.

It is vital that all players — local, county, state and federal lawmakers and officials; policymakers; business and labor representatives; advocates; and citizens — attend Sunday's 3 p.m. meeting at the Grinton I. Will Library in Yonkers. The uncertainties of welfare reform, one of the most pressing issues facing government today, have united diverse groups, prompting their sponsorship of the event.

For residents, the afternoon will be a welcome chance to make their views known. For too long, that opportunity has been lacking as policymakers and officials have been unable, or unwilling, to share details about the true impact of welfare reform on people's lives.

President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act in August of last year, setting off a chain reaction of massive change to the public assistance system. States have until July 1 to complete their enactment of a program that encourages work and job training, and puts time limits on benefits for the needy.

The details involved in hammering out a plan for New York state, and what they will mean to county residents, are mind-boggling. State lawmakers will be asked to answer tough philosophical questions like whether to freeze a family's benefits even if additional children are born; whether to sanction families if parents fail to meet program requirements; and how much, if any, assistance should be provided to noncitizens.

About the meeting

A town meeting on welfare reform will be held Sunday starting at 3 p.m. at the Will Library, 1500 Central Ave., Yonkers.

- Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Westchester and the Campaign for Kids, a group of more than 80 civic and service associations, the meeting will feature keynote speaker Andrew O'Rourke, Westchester county executive, speaking on the county's new program designed in response to federal and state policy changes.
- More than 40 other local groups are co-sponsoring the event.
- A Spanish interpreter will be available. The auditorium is wheelchair accessible.
- For more information, call the League at 949-0507. For directions to the library, call 337-1500.

The keynote speaker Sunday will be Westchester County Executive Andrew O'Rourke, who will talk about POWER — Permanently Off Welfare Through Education and Responsibility — the county's new program designed in response to federal and state policy changes.

A panel discussion will follow his speech. Members will include: Dennis Packard, assistant commissioner, Westchester Department of Social Services; Gail Levine, state Department of Labor; Sheila Collins, National Jobs for All Coalition; Lawrence Dwyer, president of the Westchester County Association; and Ernie Prince, president of the Urban League of Westchester.

Finally, there will be an opportunity for the audience to question lawmakers and experts.

We encourage officials and residents to turn out for this town meeting. There are few issues facing Albany and the counties that have greater potential to change the social and economic fabric of our lives than welfare reform.

Opinion

Welfare: Can N.C. get it right?

9595

Observer associate editors Fannie Flono and Maria Henson sought advice from experts outside North Carolina on how the state should write its plan for welfare reform. A law abolishing the federal government's guarantee of cash benefits to poor families with dependent children was passed last August. Now, states receive a block grant and must design their programs to meet certain federal requirements. In North Carolina, the plan is expected to build on Work First, the state's own welfare program that began in July 1995. The legislature awaits the Hunt administration's proposal. It's due in Washington July 1.

What is significant about welfare reform?

PETER EDELMAN, Georgetown University law professor: This population is not monolithic. There are people who are taking care of kids who are chronically ill or older relatives who are chronically ill, and you know that should be taken into account when figuring out whether they're the people who will be pushed into the labor market ever, or at least at the beginning. And you have people who are learning disabled who need particular attention if they're ever going to be functional in the labor market. And just people who don't have experience working who need some help in understanding what the workplace is like.

MYRON MAGNET, Manhattan Institute: Welfare reform is going to be a long process. We'll take some big steps, either in the wrong direction or find we haven't gone far enough. (It) could take us the better part of a decade to get it right. The really important thing is to say welfare is not an entitlement. The message is that every able-bodied person is responsible for him or herself and that's a big cultural change. It's not like welfare reform is the alternative to an Ozzie and Harriet childhood. Welfare reform is the alternative to childhoods that over and over again are absolutely deplorable.

What are the elements of a good state plan?

DEBORAH WEINSTEIN, Children's Defense Fund: A good state plan in the broadest sense will really give people tools and incentives to move into work and also prevent children and families from falling



Rhonda Fitzgerald, playing with her son Mario, became a teacher after getting a job under North Carolina's Work First program. Experts say work programs that help welfare recipients move out of poverty and become self-sufficient will be one indicator of welfare-reform success.

DIEDRA LAIRD/Staff

able child care.

The conservative estimate on that is about \$6,000 a year for two children in sitter-based child care. The typical mother on welfare is a mother with two small children. That's a lot of money. Your minimum-wage job, full-time, year-round, pays \$10,700. So you can see they're not able to afford that. For others, they wouldn't be able to afford it initially but they might work into it. We have to plan for their success, so the best way is not have it be a time-limited child-care subsidy. It would be a subsidy that's available based on income, not on some arbitrary time limit.

for failure to comply. In many cases, these were errors and when the people appealed, they were reinstated. That's what I mean about a headlong rush to reduce the caseload and not to be careful.

... There are hospitals in areas and clinics that (could start) to see children who are hungrier, who are experiencing undernourishment. In some studies, they found that in the wintertime, there are more cases of undernourishment. It's the heat or eat choice. Families are making a horrible but actually logical choice that a child could fall into terrible ill health or even die if there's no heat over a period of days.

Will there be other signs — such as falling behind in rent, falling behind in paying utility bills? We should take (them) as alarm bells.

SARAH SHUPTRINE: You cover for the public the kinds of very obvious trouble points — again the food banks, the food kitchens, the shelters, to see if there are increases in the number of families that are using those kinds of facilities. Are they coming from the welfare system? It's going to be such a difficult problem to track unless you do it through some sort of formalized case management, which is going to take additional resources. Are the states willing to invest those kinds of resources to check back with the families?

How should the public define success?

PETER EDELMAN: What we really want to do is reduce poverty, so certainly one next agenda is whether people who are working are still in poverty when the dust settles on this. I think in the end what we want is to reduce poverty and if we can reduce the welfare rolls and have more people being self-sufficient, which means that we've reduced poverty, that's the ultimate success.

MARK GREENBERG: There is a real issue as to whether to think about the success of the legislation in terms of reduced caseload or in terms of effectiveness in helping poor families enter and stay in the labor force. It will be really easy for states to reduce caseload under the legislation because they now have no responsibility to provide assistance to poor families. It is harder but far more crucial to focus on whether states are successful in helping poor families enter and stay in the labor force and meet the basic needs of their children when



Edelman



Greenberg



Laracy



Shuptrine



Weinstein

OUR EXPERTS ON WELFARE REFORM

■ **ANDREW BUSH** directs the Hudson Institute's welfare policy

counsel for the Center for Law and Social Policy, a Washington re-

Institute's City Journal. The Manhattan Institute is a conservative

into destitution. ... It will make sure there is child care available for children under the age of 11 at least, so that parents don't have to feel that they're leaving their children in an unsafe situation. (It) will make work pay by allowing people to keep partial assistance when they're earning but at very low wages.

PETER EDELMAN: The first question is what do you do about the work side of it in the most effective possible way? So the first question is what are we doing about jobs? To the extent it could be done, it's important for the governor and people to reach out and work with the private sector. I don't know in the end how promising that's going to be. But that ought to be a high visibility effort.

You've got to look at the jobs that people are getting — what they're paying. And a number of states have had some success with their waivers in getting people to work if they supplement low-wage jobs with what was AFDC, what's now TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families block grant).

Child-care investment is real important. And then the whole issue of what you do about Medicaid and making sure that people have health coverage in a continuing way so that their work situation doesn't become untenable.

A couple of other things that ought to be in a good plan: There ought to be no hassle and no terror. There ought to be clear rules and procedural due process. There ought to be a clear right to a hearing. There ought to be a clear assurance that if you apply and you're eligible you'll get assistance promptly, which of course has been removed by the law on this.

ANDREW BUSH, Hudson Institute: Programs should be primarily re-oriented toward reducing dependency and promoting strong, stable two-parent families.

Most places that instituted strong work programs are going to have programs that indirectly help promote a strong family. But (states) need to be far more conscious of that, of rooting out bias toward single-parent families and trying to build in preferences for two-parent families. Think about how to include men, single men. If you're helping them become more successful in the workplace, (there's) a better opportunity you'll have more marriageable men and more men who will probably exercise more responsibility as fathers.

SARAH SHUPTRINE, Southern Institute on Children and Families: We have to assure that these families can get child care so that they can move into the workforce. This is something that our research has shown us is utmost on their mind — whether or not they're able to place their children in safe, afford-

not on some arbitrary time limit.

MILTON LITTLE, National Urban League: One element would be a connection between the welfare-reform activities and economic development activities. One of the nagging concerns is whether there are sufficient jobs to move the welfare recipients into to provide the wage to leave welfare.

Another element is to make sure that the support services and transitional services are available. We're talking about quality and affordable child care, medical care, transportation, and other kinds of work-related services that research has shown the absence of those are reasons why people cycle back.

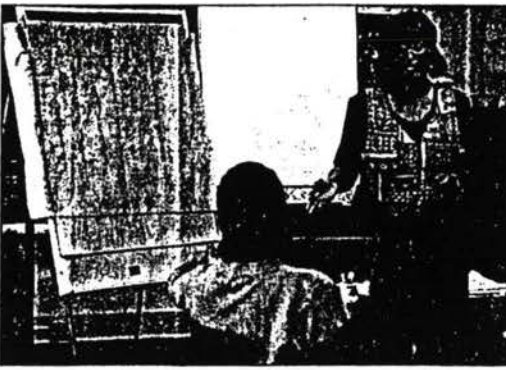
The earned income tax credit is one of the hidden jewels of welfare reform over the last few years. It provides opportunity for supplementing the earnings of welfare recipients. Far too (few) know about it or take advantage of it.

MIKE LARACY, Annie Casey Foundation: Among long-term welfare recipients, the average IQ is 70. You know, 70 is considered by experts to be borderline mentally retarded. What are the implications of that for a significant number of the AFDC population? You really have to get a good handle on what your caseload is like and come up with solutions that respond to (that) population.

States (also) need to include a realistic appraisal of where jobs are and what the economy is like. In certain states, there aren't enough jobs. In many, the jobs are where the poor people ain't.

Name the innovative states to watch

MARK GREENBERG, Center for



DIEDRA LAIRD/Staff

Jobfest 1997 attracted about 100 welfare recipients for interviews with recruiters from 40 area companies last February. Here, recruiter Karen Carr (left) of Charlotte Marriott Executive Park talks with Linda Nixon of Charlotte about possible employment. In the past 18 months, such efforts have helped move 30,000 residents off welfare in North Carolina.

Hudson Institute's welfare policy center that assists states in redesigning their welfare systems. The Hudson Institute is a nonprofit public policy group and national think tank based in Indianapolis.

PETER EDELMAN is a law professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Last year, in protest over the welfare bill, he resigned as assistant secretary for planning and evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services.

MARK GREENBERG is chief

Law and Social Policy: In Minnesota, there is a program called Minnesota Family Investment Program that works on the principle of simplifying the eligibility structure, eliminating the penalties against two-parent families and providing significantly more assistance when families enter employment.

There is a program in New York State called the Child Assistance Program that also works on the principle of providing significantly more help to poor families when they enter employment. The five-year evaluation results for that program are also very encouraging. The program in Vermont is one that is operating on the principle that when a family reaches a time limit, the parent will be expected to be participating in a work program. The state will provide jobs for people who are unable to find them any other way.

MIKE LARACY: Minnesota's goal is not just to get people off welfare but out of poverty. They offer all the normal services — case management, child care. But they also

Social Policy, a Washington research group.

MIKE LARACY is senior associate of The Annie E. Casey Foundation, a Baltimore-based group that researches children's issues.

MILTON LITTLE is senior vice president for policy research and advocacy of the National Urban League.

MYRON MAGNET, author of "The Dream and the Nightmare: The 60s Legacy to the Underclass," is editor of the Manhattan

offer wage supplements.

A program that's very daring and bold, and could be very successful, but could also be problematic and really hurt people, is Wisconsin. Wisconsin Works says if you come and ask for cash assistance, they'll say no, you need a job. You say I can't find a job. They'll say, we'll give you a public service job, and we'll pay you minimum wage or less — which is the thing I don't like about it.

What are danger signs as states go forward?

MARK GREENBERG: The encouraging signs will be if more people are working and if the state is able to provide needed health-care and child-care assistance for families in the lowest wage jobs to make it possible for them to stay in the workforce. The potential dangers will be if a state's policies simply restrict the availability of assistance and as a result the state begins to see increases in hunger, homelessness, reports of child abuse and neglect, increased rates of family breakup, increased reports of children coming to school in circumstances where basic needs are not being met.

MIKE LARACY: One thing you have to understand is everything you do has consequence, and one consequence of welfare reform is that some kids are going to really be hurt. And the biggest pitfall is states may not be prepared for the consequences. No one says "we're gonna let kids suffer, we're gonna make more kids homeless." But that almost surely will be the consequence of some welfare-reform programs. And if states aren't prepared to deal with that and make course corrections, there will be terrible, terrible suffering.

MILTON LITTLE: We ought to pay attention to the concerns raised about the increase in the number of children likely to go into poverty. We need to track those to see that it doesn't happen.

We also need to be paying attention to the difficulty welfare recipients

hatten Institute is a conservative think tank based in New York.

SARAH SHUPTRINE is president of the Southern Institute on Children and Families in Columbia, S.C. The nonprofit public policy institute focuses on disadvantaged families.

DEBORAH WEINSTEIN is director of the family income division, the Children's Defense Fund in Washington, D.C.

ents have finding jobs in the private sector. There is a proportion of welfare recipients who stay on it short-term. They have skills. And they're gonna easily be able to find some jobs. There is another proportion that are gonna require some skills training and educational services. We need to make sure those folks are being provided those skills. Then there's that portion of welfare recipients who need a significant investment in education and training services. It is unlikely states are making decisions to provide that level of support. Those are the people who are going to wind up homeless.

DEBORAH WEINSTEIN: If there's a rush to terminate (benefits) because there's pressure in states to reduce the caseload, then you can even have mistakes occurring. And in Wisconsin there has been news along these lines. Starting around Christmas time, there was a tremendous upsurge in Milwaukee in homeless families with children. The shelters did some questioning of the people. They found that three-fourths of them were there because they had lost benefits, not because a time limit hit but because they were being sanctioned



T. ORTEGA GAINES/Staff

At the Alexander Street Center in Charlotte, Debra Carr teaches classes for the Mecklenburg Department of Social Services on "Orientation to the World of Work." "The bottom line with the Work First program is we want you to get a job," says Carr. "But we want you to get a good job."

Changes in Police Tactics Trigger Charges of Brutality

By Michael A. Fletcher
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK, April 26—Iris Baez says there was a time when she instinctively trusted the police. But that changed when her son, Anthony, died in a violent confrontation that erupted after his football hit an officer's patrol car.

Baez and prosecutors said Anthony Baez, 29, was strangled in a police choke-hold. The officer involved in the 1994 incident said Baez's death was a tragic accident triggered by an asthma attack. Last fall, the officer was cleared by a Bronx judge.

"Before this happened, I would have said police don't hurt innocent people because that's illegal," said Iris Baez, whose son's death remains under federal investigation. "Now, I know better."

The case is among dozens of questionable police-involved deaths that several hundred community and civil rights activists attending a national conference here cite as evidence of a surge in police brutality.

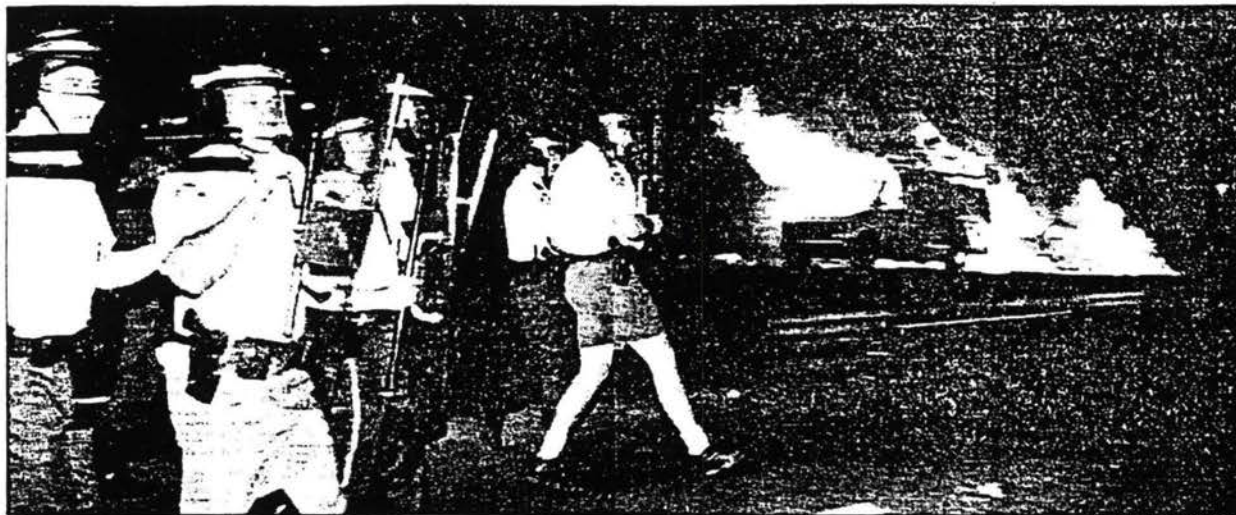
Civil rights leaders including Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, and Jesse L. Jackson urged the White House to take the issue and have called for congressional hearings into allegations of increases in police brutality.

But most alarming is what conference leaders and others say is a marked shift in public attitudes toward police brutality: With crime rates around the country dropping sharply, Americans seem increasingly willing to tolerate some level of excessive police force as the price of a safe society.

"We have been inundated with the fact that crime is a problem in our society, particularly in the African American and Hispanic communities," said Ronald Hampton, a retired D.C. police officer and executive director of the National Black Police Association. "Politicians and police have said that for us to deal with this effectively, you almost have to be willing to give up some of your rights and privileges."

Hampton and others charge that the practical effect of those policies is that frequently law-abiding people, especially young black and Hispanic men, are rounded by police as if they are criminals. That in turn breeds resentment of the police, they say, which sometimes leads to violent conflict.

In 1995, Jonny E. Gammage, a 31-year-old black businessman, died af-



Police in St. Petersburg, Fla., stand ready as television news truck burns in background during riots that followed slaying of motorist during traffic stop last October.

ter police pulled him over while he was driving a luxury sedan outside Pittsburgh. Gammage, the cousin of pro football player Ray Seals, was choked to death in a struggle with five white police officers.

Defense lawyers called Gammage's death an accident, and last week a Pennsylvania judge agreed with them, dismissing charges against two white police officers.

"I'm disappointed but not surprised," said Esther L. Bush, president and chief executive officer of the Pittsburgh Urban League. "It was very much in keeping with the community's fear that all the officers would walk."

Activists cite the Gammage case as the latest in a string of instances across the country where they believe police have gone too far without paying a price. In St. Petersburg, Fla., last fall, two days of rioting followed the shooting of a young, black motorist by a police officer who said the youth, who had a long criminal record, was trying to run him over. The officer was not prosecuted in the case.

And five years ago next week, the Los Angeles police officers charged in the videotaped beating of fleeing motorist Rodney G. King were ac-

quitted of state charges, igniting the Los Angeles riots. Some of the officers were later convicted on federal charges.

Activists attending the convention say those high-profile cases are duplicated by an increasing number of questionable police beatings and shootings across the country.

"We are hearing this again and again from grass-roots people across the country," said Ron Daniels, executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights and a conference organizer.

Whether there is truly an increase in police brutality cases is difficult to verify because a national system for collecting such complaints is still being developed. And other research shows mixed results. Academic studies have found that the number of people slain by police has decreased sharply in the past two decades. Yet in some cities there was evidence of increases in the number of police shootings in recent years.

Even with that, some ethnic minorities continue to see themselves as frequent targets of police, according to criminologists and public opinion polls.

"Clashes between law enforcement and minority communities over police

use and misuse of force led to major changes in the deadly force policies during the last two decades," said Lorrie A. Fridell, a Florida State University criminologist who has conducted broad surveys on police use of deadly force.

But at the same time, she said, "it does not surprise me that aggressive policing, particularly when you talk about policing the low-level crimes, impacts ethnic minorities and low-income people the most."

Nowhere is the tension created by aggressive police work and complaints of police misconduct more vivid than here in New York City, where Mayor Rudolph Giuliani (R) enjoys broad popularity in large part because his tough law-and-order talk has been matched by a steep drop in crime.

Under Giuliani, the city police have adopted a "zero tolerance" policy, which has led to more arrests for "quality of life" crimes, including playing music too loudly and public drinking. The policy, which is now being duplicated by police departments around the country, is credited with accelerating the city's drop in crime.

But some activists and political opponents of Giuliani say the relative peace has come at a steep price. The

human rights group Amnesty International released a study last year that found a troubling surge in complaints of police misconduct in New York City.

"Over the past five years, the city has paid out more than \$100 million in civil law suits related to the police," said Gerald LeMelle, deputy executive director for Amnesty International here. Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger (D), who is running for mayor, added that "over the past 3½ years the allegations of police misconduct have gone up dramatically."

In addition to the complaints, the city has been rocked by a series of high-profile police shootings that have led a distrust of the police, particularly among minorities in poor communities.

Earlier this month, Kevin Cedenio, a 16-year-old with a long criminal record, was shot by a police officer in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan. Despite eyewitnesses who said the youth was fleeing, police initially said Cedenio was poised to confront the officer who shot him. But later it was determined that the youth, who was carrying a machete, was shot in the back.

That revelation has prompted

some to call for the indictment of the officer. But from the beginning, Giuliani has stood by the officer, whom he has said deserves the benefit of the doubt because of his dangerous job—a stance that appears to be popular in much of New York.

"To be anti-police in any way, especially when people see crime as such a hot political topic, is tough, even when police are caught in so many questionable circumstances," LeMelle said. "It is a fact: Most politicians are going to protect police at virtually every turn."

CORRECTION

A chart accompanying a report Friday on a possible tobacco industry settlement incorrectly described the outcome of a class-action lawsuit against Dow Corning for injuries allegedly caused by silicone breast implants. In May 1995 the company filed for bankruptcy protection. Plans to settle the claims are still being negotiated.

Hardly A Possibility

Last week, the story of an "honest conversation across the generations of what happened during the Second World War," was recounted here.

We suggested the need for such an honest conversation between the races as a forerunner to forestall what many see as a "must" confrontation which is shaping up if we continue on the same path as we have been treading.

Last Friday, the CNN program "Crossfire" was devoted to the question of the flying of the Confederate Battle Flag over the S. C. Statehouse, a local happening which has gained nationwide attention.

The two guests on the program were the head of the National Urban League and the chief officer of the South Carolina chapter of the sons of Confederate Veterans. Naturally, it is unnecessary to even mention which side each represented.

And that, in itself, is a major reason for the debate. The pro's and con's of the argument have very little to do with the facts of the situation. Rather, the posture of whatever group one may be aligned with in the controversy already tells the position.

The flag's detractors, from whatever group, are united not only in their opposition to the flying of the banner, but also in their opposition to letting the matter be decided by the people via referendum.

We feel it important that people not only think about this matter, but they be actually FORCED to think. We propose to accomplish this in the following manner:

Two votes be held at the same time. One vote will be limited to whites, the other to blacks. The question would be simple and basic. "Should the Confederate Battle Flag be removed from over the S. C. Statehouse?" The decision would be the OPPOSITE of the greater percentage recorded by the vote.

For example, if the black vote favored removing the flag by 95% to 5%, and the white vote favored keeping the flag by 85% to 15%, the black vote would let the flag keep flying!

As we said, the OPPOSITE position from the highest percentage would win out!

And as we also said, this is a vote on which the participants would be forced to think!

Think about it.

STAR

NORTH AUGUSTA, SC
WEEKLY 3.200

APR 10 1997

National Voices — United Against Hate

9595
By Ernest (Chuck) Ayala,
Barbara H. Bergen,
Carrie Condran LaBriola
and Carole M. Watson

APRIL 19, 1997 marks the second anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing — a calculated destruction of lives and property. As the ashes of the Murrah Building and torched African American churches reveal, hatred burns fiercely in the hearts of some of our fellow Americans. Sadly, those ashes are a tangible reminder of extremism and bigotry that, left untreated, can threaten our country and the freedom we cherish.

To respond to this threat, four human relations and civil rights organizations, each with a long history of fighting discrimination, have announced an unprecedented collaboration to fight bigotry across America. The National Conference, the National Urban League, the Anti-Defamation League and the National Council of La Raza (including its affiliates such as Centro Latino de San Francisco) have established National Voices for an Inclusive 21st Century. National Voices is ready to combat prejudice and promote whole communities across ethnic, racial and religious lines.

We know that what happens in one community affects all of us. Accordingly, the four national organizations are working through their regional offices and local affiliates to implement National Voices at the local level, including here.

Bay Area communities were the sites of a disproportionate number of the 1,754 hate crimes committed in California in 1995 as reported by the state attorney general. Two young men in San Francisco were convicted of a hate crime in a gay-bashing. Immigrant-bashing is often directed at legal as well as undocumented immigrants. The pastor of the Third

Baptist Church, San Francisco Supervisor Amos Brown, was the subject of hate-motivated threats. A Contra Costa County employer settled a discrimination lawsuit brought by a former employee whose supervisor berated him with anti-Semitic remarks. These acts cry out for concerted action, and we are ready to meet that need. The Northern California Region of the National Conference, the Central Pacific Regional office of the Anti-Defamation League, the Bay Area Urban League and Centro Latino de San Francisco will work together as part of National Voices in the Bay Area. Our

plans include speaking out together, monitoring bias acts in the community and staying in communication to develop programs and strategies.

The strength of National Voices comes from its inclusive diversity and from each organization's historic dedication to fighting prejudice. Since 1927, the National Conference, founded as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, has been fighting bias and racism and promoting understanding and respect across racial, religious and cultural barriers through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

The Anti-Defamation League, established in 1913, fights anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred.

For almost three decades, the National Council of La Raza has sought to reduce poverty and discrimination and to improve life opportunities for Latinos.

And for nearly a century, the National Urban League has helped African Americans and others achieve social and economic equality through advocacy, bridge-building and program services.

By committing ourselves to National Voices, we are accepting responsibility for our own communities and for communities across our nation. We understand that the future of urban African American communities are tied to those of agricultural Latino families; the fate of Korean immigrants in California is bound to that of Russian Jews of New York. While our organizations will continue to speak and work individually, the bigotry in our community demands that we also speak and act together. As a united national community, we can make the 21st century an era that we are proud to bequeath to our children.

Ernest (Chuck) Ayala is executive director of Centro Latino de San Francisco; Barbara H. Bergen is regional director of the Anti-Defamation League; Carrie Condran LaBriola is executive director of the National Conference; and Carole M. Watson is director of...

COALITION'S AGENDA

Among the collaboration's key goals for the Bay Area and nationwide:

- Battling incendiary rhetoric, biased reporting and wedge politics
- Promoting community healing and harmony
- Transforming higher education institutions into models, as opposed to murky mirrors, of American society

- Affirming the nation's commitment to inclusion
- Enacting and enforcing hate crime laws
- Easing police abuse of individuals' rights
- Convening a presidential summit on American pluralism in the 21st century

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA
DAILY 495,286

TUESDAY
APR 15 1997

Stop glorifying the past of the old Confederacy

Here we go again.

First, there was the Confederate flag that flew atop South Carolina's Capitol. Then there were the special license plates issued by the state of Maryland that are embossed with a replica of the Confederate battle flag. Now Virginia Gov. George Allen has joined the ranks of those who think it's OK for states to glorify the acts of a traitorous lot.

Last month he issued a proclamation naming April "Confederate Heritage Month" in his state. News of this outrage surfaced a few days ago when civil rights activists protested the Republican governor's pandering decree, which described the Civil War as a "four-year struggle for independence and sovereign rights."

Whose independence? And whose sovereignty?

Certainly not that of the millions of black slaves held in Virginia and the 10 other Southern states that comprised the rebel alliance. The Civil War was fought to maintain their condition of servitude, not change it. The cause Allen's proclamation celebrates sought to tear apart this nation and perpetuate the enslavement of African-Americans.

Don't take my word for it.

"The immediate cause" of the rebellion, Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens said in a 1861 speech, was "all the agitating questions relating to our peculiar institution" of slavery. The Confederacy, he said, was founded upon the belief "that the negro is not equal to the white man; that slavery — subordination to the superior race — is his natural and normal condition."

Stephens was no loose cannon.

His perception of slavery as the cornerstone of Southern life was etched into the Confederate constitution, which forbade the passage of any law that denied the right of people to own "negro slaves."

That's the heritage Allen's proclamation embraces.

In the past, I've tried to argue against the glorification of the Confederacy by pointing out that the Sons of Confederate Veterans are the descendants of traitors. I thought most people would rally around the idea that those who took up arms against this nation are not American heroes. Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis — and those who followed them into battle — were rebels whose traitorous actions took the lives of more than 364,000 U.S. servicemen.

Had their treason succeeded, the United States would have been fractured into at least two disparate parts and the course of history would have been dramatically changed. Bigots like former Mississippi Gov. Ross Barnett might have



**DeWAYNE
WICKHAM**

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servicemen.

risen to the Confederate presidency and Bull Connor could have been one of its defense secretaries.

But to simply call them traitors falls short of the mark.

"The Confederates not only believed in the master-race theory," Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, said in reaction to Allen's proclamation, "they sought to build a separate nation on that evil foundation."

That's the harsh reality.

Allen, a history major in college, said he didn't mean to upset anyone when he proclaimed April Confederate Heritage Month. Last week, in a have-his-cake-and-eat-it-too gesture, the governor apologized to anyone who was offended by the decree that he left in place.

The NAACP called his apology "half-hearted."

Mealymouthed is better.

Allen says his proclamation was meant to recognize the diversity of Virginians. That's a commendable goal. But his efforts should not extend to those who fought for the Confederacy, or their apologists.

To do so is to embrace the racist notion that whites are superior to blacks — an idea Stephens called the "cornerstone" of the Confederate States of America.

DeWayne Wickham is a columnist with Gannett News Service based in Washington. Write to him at Gannett News Service, 1100 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22234. Please share a copy of your letter to him with us and indicate if you want it published.

HERALD STATESMAN
APR 23 1997

HEALTH CARE: Issue is what's best for community

By Delores "D" Smith
GUEST COLUMNIST

I am compelled to add my points to the dialogue about the proposal by Bowman Gray/Baptist Hospital Medical Center to the Forsyth County commissioners to assume management and delivery of health services, replacing the county-run Reynolds Health Center. I do so from both personal and profes-

MY VIEW

sional perspectives.

First the professional: The organization I represent in our community — the National Urban League — each year publishes its *State of Black America* report. Our president, Hugh Price, often notes that "health issues in the black community — infant mortality, cancer, AIDS and numerous other health problems — afflict the black community disproportionately, and in many cases these disparities continue to increase."

We know that health issues in the black communities of our nation are closely linked to racism, sexism and classism, which make clear the need for inclusive conversations when major decisions are being made, and we need holistic responses to meet the needs of all citizens.

I have been encouraged by the approach of the medical center, which has shown its sensitivity to these concerns. I have talked with people



"D" SMITH

on both sides of the issue — building a new facility or remodeling the present one. The center has promised that (1) access and the quality of care will be enhanced for East Winston citizens — especially the indigent — whose costs will not go up as a result of the change in management and administration; (2) the old facility will be made available to the county to fulfill other needs; (3) a joint community/medical center advisory board will be established; (4) it will continually expand and nourish the element of trust in the community through open and honest communications; (5) East Winston community leaders will be consulted before naming the new facility; and (6) job stability will be assured for Reynolds Health Center employees in good standing at the present facility.

For these reasons, the Winston-Salem Urban League, with its human and organizational resources, recommends that the county commissioners accept the medical center's proposal to assume management of the delivery of health services now provided by the Reynolds Health Center.

For personal reasons, I wish to go on record in support of the medical center's proposal because I believe in preventive medicine, which the center (as an educational institution) is far better able to provide than our county government. I trust the endorsement of Dr. Charlie Kennedy and his health-care provider colleagues, who went on record that the new facility and its policies will not only be innovative, but also culturally sensitive and will significantly raise the level of health care for all concerned.

I pledge my full support to the implementation of the medical center proposal and to help, as appropriate, by taking a proactive stance that will lead to improved health care for the East Winston community.

The Winston-Salem Urban League is uniquely qualified to assist the medical center in this new venture. We are here to help shape the ways to integrate the social, environmental, economic, psychological and physiological elements that go into health and wellness.

I strongly recommend and implore our county commissioners to accept the medical center's proposal and I ask all citizens of Winston-Salem — East, West, North and South — to get behind this new effort to improve health care and disease prevention. We're all in this together, for a better Winston-Salem.

■ Smith is the president and CEO of the Winston-Salem Urban League.

WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL
WINSTON-SALEM, NC
DAILY 95.000

SATURDAY
MAR 22 1997

Truth-telling

E 9595
A speaker at the recent hearing by members of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus concerning the status of Tunica County's public schools remarked that it was time for truth-telling.

Indeed it is.

And so, not as a parent of public school children, but as one who has, over many months, observed the school debate, and as a taxpayer of this county and this state, I feel compelled to try to tell some truth.

Truth #1 - Test scores are very low, still hovering much below the norm. There has been improvement since 1994, but there's still a long way to go.

Truth #2 - The Tunica County School District now has more than enough money to accomplish a turn-around. What the system seems to lack is the *will to make hard choices*.

Truth #3 - Many teachers are working hard and producing good results in the classroom; some are not. By now, administrators know who these non-achievers are. They should be replaced.

Truth #4 - The Tunica County School District hires too many administrators and pays them too much. Teachers and the community at large have come to resent this. If there is enough money in the budget for big salaries, pay teachers more.

Truth #5 - Words alone will not improve the performance of our public school students. Parents who have attended information sessions and school board meetings in recent months are to be commended, but now must take the next step: work not only with your own children, but be willing to lend assistance to other children, in the classroom, in extra tutoring, whatever it takes.

Truth #6 - And now, school principals and administrators, roll up your sleeves and enforce discipline and order. You must get out of your offices and into the halls and classrooms.

Interestingly, an editorial by African-American columnist Bob Herbert cites a new education initiative by National Urban League president Hugh Price. Price is travelling around the nation with a powerful message: there are no longer any excuses for the failure of black children to learn.

"Teachers, principals and schools have to be properly equipped to do their jobs," Herbert quotes Price. "A math teacher who is not qualified to teach math is a menace. Schools without books are not schools, they are something else."

"...unqualified educators must be cast aside, whatever their complexion...In the near term, (this) could place some well-meaning but ill-prepared minority teachers at risk. But urban youngsters taught by poor teachers face the far greater risk, and over their entire lifetimes."

And what does Price say to parents?

"...drop the handy excuses - too tired, too busy - and participate in the academic lives of their kids, including attending programs and extracurricular activities at school."

Price and Herbert are truth-tellers.

Will someone else in Tunica add his voice to mine?

-Brooks Taylor

TUNICA TIMES

TUNICA, MS
WEEKLY 2, 200

National Urban League unveils plan to boost economic strength of all Black Americans

9595
Declaring that Blacks are "still on the frontier" in their quest for full inclusion into the American mainstream, Hugh B. Price, president, said the National Urban League's Conference in Washington, D.C., Aug. 3-6, will focus on ways to "intensify" their efforts to gain economic strength.



Blacks' "journey to a place of security and safety is just as challenging today as it was in the early and middle decades of this century," when they were fighting for fundamental civil rights, he said.

He attributed that in large measure to "that remarkable phenomenon called globalization," which, he said, is exerting great economic pressure on nations, businesses, ethnic groups, and individuals alike.

"The world is on the march economically," he said, referring to the energetic commitment to capitalist enterprises he said is now evident in many parts of the world. "Those who do not march in step with it are more likely going to be run over and

left in the dust."

To "prepare ourselves and our children to navigate" what he described as this new, more economically challenging environment, Price said Blacks must enhance and pass along the "acute sense of economic awareness and entrepreneurial energy" that produced an extraordinary growth of Black-owned businesses from the end of the Civil War to the 1920s.

"Despite the barriers which still exist," he said, "we must make that zest for economic achievement soar. And we must do so across many sectors of the society."

Price's comments signaled the league's intention to focus more strongly on the economic empowerment of Blacks in the coming year and marry that to its goal of improving educational opportunity for and the academic performance of youth.

He said the two issues are inextricably intertwined: Black youth must have the skills and the inspiration necessary to compete at a world-class level if Blacks, as a group, are to build up their economic strength and security.

The league was founded in 1910 and has 115 affiliates in 34 cities, including Miami.

Urban League Conference Is Planned In Aug.

Declaring that African Americans are "still on the frontier" in their quest for full inclusion into the American mainstream, Hugh B. Price, president of the National Urban League, said that the League's 1997 Conference in Washington, August 3-6, would focus on ways to "intensify (black America's) efforts to gain economic strength."

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IREDELL COUNTY NEWS

STATESVILLE, NC
WEEKLY 2,500

APR 3 1997

Urban League to Focus on Education and Economics

9595
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1920s.

Despite the barriers to black achievement which still exist, he said, "we must make that zest for economic achievement soar. And we must do so across many sectors of the society.

Mr. Price said the issues of education and economic power are inextricably intertwined: African American youth must have the skills and the inspiration necessary to compete at a world-class level if African Americans as a group are to build up their economic strength and security.

The League expects an attendance of more than 15,000 at the Washington, D.C. Conference.

Founded in 1910, and with 115 affiliates in 34 cities across the country, the National Urban League is America's premier civil rights and social service organization.

“Economic power: the next civil rights frontier”

9595

Hugh B. Price announces the 1997 National Urban League Conference

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NEW YORK The Jewish Week

SERVING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER NEW YORK / \$1.00 / MARCH 7, 1997 / 28 ADAR I 5757

Rebuilding A Partnership

Yeshiva U. conference aims to put black-Jewish ties back on track.

ERIC J. GREENBERG
STAFF WRITER

The four panelists were in agreement.

They knew deep problems continued to exist between blacks and Jews. They just weren't sure what to do about them.

"We came here today to see how we might have lost our way, and how we might find it," said Kweisi Mfume, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

At a daylong conference titled "African Americans and Jews: A Dialogue for the 21st Century," the former congressman from Baltimore was joined by Hugh Price of the National Urban League; Israel Singer, executive director of the World Jewish Congress; and Rabbi Marc Schneier, founder of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding. William Gray III, head of the Fund/UNCF, was invited but forced to cancel.

About 200 people attended the keynote discussion at Yeshiva University's main campus sponsored by the WJC, the ethnic foundation and YU's Wurzweiler School of Social Work.

Mfume, credited with re-energizing the NAACP after several years of controversy, called the conference "an experiment" to rekindle the partnership between the black and Jewish communities. That alliance formed in the 1950s, he said, from both groups' "righteous indignation against injustice in our society."

"We have no answers, we have no guarantees, but we hope these efforts pay off," said Mfume, who spent several minutes



First step to better relations: Israel Singer of World Jewish Congress, at podium, urged interracial audience to understand each other.

Michael Datikash

recounting his childhood as a high school dropout and gang member growing up next door to an equally poor Jewish family whose son became a doctor. Mfume said the difference between the two was that American society was prejudiced against blacks.

Rabbi Schneier said the most important job the leaders have is to shatter the myth that black-Jewish relations are dominated by conflict. He said a recent study by his organization found there is much more cooperation between the two groups than is publicized.

But Price brought up several political issues that are likely

firmative action and welfare reform.

He said while notable progress has been made in recent months between black and Jews, the widening of the income gap is a cause for concern.

"The great depression in the inner cities of our society must end if we are to make headway," he said.

Singer called on Jews to live up to their obligation to make the world a better place, while also asking blacks to understand the problems of "traditional" Jews who have five kids and must spend \$10,000 a year each for yeshiva.

Asked why more radical Jewish and black groups apparently were not invited to the conference, Singer said this was the first step and he hoped future conferences would include more diverse organizations than those at the political center.

While there were no concrete plans that resulted from the 90-minute session, conference organizers were roundly criticized by several audience members for not including a woman on the panel.

Moderator Sheldon Gelman, dean of the YU school of social work, apologized, saying that Mfume was the second choice to NAACP president Myrlie Evers. He said women would be included at a follow-up conference next year.

But several women said they were insulted by the answer. "That's ludicrous," protested Rev. Paige L. Chargois of Richmond, Va. "We're sick of hearing about next year. What about Jewish women at the table? His answer was demeaning."

She also took issue with the fact that the conference plan-

9595 p.53

Bowles to Speak at 12th Annual Emerging Issues Forum

WHITE House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles will headline a nationally known panel of speakers for the 1997 Emerging Issues Forum at N.C. State University this month.

"Economic Forces Shaping the Next Half-Century" is the theme of the 12th annual forum, which will take place Thursday and Friday, April 10 and 11, at the university's McKimmon Center. The forum is held each year at NCSU to debate some of the most pressing issues facing the country.

The forum is chaired by Gov. Jim Hunt and hosted by NCSU Chancellor Larry K. Monteith. Every year it attracts the state's most influential business executives, scholars, political leaders and educators.

Hunt called this year's speakers the best to be assembled in the history of the forum. "This year's forum topic reflects the growing debate over many economic issues facing the country and the world," he says. "Speakers will bring us the benefit of thoughtful analysis of today's most pressing economic issues, including the growing national debt, complexities of international trade and the high cost of entitlement programs such as Medicare, Social Security and welfare."

In addition to Bowles, speakers featured this year include Republican Gov. William F. Weld of Massachusetts; Federal Reserve Board Vice Chairman Alice Rivlin; House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt; Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky; U.S. Trade Representative-Designate: Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League; and Lee Shulman, president-elect of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Betty Owen, director of the Emerging Issues Forum, said this year's topic allows the forum to focus on economic



Bowles



Hunt



Rivlin



Gephardt



Price



Barshefsky

issues that are critical to the public policy debate both in North Carolina and across the country. "How do we come to grips with enormous economic, social and security issues while balancing the budget?" she asks.

Bowles will appear on the first day of the forum, Thursday, April 10. He has been called by journalists a "soft-spoken Washington outsider." A native of Charlotte, where he is a successful investment banker, Bowles previously served as a Small Business Administration director in Washington and as

deputy White House chief of staff under Leon Panetta. He is founder and partner in Carousel Capital LP, a Charlotte merchant bank, and he served as chairman and chief executive officer of Bowles Hollowell Conner & Co., a Charlotte investment banking firm, from 1975 to 1993.

Gov. William Weld will bring the state perspective to the question of how America is enhancing its competitive position in the global marketplace. Weld was elected governor of Massachusetts in 1990 and re-elected in 1994. He is a graduate of Harvard College and its law school. He served as associate minority counsel to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate impeachment inquiry and was named U.S. attorney for Massachusetts by President Ronald Reagan. He was appointed by Reagan as assistant attorney general in charge of the Criminal Division in 1986, where he oversaw all federal criminal investigations.

Alice Rivlin, vice chair of the Federal Reserve Board, will address what has been a divisive issue for Congress this session: the best means for putting the United States on the road toward a balanced budget. Rivlin, the founding director of the Congressional Budget Office, also has served as director of the White House Office of Management and Budget.

Rivlin holds a doctorate in economics from Radcliffe and Harvard Universities and is the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. She has served on the boards of directors of several corporations and as president of the American Economic Association and has written numerous books, the most recent of which is "Reviving the American Dream."

Rep. Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, who is House minority leader, will speak on "The Challenges of Glo-

bal Leadership." Gephardt was described by *USA Today* as "the perfect combination of a fiery populist and a quiet, back-room pragmatist." He was elected in 1994 to serve as House Democratic leader.

Previously, Gephardt served as majority leader. Known as a spokesman on many major issues, including health care, trade and tax fairness, he takes a stand as one who insists on high-level debate of issues of importance to America's working families. He was the first Democratic candidate to enter the 1988 presidential race.

Charlene Barshefsky has earned a reputation in recent years as a key decision maker and policy innovator among officials at the embassy for U.S. Trade. In her remarks, the newly appointed ambassador intends to shed light on some of the complex issues that shape international trade relations.

A veteran negotiator in the foreign trade arena, Barshefsky has been described as a relentless advocate for conditions that will increase market access for U.S. exports and investments, especially in the Far East.

She has negotiated trade issues in Japan, China and Korea and has guided the formation of U.S. trade and investment policy in connection with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, will speak on "Building the Capacities of All Americans." Price, a graduate of Yale Law School, has served as a social advocate in many venues, most recently as head of the National Urban League, the premier social service and civil rights organization in America. The league is a non-profit, non-partisan, community-based organization with 114 affiliates in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

Price's lifelong goal has been the prospect of improving society for minorities, particularly African-Americans. Accomplished in the field of communication, he has been a member of *The New York Times* editorial board since 1978. Through this and other civic affiliations, Price has been a visible and vocal advocate for attention to urban and minority concerns.

The forum will open with a major address by Lee Shulman, who is president-elect of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

As designated successor to Ernie Boyer in that position, Shulman currently directs the Carnegie Foundation's program of research on strategies to promote optimum teacher preparation for the important work of educating tomorrow's workforce. Shulman brings to the forum an appreciation of the need to be vigilant in upholding high education standards across the board.

Additional speakers will be added to

the Emerging Issues Forum schedule in the coming weeks. For updated information about the forum, log on to the Emerging Issues web site at <http://www2.ncsu.edu/emergingissues/>. Registration for the forum is underway, and those interested in attending should visit the web site or contact the Emerging Issues Forum office at (919) 515-7741. The cost of registration is \$125.

—Suzanne M. Wood

Our view

There are no excuses for our kids to fail

Emerging Issues speech should become motto

—“*It is time to enter the no-excuses era of school reform.*”

EDITORIAL —

Hugh Price
National Urban League

No excuses — that was the rallying cry from Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, as he spoke Friday at North Carolina State University. And it's one we should all adopt.

Price was addressing the crowd at the Emerging Issues Forum, an annual conference on issues facing the nation and world. This year's conference theme was "Economic Forces Shaping the Next Half-Century," and his focus was preparing today's kids to compete in our increasingly skilled global economy.

Hugh told his audience that all children — even the at-risk or low-performing — are capable of learning needed skills.

Some of the keys to success, he said, are:

- high-quality preschool programs,
- improved teacher training,
- challenging academic courses,
- and after-school and summer programs.

Price told his audience that "dumbed down" courses shortchange children, and he praised programs like Equity 2000 that force all students

through a challenging curriculum. We couldn't agree with him more.

Another program Price held up as an example is one that requires all students to take advanced placement courses and doesn't allow them to take part in sports until their grade point averages exceed the school norm. The result, he said, is "to force people to put sports in the proper framework."

True, assuring that kids of different skill levels all find success in the same tough courses is a tall order for educators. That's why Price doesn't just drop the burden at the school house door.

"It is time for parents, employers and community groups to stop accepting excuses from educators and elected officials about why our children don't achieve," Price said.

"It is also time for parents and community groups to stop making excuses for the failure of our children to achieve. And finally, it is time for the students themselves to believe and behave as though academic achievement mattered, because it does more today than ever before in our history."

Let's stop making excuses.

ENQUIRER-JOURNAL

MONROE, NC
DAILY & SUNDAY 13.400

SUNDAY
APR 13 1997

National Urban League President Makes Education a Top Priority

WASHINGTON, D.C. - National Urban League President Hugh Price has praised the nation's lawmakers and President Clinton for making education a top priority and urged them to find solutions to preserve the nation's public education system, which he said is in danger of becoming extinct, particularly in urban areas. However, Price said voucher plans, which many in Congress support, could undermine a shared societal responsibility in educating all of the nation's children.



Hugh Price

"Vouchered schools do not play by the same rules governing admissions, discipline and expulsion. What's most offensive, vouchers could subsidize the flight of white students. The persistence of unofficial segregation is problem enough in public education without underwriting it with taxpayer's money," said Price.

The Urban League president praised President Clinton for issuing a "call to action" to make America's education system the envy of the world. "Answering that call is the urgent domestic challenge facing the nation. And the stiffest — and most compelling — task is to lift inner-city and rural youngsters, who chronically lag behind, to globally-accepted standards.

Price was joined by some of the nation's leading educators who looked at realities and presented new solutions at the NUL forum, A No Excuses Era in Public Education: Standards for the 21st Century at the National Press Club today.

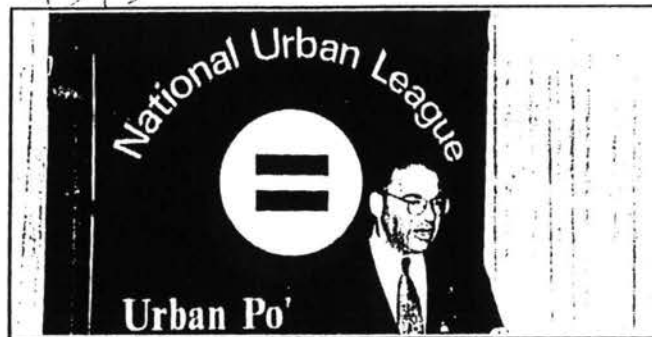
In addition to asking for support from political leaders, he called on parents to shoulder more responsibility for their children. "It's time for parents to get involved and ensure that their youngsters come to school ready to learn. Time for community groups and employers to create a climate of support and opportunity that steers young people clear of destructive temptation — and toward lifelong success."

Price's assertions were supported by forum participant Dr. Laurence Steinberg, professor at Temple University. "The problem isn't just the schools; its disengagement of parents and a culture that demeans high academic performance," he noted. In Steinberg's recent study of 20,000 high school students, 50 percent responded that they could bring home grades of C or worse without upsetting their parents; 40 percent said their parents never attended school programs, and only 1 in 3 students reported having daily conversations with their parents.

Student peer pressure plays a significant negative roll in undermining academic achievement according to Dr. Steinberg's findings, with almost 20 percent of students responding that they did not try as hard as they could in school because of worries about what their friends might think. A high school English teacher whose students are predominantly from white middle class homes observed that "when I check notebooks there are virtually no notes. They lose their books and they don't bring pens or notebooks to class. When I try to discipline, some of them just pick up and walk out."

But the forum heard about some successes as well. "We have persuaded six urban school districts to agree that all of their middle school students will take algebra. None of the children will take "dummy-down" math courses. Through this part of our Equity 2000 program, we have found that many more of our children are capable of mastering algebra, making them better prepared for, college," reported Dr. Vinetta Jones, national director of Equity 2000, The College Board.

National Urban League President Calls for More Support for Public Schools, More Parental Involvement



Urban League President Hugh Price
Lauds Policy Makers for "Not Giving
UP on Public Schools"

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PASADENA/SAN GABRIEL
VALLEY JOURNAL

PASADENA, CA
WEEKLY 12,000

MAR 27 1997

A mentoring program could make difference

9595

By FRANK LOMAX III

The 21st Century is a little over two years away. We adults have worn out the phrase "our children are our future," but rarely have we allowed such axiomatic truth to drive our public and private behavior.

There is no mystery about how to insure that children have positive outcomes. While there are no guarantees, we know that children need two caring, loving parents whose primary concerns are meeting both their instrumental and expressive needs. We know that children progress faster in school settings that have low teacher-to-pupil ratios, teachers with high expectations, classrooms with state-of-the-art equipment that are safe learning environments. We know that children are best nurtured in communities that reflect the African Proverb, "It takes a whole village to raise one child." We know that quality leisure-time, and recreational activities are essential to youth development, which allows children to grow, interact and develop an appreciation of themselves, as well as each others talents, skills, knowledge, and friendships. We also know that a safe neighborhood environment contributes to the children's sense of security and safety which provides them with the courage and motivation to take chances and risks without the fear of harm or retribution.

Despite this bank of knowledge, we have demonstrated to our children that they are not important; that they don't really count. This becomes clear when adults fail to vote and permit the dismantling of education and youth programs, or when they allow their communities to become crime ridden havens. Children know who is in charge, and if adults allow all of these negative forces to exist in their environment, then it is clear to them no one cares about their future.

If the cycle of dependency and despair is to be broken, we can and we must reverse these negative forces. We can do this by engaging people and parents in understanding that their active participation in their children's education is absolutely essential for our children to be productive in the 21st Century. All of this is possible, but it takes time. In the meantime, what about our children?

We believe that it is important for adults to make a commitment to children. In concert with the National Urban League we have chosen the theme "Our Children = Our Destiny" to drive program development of the Monmouth County Urban League.

the formation of a partnership with the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth County to conduct a Male Mentoring Program. The 1990 Census found that more than 18,000 children were residing in one-parent homes in Monmouth County, and we know that a disproportionate number of these homes are African-American and other people of color.

This program is designed to provide support for single parents. It will target at-risk minority and African-American boys between the ages of 6-16. Our goal is to recruit 50 African American men willing to share their time with a young boy to enhance his growth and development while building self-esteem and self-confidence.

We are concentrating on young men because research data indicates that the number one cause of death for African-American males between the ages of 15-24 in 1992 was homicide. Despite the reported reduction in crime, this statistic is still too high. In 1994, there were more than one million people in federal and state prisons, with an additional 500,000 in local jails, and 80 percent of the incarcerated African-American males were from single-parent households.

Mentoring works. In Michigan, a Big Brothers/Big Sisters program that linked disadvantaged youth with mentors was studied. The youth who participated were compared with youth who sought the program out but were not served. The study found that the youths with Big Brothers/Big Sisters improved their grades and their relationships with parents, guardians and peers and were much less involved in substance abuse than the youths not in the program.

The young people in the Michigan study are just like the Monmouth County young people we intend to serve. They are African-American and other minorities, disadvantaged, and come from single-parent households (generally low-income and or welfare recipients.) We know that similar positive outcomes are possible with the intervention of positive adult role models who offer friendship, guidance, and support in the lives of young people.

This is a "Call To Action" for African-American men living in Monmouth County who want to make a contribution to the future of young people who need you. To volunteer, call the Monmouth County Urban League at (908) 345-1868, or Big Brothers/Big Sisters at (908) 544-2224.

□ Frank Lomax III is president of the

ASBURY PARK PRESS

NEPTUNE, NJ
DAILY 166.305

WEDNESDAY
FEB 26 1997

STUDENTS

EDUCATIONAL

An effort most worthwhile

In Shaw, School Superintendent Charles Barron says many of the district's students who aren't doing well in school need help — help which they aren't receiving — from their parents.

"I've got to get the parents involved a lot more," he comments. "They need to understand why we want the student to get in summer school this summer. I think that if we can increase parental involvement, it will encourage more students, who need to be in the program, to sign up.

"It always seems the parents who are more involved in the school are the ones we need the least. And the parents whose children need the help the most are the parents who are least involved. I'm not crying about it, but I'm concerned about it."

The message is being echoed elsewhere, too. In Washington, Urban League President Hugh Price tells the National Press Club, "It's time to teach all our children. No excuses."

He adds:

"The landscape of urban public education is dotted with teachers, classrooms and even entire schools that deliver the goods. It's time to put them to widespread use. If we adults — educators, elected officials, parents, employers and community groups — will only do what we're supposed to do for the children, then they will do what we expect them to do."

Columnist William Raspberry writes, "It's that simple — and that difficult ...

"Parents obviously play a major role in exciting their children's interest in learning. But too many parents, having enjoyed little success in learning, don't know how to do it. They can be taught: in church basements, recreation centers — and in school rooms, years before they become parents."

Raspberry says that even more than money, the task of educating our children "will take the rest of us — the village."

In Cleveland, a postal clerk asks a patron Tuesday if he's seen the latest stamp. It shows a little girl sitting next to her father, who's reading to her. The legend on the stamp proclaims, "Helping children learn."

It's the handwriting on the wall for the times we live in. Many of our children are struggling through school, and a large part of the problem is they're struggling because parents and other adults aren't willing to do what's so necessary for our society to prosper. We aren't willing to help our children learn.

And so school districts like Shaw, and many others across the Mississippi Delta and, indeed, the nation find themselves locked in a discouraging battle with low test scores and students who lack the incentive to improve those scores.

The answer's there, of course. It's parents saying, "I care," and then taking the time to find out what their children are doing in school and how they can help.

It's the rest of us, too — the whole village — becoming willing to join in the good fight for our kids. When large groups of children aren't doing well in school, whether they're in rural Mississippi or urban Washington, the community is in trouble, and so, too, is the nation.

We can ill afford not to read the writing on the wall. It could cost us the future.

BOLIVAR COMMERCIAL

CLEVELAND, MS
DAILY 7,611

WEDNESDAY
FEB 10 1997

DATE 02/20/97

Three-Way Partnership Forged to Promote Minority Home Ownership

Chase Manhattan, Urban League and Operation Hope Join In Community Effort

In an effort to increase home ownership among low and moderate income and minority residents of Los Angeles County, the Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation and the Chase Manhattan Bank have announced the creation of a unique partnership with the Los Angeles Urban League and the Operation HOPE Home Loan Center, a program of operation HOPE, Inc.

The union of one of the top mortgage providers in the country, the Los Angeles affiliate of a leading national civil rights organization and America's first nonprofit investment banking organization brings together three components which are essential to the success of the home ownership initiative: financing, the identification and recruitment of potential home buyers, and credit counseling.

Beginning March 1, Chase will co-host 12 seminars designed to assist low and moderate income households in securing mortgages. The seminars will be offered free

of charge to the general public in English and Spanish. The Los Angeles Urban League will play an active role in community outreach efforts geared to assist in identifying potential home buyers. The Operation HOPE Home Loan Center will provide credit counseling. Four National Urban League facilities in Los Angeles County have been selected to host the seminars along with several metropolitan area churches and not-for-profit organizations. The seminars are part of a \$50 million mortgage commitment Chase has made to the project for a two-year period.

"One of the commitments made to the public with regard to the merger of Chase Manhattan and Chemical Bank was a promise to invest \$18.1 billion over the next five years in low and moderate income communities Chase serves from coast to coast," said Chase Manhattan Bank Executive Vice President Carol Parry. "The seminars will assist Chase in meeting its pledge to provide products and services to minorities, women and residents of low/moderate income neighborhoods through loan and investment programs, and in this way increase home ownership among minorities."

"The Los Angeles Urban League is delighted to enter

into this joint venture with Chase and Operation Hope," said John W. Mack, president of the Los Angeles Urban League, "and play a role in helping to meet a crucial housing need confronting a disproportionate number of African Americans, Latinos and others."

"The urban market has been starved for capital success and economic education for so long that making a difference also requires nurturing, attention, one-on-one contact, and a long-term commitment to the true empowerment of individual and community. Chase is smart to

respond to this need," added Operation HOPE founder and CEO John Bryant.

Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation, headquartered in Edison, N.J., is a leading residential lender that originates, acquires, sells and services high-quality loans. It offers a full array of competitive products, including: FNMA's Community Home Buyer, FHA-VA, city and county revenue bond programs, Jumbo and portfolio products. The Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corporation is an Equal Housing Lender.

Urban League secures funds for new headquarters

The Urban League of Greater Cincinnati announced a contribution of \$2.2 million from the Provident Bank on behalf of the Otto Armleder Trust. This donation became the largest single contribution in the history of the local chapter of the Urban League and completed the Capital Fund Campaign to build a new headquarters building.

"We are especially appreciative of the trust and confidence Provident has placed in the Urban League to employ these funds for the benefit of African Americans and others at risk in our community. This contribution underscores the role Provident has played and continues to play in the community. The gift from the Otto Armleder Trust, which culminates several months of discussion, will ensure the completion of a facility to provide expanded space, services and programming to benefit families and children," said Sheila J. Adams, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati.

Allen L. Davis, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Provident Bank stated, "After carefully considering many important



Sheila J. Adams, president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, with Allen L. Davis

causes over several months, Provident feels the local Urban League's new complex is uniquely worthy and well-positioned to serve constituents of the Greater Cincinnati community whose needs are not often met."

The Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, founded in 1949, became one of 113 affiliates of the National Urban League, providing many programs and services to the community in areas such as youth development, education, parent empowerment, family life educa-

tion, and adult and youth leadership.

Armleder, the son of German immigrants, grew up in the Over-the-Rhine area of Cincinnati. After working as a bookkeeper and brewer, he founded and successfully operated the Otto Armleder Carriage Company, which in 1912 became the Armleder Motor Truck Company. After his retirement, he became a civic leader and philanthropist. Over the years, distributions from the Trust benefited many local causes.

Urban League moves to Old Town

By MICHAEL ESKENAZI
Staff Writer

In an ironic and hopeful turn of events, the Northern Virginia Urban League moved its headquarters from King Street to 1315 Duke Street in Old Town in October.

That address, named "Freedom House," is one of just three national historic landmarks in the city. And it's been designated as such for good reason.

At a Nov. 21 Urban League press conference to announce the group's occupancy of the building, Floyd Kye stood in the back of the room, listening to stories of the building's history. Kye, a Falls Church resident, is the third generation in his family to stand in that building.

In the middle of the 19th century, the city of Alexandria sold Kye's grandfather, Lewis Henry Bailey, to the building's occupants, Birch & Company slave traders. The building had been previously been occupied by the firm Franklin and Armfield — the first in the country to broker slaves long distances, an innovation similar to the refrigerated locomotive car's ability to transport commodities across the nation.

In the 1830s, the "Alexandria Gazette" ran ads for Franklin & Armfield which read "WE WILL GIVE CASH — For one hundred likely young Negroes of both sexes, between the ages of 8 and 25 years... For information enquire at the subscribers' west end of Duke Street, Alexandria."

Bailey was sold to a family in

Texas. After he was emancipated in 1863, without knowing how to read or write, he walked back to Alexandria at the age of 21.

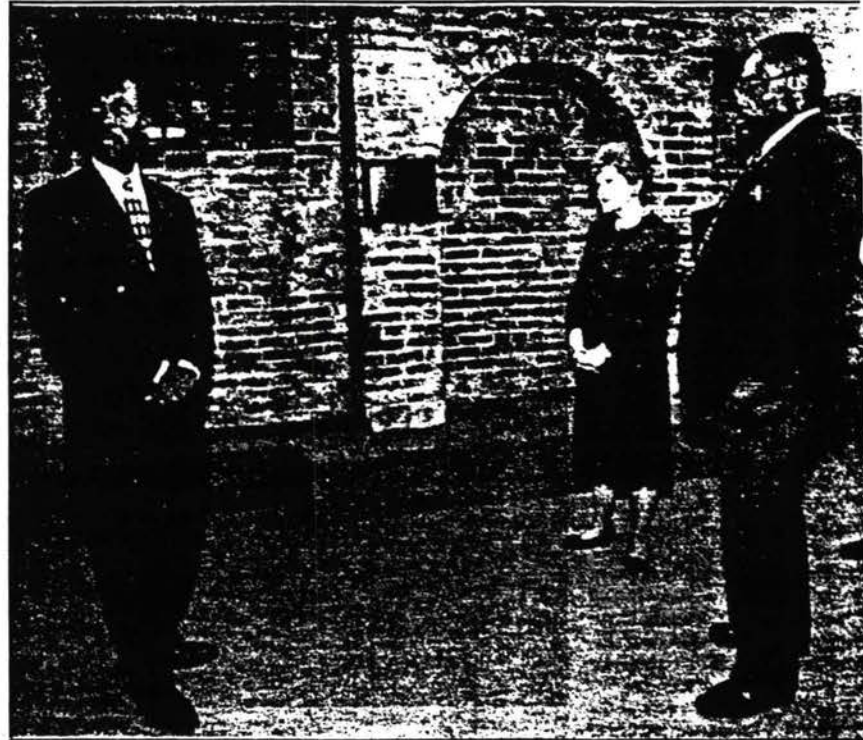
Bailey married at 55 to a 25-year-old woman, and they had four children. One of his daughters, Annie B. Rose, Kye's aunt, became one of the city's most noted citizens.

Rose, who passed away in 1989 at the age of 96, was the first black president of the Alexandria Civic Association — among other milestones. People in the city remember her as a constant racial bridge-builder, eloquent speaker and tireless activist. She also sat on the Northern Virginia Urban League's board.

In 1985, Rose, who lived on Duke Street five blocks east of the Franklin and Armfield slave pen, was presented a plaque commemorating the site as a national landmark.

Now Kye stood in the same building his aunt worked to have recognized, overseeing the process that will ensure it is maintained as a reminder of an important part of the city and nation's history, and that good will come from evil.

Just as Lewis Henry Bailey worked harder than could be expected of anyone to have normalcy in his life — learning to read as an adult, attaining a college degree from Wayland Academy (now Virginia Union), founding two area schools (one of which Kye attended) and five churches, marrying at 55 and raising a family — Annie B. Rose sought to motivate blacks and poor people to work harder than



George Lambert, chairman of the Northern Virginia Urban League (left), discusses the historic significance of the league's new headquarters in the basement of 1315 Duke Street, with Alexandria Vice Mayor Redella S. Pepp (center) and Councilman William D. Euille. The room was a former holding pen for slaves. A plaque seen on the left side of the arch commemorates the life of Lewis Henry Bailey, who was enslaved in the room, and later prospered in Alexandria as a free man.

others to bring normalcy to their lives. She organized drives to motivate disadvantaged people to vote and lectured schools on the history of slaves and the model of hard work it takes to overcome the social pitfalls of that legacy.

With the relocation of the Urban League, Floyd Kye oversaw the Alexandria African American community's commitment to work hard to bring normalcy and social equality upon itself.

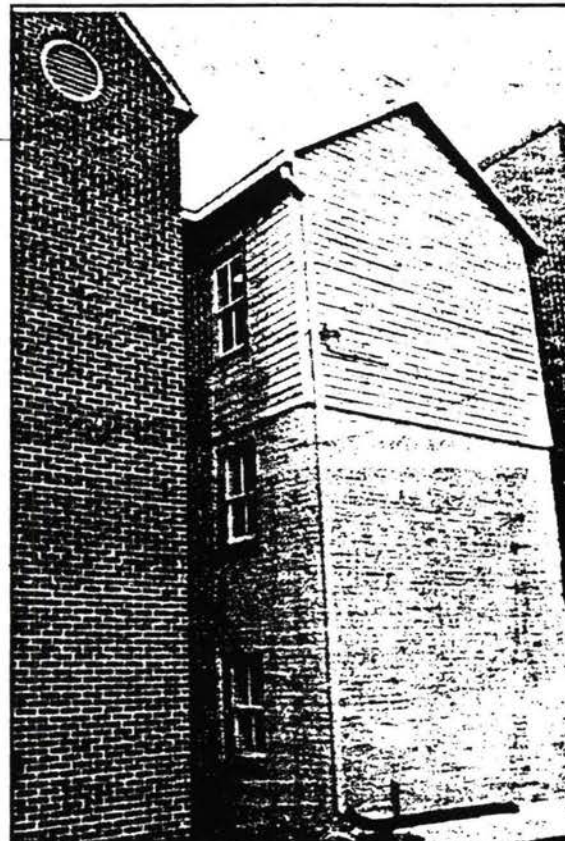
The Franklin & Armfield building has changed faces several times.

After slave trading ended in Alexandria in 1861, the building was used variously as a military prison, a barrack for slaves who fled Confederate states and the home of the Alexandria Hospital. In the 20th century, it was divided into apartments and was abandoned and dilapidated for several years until current owner Peter Dunston bought the property in the early 1980s. Dunston hired a local architect to expand the building slightly and refurbish it, highlighting parts with historic significance.

In 1988, Dunston rented the building to the Stone Group, a political and charity-oriented marketing firm. Ann Stone, the firm's founder, said she was told of the building's availability upon her return from a trip to Africa, during which she



A rare photo of Rev. Lewis Henry Bailey. The photo is thought to have been taken in about 1880.



See URBAN, Page 7

An original exterior wall of 1315 Duke Street

Staff photo/Debra Tro...

Urban

Continued from Page 6

visited ports from which slaves were shipped overseas — an experience she termed the most moving of her life. She said it seemed like fate that she would occupy the building at that time, but, she felt all the while that it should be home to a civil rights group.

In December 1988, Stone dedicated the Franklin and Armfield Slave Market in the name of Henry Bailey as "Freedom House," its permanent name.

"It's come full circle. It's back in the hands of the people who can really appreciate all the pain and suffering that took place

there. They're just meant to be there," she said of the building's current occupants.

Speaking at the building's Nov. 21 inauguration, Northern Virginia Urban League CEO George Lambert said the group will wage a "war on poverty" in the region by organizing employee training and placement services from the building. He also announced plans for the building to house a public museum in its basement.

It already serves as a museum to those who work in and visit it. The basement, a former slave holding pen, showcases the building's original brick foundation and barred windows. A kitchen enclave on the building's first floor once bordered

the site of beatings of prisoners who "acted up."

The Urban League is serving as a temporary occupant of the building, while it raises the funds with which to buy and then use it as a permanent home. Lambert said the League has initiated a capital campaign drive, through which he plans to raise one million dollars to purchase the site. Many contributions are still needed.

While Franklin National Bank has offered to mortgage the building on behalf of the group, Urban League leaders have said they want to occupy the building free of debt — perhaps as a gesture symbolic of independence, freedom and the potential fruits of hard work.

EDUCATION

Better in-city schools urged

• National Urban League President Price gives his opinion in a visit to Tucson.

By MALIA RULON
Citizen Staff Writer

Urban schools must improve their standards, National Urban League President Hugh Price said yesterday in Tucson.

"It's time to enter the 'no-excuses' era of school reform," Price told the Tucson Citizen Editorial Board.

"We've learned that you can organize school districts to deliver much higher standards for the urban schoolchildren."

Price said that because it's clear higher educational standards for urban schools are attainable, it now

"becomes a question of political will."

Although Tucson was recently named one of the five least-segregated cities in the nation by a University of Michigan study, Tucson Urban League President Ray Clarke said the league still has work to do.

"It's good news, but the struggle is not over," said Clarke, who is also chief executive officer



Price



Clarke

of the organization. For the past 27 years, the Tucson Urban League has been an active member of the community through its educational offerings and employment opportunities.

"Our most-robust urban leagues are doing the kinds of things they are in Tucson," Price said.

The national urban league movement was founded in 1910 to promote racial harmony, academic and social development of youths and faster economic self-sufficiency through employment. The Tucson Urban League is one of 115 affiliated organizations in the country.

"We are connected in a common mission," Price said. "Our history is rooted in civil service and social service."

The Tucson Urban League offers programs geared to improve education for local children, Clarke said.

These include professionally licensed Early Learning Child Care Centers, alternative high schools and middle schools, a newly opened charter school and the summer Youth Enrichment Program, he said.

The league has an annual budget of \$5 million and more than 100 paid staff workers.

"Here in Tucson we are very fortunate that we are able to offer an array of educational opportunities," Clarke said.

The Tucson organization will participate in the National Urban League's Western Regional Assembly, titled "Technology in Urban Communities," April 10-13 in Rio Rico, just north of Nogales.

THE REPORTER DISPATCH

Tuesday, July 23, 1996

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50 cents

League plans needle exchange

Anti-AIDS effort
would be first of its
kind in Westchester

By Barbara J. Durkin
Staff Writer

In hopes of stemming the spread of AIDS among drug users and their families, the Urban League of Westchester is seeking state approval to open a needle exchange program in Mount Vernon.

The program would be the

first one in Westchester County, though there are 86 programs in the United States, including 11 in New York.

Given that such programs can be controversial, Westchester Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Rapoport lauded the Urban League as "courageous" for its efforts.

"We are extremely supportive of this," Rapoport said. "We have so few tools in our armamentarium against AIDS that we can't afford not to use a single one."

Through a needle exchange,

HEALTH

Intravenous drug users can trade their dirty needles for clean ones, thereby reducing the risk of contracting the virus that causes AIDS from a contaminated needle. It also can reduce the risk of contracting hepatitis.

Common objections to the programs include charges they condone drug use, may increase drug use and draw addicts into an area. But experts say there is

Please see NEEDLE, 2A

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Needle: First exchange program proposed

Continued from page 1A

no evidence they increase drug use, and studies have indicated they do help reduce the spread of the virus that causes AIDS.

Mount Vernon Mayor Ernest D. Davis and Police Commissioner John S. Pritchard said they supported the project. Davis said that he initially opposed the idea but that after research, he became convinced needle exchange programs were effective in reducing the risk of AIDS.

"This in no way condones the

use of drugs," Davis said.

In Westchester, more than half the county's 2,507 AIDS cases since the first reported diagnosis in 1982 are directly linked to intravenous drug use. Another 10 percent are indirectly linked, such as in cases in which drug users infect their spouses, other sexual partners or infants born HIV-positive.

In Mount Vernon, about 70 percent of the 464 AIDS cases are directly or indirectly linked to intravenous drug use. Mount Vernon has the highest per capi-

ta rate of AIDS in the county, though Yonkers has more cases, with 745 reported.

As required by the state Department of Health, the Urban League needle exchange would be part of a broader "harm reduction" program in which addicts also would be taught how to clean their needles, counseled about risky behavior and alerted to opportunities for treatment, medical care and other social services they might need.

The program would provide an opportunity for contact with drug

users who otherwise might never be reached, said Ernest S. Prince, president of the Urban League.

The Urban League, a nonprofit organization that provides an array of social programs, has applied for a foundation grant to fund the program and is meeting with community leaders to win support for the project.

Prince said he did not know when the program could be in operation.

A study by researchers at Beth Israel Medical Center's Chemical

Dependency Institute in Manhattan found that drug users participating in needle exchanges could cut their risk of contracting HIV by at least half.

John Gallagher, president of Concerned Property Owners of Mount Vernon, said he would want to assess the benefits of a needle exchange, including whether it would have any effect on crime, the economics of providing health services for HIV-positive residents and its effectiveness in halting the spread of the disease.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

Los Angeles Urban League President: John W. Mack



From the shooting of Natasha Harlins by a Korean grocer to the Rodney King beating to the infamous O.J. Simpson trial, the media—both black and white—has sought out the opinion of John Mack.

He hopes the reason is because they see him as an aggressive advocate on behalf of the African American community—someone very close to the pulse. And the press is never disappointed. Characterizing himself as a "straight shooter", Mack calls them as he sees them.

"I don't play games," he says. "I'm candid and direct. I'm not out just to get my face on television or my name in the print media. It's not about that. I'm trying to remain focused on what the real agenda should be, and that is to make sure that equal opportunity and justice becomes a reality for our people."

"Finally," he states, "I believe there is a feeling by most in the media that I'm a person with integrity, and that the Urban League is a solid organization."

But if it is solid, it is because of Mack.

That very statement strikes a bone of contention for Mack. For while he knows that it is his high visibility and powerful connections that have shored a personal credibility L.A.'s movers and shakers have come to count on, he is just as sure that the track record his staff has been able to achieve with programs that are effective has been equally as important. They are, in short, synonymous.

Still, in the 28 years that have passed since the 58-year old activist took the reins in 1969, he's comprised not only an excellent record and efficient staff of more than 200 in eight different L.A.-area locations, but a board of influential movers and shakers as well as key leaders that include Ralphs CEO George Golleher, AT&T General Manager William E. Clay, Vidal Sassoon and news anchor Larry McCormick.

Then there are the programs. Employing state-of-the-art technology in its after school tutorial services for kids—3rd grade through high school—the Michael Milken Youth Center has increased reading skills by one grade level (and math by two grade levels) in a period of three months, while providing free SAT exams and PSAT tests. The Toyota Automotive center (the joint venture of the Urban League and Toyota) has over the last two years, trained and placed approximately 400 unskilled and unemployed workers with a placement rate of 86 percent. Another job training office in Pasadena. A Head Start program. And a three-year old Business Development and Entrepreneur Center in Inglewood where they work to make participating African-American owned businesses more viable, while serving as advocates to increase their business opportunities.

He is most proud of them.

"We'd like to think that one of the things that separates the Urban League and the diverse programs we have is we're trying to find offer and reach individuals who are borderline in the minds of a lot of people," Mack reports. "We're not going to say they're of no use as others may have done. That doesn't mean we reach everybody. But we're certainly not in the 'creaming' business."

Instead they were initiatives that—with the help of a capable staff headquartered in the View Park section of Los Angeles—he presented to the board to generate the resources, some of which come through government funding and the balance through innovative partnerships he's launched with major corporations like Nissan Motor Corp. U.S.A. with whom he partnered with last year in a program to help expand their relationships with African-American owned businesses. This, well expanding the League from its original focus, which was on job training and placement.

Fact is, you won't catch Mack falling asleep at the switch.

"I try not to rest on my laurels and I encourage my staff to do the same," he states. "You have to be a visionary and look ahead. It's been said that there will be no hitchhikers on the information superhighway. We want to make sure that our constituents, our community, is not standing on the side of the road with their thumbs out while the rest of Los Angelenos are proceeding along."

"During my tenure we have committed to being an aggressive, active advocate for change," he maintains. "Because if we don't open up the institutions that control the jobs or do something about police brutality and racism, and now—welfare reform with the new law passed by Congress, we are in real trouble."

A protégé of the late Whitney Young, Mack came out of the student's civil rights movement of the 60s, first organizing an NAACP youth group on the campus of North Carolina AT&T State University. He joined the Urban League in 1964, the year the Civil Rights Act was signed into law.

He's been told by clergy friends that the work he does is a ministry. A Christian, he is likely to concur. "We are all children of God", he reports. "I clearly do believe that all of us are equal in the eyes of God."

"Civil rights is the core of my heart and soul," he notes. "Being involved in student activism had the greatest impact in me devoting my life to trying to make a difference on behalf of my people. The biggest joy is when we're really able to make a difference."

I don't think the Urban League is doing a good job if it's not an active advocate. The programs we offer are crucial because they provide direct services to people in our community who are hurting. People who need someone who can extend a helping hand, not a hand-out."

Mack wasn't handed anything. "I went in the game knowing that I had to be twice as good to be able to make it. I've never forgotten who I am or from whence I came even now as I relate to high-level people."

He was born and reared in Darlington, South Carolina, one of three children to a Methodist minister and his schoolteacher wife—among the most rigid rules of segregation. During the summers, he picked cotton and worked a variety of odd jobs to make his way through school.

"I believe everybody needs a chance to develop his or her potential," he says. "Hopefully the Urban League has provided a source of encouragement to those who have been beaten down by the system. It's a dual responsibility, the advocacy role on the one hand and the program and service provision on the other. I don't believe in leadership by public opinion polls. True leadership is based upon a commitment to justice and equal opportunity—and to service. Because when you ask people to support you the obvious question is for what. In the business community, if they see results, then they will support you."

"I know some of the hard positions the Urban League has taken has made some of our supporters

uneasy. More recently, Prop 209 for example, because we were putting heat on some leaders in the business community to step up."

"Looking to the future, we're moving into a very critical period as a people," he points out. "In addition to the challenge of providing a level playing field, we need to have every community really understanding the bigger picture—that we're in this thing together—to make diversity work. When you spend more time trying to understand other people rather than hating them, we should move towards a greater degree of tolerance and mutual respect."

"Surely there have been some plans or initiatives that did not work," Mack states. "But I've been around long enough to know that you don't pick up everything and go home. You go back to the drawing board and come at it from a different way. It's been a very rewarding opportunity. I feel fortunate to do what I do at the Urban League."

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Automotive Training Center
3833 South Crenshaw Blvd.
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New coalitions arise as past apathy retreats

FRONT PAGE

Black History Month begins with examples of awakened activism

BY KIM TRENT
BLADE STAFF WRITER

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When Toledo's black leaders talk about their community, they use the word apathy surprisingly often.

Nestled in the security of a strong job market and relatively peaceful local race relations, black Toledo historically has been accused of not using its political and economic voice to advance issues important to the community.

But as Black History Month 1997 begins, many African American leaders say black Toledo has been jarred out of complacency and has built coalitions designed to fashion and forward a local black agenda.

Examples of this new spirit of activism abound. They include:

- An African American Leadership Summit in Toledo in April.

- A Toledo branch of the National Urban League, an African American organization that tackles socioeconomic issues.

It is the first time an Urban League branch has existed here since the 1940s.

- A partnership between Organized Neighbors Yielding eXcellence (ONYX) and the Toledo Chapter of the National Black Data Processing Associates to offer free computer use and computer training classes at the Frederick Douglass Community Center.

- A six-month-old credit union that is managed and largely patronized by African Americans and attracting attention from the banking community.

- Coalitions that have grown out of recent

events like the 1995 Million Man March that are tackling some of the community's most daunting problems.

On the political front, a group of black professionals is soliciting financial contributions to build a political action committee that will support candidates who are concerned about issues that are important to the black community.

The Middle Passage PAC hopes to raise at least \$100,000 to support candidates for the 1997 municipal elections.

The PAC took its name from the slave trade route in which millions of Africans died in ships heading to the Americas.

"When we were in the slave ships, we were in total limbo — politically, socially, and economically," Myron Stewart, a PAC founder and editor of the weekly Toledo Journal newspaper, said.

"If you look at the black community today, things have changed in some ways. There's no slavery. We have civil rights. But, for the most part, I still feel we're in political, economic, and social limbo."

Mr. Stewart worked with his brother, Gary, and local lawyer Rick Mitchell to form the PAC. Myron Stewart said the founders hope the PAC will force politicians to listen to black Toledoans on issues such as the need for crime prevention, job creation, and better education.

"We need to sit down and talk about decent representation," Myron Stewart said.

"Black people are not represented politically in Toledo or around the country," Myron said.

Others agree the city's black community has not fully realized its political potential.

"I've tried to start everything from a strong get-out-the vote effort and all kinds of other things and it always breaks down into petty jealousy," said State Rep. Jack Ford (D., Toledo).

"So I just kind of do my own thing now."

But Mr. Ford doesn't entirely blame Toledo's blacks for their political disinterest.





BLADE PHOTO BY GREG HORVATH

From left, Gary Stewart, Richard Mitchell, and Myron Stewart formed the Middle Passage Political Action Committee.

Blacks

► Continued from Page 1 *A*

He said African Americans often fall into political lethargy because blacks comprise only about 20 per cent of the city's population.

While some believe blacks in Toledo continue to be under-represented politically, many blacks are enthusiastic about economic and social strides made by the community.

Some say the recent chartering of the Toledo Urban League signals a movement toward economic empowerment in black Toledo.

"The fact that folks saw the need for an Urban League shows that maybe Toledo is a city poised to make a comeback," said Paul Hubbard, Toledo's acting development director, who was the major catalyst for the effort to charter the branch.

"I see the political clout coming together. People have identified the problems."

Mr. Hubbard said the branch will work with black business owners to develop partnerships.

It plans to join forces with Toledo Public Schools to develop mentoring and training programs.

Many black leaders believe the community must do a better job of pooling its resources to move forward and overcome the lingering effects of racial prejudice.

"My perspective on racism is that it is economically based," said

delia Martin Health Center.

"The focus should be on our collective ability. We have to learn to pull each other along."

That kind of collective responsibility is becoming increasingly visible in the local black religious community.

Last June, for example, a coalition of black church leaders joined with community activists to form the Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union.

The credit union has attracted 500 members.

It is located at 1339 Dorr St., on land that was home to a bank before the urban renewal efforts of

Some say the Urban League chartering signals a movement toward economic empowerment.

the 1970s cleared out many Dorr Street businesses.

"I think there has been apathy, but things are changing a lot out of necessity," said Roosevelt Gant, who led the credit union's chartering committee.

"We live in a world of partnerships. From my perspective, the two most important institutions we have are the black church and the black business."

The churches also have renewed

For example, about 5,000 people attended a joint picnic last summer at Smith Park that united the congregations of several local black churches.

On another front, African American men who participated in the Million Man March have worked with existing black groups like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to create programs that address education, health, and networking issues.

Members of the march's local organizing committee say initiatives like the planned African American Leadership Summit are evidence of the local black community's commitment to change.

"The Million Man March began the process of bringing people together and the process of repairing and rebuilding our communities," said Minister Charles Muhammad, who helped organize Toledo-area Million Man marchers.

"It gave new energies to the community."

The renewed vigor encourages black political leaders like Toledo Councilman C. Allen McConnell.

"We've been very passive, but I believe that we'll get where we need to be," he said.

"In time we will arrive at a level of political and economic em-

Chorus is rising against call for a single black voice

■ More and more, African-Americans are saying they don't need a hero to represent them as they confront racism.

By JEAN HELLER
Times Staff Writer

Minutes after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot on a motel balcony in Memphis in 1968, an aide, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, stood before reporters and cameras in a bloody turtleneck.

Jackson said he cradled King's head as he died; he was the last person to whom King spoke.

Jackson repeated the account the next three days, always wearing the same blood-stained shirt.

Later, the world learned that little of the story was true. The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy held King's head. Jackson was not even on the balcony when a sniper's bullet pierced King's neck. The source of the blood on Jackson's shirt remains a mystery.

By the time the truth caught up with the myth, however, Jackson had publicly positioned himself as King's heir apparent, as the na-

SPECIAL REPORT



Martin Luther King Jr.

IN SECTION B

Find out what St. Petersburg's black residents identify as problems facing the city.

tion's new black leader.

But Jackson couldn't sustain the image. In fact, in the nearly 30 years since King's death, no one has succeeded in winning wide acceptance as the new leader of the African-American community, though many have tried.

Perhaps no one will.

Perhaps no one should.

"The idea that the African-American community must have one leader has historical connotations," said Israel "Ike" Tribble, the first black president of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and head of the Florida Education Fund. It is "the planta-

tion owner who wanted to deal with one slave who was picked to speak for all the rest."

"White people have always wanted a Booker T. Washington or some other image they're comfortable dealing with to speak for the African-American community. And white people like to select who that leader will be, who has credibility with them."

Vernon Jordan, civil rights activist and corporate lawyer, told *Washingtonian* magazine several years ago that the notion of a single black leader is irrelevant.

Please see LEADERS 10



"We shouldn't have racism in this country. ... It makes us vulnerable. When we attack each other, we weaken us all."

— SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

Former member of Congress.



"I certainly hope the most important black organization — the black church — continues to thrive and grow."

— GEORGE WALLACE

Former governor of Alabama



"We suffer from a lack, a terrible lack, of African Americans in the higher order."

— FREDERICK HUMPHRIES

Florida A&M president



"The plantation owner ... wanted to deal with one slave who was picked to speak for all the rest."

— ISRAEL "IKE" TRIBBLE

First black president of Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce



"You have to aggregate economic and political power to be successful, and that requires education. The compassion card won't trump any other card any more because everyone has their own agendas."

— HUGH PRICE

National Urban League president



"Could there ever be another Dr. King? I hope not. Hopefully, it won't get back to a situation that bad."

— LEE ROY SELMON

and repugnant. "There's a need on the part of white people to have one black spokesman," Jordan said. "They do not accept for us the same diversity they accept for themselves. It's a divisive tactic."

For someone to achieve today the stature and influence of King, the nation would have to re-enact the repressive laws and embrace the blatant racism that King fought against, most people interviewed by the *Times* said.

"I don't think it's desirable that we should have such cutting issues that we need a hero to come forward to deal with them," said Frederick Humphries, president of Florida A&M University. "I hope we're past that."

Some believe we are; some believe we are not.

In the view of many, the nation is backsliding, burying the progress for which King fought and died under a muck of cynicism, frustration, suspicion and apprehension that combine to form an insidiously destructive new racism.

They cite last year's overwhelming vote in California to kill affirmative action, sweeping Democratic concessions to welfare reformers and attacks on minority set-asides.

Others see healthy and growing black middle and upper classes and say what the country has encountered is simply another unpatched pothole in a road that has never been smooth. The important thing, they say, is to get beyond it.

Hugh Price, president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League, doesn't like to hear talk about the need for another King, although he hears it often.

"I find it surprising, in a way, that whenever black leaders get together, the question of a new Martin Luther King inevitably comes up," Price said. "It's on a lot of people's minds. But to say we have to have a leader of that stature to move forward makes progress a matter of fate. If you have to depend on a quirk of birth and chromosomes, you're in deep trouble."

Yet individuals continue to define themselves as *the* black leader. On a national level, there are Jackson, Al Sharpton and Louis Farrakhan, among others.

Omalu Yeshutela, founder of the National People's Democratic Uthuru Movement, and Sevell Brown, local head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, have battled over leadership of the coalition intended to represent the interests of St. Petersburg's black residents after two nights of disturbances last fall.

However, the unity Yeshutela, Brown and others tried to display splintered in a shower of name-calling and finger-pointing. It spotlights the question: Why would a black community, local or national, be expected to be so homogenous that one person or group could

represent its interests?

"Who is the one single leader of the Mexican-Americans, the Asian-Americans?" Price asked. "Who is the one single leader of the women's movement, of the white middle class? Why is that question only asked of African-Americans?"

The notion of a single black leader is in large measure fueled by the nation's media.

"The week Martin Luther King was killed, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report* and a number of others all put Jesse on their covers," Tribble recalled. "Well, Jesse was significant. He was there in Memphis that night. But there were others. The media tried to make Jesse the next leader, but time and circumstance didn't allow that to happen in the African-American community."

Howard Kurtz, media critic for the *Washington Post*, calls the media-driven search for a single black voice a misguided exercise.

"Journalists have an unfortunate tendency to gravitate to a couple of politicians or activists or spokesmen when they need a reaction from an ethnic group," Kurtz said. "Sometimes, it's just laziness. But it leads to the horribly erroneous assumption by the public that the minority community speaks with only one voice."

"It's simplistic, at best."

If anything, the American black community is less monolithic now than it was 30 years ago.

Shirley Chisholm, who became the first black woman in the House of Representatives when she was elected in New York in 1968 and later ran for president, predicts black America will never again be as unified as it was in the 1960s.

"There is never going to be room for one special leader again," Chisholm said. "We've seen the development of many different directions in which blacks want to go. It would be very hard to get a coalition together again."

"Young leaders are much more independent than the old leaders. They aren't willing to listen to their elders. They want to go off on their own and do what they want to do. It represents a very real change in attitude."

Another reason for the disharmony Chisholm's cites could be the nation's progress in matters of race the past 30 years.

It was easier, for example, to galvanize unity and support when the nation witnessed Birmingham Police Commissioner Bull Connor unleashing dogs and fire hoses against black school children.

The issues of today are as different from the 1960s as Bull Connor is different from Darrel Stephens, St. Petersburg's police chief. Connor obviously was a bad cop. No one ever suggested that of Stephens until a young black man, TyRon Lewis, failed to obey a police officer's order to stop his car.

In a way, Lewis is emblematic of 30 years worth of changes in poor black neighborhoods everywhere. As more and more black families become successful and



The notion of the Rev. Jesse Jackson as "the" black leader who speaks for the entire community is in part fueled by the media.

move away from urban areas, others are left behind. And for some of those people, despair has become synonymous with defiance, frustration with fear, anxiety with anger.

"During King's period, you weren't talking glass ceilings; you were talking about getting into the building," said Miami lawyer Jesse McCrary, who became Florida's secretary of state in 1978, the first African-American to serve in the Cabinet since Reconstruction. "The issues were going to school, voting, basic things. Now racism is more economic than social. Rich white people and rich black people get along fine. The dividing line is wealth, or a lack of it."

Price agrees.

"It's interesting to speculate on where we'd be on a lot of these issues if the economy hadn't turned so that marginally skilled, marginally educated workers lost 25 percent of their incomes in the last quarter century," he said. "Factory jobs first moved from the inner cities to the suburbs, then out of the country. Blue-collar black workers... felt the impact first."

William Julius Wilson, a professor of social policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, says the loss of jobs is the root of most urban problems.

"High neighborhood joblessness has a far more devastating effect than high neighborhood poverty," Wilson wrote in his latest book, *When Work Disappears*. "A neighborhood in which people are poor but employed is different from a neighborhood in which people are poor and jobless. Many of today's problems in the inner-city neighborhoods — crime, family dissolution, welfare — are fundamentally a consequence of the disappearance of work."

As factory jobs later disappeared from the suburbs, poor whites found themselves competing with poor blacks for a places in dwindling job markets.

The result has been a white backlash, Chisholm said. Although she once was optimistic about the future of race relations in America,

Chisholm said, her outlook has dimmed considerably in the past five years.

"There are many regulations, laws and rules that were enacted to give aid and comfort and economic parity to blacks, and white people have become very angry about them," Chisholm said. "Whites consider them very unfair. Whites say, 'Yes, blacks don't have equity, and maybe they should, but it is not my fault. Don't punish me.'"

"We have made some progress, but we will not make much more. Racism will not be eradicated in this country. Not ever. Not ever."

In Tampa, like Tribble is far more optimistic, but not without reservation.

He said he believes progress has been made, and more will be made, but it will require a show of leadership not from one man or woman but from all African-Americans who have improved their own circumstances. They must reach back to the young people left behind.

"Tampa, quiet as it's kept, probably has more representation of African-Americans in its leadership than any city in America," Tribble said. "Without a plan, and without anybody yelling and screaming, we have moved a long way forward, not as individuals but as a community."

"Still, there are neighborhoods in the city where unemployment runs about 44 percent. We can't talk about succeeding as a community until we reach into those neighborhoods as a community and give these people some cause for hope."

Lee Roy Selmon, former defensive end for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, says he has seen that philosophy work before.

"Many of the economically disadvantaged are intelligent and skilled enough to do better, but there isn't opportunity," said Selmon, now an athletic official at the University of South Florida. "We must, as a community, all of us, not just one person, make a commitment to a course of action that will reverse this."

"On one of the... had, everybody stood... er. You couldn't put your finger on one person. We all stepped... took responsibility, and we... successful."

U.S. Rep. J.C. Watts of Okla., differentiates between rights and responsibilities. He, were restored during and just after the King era. The next step, been harder.

"I look at the world out there and it's ugly," Watts said. "But the ultimate optimist. I'm the guy who would go after M. Dick in a rowboat and take tartar sauce with me. I think I can do the work we have to do. It's going to take every single one of us accepting responsibility. Rights without responsibility always fail."

Almost universally, those interviewed said if the question of the future of blacks in America has solution, it lies in education. Not just high school diplomas, but college degrees.

According to Humphries, of 43,000 doctoral degrees awarded in the United States each year, or 1,000 go to blacks. He would like to see the number go to 5,000.

"If we're going to have re parity, we have to put more people on university faculties, in their tanks, in research labs," he said. "We suffer from the lack, the terrible lack, of African-Americans in the higher order."

"How many African-Americans are involved in new businesses that will shape the world? Where are the African-American Ph.D.s in biophysics? Where are the African-American Ph.D.s in computer electrical engineering, in biochemistry, bio-medicine, criminology and law enforcement, in philosophy and social science? We won't solve our problems until we have a cadre of highly educated African-Americans working on them."

Then, perhaps, black progress will move ahead far enough that wastefulness over King and speculation about the future of black leadership finally will end. At that point the nation could look more like the place envisioned, ironically, by George Wallace.

Wallace, the four-term governor of Alabama and diehard white separatist for much of his life, says the entire concept of leadership in the United States is skewed.

"I am distressed that we still have leadership in America that is considered to be 'white' and 'black,'" Wallace said. "My hope and I believe this was Dr. King's hope, too, is that one day we will have leadership which is not predicated upon race, but rather... American leadership."

"We have come a long way in the area of race relations in the past 30 to 40 years, but we still have a long way to go. (As) more and more people begin to see the error of their ways, as I did, our country will be a much better and peaceful place."

—Times researcher Kitty Barnett contributed to this report.

In America

BOB HERBERT

A Word To the Wise

Hugh Price of the National Urban League tells the story of Cambria Smith, a teen-ager who began to flourish academically when she left a lousy junior high school environment in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn and enrolled in the Science Skills Center, an experimental high school in downtown Brooklyn that emphasizes discipline, hard work and intellectual achievement.

The transition required a tough emotional adjustment. Cambria felt she had to escape the oppressive influence of her rowdy and under-achieving friends from junior high school. She knew they were holding her back. They had contempt for the rigorous atmosphere that she was seeking.

"I didn't want them following me," she said. "I told my friends goodbye. I was ready to meet new people, have different experiences. People here are academically successful. I like that. They aren't ashamed to be smart."

The problem of black kids being pressured by their peers to act as if they haven't a brain in their heads is a big one. In that particularly perverse corner of the universe, only white people get to be intelligent. Black people get to be dopes. The idea that this might be playing into the hands of racists is given no con-

An Urban League push to help black kids achieve.

sideration. That would be a sign of intelligence, which of course is not permitted.

Said Mr. Price. "The negative pressures can even reach the point that achievers try to mask their intelligence. At Ballou High School in Washington, D.C., achievers were so embarrassed and intimidated that those who'd won academic honors were afraid to attend the awards ceremonies."

This is a form of madness that needs to be turned around somewhat faster than immediately. Mr. Price was talking about it in the context of a no-nonsense effort that the Urban League is making to help lead black children out of the chaos of intellectual underachievement.

There are no longer any excuses for the failure of black children to learn, said Mr. Price, who is president of the Urban League. There are now many programs across the country that have gotten very poor inner-city youngsters to reach academic achievement levels that are at or above national norms.

"The needed innovations have been designed and field-tested," said Mr. Price. "It is now time to put them to widespread use."

But he warned that simply raising standards without providing the wherewithal for students to reach those standards would never work. Teachers, principals and schools have to be properly equipped to do their jobs. A math teacher who is not qualified to teach math is a menace. Schools without books are not schools, they are something else.

You get a sense of how serious Mr. Price is about this effort when you hear him insist that "unqualified educators" must be cast aside, "whatever their complexion."

"This may prove uncomfortable," he said, "because in the near term it could place some well-meaning but ill-prepared minority teachers at risk. But urban youngsters taught by poor teachers face the far greater risk, and over their entire lifetimes."

Mr. Price also had pointed comments to make about the responsibility of parents. "The obvious place to begin," he said, "is for individuals of child-bearing age not to bring children into this world until they are mature enough to love, nurture and provide for their offspring. The alarming incidence of out-of-wedlock teen births undermines the viability of our community by creating households, often headed by a lone teen mother, which lack the education and earning power to escape poverty. Though there are heroic exceptions, this is profoundly unfair because it severely handicaps the children from the outset."

He urged parents of children who are already in school to drop the handy excuses — too tired, too busy — and participate in the academic lives of their kids, including attending programs and extracurricular activities at school.

Mr. Price is carrying his message (there's a lot more to it) around the country, and the Urban League has created a variety of programs to help bolster the achievement levels of black students.

Someday, if we're lucky, the word will get out that being smart, like being black, is nothing to be ashamed of. □

Public education rebirth requires a balanced attack

LAST WEEK, the National Urban League held a press conference in Washington that responded to President Clinton's stance that there is nothing of greater importance to the future of America than rebuilding American public education.

Televised on C-SPAN, the press conference was extremely important, not only because of its timeliness but because of the straight shooting that dominated the remarks of the panelists, who pulled no punches on enemies within or enemies without.

Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, outlined what has to be done. He made it clear that raising the quality of education in lower income and so-called minority communities will reduce crime, welfare and negative patterns of behavior. Parents, he said, should not support failing institutions or the negative behavior patterns that characterize too many inner-city students and their parents.

Velma Cobb, the National Urban League's director of education and youth development, based her powerful observations on material from the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future.

"Differences in teacher qualifications accounted for more than 90% of the variation in student achievement in reading and mathematics. In high poverty schools, 40% of the teachers lack even a college minor in their main teaching fields. In schools that have 90% to 100% children of color, only 54% of the teachers are certified in their field."

As one study she cited made clear, states pay more attention to the qualifications of veterinarians treating the nation's cats and dogs than to those of teachers educating the nation's children and youth.

Those who suffer the most from these flawed policies are so-called minority kids. Raising credential standards, retraining and demanding ongoing development of teachers are part of the solution.

What workers will have to do in the 20th century is utilize critical thinking skills, not just one task that de-

STANLEY CROUCH



Raise standards for students and teachers

mands no thinking," Cobb said in an interview yesterday. "Developing those critical thinking skills is where we have to do the battle. That is because so few teachers in inner-city schools are prepared to do the work at this point."

"In the suburbs, if you want the kids to study algebra, the teachers usually know it. In the inner cities, they usually don't. That's where our problem is."

Another part to the problem is negative peer pressure. Black and Hispanic kids are often attacked by their peers and accused of "trying to be white" if they do well in school. Michael Johnson, principal of Brooklyn's Science Skills Center High School, related the story of a kid who came to him and asked for a second set of study texts that he could keep at home so that he didn't have to be seen on the streets carrying books.

When I interviewed panelist Lawrence Steinberg, who teaches at Temple University and is author of "Beyond the Classroom," he said, "The images of black youth seen in television shows, in movies, in music videos never show high-achieving black kids."

"These kinds of kids don't get the kind of affirmation that other kids in this culture do. One young woman told me that she was considered a failure by the kids that she grew up with because she was an A student and hadn't gotten pregnant. They told her she must have been too ugly to get a man."

Our nation needs a Renaissance in public education and a rebirth of the once-common attitude among Afro-Americans that "knowledge is freedom, ignorance is slavery."

Administrators, teachers, students and parents must take on the responsibility for that rebirth. Bad teaching plans, low self-expectations and minimal parental involvement won't get it. We need to get on with the job of rebuilding the public schools, which are essential to the quality of our democracy, our economy and our humanity.

HUGH PRICE

When Carter G. Woodson, the noted historian, inaugurated Negro History Week in 1926, he intended that it become an occasion for thinking about the facts, circumstances and meaning of African-American life in the United States.

Woodson acted out of political as well as intellectual reasons: In 1926, whites, whether in the South, where segregation was the law, or in the North and West, where it was the custom, believed African-Americans had made or could make any meaningful contribution to America.

Although what was once one week has grown into the month-long observance of Black History Month, its fundamental purpose remains unchanged — and just as necessary — today.

That was brought home to me recently by the news that Howard University, the historically black university in the nation's capital, is enrolled in its first-year class the largest number of winners of National Achievement Scholarships any college in the country.

The achievement program honors exemplary black high school students who take challenging courses and rank in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. Howard outpaced Harvard, which enrolled 69 scholars, Florida A&M University, which enrolled 51, with 28 and the University of Virginia, with 23, for the top five spots in what has become a fierce competition among institutions of higher learning. Beneath them are such institutions as Stanford,

Something of enduring value

Princeton, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Duke, Johns Hopkins and Georgia Tech.

Significantly, five of the top 20 schools enrolling this elite corps of students were historically black colleges: Morehouse College enrolled 18, Xavier University, 12 and Spelman College, 12.

All of America benefits from this either way you look at it.

This is the first time in recent memory that Howard has appeared on this prestigious list of schools, and that so many black colleges and universities have been in the top 20 schools. For that they must acknowledge the example Florida A&M has set during the past decade in recruiting National Achievement Scholars: the Tallahassee school has been in the top five since 1989 and twice ranked first.

Dr. Janice Nicholson, Howard's chief undergraduate admissions officer, says its achievement was the result of a "a very concerted and comprehensive effort to move Howard into the first rank" of colleges and universities, and that it intends to be at the top of the list for

National Achievement Scholars from now on.

That declaration drew a laugh from FAMU's director of public relations, Eddie Jackson, one that combined institutional pride with the vision of the competition's larger significance.

"Tell Howard we welcome them to the top of the ladder," he said, "We're disappointed that we're not No. 1 this year, but we're happy to see another historically black school in that spot. But tell them, too, that their success has got us charged up even more. Watch out next fall."

At one level, the meaning of this competition can be put three ways: One is that some historically black colleges and universities are doing quite well competing with their predominantly white and resource-rich counterparts for the top-performing black students. This, in fact, constitutes a return to their historic mission of bringing together and educating a cross-section of Black America.

The second is that some predominantly white institutions are competing fiercely with their historically black counterparts for high-achieving black students. They are aware that there is a broader and deeper strata of talent among young Americans they need to tap.

The third is that there are numerous young black boys and

girls who are following what the novelist Albert Murray has called the "indelible ancestral imperative to do something and become something and be somebody"; and that the corps of high-achieving high school students among them know that the range of colleges offering a top-flight education include black ones, too.

All of America benefits from this either way you look at it. But I think that Howard's breakthrough and the attention it has focused on the excellence of the young people there and the other colleges are enrolling has a particular resonance for what Carter G. Woodson had in mind for the consideration of African-American life.

On the one hand, it reminds us that African-Americans have sought with a poignant determination throughout their existence here to gain something of value from their life in America.

And on the other hand, it underscores black America's proud declaration that it has contributed something of value to this nation, however much that contribution has been overlooked, and that it will continue to do so.

That indelible ancestral imperative goes on.

Hugh B. Price is president of the National Urban League.

NEW YORK REAL ESTATE
JOURNAL

NORWELL, MA
SEMI MONTHLY 10,000

FEB 28 1997

NEW YORK

To NUL at Silverstein's 615,000 s/f 120 Wall Street **Newmark, Time Equities cobroker 48,000 s/f lease**

⁹⁵⁹³
NEW YORK, NY - The National Urban League (NUL), a pre-eminent African-American organization, has found new digs at 120 Wall Street. When it moves in May the NUL will become the largest nonprofit tenant in Silverstein Properties' 35-story downtown office building, a center created specially for nonprofits in cooperation with the NYC Economic Development Corp. The NUL will occupy 48,000 s/f of office space on two floors in a 20-year lease valued in excess of \$20 million.

"The challenge in this transaction was to coordinate the sale of the NUL's building at 500 E. 62nd St. with the logistics of finding new space, constructing it, and moving," said Arlene Wysong, senior managing director of Newmark & Co. Real Estate, Inc., who, with David Lebenstein, SIOR, director of sales and leasing for Time Equities, negotiated the new lease at 120 Wall Street on behalf of the NUL.

Roger Silverstein, vice president and Cathy Gilberti, senior vice president of leasing for Silverstein Properties, negotiated the new lease on be-



half of their firm.

Lebenstein and Wysong also handled the sale of the NUL's former headquarters building, 500 East 62nd Street, a 21-story, 123,000 s/f building it

owned and occupied with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) for 23 years. The sale of 500 East 62nd Street is expected to close this month. The UNCF relocated to Virginia.

OAKLAND PRESS

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DAILY 75.000

MONDAY
FEB 24 1997

SANDRA COMBS BIRDIETT

National Urban League needs help to ensure success of all people

1595
The overall "State of Black America 1996" is enough to send a relatively happy person into a deep depression.

The 21st edition of the annual report by the National Urban League notes there are widening gaps between African Americans and whites in the areas of income, employment, housing, education and health issues.

Major obstacles remain before "all men (who) are created equal" will be equal in life, the report points out. Here are some examples:

■ For more than 30 years the unemployment rate for African Americans has been twice that of whites and it has not dropped below 10 percent since the mid-1970s. In 1996, African Americans made up about 11 percent of the nation's civilian labor force, and 20 percent of its 7.7

million were unemployed.

■ The percentage of African-American households with annual incomes of \$50,000 and more increased from 17 percent to 29 percent, but the number of households with annual incomes between \$15,000 and \$50,000 fell from 39 percent to 31 percent.

■ One in three African Americans (10 million of 33 million) is living in poverty, a rate that is three times that of whites (18 million out of 193 million whites have income below the poverty line). African Americans are 12 to 15 percent of the total United States population, but constitute almost 40 percent of poor Americans.

■ African-American men working year-round and full-time earned a median income of \$25,350 in 1994, 72 percent of the income of non-Hispanic white



men. African-American women earned \$20,610 in 1994, 85 percent of the income of non-Hispanic white women. African-American male high school graduates earn only \$1,490 a year more than white males who did not earn their high school degree. African-American male college graduates earn only \$6,982 more a year than white males with just the

high school diploma. Eighty-two percent of whites have earned a high school diploma or an equivalency degree, compared to 76 percent of African Americans and 54 percent of Latinos.

■ The life expectancy of African Americans — 69.3 years as of 1993 — continues to lag behind that of whites — 76.3 years — and the American population as a whole — 75.5 years. The six leading causes of death for African Americans are cardiovascular diseases, heart disease, AIDS, lung cancer, strokes and homicide. African Americans account for 32 percent of all AIDS deaths; whites, 53 percent, and Latinos, 14 percent. African Americans have the highest infant mortality rate of all ethnic groups — 16.8 deaths per 1,000 births, compared to 6.9 for white infants and 8.5 for the total U.S. infant popula-

tion.

■ In 1995, 79 percent of white children were in child care, compared to 16 percent of African-American children, 14 percent of Latino-American children, 4 percent of Asian-American children and 1 percent of Native-American children.

The National Urban League's purpose in accumulating this information each year is to strive to develop a plan to lessen the gaps. The League, founded in 1910, has as its mission to "establish social and economic equality for African Americans and other minorities."

The League needs the help of all people if it is to be successful in bridging the gap toward equality and ensuring that all people can have a good life, liberty and happiness.

(Sandra Combs BirdiETT is an Oakland Press columnist and editorial writer.)

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES, CA
DAILY 1,058,498

THURSDAY
JAN 30 1997

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BRUCE GILBERT / Newday

Oseola McCarty helped celebrate
New Year's in Times Square.

9595

Wisdom Is Only One of Her Gifts

■ **Philanthropy:** Oseola McCarty worked as a laundrywoman—and saved enough to donate \$150,000 to a university. In her new book, she tells the secrets of saving and living life.

By DENISE HAMILTON
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

America was stunned when Oseola McCarty, an 88-year-old retired laundrywoman with a sixth-grade education, donated \$150,000—the bulk of her life savings—to the University of Southern Mississippi.

Some wanted to know her secret for saving so much money. Others wondered what made her so generous. Still others were curious about her philosophy on life.

The outpouring of interest led her to write a book, "Oseola McCarty's Simple Wisdom for Rich Living." Published several months ago by Longstreet Press in Marietta, Ga., the 80-page tome offers nuggets of simple wisdom accumulated through a lifetime of humility and hard work.

Starting this week, McCarty will make her first visit to Southern California to sign books and promote Black History Month. She will be in San Bernardino from Friday through Sunday, where she will serve as the grand marshal of the Black History Parade, autograph her book at the Phenix Information Center and receive an award at the Black Culture Foundation's annual ball and pageant.

On Monday, McCarty will be guest of honor at a town hall meeting in Long Beach. Then it will be back home to Hattiesburg, Miss., where she lived quietly for nine decades before becoming a celebrity who is sought after by groups across the nation.

"What she did touched me so much," said Leah Cash, co-chair for the San Bernardino Black Culture Foundation, "that I thought, 'Who would make a greater grand marshal for our parade than someone like her who is such a role model for young people?'"

The opinions in McCarty's book—on faith, work, family, saving money and relationships—aren't anything new or earth-shattering. They combine liberal doses of belief in God with a straightforward attitude toward life.

Here is McCarty on savings: "The secret to building a fortune is compounding interest. It's not the ones that make the big money, but the ones who know how to save who get ahead. You've got to leave your investment alone long enough for it to increase."

On good living: "There's a lot of talk about self-esteem these days. It

2M Please see McCARTY, E4



ELISE AMENDOLA / Associated Press

Walter Annenberg congratulates fellow philanthropist Oseola McCarty on her honorary degree from Harvard.

McCARTY

Continued from E1.2m

seems pretty basic to me. If you want to feel proud of yourself, you've got to do things you can be proud of. Feelings follow actions."

Since the story of McCarty's scholarship for needy African American students broke two years ago, McCarty's life has changed irrevocably. The small, stooped woman whose fingers are gnarled from arthritis after 75 years of washing and ironing other people's clothes has been bombarded with attention and showered with gifts.

Among her favorites: paintings sent by New Jersey artist Russell A. Murray. One shows a sweet-potato pie—her favorite. Another one, titled "Oseola's Gifts," shows an iron, a white shirt, a basket of clothes, clothespins, a clothesline and a washboard—the tools of her longtime trade.

In the past two years, the woman who rarely left her house except to go to the grocery store and church has been awarded the Presidential Citizen's Medal by President Clinton in a White House ceremony and was his guest at a dinner given by the Congressional Black Caucus.

McCarty has also appeared on the television shows of David Letterman, Oprah Winfrey and Barbara Walters, who declared her one of "the 10 most fascinating people of 1995." She has done hundreds of interviews.

At a National Urban League dinner in New York, Roberta Flack sang "Amazing Grace" to her and Whoopi Goldberg knelt at her feet.

She's received an honorary degree from Harvard and an honorary diploma in nursing from Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis. She carried the Olympic torch in the 1996 Olympics and wore walking shorts for the first time in her life. She even has her own Web site: <http://www.pr.usm.edu/USM>

Public Relations Website.
"I used not to talk too much," McCarty said in a telephone interview from her home. "But now I talk more. And I enjoy traveling and meeting all those people."

Her book grew out of conversations she had on her front porch during four days last spring with Shannon Maggio, who edited

the volume for Longstreet Press.

"We wanted to make sure we had a lasting record of her words and philosophy of life," Maggio said. "We have talked to people from all over and they've been amazed and fascinated by her."

McCarty's father died when she was young and her mother, Lucy, raised her. She dreamed of becoming a nurse but had to leave school after sixth grade to care for a sick aunt and never returned, she said in a soft drawl. Instead, she worked. At first she charged \$1.50 a bundle. Then it grew to \$10. That's when she started saving.

"I never would take any of it out," she said. "I just put it in. It just accumulated."

McCarty, who never married or

'If you want to feel proud of yourself, you've got to do things you can be proud of.'

Oseola McCarty

had children, put her money in First Mississippi National Bank, opening a savings account on the advice of a teller. Each month she deposited more. Her mother, aunt and grandmother died, and each left her a little money. In 1947, her uncle left her the clapboard house where she still lives.

Over the years, her bank merged with another, changed names, and McCarty expanded into CDs, conservative mutual funds and other accounts. She lived frugally, walking everywhere instead of buying a car and relying on a black-and-white TV that got only one channel—which she rarely watched anyway.

Her prize possession was a taped-up leather Bible. Until recently, she never had an air conditioner. She still turns it on only when visitors come.

Several years ago, bank personnel who worried about her future helped her draw up a will. McCarty told them she wanted to leave some to her church and some to her cousins. As for the rest:

"I had been thinking for a long time . . . since I was in school . . . I wanted to give it to the college. They used to not let colored people go out there, but now they do, and I think they should have it . . . I

just want the scholarship to go to some child who needs it. I'm too old to get an education, but they can."

McCarty's attorney—she had done his laundry for years—instantly on meeting with her to make sure his washerwoman wasn't being bamboozled out of her life savings. But McCarty was adamant.

Why the University of Southern Mississippi?

"Because it was in my hometown, and I didn't have anybody with me and I wanted to share it with some other children," she explained.

School officials were flabbergasted, saying they had never seen anything like it, especially from someone who was far from affluent and was donating practically her entire savings. After the gift was announced, the University Foundation led a matching drive and more than \$200,000 in donations poured in from across the nation.

McCarty says she's still surprised at all the attention she's received since her will became public.

"I didn't know I would be that famous. I've always trusted in the Lord, and that's the only way I've been. In some ways, this has changed my life, but in a way it hasn't. I'm still the same person and I'll stay that way."

■ Oseola McCarty will arrive in San Bernardino on Friday and attend the Miss Black San Bernardino Pageant. On Saturday at 2:30 p.m., she will sign books at the Phenix Information Center. The same day, she will serve as grand marshal of the city's 28th annual Black History Parade. That evening, she'll receive the Black Rose Award from the Black Culture Foundation of San Bernardino at the Black History Ball. On Sunday, a gospel pageant has been scheduled in her honor at St. Paul's AME Church at 4 p.m. For more information on all these events, contact Leah Cash at (909) 875-9622.

On Monday, McCarty will be guest of honor at the Long Beach Town Hall Meeting hosted by the city's Public Safety Community Partnership. It will be held at the First Congregational Church in Long Beach from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Andrew Romero at (310) 490-1200.

RACE RELATIONS

Presidential conference can build important bridges

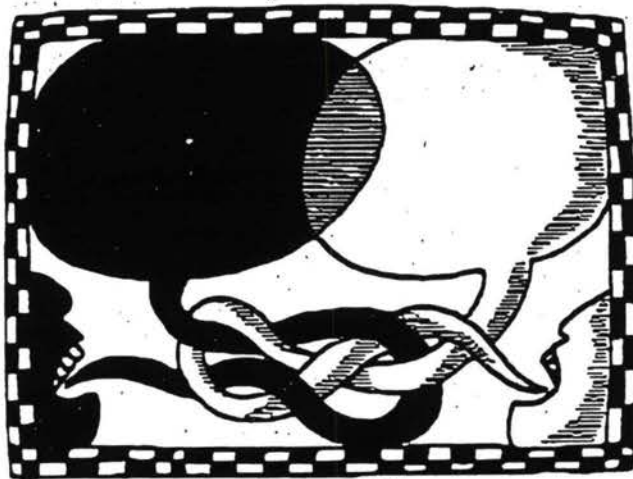
MON DAY - FEB. 10, 1997 - DETROIT FREE PRESS Editorial

President Bill Clinton's State of the Union message last week included a poignant, and urgent, plea for racial reconciliation. Mr. Clinton has the moral authority and stature to lead on this issue — and he must.

He can begin by accepting the suggestion of National Urban League President Hugh Price, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and others that he convene a White House conference on the state of race relations. By calling together respected and authentic leaders of the black community and other relevant policy makers, Mr. Clinton can help forge a new national consensus.

The time seems opportune for such a dialogue. Our economy remains strong, crime rates are down, poverty rates are subsiding, and the nation faces no immediate external threat. It may face an internal threat, though, from relentless, demagogic political attacks on affirmative action, minority voting rights and immigration, to the extent that such things reflect larger divisions among Americans.

President Clinton's own political strategists at times have shown a disturbing willingness to acknowledge such tensions in seeking the support of so-called swing voters. Mr. Clinton's pollster, Stanley Green-



MARGARET SCOTT/Special to the Free Press

berg, described a bloc of these voters in a 1994 book: "These white Democratic defectors expressed a profound distaste for black Americans, a sentiment that pervaded almost everything they thought about government and politics."

Mr. Clinton knows what the politics of hate can do. He knows that many of the rhetorical attacks on "big" government and education and civil rights include code words designed to appeal to racial resentment. The question is whether he is prepared to lead a campaign to enlighten Americans about the benefits of diversity, which he called a "godsend" in last month's inaugural address.

If Mr. Clinton truly seeks to build his metaphorical bridge to the next century, that bridge will have to traverse this nation's widening racial divide.

The Oakland Tribune.

TUESDAY, January 28, 1997

Racial concerns raised for jobs

By Chauncey Bailey
STAFF WRITER

BERKELEY — A report for Gov. Pete Wilson projects 300,000 new jobs will be created this year in California.

But the Bay Area Urban League is worried racial diversity in the work force may not often be a consideration in filling them.

That's why the civil rights organization is planning a daylong "Career Connection Fair" March 27 at San Francisco's Hyatt Regency Embarcadero.

Urban League aims at gap

"We want to help close the (diversity) gap (in employment)," said Carole Watson, president of the Bay Area Urban League, who was joined by numerous Bay Area mayors at a luncheon Monday to recruit employers willing to participate in the March program.

Forty companies already have expressed an interest, with a number of corporations, including Bank of America,

“We want to help close the (diversity) gap (in employment).”

Carole Watson
president, Bay Area Urban League

sending representatives to Monday's meeting.

But the Urban League is hoping for closer to 100 firms, Watson said. Although many companies are hiring, she said, "Proposition 209 may undercut the chances for minorities to find jobs."

The unemployment rate is 6.4 percent for whites in California, but 11.6 percent for African Americans and 9.7 percent for Hispanics, Watson said.

Voters approved Prop. 209, which blocks racial or gender preferences in state hiring, contracts and University of California admissions.

A federal court, however, has issued an injunction blocking it.

"Job training and meaningful employment are key to solving

all of our problems," Richmond Mayor Rose Mary Corbin said.

Also attending the session were Berkeley Mayor Shirley Dean, Emeryville Mayor Nora Davis, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, Piedmont Mayor Craig Lundin, Alameda Mayor Ralph Appezato and Alameda County Board of Supervisors President Keith Carson.

'More people than jobs'

"There will always be more people looking for jobs than are jobs," said Brown, who urged the public and private sectors to create more jobs because "entry-level jobs are disappearing."

Brown said when San Francisco officials held a one-day job fair last week to recruit for 500 civil service positions, they expected 10,000 applicants.

Instead, 30,000 showed up.

PASADENA/SAN GABRIEL
VALLEY JOURNAL

PASADENA, CA
WEEKLY 12,000

FEB 27 1997

Southern Black Ministers From Burned Churches Receive Check From ADL/National Urban League 'Rebuild the Churches Fund'

9595



The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and its partner in the ADL/National Urban League "Rebuild the Churches Fund" presented a check for \$225,000 to Black Baptist ministers to help restore burned houses of worship in the South. As part of an entire afternoon dedicated to strengthening race relations, Hugh Price, head of the National Urban League, at the 83rd Annual National Commission Meeting, commended ADL for its "swift and humane response to the church burnings, at a time when people were drifting apart."

Citing the ADL A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute program which fights prejudice in the classroom, workplace, the community and on college campuses, he said, "Race relations in this country are now at a worrisome

crossroads... we have got to work on bridging the gulfs between people."

Joining Rev. Lyons in accepting the check were three African American pastors who had traveled long hours from their isolated rural Alabama towns to describe their losses and express their appreciation. The effort raised approximately \$90,000.

Hiriam Hicks, Senior Vice President/General Manager of Island Black Music, was recognized for his promise to contribute the net profits from "Don't Give Up," Island Inspirational All-Stars CD featuring Karen Clark, to the "Rebuild the Churches Fund."

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.

JAN 17 1997

Blacks And Jews Rebuilding Trust

To the surprise of some, review of '96 efforts shows extensive cooperation.

STEWART AIN
STAFF WRITER

The historic alliance between blacks and Jews is being rebuilt in part in reaction to attacks on both communities in recent years, notably the arson attacks on black churches and swastikas on Jewish homes and institutions.

That is the conclusion of the president of the National Urban League, Hugh Price, in the foreword to a compilation of about 120 black-Jewish events covering a one-year period ending in early December.

The report, issued by the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding and made possible by a grant from Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation, is important because it chronicles the "arduous and effective work of people of good will, all across America, to repair the breach and rebuild trust," wrote Price.

The foundation's executive director, Tommy Loeb, said he was "pleasantly surprised by the amount of cooperation that we uncovered. We did not take any editorial position in doing this — we let the chips fall where they may."

But the national director of the Anti-Defamation League, Abraham Foxman, said the report had come up with "nothing new. This is known wisdom and thank God that is the fact."

"It's always been true that in local areas, face-to-face dialogue and activities have continued despite the activities on a national scale. [Nation of Islam leader Louis] Farrakhan plays on one level, but in most communities there are good relations."

Foxman said, however, that there are "still troubling areas. Attitudes in the African-American community are almost



Rabbi Marc Schneier, with Steven Spielberg: Report shatters "myth that the state of black-Jewish relations is one of conflict."

twice as bad when it comes to anti-Semitic stereotyping. And when you look at anti-Semitic instances on college campuses, a disproportionate number are from the African-American community, whether it is with speakers, protests or letters."

The foundation's report was based on a computer search of articles from hundreds of publications that involved black-Jewish dialogues and ongoing relationships with more than a single individual. Multi-ethnic activities were not included.

"The roster of cooperative efforts offers welcome evidence of forward progress and helpful clues to best practice," Price wrote.

Fruitful exchange on the question of black-Jewish ties

A CONFERENCE was held yesterday that looked at one of the media's favorite topics: black and Jewish relations.

The afternoon discussion featured Kweisi Mfume of the NAACP, Rabbi Marc Schneier, one of the conference's organizers, Israel Singer of the World Jewish Congress and Hugh Price of the National Urban League.

There was plenty of press in attendance, as there usually is when this topic is brought up, primarily because — thus far, at least — Negroes and Jews are the two most influential, explosive and tenacious of the so-called minorities in this country. One group arrived in chains almost 400 years ago; the other showed up in immigrant force a little over 100 years ago.

Negroes helped build and expand the very nation itself; Jews became equally central to the development of urban culture, business and law, slipping far more easily under the fence of social restrictions than black Americans because of the skin game.

Both groups came to know one another, negatively and positively, which is the fundamental story of almost all human relations. Northern Negroes were irritated when they encountered Jewish merchants and landlords who exploited or insulted them, charging too much for goods and shelter or treating them like innate dumbbells. Like other immigrants, those particular Jews picked up the lowest American attitudes very quickly.

Conversely, Negroes also encountered Jewish merchants, teachers, labor leaders and show business personalities who didn't do them dirt and were life-long allies. In the arena of civil rights struggles, no single group in this century has been more involved or has lost more blood than Jews as a result of what Mfume called "the righteous indignation against the injustices of this society."

STANLEY CROUCH



Focusing on the negative

Schneier observed that one obstacle to an accurate sense of contemporary black and Jewish relations is the willingness of reporters to focus almost exclusively on what Singer called "the few valleys of our conflict rather than the many peaks of our cooperation."

This is about commerciality. Conflict sells more easily than cooperation because, in the standardized cynicism of our moment, the idea of surmounting superficial differences is not only seen as corny, but is usually rendered with such overwrought self-congratulation that you want to gag — even if you were there when the surmounting took place.

What made the panel important was that each of the speakers went beyond the clichés of mutual estrangement and focused on the alliances that are far more numerous from one end of the country to the other — at synagogues, churches, prayer breakfasts, inner-city community projects and so on.

Singer warned that demagogues from both minorities demand that members of their group prove their "authenticity" by taking hostile positions against either Negroes or Jews. The media response to that kind of identity through hostility, said Price, has had enduring effects on what is asked of contemporary Negro leadership.

In discussing the issue of affirmative action and the difficulties it has created, Singer said that Jews need to remember that "Israel is the first example of international affirmative action." Schneier went on to point out that "emancipation and immigration cannot be equated" and that those Jews who are critical of black progress need to recognize that.

Such forthrightness and such questioning gave the conference a freshness and a candor that we usually don't expect of such events.

But for all the candor, there was some very shaky history when it came to telling how the black-Jewish split took place some 30 years ago. I'll look at that come Sunday.

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

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SATURDAY
DEC 21 1996

Urban League chief: Shared responsibility is key

By SUE LANDRY
Times Staff Writer

9595

ST. PETERSBURG — A few months ago, police in Houston stopped Lawrence Boze for a broken taillight and held him in a squad car for an hour and a half before letting him go.

Boze is president of the National Bar Association. He also is an African-American.

The incident is an example of police practices that lead to the kind of widespread distrust of police seen during the recent violence in St. Petersburg, Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, said Friday.

"This isn't just a matter of the police and the occasional person who is the victim of deadly force," said Price, who spoke to about 250 community leaders and residents at the Bayfront Center.

"This is something that is pervasive and it cuts across all socioeconomic groups in our community."

Price praised the work being done in St. Petersburg to address problems highlighted by the recent violence. But he said such problems are national in scope and need to be addressed by communities throughout the country.

In a recent report on "The State of Black America," the Urban League found that while millions of African-Americans have made it to the mainstream or are on the road, too many still face severe obstacles posed by educational and economic inequality.

In an economy that increasingly demands skilled workers, too many are being left behind.

"The economy is paying well for those who are prepared in this world, but we haven't quite figured out how to

cope with folks who can't compete in this kind of economy and how to get their skills up," Price said.

The answers, he said, lie in a marriage of individual and government responsibility.

Parents must be involved in their children's education, but governments need to ensure that schools are properly equipped, teachers are qualified and students are challenged, he said.

Parents can teach their children right from wrong, but cities can offer after-school programs to give children and teens a structured environment.

"There is absolutely no excuse for any city to have children out on the streets with nothing to do," Price said. "You know who they are, you can count them, and you can provide the facilities."

People can be motivated to work,

but communities need to make sure isolated segments of the community have opportunities to obtain available jobs.

"The question is: Are the city fathers, the chamber of commerce and the business community making a concerted effort to assure that every youngster in southside St. Petersburg and every potential wage earner is hooked up with this economy," Price said. "Communities aren't going to work very well if you've got pockets of folks who feel they're outside the loop."

To help ease tension between the police and African-American communities, the Urban League has called for the nation's police chiefs and mayors to join in developing a national code of conduct for police.



Hugh Price says racial problems are national in scope and need to be addressed by cities.

WEDNESDAY
MAR 12 1997

Family Almanac

On a Hormonal High

9595

By Marguerite Kelly

Q My daughter is as well-adjusted as a 12-year-old can be.

She's going through all the hormonal changes and moods that one would expect at this age, however, and I don't know how to cope with her.

One of her teachers contacted me and said she is among the smartest students in seventh grade, but that some of her marks had slipped a little. He said this is not too unusual for the second semester; that she has a great group of friends—which I know to be true—and that drugs weren't a concern. He asked if things were okay at home, which they are.

She brings home a report card with A's and B's, but I'm sure they don't reflect her best effort. I don't want to seem negative but I'd like to encourage (insist?) that she focus on her schoolwork and less on her friends, phone and computer.

My husband, my daughter and I need some advice, some guidelines and some encouragement.

A. As a matter of fact, your daughter is high, though not from drugs.

Carbonating hormones can rattle a youngster's brain—and a parent's cage—but it's a temporary problem. Ignore her ups and downs as much as you can and hope she'll be as kind to you when you're having a bout of PMS.

School is another issue. Try to keep her focused, but don't fret about her grades. They're really beside the point. Your daughter isn't competing against the class, she's competing against herself.

It's a lesson she'll learn if you ask her to grade her own papers before she turns them in and to give herself a

report card the day before she gets one from school. These self-appraisals will make her work harder because she will be setting the bar for herself and then seeing if she measures up.

Your daughter may also need a little more balance in her life. Pre-teens tend to get focused on one or two interests unless they're encouraged to try a new activity occasionally or learn a new skill.

A couple of short, old-fashioned lectures may help, too. Remind your daughter that she should do her best,

*Ignore her ups and
downs as much as
you can and hope
she'll be as kind to
you when you're
having a bout of
PMS.*

because anything worth doing is worth doing well. Tell her she should make the most of her brains, her talents, her body and her looks, because they are her gifts, and gifts must be honored.

Your daughter might also profit by a few new rules.

Most children do best in school if their parents ban television at night, from Monday through Thursday, so they're not tempted to forget their homework or to do it too quickly. Two study hours will give your child time to do her assignments and to read in any time that's left. Don't let her

make any phone calls during this stretch, even to check on her homework. She can do that before she goes on the clock.

This is not to diminish the importance of the telephone. It probably teaches youngsters to communicate and to network with each other better than anything else, but it can interfere with homework terribly.

The computer is another excellent tool, because the interaction imprints knowledge on a child's mind so well. A computer can check—and teach—spelling, grammar and typing, and it can turn up great research, giving your daughter the chance to present substantive papers. This will make her feel more competent and encourage her to try harder. Success breeds success.

The computer can also strengthen the parent-child connection, but only if you encourage it. Ask your daughter to teach you how to use the Internet better, how to download pictures and how to send e-mail. Every time you ask your child's advice, you'll make it easier for her to listen to your advice later.

The computer time you spend together will also give you the chance to discover your daughter's interests and to see that she's plugged into wholesome web sites.

To realize how the computer can draw the family together, read the National Urban League's excellent booklet, *The Parents' Guide to the Information Superhighway*. To order, send \$8 to Parents' Guide, 1460 Fourth St., Suite 306, Santa Monica, Calif. 90401.

And for a superb book on computer togetherness—and a superb CD-ROM—read *"The Connected Family"* by Seymour Papert (Longstreet, \$22.95). It describes the greatest revolution to hit the family since the automobile.

Questions may be sent to P.O. Box 15310, Washington, D.C. 20003, or by e-mail to margukelly@aol.com

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How to get them off welfare and into jobs?

9595
By WILLIAM G. CLARK

Everyone agrees that the U.S. welfare system needs changing. However, I wonder if changes



Clark

brought about by the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, and those proposed by Gov. George Pataki, resemble the reforms Americans really intended.

Briefly, the federal welfare act eliminates AFDC, JOBS (an employment and training program for welfare recipients), and Emergency Assistance to Families with Children. It replaces them with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, which provides each state with a block grant and flexibility in designing its own program.

Along with these dramatic changes come many uncertainties for low-income families, questions about the shape of state reform, and new roles and responsibilities for family-serving organizations.

Furthermore, nonprofit organizations expect to get requests for assistance from those who lose federal benefits because of capitated funding, work requirements, time limits, restrictions on immigrants, SSI and food stamp cuts.

Pataki's proposal, according to a detailed analysis by the State Communities Aid Association,

"contains a mixture of positive and negative elements that, taken together, comprise a highly controversial package."

It replaces AFDC and Home Relief with three components:

- The Family Assistance Program, which uses Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant funds, as well as state and local maintenance-of-effort funds, for employable adults with children.

- The Article XVII Safety Net Program, funded primarily by state and local monies, that would be county-operated, replace the current Home Relief Program for employable adults, and offer aid to children in households ineligible for the Family Assistance Program, as well as to certain legal immigrants and families who have reached the 60-month limit on cash assistance.

- The Temporary Disability Assistance Program that would provide aid to those who cannot work.

Pataki's proposal appears especially flawed in the area of job development and placement, a fundamental issue for people who want to leave welfare for employment.

His proposal lacks emphasis on the creation of employment opportunities — especially entry-level jobs — and fails to deal realistically with New York's job gap. Based on estimates by the New York State Department of Labor for the nine-county Finger Lakes region, job openings will fall far short of

Many of those required to find jobs have little or no work experience. Will they receive the support services they need to obtain and keep jobs?

the number of people who will need jobs.

The governor's focus seems to be more on quick placement in jobs rather than training people for the workplace. Many of those required to find jobs have little or no work experience. Will they receive the support services they need to obtain and keep jobs? Without training and support services, what will their employment prospects look like?

After five years, as families become ineligible for federal assistance, will they be able to find jobs leading to anything resembling financial self-sufficiency?

There will be an increased need for child care and, although more money has been allocated for child care assistance, will it be enough? What will happen to families with children over the age of 6 if child-care assistance is not available? Will the children be left unsuper-

vised when they aren't in school, or will their mothers opt not to work?

To address some of the above questions, and to elicit others, the Urban League of Rochester, in collaboration with the Catholic Family Center, Action for a Better Community Inc., the Ibero-American Action League, and Strong Museum, will sponsor "Welfare Reform Alternatives for New York State: A Forum for Rochester Area Human Service Providers," on Feb. 27 from 8 a.m. until noon at the Strong Museum.

Speakers will include Robert McAlpine, director of policy and government with the National Urban League's Washington operations; Rep. Joseph D. Morelle, D-Irondequoit, co-chairman of the Assembly Task Force on Welfare Reform; and Mary Ellen Nataley, congressional aide to Congresswoman Louise Slaughter.

A panel of local experts, including Richard Schausell, director of the Monroe County Department of Social Services, will discuss and analyze local impacts.

The forum should interest staff, board members and volunteers who are engaged in human service delivery. Space will be limited, so I urge those interested to please preregister by calling the Urban League at (716) 325-6530, Ext. 3025, by Feb. 21. □

Clark is president and CEO of the Urban League of Rochester Inc.

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

ROCHESTER, NY
SUNDAY 251, 923

FEB 9 1997

Off Welfare, Woman Fights a System She Exploited

By The New York Times

SANTA ANA, Calif., Jan. 18 — As a black teen-ager living in Mount Holly, N.J., in the 1970's, Star Parker said, she led the life of a delinquent. She burglarized homes, mugged white servicemen, torched a track coach's car, robbed a liquor store and got arrested for shoplifting.

After graduation from high school, she said, she came to Los Angeles and acquired a new talent. A pregnancy introduced her to the welfare system. She learned how to take advantage of the benefits, collecting \$465 a month and quitting a \$90-a-week job in a photo-processing store.

For nearly four years, she held occasional jobs that paid her under the table and supplemented her income with black-market sales of welfare stickers issued for medical services like eye exams or abortions. She sold stickers for \$200 or more to the working poor, who were ineligible for aid but whose employers did not provide medical benefits. "I wasn't looking to get rich," she said. "My life style was to party and hang out. If they are going to pay me to sit around and do nothing, I'll take it."

Star Parker, now 40 years old, has since become a harsh critic of the system she once exploited. After earning a bachelor's degree at Woodbury University in Burbank, Ms. Parker, then known as Star Irby, quit the cycle of pregnancy, welfare and abortion in 1983, with a new faith and a new magazine for black Christian singles. In 1985, she married Peter Pentecost Parker, a parish priest at St. Michael's Charismatic Episcopal Church in San Clemente, Calif.

Polished and self-assured, she now earns her living as a public policy consultant, commentator and speaker for a small but growing number of

black conservatives who are critical of welfare, affirmative action and other core beliefs of traditional civil rights leaders. She is a favorite on conservative talk shows in Los Angeles and she spoke to delegates at the Republican National Convention in San Diego last year. Mrs. Parker stood up as the symbolic onetime welfare recipient and checked "welfare reform" off a chart detailing the Republicans' Contract With America at a Capitol Hill news conference in May 1995 after the House passed a welfare reform bill.

She has consulted on a proposal

that J. C. Watts Jr., a black Republican Congressman from Oklahoma, plans to reintroduce next month that would in part divert social welfare benefits to community groups that aid the poor.

"I'd like to see welfare shut down," Mrs. Parker said. The system of handouts persists, she said, because of "the misplaced guilt of racism, slavery and Jim Crow. To keep people dependent on government is a conscious decision to trade hand-outs for votes and power."

Hugh B. Price, the president of the National Urban League, said that he

did not know Mrs. Parker but that he rejected the belief that the private economy could fully replace public assistance. "The public sector remains saddled with the responsibility when you close the government net," he said.

Mrs. Parker's public ascent began after the 1992 Los Angeles riots, when monthly revenue at her 64-page magazine, Not Forsaking the Assembling, fell to \$2,000 from \$18,000. With many of its advertisers literally burned out, the Parkers folded the magazine.

But Mrs. Parker was not about to

return to the dole. Instead, she began marketing herself as a conservative speaker with a voice that differed from established African-American leaders, who said the riots were the desperate acts of victims of racism.

Her career got a jump start after an appearance on C-SPAN in 1994, where she joined a group of black conservatives announcing the findings of a policy paper. Rush Limbaugh saw the segment and interviewed Mrs. Parker for his syndicated radio show. She has nurtured that exposure into a successful career, earning \$140,000 last year from speeches and commentary.

She last cashed a welfare check 15 years ago, but Mrs. Parker says she still understands the dependency, the

welfare system fosters. She hears about it at her goal-setting seminars for welfare mothers.

"She can tell you firsthand why it's destructive," said Reginald G. Jones, an actor and motivational speaker who teaches black teen-agers at the Afri-Male Institute in Willingboro, N.J. "Her story is very compelling and her ideas are compelling."

Phyllis Berry Myer, a founding member of the Center for New Black Leadership, an advocacy group in Washington, said Mrs. Parker had importance "as a spokesman and role model in her life, having fallen and been redeemed in the image of conservative principles. She's the living embodiment. It's not someone speaking theoretically."

NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK, NY
SUNDAY 1,746,700

JAN 19 1997

Welfare legislation bodes ill, says head of Urban League

By Alisa Wabnik
The Arizona Daily Star

Growing economic disparity is likely to spread through America if community leaders in Tucson and other cities fail to speak out, the president of the National Urban League said yesterday.

"You've got the seeds of real trouble in this country if a significant portion of our population is on the down escalator while a significant portion goes up," Hugh B. Price said yesterday during a visit with The Arizona Daily Star's editorial board.

"The question for the country really is whether it's going to do anything to take the edge off these changes."

At the moment, there is little consensus in Washington or elsewhere about how to deal with is-

suues raised in part by new federal welfare legislation signed by President Clinton last August, Price said.

And though many social service providers and others are concerned about that law's ramifications, "It's a kind of speculative protest right now," he said.

Still, Price urged those concerned to send word to Washington through their governors about provisions they find unacceptable.

"The governors are beginning to protest very loudly over cuts in benefits for legal aliens," since many states will need to increase their own payments to pick up the slack, Price said.

To create a similar outcry on other welfare provisions, communities must signal to Congress

and state legislatures that, "We will have to live with the welfare reform you have crafted, and we don't want to live with it," Price said. "We have challenges enough in our community."

Among those challenges are growing educational requirements needed to make a good living, he said.

States have a constitutional responsibility to make sure that all children - urban and suburban - receive an education that meets national standards, Price said.

But government also should be concerned with what happens after school - even if it requires more money to keep schools open later with youth mentoring programs, he said.

"We used to spend money on it. When I was

growing up in Washington, D.C., in the '40s and '50s, our schools were open til 6 o'clock every day," Price said. "Somehow we have reached the conclusion that you can withdraw those programs and the kids, adolescents, will sit home in their rooms and do nothing."

If communities want to cut crime rates and keep families off welfare, "We have to rediscover why these investments are important," he said.

Price passed through Tucson yesterday on his way to a speaking engagement in Phoenix. But he said he expects to be back in April for a regional conference on technology sponsored by the Tucson Urban League, which he praised as a national model for innovative programs moving people to self-sufficiency.

Marshall Leach

The Metro Section

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1992

The New York Times

3-TO-6 PM HAS BECOME A FRIGHTENING TIME FOR CITY PARENTS.



While city parents work to make ends meet, there's a problem back in the neighborhood. Not enough after-school programs. So kids hang around. Exposed to the temptations of the street. To keep vital after-school programs going, the Urban League needs your support. So deserving kids aren't left alone or vulnerable, but keep on learning and growing after school. Join us to make that happen. Call toll free 1-888-326-YOUTH. That way, you're not just talking about the street. You're beating it.

TIME TO BEAT THE STREET.



Encouraging kids to do what's right

Hugh B. Price is president of the National Urban League.

TWO RECENT reports, one from the federal government and the other from a private foundation long involved in educational issues, illuminate many of the reasons why we at the National Urban League are investing ourselves so heavily in our programs. "Our Children = Our Destiny" and "Doing the Right Thing."

Each report helps to explain why some young people do well — and why many others do not. Each attests that all children want to do well in school and to make the honor roll, or what I like to call the "achievement zone." Still, many become discouraged. The latter is what has to change.

■ Two months ago the Census Bureau reported, for the first time in American history, that black and white children are graduating from high school at the same rate. The study, based on data collected in March 1995, found that among young adults aged 25 to 29 about 87 percent of blacks and whites had earned high school diplomas.

For whites, it is a rate that has remained relatively constant during the last decade. Blacks, however, increased their graduation rate by about 6 percentage points, a substantial advance.

Educators hailed the statistical parity because high school graduation long has been a benchmark of a group's readiness to participate in the work force and the larger society.

However, as cheering as that news is, the Census report was actually more complex. A major reason that blacks aged 25 to 29 closed the high school graduation gap with whites was not because they fared well in school the first time around but because they are returning in large numbers to school as adults to get equivalency diplomas.

On the one hand, this shows their zeal to become educated and to get the credentials that society tells them that they need to do well.

On the other hand, it also shows the tremendous disadvantage that African-American and Hispanic children suffer from the poor quality of education that they get in public schools.

■ The second report comes from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, long a forceful advocate of quality education. "Years of Promise: A Com-

prehensive Learning Strategy for America's Children" focuses, as its title promises, on the schooling of children aged 3 to 10.

It does so because "for most children, the long-term success of their learning and development depends to a great extent on what happens to them during these years of promise."

However, the report also declares that what happens to all too many children during these formative years leads to just the opposite — failure. Underachievement is very nearly the norm, and it is not limited to children in one racial or economic category. Indeed, underachievement is nearly



HUGH B. PRICE

as common among children of middle- and upper-income parents as among children of less-affluent and poor parents.

As the report stated, "By the fourth-grade level, the performance of most schoolchildren in the United States is below what it should be for the nation and certainly below the achievement levels of children in competing countries."

Of course, the problem of underachievement is especially stark for children who are poor and not white. That's because their families have fewer resources to combat or compensate for underachievement. "For them," the Carnegie report states, "the deck can be unfairly stacked against academic success, and the years of promise can fade to hopelessness and resignation."

Unstacking that deck — improving the schools' educational quality and the support that children get from their families and communities — long has been part of the Urban League's mission. It is a part that we are now emphasizing with our "Doing the Right Thing" campaign to honor youth who are excelling in their schools and communities.

There is more that we at the Urban League and American society as a whole must do to make the ages 3 to 10 truly be years of promise for all children. We know how to do it, and as the Carnegie study urges, "What needs to happen now is to put this knowledge and wisdom to work . . . on a large-enough scale to make significant improvement in children's educational achievements nationwide."

In that way, we can expand enormously the number of America's youth who will be able to find a place in the achievement zone.