

Caucus invites all to leadership forum

One of many tip-bits that I hear so often is—"Why don't we ever get our stuff together?" "When will we join forces to work out an agenda?" "Why don't we do our homework?" "Do the so-called leaders talk to each other?" "Can we put down our hidden agendas for the good of the people?" And so on it goes.

In response to the above questions and others not mentioned, the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus and Morgan State University, is sponsoring a Maryland Black Leadership Conference.

On behalf of my colleagues, the Maryland Black Legislative Caucus, I wish to extend an invitation to all who wish to attend and participate in a statewide forum which will be held at Morgan State University, April 29 thru May 1.

This forum is entitled, "A Citizen's: Humanistic Values and the Quality of Life in Maryland: A Mandate for Social Action."

This three-day conference will bring together black elected and appointed officials, professionals, scholars, social scientists, organizations and citizens, for the purpose of providing a forum for discussing issues relating to the status of human values emphasizing improved communication between Maryland's black leaders.

It will discuss fully the economic and social issues of the day, thereby attempting to formulate social policy in the state of Maryland.

The Black Leadership Conference is expected to attract 300-500 conferees and guests.

A Statewide Steering Committee has been formed to guide the policy and planning of the conference.

This committee has 49 members,

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including the 19 members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus.

Task Forces have been established to examine the eight critical areas of major concern to the black population of Maryland.

The Task forces include health, civic participation, housing and land use, urban policy and rural development, education, criminal justice and correction, business and industry and employment and income maintenance.

Each task force has nine members, two of whom serve as co-chairpersons.

It will also have the services of noted consultants who will provide the task forces with the technical expertise required in identifying the strategies for translating these human values into social realities.

Nationally known speakers and personalities are invited as well, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Procter and State Senator Carl McCall and the 19 members of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus.

The Maryland Legislative Black Caucus has met often to discuss the need to develop a unified political strategy for the black citizens of Maryland.

Out of those meetings foundation for the Maryland Black Leadership Conference was established.

On May 1, from 1 to 5 p.m., the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus will utilize the Town Hall meeting format to spotlight gubernatorial candidates (announced or not) for the 1978 election.

They have recognized the following leading Maryland citizens as candidates: The Honorable Steny Hoyer, president of the Senate, the Honorable John H.

Briscoe, speaker of the House, Lt. Gov. Blair Lee III, Francis B. Burch (attorney general), Louis Goldstein (comptroller), Mayor William D. Schaefer (Baltimore City), Ted Venetoulis (Baltimore County executive), Walter S. Orlinsky (president, Baltimore City Council), James L. Fisher (president, Towson State University) and Harry R. Hughes (secretary of transportation).

Two planning sessions have been held in recent weeks and conference planners report complete satisfaction with the number and quality of persons who have come forward to volunteer their time and talent to ensure the success of the conference.

All sessions are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend and provide their own ideas and input.

There will be a \$30 registration fee which will include all meal functions. A guest registration (excluding meals) will also be available.

If you want the answer to your questions and if you want problems solved, be a part of this conference. Perhaps you have a bill (or bills) that can be introduced or amendments for the 1978 legislative session.

We cannot help you if your voice is not heard.

This is an opportunity for you. We can have a better state, by developing a better relationship with you and your black leaders.

For further information on the conference, call my Annapolis office toll-free 269-3071-3072, until April 11. Then you can call Dr. Augustus Adair, conference coordinator, at Morgan State University, 444-3347, in Baltimore.