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IT'S A MIND-GROWING EXPERIENCE.

## NATIONAL ROUND-UP

By Larry A. Still and Art Carter

"Spring is finally here, summer is on its way" and the convention season begins this month with the Alpha Chi Pi Omega Sorority and Fraternity (beauticians) scheduled to kickoff the annual gatherings of the various clans at the Scottsdale, Arizona, Hilton . . . Following the new trends of the beauty industry, the Alpha Chi Pi Omegas is a unisex organization which is professional all the way . . . Marjorie Joyner of Chicago was the founder and Velma Brooke of Dallas is the charming national president.

Other key conventions meeting within the month are the Association of Black Foundation Executives and the National Black Women Attorneys, both convening in the Capital city (Washington, D.C.) The Association of National Headstart Directors, Parents and Staff in Cleveland . . . The National Association of Black Social Workers in San Francisco and the National Association of Black Manufacturers, Inc., in Atlanta . . . The influential National Market Developers with Jim Gaither, Paul E. X. Brown, Tommy Tipton, etc., complete the month in Detroit.

Rev. Leon Sullivan's Opportunities Industrialization Centers convened earlier in Boston and the NAACP in Portland, July 2-7, and the National Urban League in Los Angeles, August 6-9, meet much later this year on the West Coast . . . Despite a long, cold winter, many leaders are not looking forward to a short, hot summer . . Some spokespersons are predicting anything could happen like the late 60's, if the president's new Urban Policy does not begin to generate some new dollars, which are still falling in the international currency exchange like a wet blanket . . . The final battle may be yet to come between increased billions for the low income city dweller and rising inflation — which is causing the dollar to drop lower than the new poverty level . . This is the test for Mr. Carter and his supporters.

State and federal officials are still trying to digest the \$8.3 billion urban policy program which appears to be a cross between revenue sharing block grants to community groups in the cities with the maximum feasible participation approval of the citizens groups of the modern old poverty program. . . Experts project that the Urban bill could top \$10 billion or face congressional cuts to \$6 billion, depending upon your lawmakers moods and your letters . . . Just as we told you months ago, passing legislation to support the Urban Policy proposals is going to be a tough one . . . much tougher than passage of the much needed Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Bill, which was gutted almost beyond recognition... but, at least we established the principle . . "say labor leaders . . . The moral is you must write your congressman or city official and the Big House for help . . . and if you can't read, write anyway . . . like the sign down home once said . remember!!!

If you really need aid . . or you want to help, write the Full Employment Action Council, 815 15th St., N.W. Rm. 516, Washington, D.C. . . and the National Urban Coalition, 815 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. . . There's talk of another Poor Peoples March on Washington if these two (full employment and urban policy) measures don't pass by this summer . . . So-0-0-0, look out Capitol Hill . . . Here We Come! . . . Only we won't be bringing tractors like the farmers . . . or coal dust like the miners . . . just bodies . . . and who knows what's next???

Although Secretary Patrica Harris won her battle for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to lead the way in revitalizing the cities for the people who still live in

them . . . look for a rear guard action from the government folks who built the suburbs . . . Secretary Harris put it on the line when she declared "so long as racial and ethnic minorities continue to constitute a disproportinate percentage of the low and moderate income population, they will continue to be among the prime beneficiaries of our services . . " And to back up her rhetoric, Mrs. Harris announced that deposits of funds of the HUD in minority banks across the country in fiscal year, 1977 were the largest of 10 federal reporting agencies, according to a Department of Commerce Survey . . . The analysis showed that HUD deposits amounted to a daily average of \$43.7 million, or 42 percent of the \$102.6 million in daily balances of the 10 listed Departments and agencies . . . The next two largest depositors (in minority banks) were the Department of Defense, \$24.2 million, and the Department of Labor, \$16.1 million. In fiscal 1976, Defense led with \$30.6 million and HUD was second with \$24.9 million, but the situation has reversed in less than a year under Mrs. Harris.

However, the dynamic secretary who has wowed all of her critics and her supporters with an outstanding record of achievement, so far, warned officials and leaders not to depend upon rhetoric and catchwords in developing an urban policy with a multi-pronged attack on the complex problems of the cities . . . "The catchwords of the fifties were Urban Renewal, The catchwords of the sixties were Model Cities . . . I am fearful that we are well on our way to developing an equally disappointing set of catchwords in the 1970s — economic development," the lady emphasized.

HUD is also proposing an Urban Extension Service, similar to the Agriculture Extension Service which provided a host of services to rural areas a generation or more ago . . . under HUD's new program, Urban Extension Agents would provide the same kind of food preparation training, housekeeping maintenance, home improvement techniques, employer preparation services, etc. to city dewellers that the Agriculture Department provided to farmers and their families . . . Sounds great to us . . . What about You??? Then tell somebody your ideas . . . Write Urban Extension Services, HUD, Washington, D.C. 20410.

Incidentally, urban living conditions now mean that 25 million of us will soon be dwelling in areas designated as having a physician shortage . . . which means less medical care . . . The current shortage level is 4,000 persons per physician, but the new criteria defined by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare is 3,500 persons per doctor. In most "advanced" nations with nationalized health care (and longer life span) there is already one doctor per 2,000 persons and still counting down . . . But we are still catching up in the capital of the "free world . ."

President Carter has proposed a very substantial college education support program, but do not be taken in by the latest tuition tax credit plan proposed in Congress for all schools, including elementary and high school, private and parochial . . . Supporters are obviously seeking to dodge desegregated public schools, including the neighborhood classroom, but the legislation could mean the eventual end of public schools in some areas . . . Yeah, it's later than you think, when all workers and parents begin sending their kids to the nearest private school, just like the public school teachers and administrators . . Maybe this is why HEW has announced a multi-million dollar sweeping change in the Teacher Corps . to provide teachers college for low income communities . Teacher Colleges ??? We thought they were closed down with skirts and bobby soxes.