## NATIONAL ROUND-UP

By Larry A. Still and Art Carter

THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS — First, the Good News. Despite the growing unemployment, the rising inflation and the increasing frustration among the lower income areas, conditions do appear to be changing in some parts of the country. As we look back over the last 10 years since the civil rights revolution of the early sixties and the rebellion of the late, last decade, it is clear that there has been a slowing down in official movement toward two separate societies characterized by the President's Commission on Civil Disorders. . .Instead of increased, legalized Jim Crow or separate and unequal facilities and practices, there is a movement toward de facto segregation among the minorities, based entirely upon economics and education. .

As once predicted, your money today, will take you almost as far as you want to go. . .if you have any. . . But there is a growing distance between low income and middle income blacks as increasing numbers of minorities move into the "mainstream" . . . However, sociologists and political scientists appropriately point out that this chasm is nothing new in the continual cycle of race relations . . . the classic debate between Booker T. Washington's philosophy of "putting down your buckets where you are" while remaining separate as the fingers on your hand versus W. E. B. DuBois goal of the "talented tenth" leading us into the promised land of equality and integration is still continuing. . . .

Now, the bad news . . . Some experts fear that the growing unemployed, black poor and the slowing, rising middle class among the minorities may soon clash in objectives and goals, we think they are overlooking the unifying factor of racism which has always kept socially and economically stratified levels of black folks together, regardless of the differences in income, background and education. . . . There is a possibility that the white poor will wake up one day and unite with the blacks in a move to bring about "meaningful change" in this country but it will have to be under black leadership which is not content to just move into the "mainstream" instead of changing it.

Martin Luther King and his followers were on the road to ultimate change 10 years ago when he was assassinated by the massive conspiracy of those who did not want to change the "American Way" of life. . . Now, some of Dr. King's disciples are seeking to continue along that road to try to bring the fruits of democracy and capitalism to everyone while other former disciples appear to be settling for a seat at the mainstream table as the crumbs continue to fall to the masses.

The Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, new president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta, attempted to bring "King's Disciples" back together at the SCLC board meeting recently in Kansas City, but only one or two returned to the fold. . Lowery said invitations went out to all former SCLC leaders and King followers, including Mrs. Coretta King, Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Wyatt T. Walker in New York City, but only radical Hosea Williams appeared. . . The organization will still attempt to reunite its former leadership under a broad umbrella while giving individual leaders latitude to do their own

The Chicago Urban League's James Compton, who first raised the spectre of a forthcoming clash between the black poor and the black middle class upset the national

body and may have a sizzling report at the Urban League convention in Los Angeles in July. . . Former St. Louis board of education president and civic leader James Hurt has quit the Mound City to take his organizational skills to the New York Amsterdam News where he has all Harlem whispering and wondering. Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson made another cagey move when he brought in Lee Brown as commissioner of police. . . Even critics of outgoing Commissioner Norman Eaves admitted they were applying a "double standard" in demanding his ouster, but said "it had to be done. If the blacks act like the whites, we may as well keep the whites in power. . ."

Down in Birmingham, D.C. personnel expert, Jackie Nash has joined the exodus back toward Dixie as conditions continue to change. . . Old Bombingham is trying to improve its image with the addition of four city councilmen and several black police officials. . . The 16th Street Baptist Church, site of the tragic racist bombing of 1962, is celebrating its 110th anniversary with city officials present. . . Still further South, the Gulf Coast is fast becoming the new showplace as all groups move into the beachfront resort hotels and estates. . . Can you believe, top black organizations now considering Biloxi and Gulfport, Miss. for future convention sites . . . Aaron Henry and Charlie Evers still battling for leadership in the Mississippi Democratic organization while Atty. Henry Kirksy seriously seeks the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by outgoing Sen. James Eastland . . . and behind the scenes, blacks are expected to snare at least 40 seats in the state legislature instead of four . . . In Jackson, pioneer James Meredith, who helped start it all when he entered the University of Mississippi Law School under seige, quietly operates an underground restaurant and bar at the Travelodge Motel where interracial couples party all night with the "Brothers . . ."

In jazzy New Orleans, new Mayor Ernest Morial is proudly telling one and all, "I'm black, not creole". . . as minority businessmen seek a greater share of the Superdome dollar and the tourist trade. . . Morial is shaking city government foundations with his appointments to key municipal posts. . . In mid - south Memphis, patriarch Ernie Withers Sr. still keeps his fingers on all the buttons as his sons continue to move into key spots on the municipal, state and national scene. . . Rev. Teddy Withers is gaining stature in the Tennessee Legislature as Brother Ernie Jr. provides able assistance to the Democratic National Committee and the White House staff. . . Photographer Billy W. is busy covering the local scene.

All around the nation, the growing number of black elected officials is getting close scrutiny by the metropolitan media who keep watching for nepotism, cronyism and vested interest while the Capitol Hill gang and middle level bureaucrats join with the lobbyists to keep "ripping" off the poor and ignorant as they have always done. . .And the downtown media - mongers who keep touting the class struggle can't understand why the "Brothers" want to stick together like they do behind closed doors.

A near billion dollar experimental project to stimulate economic growth and develop complex financing skills in city government employees has been started in 25 cities by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Small Business Administration and the Economic Development Administration. . .it is great to find the agencies working together.

## Mora for

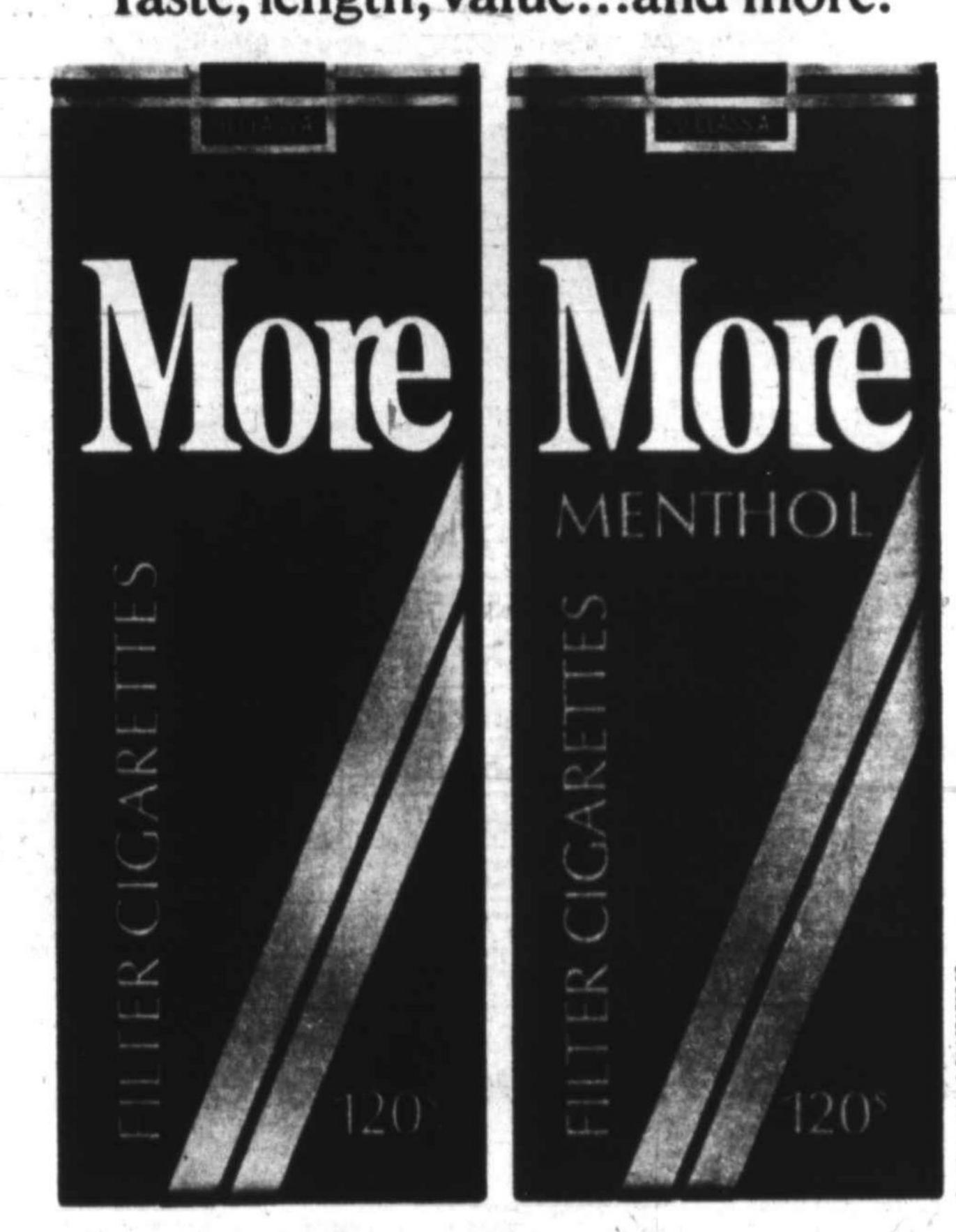
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