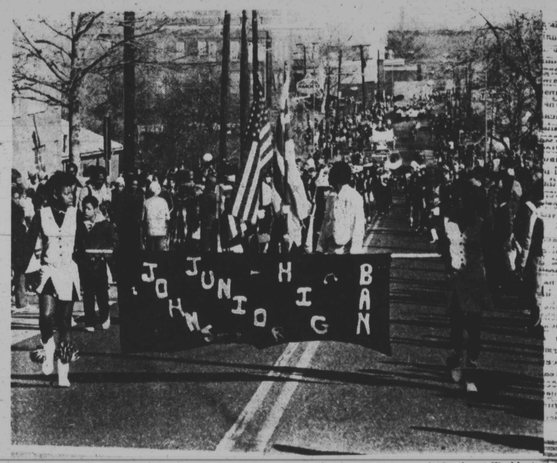
D.C. salutes memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"LET MY PEOPLE GO," was the song the congregation at the Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church as they shared in the service commemorating the Jan. 15 birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER MARCH — Honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Johnson Junior High School Band & Show paraded through the crowd lined streets of MLK Avenue in Southeast Washington Tuesday morning.

"WE MUST HAVE UNITY," stressed Rev. Ben Chavis, last member of the Wilmington 10 to be released from jail, as he addressed a standing-room only crowd at the Peoples Congregational Church during the tenth annual observance in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

President issues statement on MLK

The following is a statement by President Jimmy Carter on the Jan. 15 birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.:

"As we celebrate the fifty-first anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., the principles and causes for which he gave his life are being challenged at home and abroad. There have always been voices that urged violent repression. There have always been people who were willing to sacrifice others to further their own causes. Martin Luther King Jr. taught us a different lesson. He taught us to live up to our highest principles of freedom and equal justice, to love and respect the tiniest spark of humanity in the most unlovable and find ways to fan that tiny spark into a lasting flame that would light the way to a better day.

"At this time when the forces of tyranny and terrorism are engaging in violence, it is important that we remember the power of non-violence to change both institutions and the hearts of individuals.

"As we face the challenges of a new decade, we are strengthened by the memory of all the losing battles that went into the great triumphs of Martin Luther King Jr. May we have the same courage to fortify our convictions, the same love and will to hold out to the final victory."

County group for national King day

At its meeting on the eve of Martin Luther King's birthday, the Montgomery County Human Relations Commission voted unanimously to work for the designation of a national holiday commemorating the birthday of the assassinated civil rights leader.

The AFRO salutes

Martin Luther King Jr.

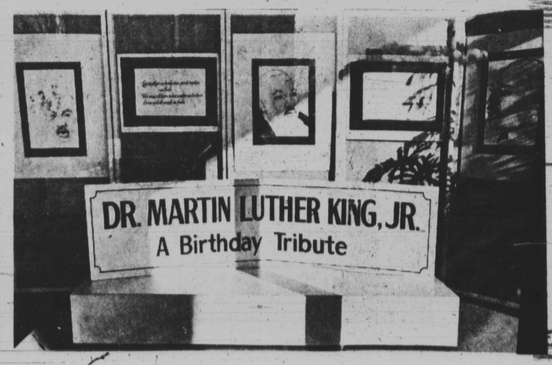
1929-1968

"OH FREEDOM," rang through Mount Vernon United Methodist Church as the mass choir sang during the eigth annual ecumenical services honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on Jan. 15.

WE HAVE FAILED the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., Congressman Parren Mitchell, D-Md., stated as he addressed a gathering of the Black Workers Alliance of IBM during a commemorative luncheon at Harambee, Jan. 15. Looking on as master of ceremonies, Jessie Waters (C) and president of the BWA, Ken Branch.

Photos by Milton Williams

STANDING ROOM ONLY — A capacity crowd flowed into the sanctuary of the Peoples Congregational Church, Sunday, for the tenth annual observance in memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE — The window of the MLK library houses an art exhibit honoring the anniversary of the slain civil rights leader's 51st birthday.

Civil rights update: Job bias, cohabitation, dress codes, libel, testing, among issues

Compiled by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

SEARS CHARGED: The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed five suits against Sears, Roebuck & Co., charging it with discrimination against women, blacks and Hispanics.

The suits, filed in New York, Chicago, Memphis, Atlanta, and Montgomery, Ala., ask that Sears be required to establish affirmative action programs to eliminate unlawful employment practices and to give back pay with interest to those persons who have been adversely affected by any past discrimination.

COHABITATION FACTOR: The U.S. Justice Department will no longer deny employment at its central offices to unmarried persons living with members of the opposite sex.

The department's decision resulted from a suit by a former job seeker. The agreement was reached with the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C.

It doesn't apply to the U.S. Marshal Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Prisons, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

URBAN INDIANS: The National Urban Indian Council has received $250,000 from the Labor Department to provide information and technical assistance to non-reservation groups serving Indians.

It can be used to assist in preparation of urban Indian employment and training proposals for CETA prime sponsors, and for personnel office management training and operation of CETA programs. Job development and placement aid will be provided in selected areas.

For information contact Gregory Frazier, National Urban Indian Council, 1335 South Bellaire, Suite 305, Denver, Colo. 80222.

DRESS CODES: Schools cannot establish dress codes for students because the discrimination that stems from appearance codes can be as seriously damaging and demeaning as other types of discrimination, says Patricia Harris, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Reversing the stance of her predecessor, Joseph Califano, she comments, "Dress codes have been used to enforce sexual stereotyping to prevent American Indians, Hispanics and blacks from following customs in hairstyle and dress."

WHITE MINORITY: Blacks and Hispanics will outnumber whites in the nation's third largest city, Chicago, by 1990.

The city's population will decrease from 3.3 million to 2.9 million by 1990. Whites will make up 46.3 percent of the latter; blacks, 41.2 percent, and Hispanics, 11.9 percent, according to testimony by population expert Phillip Hauser before the Census and Population Subcommittee of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

LIBEL AWARD: A jury in Kansas' U.S. District Court has awarded $64,000 in damages to a white former medical school physician who sued four of his black students for libel because they charged him with discrimination.

Attorneys for the defendants called the case an important test for affirmative action programs. The verdict could affect such programs and the rights of minorities to complain.

JAPANESE MEMORIAL: Plans to erect a monument in Puyallup's Western Washington Fairgrounds to commemorate the incarceration of Japanese-Americans there during World War II have been stymied because of lack of funds.

The Washington State Historical Society had designated the area as an historical site and state officials are assisting, but according to a spokesman for the Pacific Northwest District of the Japanese-American Citizens League, "We still don't know where to get the money."

EMPHASIS SHIFT: The Justice Department is cracking down on other federal agencies that fail to guard against discriminatory use of grant funds and is attacking sex bias that restricts women to deadend jobs.

Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, who pledged a new emphasis on civil rights when he took office, said the new approach in civil rights suits should not be read as signaling a deemphasis of public accommodations and school desegregation enforcement.

In those areas, he said, "The law is clear. Cases are frequently technical cases, so it's a matter of continuing the policy and direction there, while refocusing and increasing the effort in other areas."

TESTING BANNED: California education officials have violated federal statutes, state equal protection guarantees, and the U.S. Constitution by requiring school districts to use IQ tests and other placement mechanisms that resulted in inordinate numbers of blacks in educable mentally retarded classes, says Chief U.S. District Court Judge Robert Peckham of San Francisco.

In a 131-page ruling, he cites statistics from 30 percent of California's school districts which show that although blacks were only 27.5 percent of the students, they accounted for 52 percent of the students in mentally retarded classes.

SEX BIAS: Uniroyal Inc. has agreed to pay $5.2 million in back pay to 750 women (or formerly employed at its Mishawaka, Ind. facility in settlement of a sex discrimination suit.

In addition, the company restored pension benefits and seniority status to the women workers. Those who retired will receive pension benefits as though they had never been laid off.

SUIT STOPPED: Congress never gave the Justice Department authority to "advance the civil rights of third persons" not to make sweeping allegations against city officials for the conduct of subordinates, ruled U.S. District Court Judge J. William Ditter, Jr. of Philadelphia.

He dismissed an unprecedented federal civil suit against the city and its top officials which alleged that they had condoned systematic police brutality.

The only part of the government's case now remaining is an accusation that the city violated the Federal Revenue Sharing act by discriminating in law enforcement.

NEW RECRUITS: Some acknowledged homosexuals were among 50 cadets sworn into the San Francisco Police Department last month, says Mayor Dianne Feinstein.

She declined to indicate how many. But, she added, the city had conducted an "intensive recruitment" campaign in San Francisco's gay community to find candidates.

WORK HAZARD INSPECTION—A postal a press tour of the facility. Late last year a supervisor (L) explains the operation of a postal worker was killed in this facility and the conveyor belt system at the New York Bulk and Foreign Mail Center in Jersey City, N.J. during misbraction) of the U.S. Department of Labor has issued a report citing 12 unsafe working conditions found in the plant. (UPI Photo)

Physician error tied to abortion deaths

By Patricia McCormack
UPI Health Editor

Physician error was involved in 88 percent of 104 patient deaths during high risk second-trimester abortions in the United States between 1975 and 1977, according to a report in a Planned Parenthood Federation of America journal.

The second trimester — months four, five and six of a pregnancy — is marked by rapid growth of the fetus. Doctors say abortions then are about 10 times as dangerous as those performed in the first three months.

Doctor errors cited in the report, were "failure to evacuate the products of conception completely and perforation of the uterus during the abortion."

Blame in the deaths was based on an analysis by Richard Selik of the Center for Disease Control, the report said Jan. 7.

Author John Rendtorff, associate editor of "Family Planning Perspectives," said fewer than one in every 10 abortions among the estimated 1.4 million in America annually are performed in the second-trimester.

Studies show those getting late abortions tend to be young, black, married, have had little formal education and are of low socio-economic status.

From 1972 to 1977, the report said, there were 1.3 deaths per 100,000 abortions in the first trimester and 12.3 per 100,000 in the second trimester.

Richard Lincoln, editor of "Family Planning Perspectives," said it would be difficult to prohibit second-trimester abortions.

He said only during this period can doctors looking for defective fetuses take samples of amniotic fluid.

This fluid in which the fetus floats contains signs of fetal defects. Once such evidence is presented to parents-to-be, abortions is one of the options. The other is to continue the pregnancy, risking a deformed baby.

Other highlights from the report:

—Older women and blacks run particularly high risks from second-trimester abortions.

—Since the 1973 Supreme Court of the United States decision legalizing abortions, the number of second-trimester abortions has remained roughly constant while the number of abortions has increased sharply.

—Three in 10 pregnant women obtain abortions. That's 20 percent of those becoming pregnant in the most recent year for which complete data is available, 1978.

—1,320,000 abortions were reported in the U.S. in 1977 and 1,374,000 projected for 1978.

ACTION UP FRONT AND . . . Mayor Dianne Feinstein, San Francisco's first female mayor and an unidentified plaintiff flash the victory sign to the groups in City Hall where she was sworn in as the U.S. Marine Corps Guards formed and the ceremony went to his aid in San Francisco January 8. Mayor Feinstein had just been sworn in during her inauguration and she was listening to a speech during the festivities. (UPI Photo)

Xavier prexy heads accrediting agency

Xavier University of Louisiana president Norman C. Francis took office this week as the new president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Dr. Francis was named president-elect at the 1978 annual meeting of the association, which is the accrediting agency for more than 11,000 educational institutions in an 11-state area. He was installed as president at the recent annual meeting in Atlanta.

Dr. Norman C. Francis

Prior to that election, Francis served as chairman, Executive Council, Commission on Colleges, SACS. He is also a former chairman of the board, College Entrance Examination Board, and he continues to serve as a board member of CEEB.

Chairman of HEW's Title III Advisory Committee on Higher Education, Dr. Francis is a board member of the Ford Foundation's Committee on Government and Higher Education, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Council on Foundations, National Merit Scholarship Corporation and the American Council on Education.

He is also a member of the Committee on Education, U.S. Catholic Conference, and the Vatican's Pontifical Commission on Justice and Peace.

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