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National Roundup

By Larry Still and Art Carter

WASHINGTON — With both conventions out of the way, the behind-the-scenes activity in the political arena has stepped up to a hurried pace with everybody's eyes on November. Congress has only a little time left before most of its members will be off to their hometowns, campaigning for themselves or for their presidential choice. There are some leftover matters hanging around the nation's capital, however, and one of them may provide some heat for senators in their home states.

This involves the Senate hearings on the new federal judgeships and, particularly, the manner in which the nomination of *Judge James Edward Sheffield* was handled. By the time this reaches print, Sheffield should be confirmed or rejected as a "confirmation" hearing was scheduled by the Senate Judiciary Committee for late August. However, the hearing has been postponed, delayed or what-have-you for so many months that anything could happen in this election year as the whole process of wait-and-see has been based on politics.

The U.S. District Court judgeship positions, in some instances, have been vacant since they were created by Congress in 1978, all because of election-year politics and a series of strange political maneuvers to delay the nomination hearings. If confirmed, Sheffield will be the first and only Virginia black federal judge in the state's history. He was nominated by *President Carter*, who, obviously, hoped to make political gain of the appointment but unless the matter is resolved, and we think it will be, before the end of this month (September), it will do Mr. Carter little good when the ballots are counted in November. *Senator Harry Byrd*, Independent, Virginia, has been the holdup man in the Senate process but Byrd would get few black votes anyway so the political gain, if any, has to be on the Carter side but that, as we said, will be nil unless the Carter administration gets busy and pushes the confirmation before the end of this month — if it already has not been confirmed.

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Friends of former *Ambassador Andrew Young* tossed a $100 Cruise and Cocktail Buffet for him in late August on the *Diplomat*, a cruise ship which travels on the Potomac River. The affair was listed as a "benefit for Young Ideas," which stymied a number of people who had thought that "Young Ideas" was a commercial venture . . . . Press relations officers are low men on the totem pole in Washington politics, particularly the city government. For instance, earlier this year *Florence Tate* quit as *Mayor Marion Barry's* press aide after a difference of opinion with her boss, and six weeks later D.C. City Council Chairman *Arrington Dixon's* special assistant in charge of the press resigned after what was described as "negative coverage of Dixon's administration." All of which seems to indicate that some public officials have a misconception of what public relations officials can do. The true public image of an official is provided by the official himself, and the public relations director's job is merely to communicate that image to persons who can spread the word.

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Friends of the late *Fannie Granton*, the deputy chief of the Washington Bureau for *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines (Johnson Publications) who died at her home in Washington this past June 16, will be happy to learn that a scholarship fund in her memory is being established at the Howard University School of Communications. Fannie was a regular participant in the school's annual workshops and contributions may be made to the E. Fannie Granton Scholarship Fund, c-o Howard University, School of Communications, Washington, D.C. 20059.

Washingtonians are glowing over the appointment of one of its own hometown products, *Maury Wills*, to the manager's post of the Seattle Mariners of the American League West. Despite the fact that the Mariners are lost in the race for the division championship, Wills deserves a crack at a manager's post and should be given the chance. Besides they look forward to "next year." Washington has been without major league baseball for seven years, but now the hometown folks will have a good reason to watch the box scores and league standings.

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Washingtonians also are mourning the probable fate of the Harambee Hotel which, at this writing, seems to be in deep trouble and may, by the time you read this, have changed ownership. A Harambee Survival Committee had been formed with divisional chairmen around the country to work for continuation of the hotel under its original ownership, but the black-owned facility which has been in existence since 1978 seemed certain to be taken over by federal government agencies becauce of a web of reasons involving unpaid loans, taxes, etc. "Save the Harambee House" has been a rallying cry in the Washington area, but there has been some doubt about the support the hotel has gotten from the people who would benefit most from its existence — the visitors to Washington.

We shall see what goes down, and if the hotel does change ownership by the time you read this, it will be another one of those lack of support deals that so frequently ruins black economic ventures. Harambee is the best and probably only full-service black-owned and operated hotel that has come to our attention, and it is deeply regrettable if its management and profits will go to the other side.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE: In Roanoke, Va., *George W. Harris Jr.*, a black lawyer who 10 years ago helped fight in federal court for desegregation of the city schools, is now a member of the Roanoke school board. Harris, 43, said the appointment was a "surprise" to him . . . . *Robert O. D. Thompson* is the new president of Region One of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMA). Thompson, director of Motor Vehicle Services in Washington, D.C., was elected by the Association at its 59th annual meeting at Jeffersonville, Vermont . . . . *William S. Harps* recently was named chairman of the executive committee of Perpetual Building and Loan Association. Harps, longtime member of the Pinkett Real Estate Company, has been on Perpetual's board since 1970 and a member of the executive committee since 1971. Perpetual, incidentally, is the Washington metropolitan area's largest building and loan association.

With the recent elevation of *Norman Richardson* to position of fire chief in the District of Columbia, the nation's capital now boasts of an all-black frontline administration: *Mayor Marion S. Barry*, *Police Chief Burtell Jefferson*, *School Superintendent Vincent Reed* and *Fire Chief Richardson*. - It's a precedent that no other city can claim . . . . *Sugar Ray Leonard*, the youthful new boxing sensation, is not only making a big hit in the prizefight business with his popular fighting style but is doing wonderful things in the civic and charity fields for his hometowners in Landover, Maryland . . . . Too, he is making a good on-the-side bundle with commercial advertising bits . . . . The new president of the Auxiliary of the National Medical Association is *Mrs. H. Garland Chissell* (*Robbie*) of Baltimore, Maryland. She is the third president of the auxiliary from Baltimore, following in the wake of *Mrs. Celonia Walden* and *Dr. Bessie Smalls* . . . . The U.S. Air Force now boasts of a black female chaplain, the *Rev. Juanita Elizabeth Carroll*, who was recently commissioned a first lieutenant in the chaplain service. She is a native of Rochester, N.Y., daughter of *G. Juanita Pitts* and *Julian O. Carroll*, both physicians of Rochester . . . . *Major General Fred C. Sheffey* has retired from the Army after 30 years service. At the time of his retirement, he was serving as commander of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and commandant of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Schools, both at Fort Lee, Virginia.

Dr. Andrew F. Brimmer, president of Brimmer and Company, Inc. in Washington, D.C. and former governor of the Federal Reserve System, recently was named a member of the 21-member board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange. He will serve a two-year term . . . . *Robert L.* - (*Bob*) *White*, former Howard University football stalwart, has been re-elected for a sixth term as president of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees (NAPFE), which is the country's largest and oldest independent black-led labor union. At the same time, union elected *Shirley E. Davis* secretary, marking the first time in 67 years that the union has named a woman as national secretary . . . . *Dr. Jesse B. Barber Jr.*, chief, division of neurosurgery at Howard University Hospital and former president of the National Medical Association, has been appointed to the National Professional Standards Review Organization (PSRO) Council by the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, *Patricia Harris*