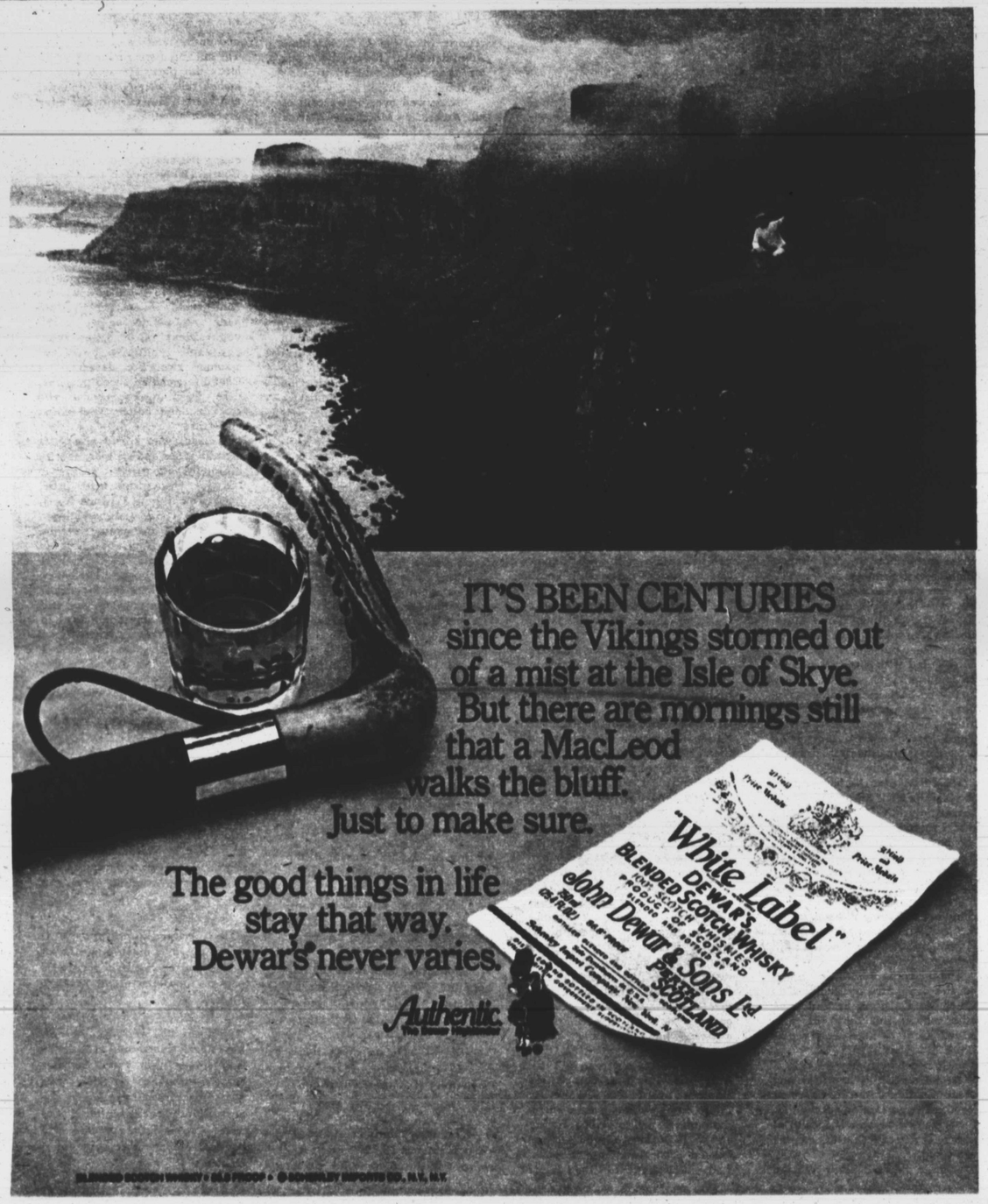

National Roundup

By Larry Still and Art Carter

Regardless of who is elected president in what still may be a close political race between Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and John Anderson, look for emphasis on job-training programs instead of increased employment for the next four years.

And the new multi-billion dollar tax cuts, welfare aide and job programs are designed for the benefit of businessmen and investors instead of the poor unemployed . . . . in an effort to spur more jobs according to the "old trickle down" theory.

Whatever happened to the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment goals designed to have federal, state and local governments as employers of the last resort . . . Even the administration officials admit that the job situation for young people was considerably worse this past summer than previous years, according to Department of Labor statistics.

The number of 16-21 year-olds with jobs declined by 700,000 from July 1979 to July, 1980, and the number of unemployed youth was 520,000 higher than last year. As a result, the youth unemployment rate was up over the year from 13.4 to 16.4 percent overall and 33 percent for blacks. Akhough the number of unemployed white youth rose 390,000 over the year, the number of jobless black youth increased by 130,000, with the ratio still two to one for non-working blacks.

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Meanwhile, two black colleges have received the first contracts to operate Job Corps training centers. The Department of Labor has awarded a two year contract to Tuskegee Institute (Ala.) for a center on the Alabama college campus.

The Tuskegee center will be the first Jobs Corps facility in the state. Details for a second center, to be located on the former Daniel Payne College campus in Birmingham, will be announced soon. The Tuskegee center will provide vocational training, education, and residential services, including medical care, and will have an annual operating budget of approximately two million dollars.

All funding, including an initial $500,000 for the purchase of equipment, will be provided by the Labor Department.

We are surprised that more community leaders and black college officials are not seeking Job Corps centers on their campuses. They not only provide training sources for unskilled, unemployed, but could aid the colleges in carrying out their mission in educating professionals and social service workers.

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Ellis R. Moody, a federal career employee, has been named area director for the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs in New Orleans.

Before assuming his new position, Moody was a supervisory equal employment specialists. He attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., and the University of Alaska.

The New Orleans contract compliance office is one of eight such offices serving Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, which are under the Labor Department's regional office in Dallas.

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Attendees at the recent Southern Christian Leadership Conference convention in Cleveland saw the reunion of former stalwarts Andrew Young, Ralph Abernathy, Congressional Delegate Walter Fauntroy and the Rev. Joseph Lowery, now SCLC president. But, no member of founder Martin Luther King's family was present. It is said to report that the Kings and Abernathys are now even on speaking terms any longer.

Lowery and his wife, Evelyn, journeyed to Rimini, Italy, for the 1980 meeting of Friendship Among the People, sponsored by *Il Sabato Magazine* on the Adriatic coast.

SCLC is also sending an independent commission to Jamaica to report on conditions in the Caribbean island for the U.S. government. Members include Atty. Hope Stevens of the Conference of Black Lawyers; Prof. Ann Seidman of Clark University; Prof. James Turner of the Cornell U. African Studies program; Prof. Richard Shaull, Princeton Theological Seminary and Randall Robinson, executive director of Trans Africa.

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When Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of newly, completely independent Zimbabwe spoke at Howard University recently, the reception was filled with "Republic of New Africa" supporters who discourterously booed Howard President James Cheek and Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Barry as they welcomed the prime minister of the city and the campus.

But, what the ignorant dissidents apparently did not see was the warm embrace between Mayor Barry and local Republic of New Africa leader Babael (Lester McKinnie) Zulu who are longtime friends and associates from the 1960s when they were co-leaders of the Free D.C. Movement.

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Ben Brown, the quiet, retiring Atlanta polician who helped deliver the black vote for Jimmy Carter to win the presidency in 1976, is still the man behind the scenes for the Democratic National Convention in Manhattan . . . However, Brown has been pushed into the background ever since he lost the original White House job to "Old Pvo" Louis Martin when the Washington veteran began jockeying with the Atlanta "mafia" for early influence in the Carter administration.

Brown was the influence in the mastermind of the Charlotte (N.C.) Compromise which brought Big City political leaders from Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, etc. and the Congressional Black Caucus into the Carter camp when it looked like the Georgian had the nomination without them, as he concentrated on a Southern Strategy . . . It was at Charlotte, that Carter agreed to appoint a specific number of black judges, cabinet and sub-cabinet appointments and provide funding for employment training and social programs in major urban areas in exchange for black votes to be delivered by major political and civic organizations . . . . The Big City organizations and new black political leaders became so locked in to the administration they couldn't even switch or fight for the Kennedy nomination even though he espoused all the goals the liberals and civil rights groups had been struggling for years to reach . . . . What happened to National Health Insurance, Full Employment and Guaranteed Income . . . . which the M. L. Kings, Aaron Henrys and Andrew Hawkins had preached for a generation? Henry and Kennedy was "perceived as a phony liberal on a permanent ego trip . . ." And the Massachusetts senators support of Republican Senator Edward Brook's opponent lost him the support of "fundamental" Black voters regardless of the "Causus. . ."

Look for Republicans to emphasize training and education funded programs in a revial of a new form of black capitalism or black opportunism in their campaign . . . The smart thing for the GOP to do would be to get behind the Support the Black Colleges campaign which is now beginning to take hold in a recycling of the 1880s when "Separate but equal" became fashionable . . . Remember those who ignore the past are doomed to repeat it . . . Some black leaders are already beginning to straddle the fence just in case of a Regan victory . . . The report of Jesse Jackson's "threat" to support the Republican ticket appeared to send sudders through the Third World Press where (former President) Nixon is a hero compared to the California Senator.

A call for a "Summit Meeting" of black leadership is really needed and expected as Vernon Jordan return to the helm amidst rumbles of "an explanation of the Fort Wayne incident . . ." Following the abortive Richmond meeting, new efforts will be made to hold a Black Congress in Texas and a grassroots political convention in New Orleans . . . but it appears to be meetings of the wrong groups at the wrong places at the wrong times . . . Which means that the new "non-political" National Association of Pastors which have called for sessions in Washington in October may be the newly emerging leadership forces which could complete the final bargaining in the political arena in an election year.

Travelings in the Third World — Mal Whitfield, former Olympic track star now with the U.S. State Department is still developing plans for akernate Olympic games in various nations — All Africa games are set for Kenya in 1981 and All Asiqn games in New Delhi in 1982 . . . . India which took the lead in calling for New World Communications Order to develop free and independent press in Third World now recovering from suspension of all press freedoms under Primce Minister Indira Ghandi.

Bluch Zuunnuluts should focus on this issue.