National Roundup

WASHINGTON — Long before the November 4 election, black leaders from all parts of the country were making plans for the convening of a national black political party, to be called the Independence Political Party, in Philadelphia, in November.

The Independence National Black Political Party was called for last August at the national black political convention in New Orleans following the disastrous convention on the national black agenda last spring in Richmond, Va. where no consensus on the presidential election could be reached.

Ron Daniels, a history professor at Kent State College in Ohio, has been the perennial chairman of the national steering committee and Dr. Ron Walters of the Howard University political science department is chairman of charter development for the new organization which includes leaders of the Democrat and Republican parties.

Other leaders include Dr. Barbara Sizemore of the University of Pitts-burgh black studies department; Jemadari Kamara, University of Michigan, and Dr. Manning Marable, African Studies Center, Cornell University in New York. Although the leadership is currently made up primarily of university professors, supporters insist that the party will not be composed primarily of academics and intellectuals.

Wakers says the party is taking shape because "we do not have a legitimate black political institution of our own to develop our policy concerns and the strategies for achieving them" and because "the Democrats, Republicans and traditional independent parties have failed to articulate the interests of black people or work for their policy goals . . . " The party hopes to take advantage of the margin of the black vote in the future.

We noticed, however, that LCCR gave congressmen and women a "zero" for voting for a balanced budget and there was no mention of the Full Employment Bill which still has to be implemented despite passage of the Humphrey-Hawkins legislation in the last Congress.

One of the most unusual campaign features was the effort of the Fund for Animal Welfare in Massachusetts, which accused Ronald Reagan of supporting "the slaughter of baby seals" until the organization made a flood of 100,000 telephone calls to get the governor to change his position.

However, Sam Church, president of the UMW, said the obvious Reagan strategy was similar to the Richard Nixon campaign of 1968 when blacks and other low income citizens were urged, sometimes paid, not to vote. Declaring that millions of flyers were distributed to union members "to confuse them," Church said Reagan's labor advisor, Michael Balzano, admitted, "I don't want these people to vote for Reagan. I want them to stay home. I don't want them to vote, at all."

Said Church: "There are a lot of harsh political realities we have to deal with in presidential election years, but this kind of strategy is robbing the American people of their birthright to decide who leads this country..."
Oddly enough, many black progressives and "militants" agreed with the strategy.

Special crisis centers to help unemployed auto workers who have exhausted their benefits will be established in eight cities by the United Auto Workers with \$1.32 million provided by the Department of Labor. Plans call for setting up the centers in Detroit, Flint, Pontiac and Saginaw, Mich.; Anderson, Indianapolis and Kokomo, Ind. and Cleveland, Ohio.

By Larry Still and Art Carter

Blacks will continue to have 'no place to go' in electoral politics if we do not create some place to go that will break our political dependence and captivity, Walters says. "Our communities need to have aggressive, pressure-oriented, black mass organization and development and to hold accountable all the leadership which represents us . . ." he adds.

We guarantee you that the public will be surprised at some of the black leadership which surfaced at the Philadelphia convention because members of the Democratic and Republican parties attended . . . If you are interested in more information, write Independent Black Political Party, 1029 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite #404, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Despite the efforts to build a new independent, political process, there is evidence that more blacks and minorities participated in the 1980 election at all levels, than ever before. The last minute efforts to turn the tide of victory revealed such organizations as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, National Black Leadership Conference, the National Organization for Women, the National Council of Senior Citizens, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the United Mine Workers and the New Democratic Coalition of Sen. Ted Kennedy all joined together against such groups as Christians for Reagan, Americans for Constitutional Action, the Wanderers, the National Conservative Political Action Committee and the Christian Voice National Lobby, which issued "a report card" on how members of Congress "voted on 16 key moral issues" in the 96th Congress.

The last minute, last ditch battle highlighted the fact that local elections for Congress and Senate are becoming more important than the presidential elections since the decisions for the Eighties may well be made by the 97th Congress which begins in January on Capitol Hill, not at the White House at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

In recognition of this important fact, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, a coalition of 146 major national organizations seeking to advance civil rights through enactment and enforcement of federal legislation, issued its annual "report card" showing that only 11 senators (out of 100) and 77 representatives (out of 545), all Democrats, scored a perfect 100 percent in the voting record for civil rights and social welfare legislation.

But, five senators, all Republicans, and 115 members of Congress, including 98 Republicans and 17 Democrats, tallied up a "zero" record, voting consistently against school desegregation, fair housing, food stamps, civil rights enforcement appropriations, welfare reform, Martin Luther King's birthday and filibuster reform.

Approximately 4,810 workers at four General Motors Corp. parts plants in Michigan, Indiana and New York have been certified for trade adjustment assistance and a grant of \$764,000 in CETA funds have been made for training and re-employment to laid off workers in northern Ohio where auto and auto-related plans have shut down operations... The Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the selection of 10 projects in seven states as eligible for federal funding under a special demonstration program designed to assist minority developers.

Under the Minority Business Enterprise program announced last summer, HUD agreed to set aside a minimum of six million dollars in contract authority to provide some 1,000 units of Section 8 assisted housing for low and moderate income.

Lamond Godwin, administrator, Office of National Programs in the Department of Labor, received an award for his efforts in a program which placed hundreds of Hispanics in clerical, entry level positions with various federal agencies. The award was presented by Manuel A. Bustelo, national executive director of the National Puerto Rican Forum.

Dr. Warren A. Rhodes, an associate professor of psychology at Delaware State College in Dover, was inducted into the Job Corps Hall of Fame. Rhodes, a high school dropout when he joined the Job Corps, is the 17th person to receive the Hall of Fame Award after completing his education and going on to advanced studies and teaching.

Black Americans chalked up important educational gains during the 1970s, particularly at the high school level, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Census Bureau.

One of the most dramatic gains involves blacks with a high school education, the total of whom reached an all-time high. In 1970, only 56 percent of blacks 25 to 29 years old had completed high school. By the end of 1979, the percentage with high school diplomas in the same age category had risen to 75 percent.

The report notes that blacks continued to make important gains in higher education. For example, the proportion with college degrees, among those 25 to 29 years old, increased from 7 percent in 1970 to more than 12 percent by the end of 1979. An even greater increase was noted for blacks

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Jan Ballow and the street

