People in the News

Duvalier mystique

Michele Duvalier, 30, First Lady of Haiti, wife of President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier, is attempting to win personal popularity and mystique that will overshadow her husband's, perhaps even supplant him, according to a report in the New York Post.

These fears are engendered by old cronies of Dr. Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, Jean-Claude's father from who he inherited the presidency in 1971 at age 19.

Michele, educated in New York, tried unsuccessfully to make a living in Manhattan as a secretary. She returned to Haiti and married the son of one of Papa Doc's enemies.

After having two children, the marriage ended in divorce and she went on last year to wed Jean-Claude in an opulent wedding that mocked the poverty in a country ruled by the military boot.

Today Michele leads her husband on sporadic philanthropic campaigns during which they hand out clothing and money to peasants while on country-wide treks. But Michele herself is well sheltered from poverty and while-living in well-protected luxury befitting a queen, she talks of helping her poor subjects and encouraging her husband to restore democratic institutions.

Michele Duvalier

Unrepentant Diggs

Former Michigan Democratic Congressman Charles Diggs Jr., convicted of improprieties in recent years, is remorseful but unrepentant.

Diggs said he regrets any pain and suffering he might have caused anyone, "but my conscience is completely clear."

Diggs also said he will go to his grave continuing to profess his innocence.

The ex-congressman was attending the NAACP annual convention held in Denver last week.

Charles Diggs Jr.

Wine manager

Errol G. Holt has been named assistant national product manager for Leroux Cordials and Brandy by the General Wine and Spirits Company.

Holt had been assistant metro Chicago manager for two years, and before that assistant central division operations manager.

General Wine and Spirits Company, a House of Seagram company, also markets Chivas RegalScotch, Royal Salute Scotch; Ronrico Puerto Rican Rum, Boodles British Gin, Nikolai Vodka, Harwood Canadian Whiskey, Lochan Ora Liqueur, Cheri-Suisse Liqueur, Vandermint Liqueur, Sabra Liqueur, and Eagle Rare 101 Bourbon.

A native of Boston, and a graduate of Columbia University in New York City with B.A. and M.B.A. degrees, Holt joined the marketing services division of The House of Seagram in 1977.

Errol G. Holt

Excerpts of the President's speech to the NAACP

THE PRESIDENT: Chairwoman Margaret Bush Wilson, thank you very much for that introduction and that explanation also of my year's tardiness in getting here. I remember a year ago I was in California when I received your invitation at the same time that I received a clipping that I had not answered your invitation.

Now, at that moment it was almost impossible for me — well, it was impossible — to find a way — not even Air Force One could have bridged from California to Florida. But I'm delighted that this time, as you say, there was better staff work and I was able to get the invitation in plenty of time. (Applause.)

President Cobb, Vice Chairman Kelly Alexander, and Executive Director Benjamin Hooks, ladies and gentlemen here on the platform, members of the Board of Directors, and you, ladies and gentlemen, representatives to this convention: I'm very happy to be talking to the NAACP's 72nd Annual Convention.

There are many things that we need to discuss and I thank you for the invitation to do so. Let us talk today about the needs of the future, not the misunderstandings of the past. (Applause.) About new ideas, not old ones, about what must become a continuing dialogue, not a dialogue that flows only at intermittent conventions that we both attend.

Part of that continuing dialogue took place last Tuesday when I met with Ben Hooks and Margaret Bush Wilson in the Oval Office. Our discussion was candid and useful. The wide range of our conversation showed that there is a great deal to be gained when we take time to share our views.

While our communication should always deal with current issues of importance, it must never stray far from our national commitment to battle against discrimination and increase our knowledge of each other. (Applause.)

A few isolated groups in the backwater of American life still hold perverted notions of what America is all about. Recently in some places in the nation there has been a disturbing reoccurrence of bigotry and violence. If I may, from the platform of this organization known for its tolerance, I would like to address a few remarks to those groups who still adhere to senseless racism and religious prejudice, to those individuals who persist in such hateful behavior. If I were speaking to them instead of to you I would say to them, "You are the ones who are out of step with our society. You are the ones who willfully violate the meaning of the dream that is America. And this country, because of what it stands for, will not stand for your contempt." (Applause.)

My administration will vigorously investigate and prosecute those who by violence or intimidation would attempt to deny Americans their constitutional rights. Another kind of terror has recently plagued the city of Atlanta. Not long ago in a speech before the Congress I read the now famous "pamama letter" from Peter Sweeney. If only my letters from children could all be as light-hearted as Peter's. Other letters are more poignant. When little girls in Atlanta write asking that I make things right so they won't be scared anymore, even a president of the United States can feel a little helpless.

We committed the resources of the FBI and a number of federal agencies to help Mayor Jackson. I appointed Vice President Bush to head this federal task force and its work will continue until this tragic episode is over. (Applause.)

Not counting manpower and equipment we've provided over $4 million to this cause. I know that all of us wish that we could tell the children of Atlanta that they need no longer fear. And until we can say that, however, we will not be satisfied until those children can once again play safely in their schoolyards and parks. (Applause.)

Our dialogue must also include discussions on how we can best protect the rights and privileges of all our citizens. My administration will root out any case of government discrimination against minorities and uphold and enforce the laws that protect them. I emphasize that we will not retreat on the nation's commitment to equal treatment of all citizens. (Applause). Now that, in my view, is the primary responsibility of national government. The Attorney General is now carefully studying the decennial redistricting plans being submitted under the current Voting Rights Acts. As soon as we have all the information, there will be a decision regarding extension of the Act. Until a decision is announced, you should know this:

I regard voting as the most sacred right of free men and women. We have not sacrificed and fought and toiled to protect the right so that now we can sit back and permit a barrier to come between a secret ballot and any citizen who makes a choice to cast it. (Applause.) Nothing will change that as long as I am in a position to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

In the months ahead, our dialogue also will include tough and realistic questions about the role of the federal government in the black community. I'm not satisfied with its results and I don't think you are either. And the failures of the past have been particularly hard on the minority poor because their hopes have failed as surely as the federal programs that built those hopes.

But I must not be the only one who questions government policies.

Can the black teenager who faces a staggering unemployment rate feel that government policies are a success? Can the black wage earner who sees more and more of his take - home pay shrinking because of government taxes feel satisfied? Can black parents say, despite a massive influx of federal aid, that educational standards in our schools have improved appreciably?

Can the woman I saw on television recently — whose family had been on welfare for three generations and who feared that her children might be the fourth — can she believe that current government policies will save her children from such a fate?

We ask these tough questions, because we share your concerns about the future of the black community. We ask these questions because the blacks of America should not be patronized as just one more voting bloc to be wooed and won. You are individuals as we all are; some have special needs. I don't think the federal government has met those needs. (Applause.)

I've been listening to the specific needs of many people — blacks, farmers, refugees, union members, women, small businessmen and women and other groups — they're commonly referred to as special interest groups. Well, in reality, they're all members of the interest group that I spoke of the day I took the oath of office. They are the people of America. And I'm pleased to serve that special interest group.

The people of the inner cities will be represented by this administration every bit as much as the citizens of Flagstaff, Arizona; Ithaca, New York; or Dixon, Illinois, where I grew up.

Anyone who becomes President realizes he must represent all the people of the land, not just those of a home state or a particular party. Nor can he be just President of those who voted for him.

But it doesn't matter what groups we belong to, what area we live in, how much or little we earn, the economy affects every single one of us regardless of our other interests and affiliations. We have proceeded full throttle on our economic recovery program because a strong, growing economy, without inflation, is the surest, most equitable way to ease the pressure on all the segments of our society.

The well - being of blacks — like the well - being of every other American — is linked directly to the health of the economy. For example industries in which blacks had made significant gains in employment — substantial gains, like autos and steel — have been particularly hard hit. And last hired, first fired is a familiar refrain to too many black workers. And I don't need to tell this group what inflation has done to those who can least afford it. A declining economy is a poisonous gas that claims its first victims in poor neighborhoods, before floating out into the community at large.

Therefore, in our national debate over budget and tax proposals, we shall not concede the moral high ground to the proponents of those policies that are responsible in the first place for our economic mess — a mess which has injured all Americans.

We will not concede the moral high ground to those who show more concern for federal programs than they do for what really determines the income and financial health of blacks — the nation's economy. Now I know you've been told that my proposal for economic recovery is designed to discriminate against all who are economically deprived. Now those who say that could be confused by the misstatements that have been made by some who are either ignorant of the facts or those who are practicing, for political reasons, pure demagoguery.

Rebuilding America's economy is an absolute moral imperative if we're to avoid splitting this society in two with class against class. I do not intend to let America drift further toward economic segregation. We must change the economic direction of this country to bring more blacks into the mainstream and we must do it now. (Applause.)

In 1938, before we had the equality we know today, Langston Hughes wrote, "Oh yes, I say it plain — America never was America to me — And yet I swear this oath — America will be!"

America will be. This is the philosophy the people proclaimed in last November's election. America will be. And this time, she will be for everyone. Together, we can re-create for every citizen the same economic opportunities that we saw lift up a land of immigrant people — the kind of opportunities that have swept the hungry and the persecuted into the mainstream of our life since the American experiment began.

To a number of black Americans, the U.S. economy has been something of an underground railroad; it has spirited them away from poverty to middle - class prosperity and beyond. But too many blacks still remain behind. A glance at the statistics will show that a large proportion of the black people have not found economic freedom. Nationwide, for example, 43 percent of black families in 1979 had money under $10,000.

Harriet Tubman, who was known as the "conductor" of that earlier underground railroad, said on her first escape from slavery, "When I found I had crossed that line, I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything."

Even after a century the beauty of her words is powerful. We can only imagine the soaring of her soul, what a feeling that must have been when she crossed into freedom and the physical and mental shackles fell from her person.

Harriet Tubman's glory was the glory of the American experience. It was a glory which had no color or religious preference thirst that all people have for freedom.

There are poor people in this country who would experience just such an elation if they found the economic freedom of a solid job, a productive job — not one concocted by government and dependent on Washington winds, a real job where they could put in a good day's work, complain about the boss, and then go home with confidence and self - respect. Why has this nation been unable to fill such a basic, admirable need?

The government can provide subsistence, yes. But it seldom moves people up the economic ladder. And as I've said before, you have to get on the ladder before you can move up on it. I believe many in Washington, over the years, have been more dedicated to making needy people government dependent rather than independent. They've created a new kind of bondage because regardless of how honest their intentions in the beginning, those they set out to help soon became clients essential to the well - being of those who administered the programs. (Applause.)

An honest program would be dedicated to making people independent, no longer in need of government assistance. But then what would happen to those who made a career of helping? Well, Americans have been very generous, with good intentions and billions of dollars, toward those they believed were living in hardship. And yet, in spite of the hopes, the government has never lived up to the dreams of poor people. Just as the Emancipation Proclamation freed black people 118 years ago, today we need to declare an economic emancipation. (Applause.)

I genuinely and deeply believe the economic package we've put forth will move us toward black economic freedom because it's aimed at lifting an entire country and not just parts of it. There's a truth to the words spoken by John F. Kennedy that a rising tide lifts all boats. Yes, I know it's been said, "What about the fellow without a boat who can't swim?" Well, I believe John Kennedy's figure of speech was referring to the benefits which accrue to all when the economy is flourishing.

Now, much has been said and written — not all of it flattering — about the savings I've proposed in the budget which were adopted by the House last Friday. I can assure you that the budget savings we've advocated are much more equitable than the tremendous cuts in social programs made by inflation and the declining economy which can't find jobs for almost 8 million men and women who are unemployed.

Those cuts are exacted without regard to need or age. Let me give some examples. In the prosperity of the 1960s, an era of only a few federal programs costing very little, the number of people living in poverty was reduced by nearly 50 percent. During the stagflation of the 1970s, with many federal programs with huge budgets, the number living in poverty was reduced by only 6 percent.

In the 1960s black unemployment fell from 10.7 percent to 6.4 percent. In the 1970s it increased from 6.4 percent to 11.3 percent. What is more relative to the white unemployment rate, black unemployment fell more in the 1960s but rose more in the 1970s. The declining economy has cut black family income. From 1959 to 1969 the median family income of blacks, after adjusting for inflation, rose at five percent per year, but from 1969 to 1979 income actually dropped.

Now these are hard economic facts which are hard to take because they show massive amounts of government aid and intervention have failed to produce the desired results. A strong economy returns the greatest good to the black population. It returns a benefit greater than that provided by specific federal programs. By slowing the growth of government and by limiting the tax burden and thus stimulating investment, we will also be reducing inflation and unemployment. We will be creating jobs, nearly 3 million additional new jobs in 1982. We will be aiding minority businesses, which have been particularly hard hit by the scarcity of capital and the prohibitive interest rates. And these concerns are what the bipartisan tax cut proposal currently before the Congress is all about.

I said the other day in our convention in the Oval Office that the income a year or two ago — I don't have the most recent figure — for the black community was something like $140 billion. Now in most neighborhoods what really brings prosperity is when the income of that neighborhood is then multiplied by turning over several times within that community.

I must tell you that in the black communities in America the turnover is less than once before the dollars, those $140 billion, go out into the community at large. And that has to be changed.

In the convention last summer Benjamin Hooks, the one that I missed — well, no, this was the Republican convention. I made that one. (Laughter). Benjamin Hooks said to the assembled delegates, "We must decide as a nation if we're to become prisoners of our past or possessors of an enlightened and progressive future." Those are the very words I want to say to you today. We cannot be tied to the old ways of solving our economic and racial problems. But it is time we looked to new answers and new ways of thinking that will accomplish the very ends the New Deal and the Great Society anticipated. We're not repealing the gains of black people. We're solidifying those gains and making them safe for your children and grandchildren. It's time we found ways to make the American economic pie bigger instead of just cutting an ever smaller pie into more but smaller slices. It's time we welcome those Americans into the circle of prosperity to let them share in the wonders of our society and it's time to break the cycle of dependency that has become the legacy of so many federal programs that no longer work — indeed, some of which never did work.

I ask you to question the status quo as your predecessors did and look for new and imaginative ways to overcome minority problems. I'm talking about the kind of courage and questioning your chairman, Margaret Bush Wilson, showed, in taking the heat for the NAACP's controversial 1978 energy statement — a statement which shook the elitists of our country back into the real world, at least for a time.

What I'm asking you to consider requires not so much a leap of faith, but a realization that the federal government alone is just not capable of doing the job we all want done for you or any other Americans.

In the months ahead, as the administration is free to turn attention from the economic program to other needs of America, we'll be advancing proposals on a number of issues of concern to this convention.

We've increased the share of Department of Education Title III funds spent on black colleges and that trend will continue. We have equal concern for the black business leaders of today. Minority business development, as I indicated earlier, is a key to black economic progress. Black - owned businesses are especially important in neighborhood economies where the dollars, as I said, spent have a beneficial multiplier effect.

We want your input. I expect my domestic advisers to be in regular touch with you as our policies evolve. We may not always agree, but new ideas are often sparked by opinions clashing.

Nationwide campaign launched to help East African refugees

WASHINGTON — It is not a pretty picture — the plight of some four million East African refugees who are facing famine and death as they attempt to survive in their parched and stripped homelands.

To make the American public conscious of the plight, the 580,000 - member American Federation of Teachers, AFL - CIO, has embarked on a nationwide public awareness campaign providing teachers with materials and instructional devices they can incorporate within their teaching curriculum beginning the fall to educate students on the matter.

"Parched Tears on Barren Earth" is the theme of the AFT campaign which will be a part of the federation's annual convention July 6-10 in Denver.

"Over the years, the AFT has made a commitment to helping underdeveloped countries. We have reached out to those in Cambodia, Biafra and various South American nations to name a few," said Albert Shanker, AFT president.

"We strongly believe that teachers and students should be made aware of the plight of refugees in East Africa. The packets being produced and distributed by the AFT are innovative and will serve as a worthwhile educational device," he added.

The history of the AFT's commitment to the East African problem evolved last October when its executive council passed a resolution to explore the hunger-related problems plaguing these nations. Then in March, Barbara Van Blake, AFT's director of human rights, spent almost three weeks in Somalia and Sudan where she got a firsthand look at the ugly situation.

Following her return, Van Blake developed a full-scale AFT-sponsored program geared to alerting the public to the human suffering.

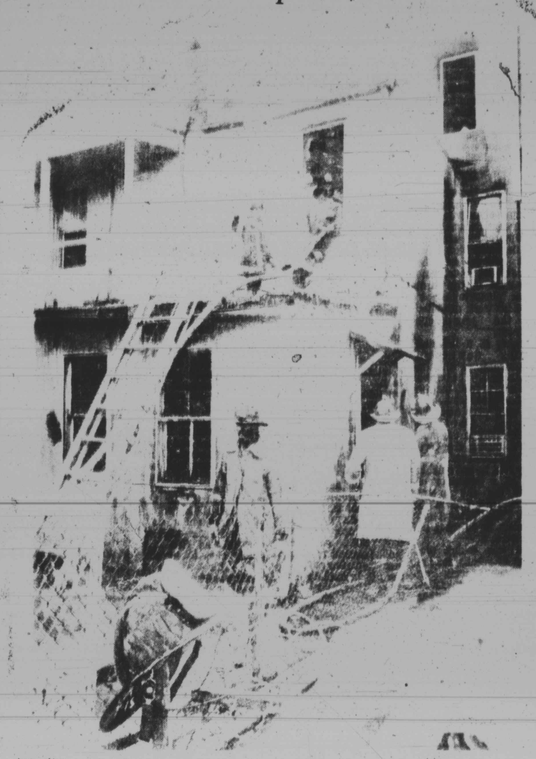
"East Africa, considered by many to be the cradle of civilization, is calling on the world for assistance. During my stay there, I saw scores of children either dying or starving and mothers begging for food for their children. It was a terrible site," said Van Blake.

Van Blake says she is hopeful the same kind of compassionate response the public displayed for the Cambodians will be shown for East Africans.

"It's important that we do all we can to help in Africa be a key trade incentive for the U.S.," she said.

To obtain more information on the project or to contribute, inquiries or contributions should be directed to the AFT East Africa Famine Refugee Assistance Project, 11 Dupont Circle, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Telephine: 202-797-4434.

Man leaps to safety in East Baltimore explosion



AFRO photo by Mark Gail

AT LEAST SEVEN PERSONS — were injured in this two - alarm fire that swept through three floors of a house in the 1500 blk. Caroline Street this week. AFRO photographers Mark Gail and Roman Hankewyczwere on the scene to capture dramatic moments immediately following the explosion. Firefighters at (R) make sure flames are completely extinguished, while ambulance attendants rush Francis Hutton, who leaped from a third floor window during the blaze, to a nearby hospital. The fire which started in the kitchen and was made worse when a 5 - gallon can of gasoline exploded, was brought under control in about an hour, but not before at least seven persons, including five firefighters, were injured. Cause of the blaze is suspected of being arson and is still under investigation.

Unproven claims about aloe vera should be checked out

Products made with aloe vera, a cactus-like plant, are flooding the market these days. Some of the products are being promoted with outlandish and unproven claims that they will cure a variety of serious ills, including cancer, arthritis, diabetes, anemia, tuberculosis, and even blindness.

Claims are also made that aloe vera based products can be used as a complete diet in weight reduction. But there is no scientific evidence that aloe vera in any form can cure or alleviate serious illness, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Nor does aloe vera have any nutritive value.

Some promoters state that FDA has approved their products, but the only use for which aloe vera has been specifically approved is as a natural flavoring in food.

Promoters have been careful, however, not to make medical claims on the labels of their products. If they did, they would be subject to misbranding charges and their products could be taken off the market. But the promoters often use testimonials in their literature and advertising. Food and Drug Administration warns consumers to be wary of any health-care product that is touted on the basis of testimonials rather than scientific evidence.

Consumers should also ignore suggestions that aloe vera is rare or mysterious, as many of the sales pitches claim. The plant, one of several hundred species of the lily family, grows wild in many parts of the country, particularly in the southwest. It is also a common houseplant.

The Food and Drug Administration is reviewing the safety and effectiveness of aloe vera used in over-the-counter, nonprescription, drugs. A substance obtained from certain species of the plant is used as an ingredient in some laxatives.

A panel of experts that evaluated laxative products for FDA has said that aloe is an acceptable ingredient but should be used sparingly. However, some medical authorities, including the American Medical Association, believe that aloe should not be used as a laxative because of its unpredictable and sometimes violent actions.

Two other FDA advisory panels have found that there is not enough scientific evidence to show that aloe vera is useful for the treatment of minor burns, scuts, and abrasions or for minor vaginairritations. Both panels have recommended that further tests be made.

Food and Drug Administration officials are studying the recommendations of these panels. In the meantime, drug products and cosmetics that contain aloe vera can continue to be sold. Ingredients in cosmetics do not have to be proved safe before the products goes on the market.

Another reason to suspect the aloe vera products is that the sales organizations themselves. These include pyramid type promotions and other alleged get-rich-quick schemes rather than straightforward methods that rely on the integrity of the product.

8,000 Deltas expected for 36th national convention

The 38th national convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., will be held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel from Aug. 1-5. In addition to official activities at the Sheraton Washington, convention functions will also be held at the Washington Hilton and the Shoreham Hotel.

Some 8,000 Delta delegates from all over the country are expected to attend the convention whose theme is "Delta's Impact on the 80s: Black Youth, Black Women," said Ms. Bailey, national president.

"It will be an exciting convention for us," she said, "because our members are returning to Washington where Delta Sigma Theta was founded in 1913 at Howard University. It's a Delta family reunion .. a coming home for us."

A major event of the convention will be a march down Pennsylvania Avenue to the steps of the U.S. Capitol Sunday, Aug. 2, by white clad Delta women who will relive the suffragette march of 1913 in which Delta founders participated.

An ecumenical service will be held at the Capitol and prayers for the nation will be offered. On Sunday evening at a public meeting in the International Ballroom of the Washington Hilton, Ms. Bailey will deliver the President's Address and the Sorority's Osceola Awards for outstanding cultural achievements will be presented in a salute to black performing arts.

Recipients will include the Fisk University Jubilee Singers, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, the Arthur Mitchell Dance Theatre, the Arthur Mitchell Dance Theatre of Harlem, the Negro Ensemble Company (Douglas Turner Ward) and famed actors Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee.

On Tuesday morning, Aug. 4, Secretary Samuel R. Pierce, of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, will address the convention. A panel discussion on "The Economics of the Reagan Administration" led by moderator Chuck Stone, follows.

The Sorority's coveted Mary Church Terrell Awards, named for the late educator and civic leader of the nation's capital, will be bestowed at a luncheon.

Also on Tuesday, a Teen Conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Shoreham Hotel keynoted by Dr. Arthur Thomas, vice President for academic affairs, Central State University, Wilberforce, O.

Issues workshops on such topics as "Black Americans and the Third World," "Health: The Cancers and the Cures" and "The Black Voter: Reaching the other 43 Percent" will highlight Tuesday's session at the Sheraton Washington. Expert authorities in the various fields covered will lead discussions.

On Tuesday afternoon, national civil rights leaders including Vernon Jordan, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Rev. Joseph Lowry and Gary Mayor Richard Hatcher will participate in a plenary session panel discussion of "Advocacy and Networking in the Black Community."

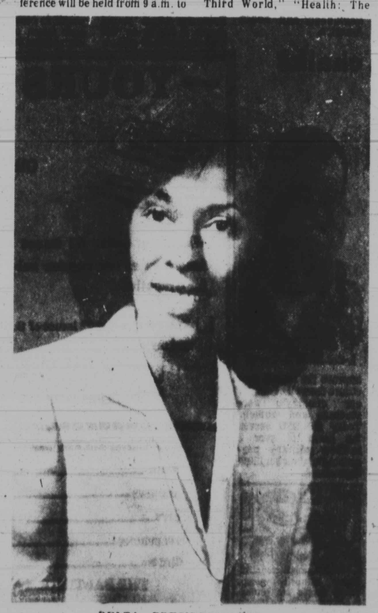
The convention gala starring Peabo Bryson and Sister Sledge will be held Tuesday night at the Washington Hilton.

On Wednesday, the convention's plenary session will be held at Howard University and will focus on undergraduate Delta women. Noted college presidents will discuss "Educating for Excellence." A luncheon follows at the Washington Hilton with a fashion show sponsored by Trans World Airlines ... TWA.

Preceding the Delta convention, a national Black Women's Summit will be held at Howard University July 30-31 for which Ms. Bailey and Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm issued the call. Plans are now being made for the summit by representatives of all major black women's organizations and Delta Sigma Theta is providing technical assistance.

Delta Sigma Theta, a public service organization, has a national membership of 60,000 black women and 695 undergraduate and alumni chapters throughout the nation. Members include such well-known women as Barbara Jordan, Patricia Roberts Harris, Dorothy Height, Nikki Giovanni, Leontyne Price, Lena Horne and the late Mary McLeod Bethune.

The sorority's national headquarters are located at 1707 New Hampshire Ave., NW where questions about the convention may be directed to Ms. Angela Current, executive director.



DELTA PRESIDENT Mona Bailey will officiate at Dehas 36th national convention.

Ms. Loretta Avent named new head of D.C. Chamber

Mrs. Loretta Avent has been appointed as the new executive director of the D.C. Chamber of Commerce and nearly 500 well wishers joined her at the National Press Club, last week, to congratulate and offer support.

Mrs. Avent's appointment follows an extensive reorganization of the Chamber by a special task force, directed by the Board.

Chamber President, Carlton Jones, speaking for the board said, "We are pleased indeed, for the new D.C. Chamber to have as part of its new management system and direction a person with Mrs. Avent's diversified background, high standards of professional performance, dedication, and high community respect and esteem."

Mrs. Avent brings to the D.C. Chamber of Commerce a diversified background in mortgage financing, city, county and regional government, public administration, city planning and housing, and community development.

She has worked as librarian and federal affairs assistant for the National Association of counties; director of chapters and department services, American Institute of Planners; director, conference of Minority Public Administration's Minority Talent Bank, American Society of Public Administration and Citizens Participation Washington Council of Governments.

In addition, she has served as director, educational programs for Regional Council Directors, National Association of Regional Councils; director, Minorities in Real Estate Program for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; assistant director, Office of Urban and Community Affairs, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation; and prior to this appointment, she was director of Program Services for the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.

Mrs. Avent has also served as a consultant for the Affirmative Action Plan for the Quadrangle-Marriott Development Corporation which won the rights to develop the Pennsylvania Avenue Developerviews for the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.

Mrs. Avent has also served as a consultant for the Affirmative Action Plan for the Quadrangle-Marriott Development Corporation, a which won the rights to develop the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation's Parcel 94 in the Pennsylvania Avenue 14th St. Corridor. Recently she was sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors of the Housing Finance Agency.

Her sheer verve and effectiveness as a "trouble shooter" and concern for the welfare of others have earned the praise of many of her contemporaries. "She brings to her work" says Robert Chandler, of the Ford Foundation, "a sense of purpose, enormous energy, an enterprising mind and a gut with people ... integrity and openess."

The D.C. Chamber of Commerce was formed in 1936 by area business people and concerned citizens for the purpose of stimulating and influencing economic development and growth of minority business interests. The primary objective of the Chamber has been to work toward the solution of the economic political and social problems of the community.