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National Roundup

By Larry Still and Art Carter

WASHINGTON — While our women were getting themselves together last month under the leadership of co-convenors Rep. Shirley Chisholm - (D-N.Y.) and Delta Sigma Theta sorority president Mona H. Bailey at the National Black Summit here, the U.S. Labor Department was announcing that white women are (quietly, but obviously) replacing black women in the labor market.

The "disturbing" trend is being regarded as the most significant development in race relations in the 1970s "Decade of Women's Liberation." Black women have traditionally been very active in the labor force, according to the USDL report which reveals that during the last two decades the attitudes of white women toward work outside the home have markedly changed, and their labor market activities have increased considerably.

Consequently, in 1969, black women were more likely to be working than white women (59 vs 52 percent). However, 10 years later, white women were more likely to work during the year than black women (58 vs 56 percent), the report concludes.

The report also documents what most of us already know. The high proportion of 83 percent black males employed in 1969 declined to 72 percent in 11 years to where it is more than three times greater in its decrease than the decline experienced by white men from 86 to 82 percent. It looks like we are still on the "shortend of the stick" and now our women, whom we always depended upon, may be forced back into the kitchen by their "liberated" colleagues.

Also, more white males (25 percent) are receiving more on-the-job training than white women (11 percent) and black women (6 percent) or men (5 percent) . . . "we may expect the earnings gap to widen as these individuals become older," says the USDL study, because "virtually all labor economists agree that on-the-job-training is an important determinant of individual earnings and especially of the growth of earnings over the life cycle."

Incidently — the jobless rate for black men dropped from a record 12.5 percent to 11.6 last month as the white male rate declined to 4.9 (Remember the full employment goal of only four percent unemployed). Meanwhile, the rate of unemployed black youth (14-22) is still at 36.4 percent and government officials are still studying reasons for the latest increased crime rate.

The Job Corps, which is hailed as the nation's most successful training and employment program, has opened its first center in Alabama at 100-year-old Tuskegee Institute and Rev. Leon Sullivan's Opportunities Industrialization Centers will operate another $3 million Job Corps Center in Little Rock, Ark. Paulette Hilton-Robinson, a former Job Corps enrollee who is now a full time doctoral student at Ohio State University, was inducted into the Job Corps Hall of Fame. She is the 18th member of the new honorary institution.

Chicago's Cook County Board Commissioner John H. Stroger Jr. is still making waves in seeking to prevent the Medicaid cutbacks from hurting the poor and elderly. Stroger has been reappointed as chairman of the Medicaid Subcommittee of the National Association of Counties. NACO's 12 steeing committee form the policy-making arm of county government. Each committee is composed of approximately 40 county officials who meet during the year to examine issues critical to local government. Richard Conder of Richmond County, North Carolina is president of NACO.

Ghana's (West Africa) Gold Coast is rising again. A new investment code which provides liberal concessions to foreign investors (especially Americans) has been given unanimous approval by the country's parliament. With the passage of the bill, which originally attracted much criticism because it reportedly conceded too much to the investor, the doors of Ghana are now widely open to foreign investors to explore the country's vast natural resources, including oil and gold.

Previous rigid provisions, such as a clause which pegged the share capital of the state in mineral enterprise at 45 percent, has been removed. So has another clause which sought to give the state not more than 25 percent in the share capital of an enterprise engaged in mineral production. Now the share capital is negotiable, Ghana officials emphasize. Contact the Embassy of Ghana, 2460 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, for further information . . . .

The new emphasis on tax free interest for savings accounts will be a boon to black owned savings and loan associations, most financial observers agree. The Illinois Service Federal Savings and Loan Association is the second largest in the nation, with several branches in Chicago.

Despite their reported break-up as an entertainment couple, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr., are still entertaining together for Living Proof, an organization of entertainers "who are committed Christians without political intentions." The group includes Pat Boone, Phillip Bailey of Earth, Wind and Fire; Ray Parker of Raydio and Dee Dee Bridgewater.

The Rev. Samuel L. Hoard, a Florida Lutheran minister, sends us a copy of his unique book, **Almost A Layman**, in which the author seeks to impress upon his "white, fence-sitting friends how devastating the effects of racism can be and to move them to take an open stand against racist practices . . ." Rev. Hoard says his book also seeks to explain "just because blacks attend predominantly white colleges they do not miss out on the black experience and 'lose their blackness . . ' "

Rep. Cardiss Collins (D-Chicago) was given the highest rating of any Illinois member of the House of Representatives by the state's League of Conservation Voters. The former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus voted for environmental positions 81 percent of the time, according to the league. Congress, as a group, received a 48 percent score. The Democrats averaged 54 while the Republicans averaged 37.

September has become the busiest month of the year for Black America . . . with the emphasis on labor activity, the Afro-Caribbean Day Parade in Brooklyn, the new Solidarity Day March on Washington, the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Week-end and the Black College Day observance. The Black Leadership Forum, headed by NAACP President Ben Hooks and Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, meets periodically to coordinate most of the action. The Forum led the fight to save the Voting Rights Act.

But Hooks told the Capital Press Club recently that it is difficult to get the 16 cooperating organizations to agree on mutual interests because of their separate conventions and agendas . . . We find that some of the organizations are going broke or becoming "paper tigers" while its members and supporters spend millions of dollars in newly constructed convention-hotel complexes before returning to their underdeveloped "inner cities."

Speaking at the National Association of Black Journalists at Louisville's riverfront Gault House, Ebony writer-editor Lerone Bennett reminded the "new young, giants of journalism" that "we've all been through this before . . . we've all seen this movie" . . . of black people taking one step forward and three steps backward in every generation . . . "But, we must do anything, pay any price not to let it happen again," he added.

Bennett's words were documented later by NABJ conference chairman Louis Dechaney, when he presented a 100-year-old copy of an 1881 edition of the Courier Journal with a front page story of "The Colored Press of America" meeting in Louisville to discuss the end of reconstruction.

The National Black Policity Party finally completed its reorganization in Chicago with Ron Daniels re-elected chairman, and Ben Chavis elected as national representative, but not before a bitter internecine effort to keep the "radical right" and the "radical left" from infiltrating the organization. And some participants are not certain the agitators and informers didn't succeed.

This is where we came in . . . . . Later!