National Roundup

WASHINGTON, DC — The startling report that the divorce rate of black women has more than doubled since 1970 is an indication of the drastic changes taking place in American society in the present Despite increasing civil rights, equal opportunity and days or the plantation period . . .

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce report, the ratio of divorced Americans to those still married jumped sharply in the decade between 1970 and 1980, with black women experiencing the greatest

increase of any race, sex or age group . . .

The survey results released by the Census Bureau indicated the divorce ratio for black women more than doubled from 1970, spiralling from 104 to 257 divorced women per 1,000 married women living with their spouses. Among white women, the ratio rose from 56 to 110 divorced women per 1,000 with husbands present, and for women Spanish origin from 81 to 133 per 1,000.

The divorce ratios for men fell significantly below those of women. In 1980 the ratio for black men was 151 per 1,000, white men 74 per 1,000, and males of Spanish origin, 59 per 1,000 men living with their wives. The different ratios for men and women reflect the differences in the male

and female populations. The combined divorce ratio for black men and women (203 per 1,000) was about double those for white persons and persons of Spanish origin (92 and 94 respectively). Of all age groups, persons in the 30-44 year old bracket had the highest divorce ratio (125 per 1,000), according to the

and working conditions according to the old trickle down "supply side" theory We trust that Ted Hagen's National Business League will downtown action, while some are forgetting or overlooking the op-American families are worse off than they were in ante-bellum slavery portunities in their own back yards . . . Now, that these opportunities may be government sponsored, perhaps the "Brothers" in the area will take another serious look at the possibilities

> Incidently, the National Economic Association presented its annual Samuel Z. Westerfield Award to Dr. Phyllis A. Wallace, professor o conomics at the Sloan School of Management of the Massachusett Institute of Technology. She is author of Black Women in the Labor Force and Equal Opportunity and the AT&T Case. The prestigious award is named for the late Dr. Samuel Z. Westerfield, former U.S. Ambassador to Liberia and Washington, DC economist. The award is presented periodically to a black economist who has achieved an outstanding record in the profession and community at-large. The NEA was formerly known as the Caucus of Black Economists, Inc., which recently held a three day seminar here on the economics of the black family

> Milton Morris, director of research for the Joint Center for Political Studies reports that black women now make up about 20 percent of all black elected officials and they are continuing to gain offices at a greater rate than black men The number of black officials has increased every year since the JCPS roster was first published in 1970, following passage of the 1964 and 1965 Voting Rights bill (which still could be

By Larry Still and Art Carter

Increased marital disruption, the report noted, had an appreciable effect during the past decade on the living arrangements of children under 18. The proportion of such children living with both parents declined from 85 to 77 percent

Thus in 1980, one out of every five children lived in a one parent family. Of the 12 million children now living in a non-parent household, 92 percent live with their mother, who very likely was either divorced or separated, the Census Bureau concluded.

Among black children under 18 years old, 46 percent lived with one parent in 1980, up from 32 percent in 1970. Corresponding figures in 1980 for white children rose to only 15 percent from nine percent in 1970. Figures were unavailable for Spanish origin children for 1970, but in 1980, 21 percent lived in one parent households.

And we still wonder about some of the causes for lack of education and traininr for employment, increased welfare and increased crime ... Copies of the report, Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1980, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 or from Department of Commerce district offices in major cities

The nearby community ghetto, which has survived (and thrived) on Urban Renewal (removal of the black residents) and gentrification (return of wealthy white residents) in one generation, will now become the target of federal enterprize zones, another apparent scheme for major corporation and real estate conglomerates to profit off the black urban poor still living in the tax supported slum areas . . .

President Reagan, who has been reducing most domestic government spending programs, has already approved this giant, multi-billion dollar bonanza, in the planning stages, because it provides multi-million dollar tax credits to businessmen, speculators and entrepreneurs for investing in underdeveloped areas created by government policy

Now, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which helped maintain urban slums by financing the removal of middle class white and black residents to suburban developments, is seeking to provide reverse tax incentives for the wealthy homeowner and businessman to return to the inner city

Instead of federal agencies providing more jobs for ghetto dwellers, the Reagan administration is eliminating all public service jobs and employment programs while providing tax credits for major (and

terminated by the U.S. Senate this year) . . . In 1969, there were 1,160 BEOs in the country, but as of July 1981, there were 5,038 black elected officials, not including the results of last fall's elections This total represents only 1.02 percent of all elective offices in the United States and "on the whole, blacks must still depend on support from black voters to win elective office" since the geographic distribution of BEO's still corresponds to the distribution of the black population, Morris reports.

Thus, the Southern states, which contains 53 percent of the black population, also contain 61 percent of all black elected officials O course, this situation may exist because most black politicians only seeking offices in predominantly black communities The election of officials such as Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles and Thomas Courant of Hartford, CT, certainly proves that BEOs may be supported in predominantly whhite areas

If you are interested in a report on the Trade and Investment op-portunities in Africa and the Caribbean Seminar held in Washington recently, contact Erroll A. Gillette, American Association of MESBICS, 915 15th Street, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005. Representatives of Egypt, Zambia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Sudan, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica urged Afro-Americans to seek trade op portunities in their countries at the two-day sessions sponsored by the MESBICS associations and Mayor Marion Barry's international task force . . .

Black religious leaders and the Anti-Defamation League have clashed again over strategy in attacking racism and discrimination in the U.S. The Rev. C. T. Vivian, uncompromising organizer and chairman of the National Anti-Klan network's drive to focus on Ku Klux Klan violence in churches and schools, criticized the ADL contention that the KKK is no longer a serious problem in America because racism is on the

Annual efforts to revive the civil rights movement on a national scale were evident in memorial services for the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. here and in where the MLK Freedom Center was dedicated significantly during the week of former King lieutenant, the Rev. Ansometimes bankrupt) corporations to hire the poor at minimum wages drew Young's inauguration as mayor of the southern metropolis

