NATIONAL ROUNDUP

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Now that passage of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday bill is assured by the activities of the March on Washington coalition and the Congressional Black Caucus (especially Reps. John Conyers (D-Mich.)and new member Katie Hall (D-Ind.), civil rights leaders have demonstrated they can develop positive pressure for the passage of legislation for the benefit of all Americans...But, supporters must not settle for a well deserved "holiday"...The Community Renewal Employment Act, designed to provide one million neighborhood based jobs is still in trouble despite "the stunning support" provided by the New Coalition of Conscience, according to Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Calif.), author of the bill and chairman of the House Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities. If you are serious about supporting the goals of March On Washington II, then write your Congressman and Senator to vote for H.R. 1036 (and the companion Senate bill). This type of political action can even turn around conservative legislators and President Reagan, as they did on the King bill.

The New Coalition of Conscience is also backing House of Representatives Bill (H.R.) 3520, the Rehabilitation Act of Title IV. The bill would restore 1.6 billion dollars in funding for rehabilitation programs for the disabled and low income women and children. Mary Futrell, the new National Education Association president is leading the fight for passage of this important measure through the NEA A compromise has developed on President Reagan's plan to appoint new members of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, but the Coalition lost the struggle to save outspoken Commissioner Mary Berry who was not reappointed. We are surprised.

We are surprised that Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young's call for a national service program to provide training and jobs for the 40 percent jobless youth in the nation was not promoted by Caucus and the Coalition. Speaking to national reporters here, the former Congressman-Ambassador emphasized that some sort of universal enlistment program based upon education and "military type discipline," may be the only solution to the problem of unemployed black youth...The minister peace-advocate did not appear to endorse universal military training, but a broader national service program which could provide training and productive jobs in the newly developed skills and technologiesUnited Negro College Fund specialist volunteer Mahlon Griffin says the proposal would be good for CBC congressional hearings being considered by the Washington based Black Youth Unemployment Task Force organized by Rep. Mervyn Dsymally (D-Calif.)

Despite temporary setbacks by civil rights forces, major "mainstream" organizations are still copying their techniques to support separate agendas...Another "March on Washington" is being planned to protest Administration action in Central America and the Klanwatch Project is soliciting funds following the gigantic Anti-Klan Network demonstration in front of the Federal Bureau of Investigation here led by the Rev. C.T. Vivian who has personally challenged every racist law official in

Rep. John Conyers

Ms. Mary Futrell

Mayor Andrew Young

old Dixie .Send your donations to the Anti-Klan Network.

Another influential coalition developed from last summer's MOW is the Religious Task Force headed by Bishop John Hurst Adams of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Representatives of all major religious organizations participated in the interdenominational task force, including Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam. Farrakhan's short, impassioned call for unity during MOW II still has supporters applauding and promised to become the "I Have A Dream" sequel of this generation if he had not been cut short by platform timekeepers

The Capital is now settling down to serious business before the holiday season following the late summer-early fall convention schedule. Although the usual "much to do" was made over the thousands attending the $150 a plate, CBC gala, the 1,000 patrons attending the National Black Republican Council convention under chairman Leguee Daniels were not overlooked, along with scores of black politicos at the $1,000 a plate Democratic party shindig the following week. All "the wheelers and dealers" are looking ahead to 1984 and don't be surprised if the political jockeying by some key leaders result in a female candidate in the second spot in both political major parties...With female voters now nearly 60 percent of the total electorate and even greater among minority voters, Woman Power is proving to be more influential than Black Power in Jobs and Politics...Presidential candidates Senators John Glenn, Walter Mondale and Alan Cranston told CBC patrons they would happily select a top Black politico as a running mate and the following week told the National Organization of Women convention they would consider a female vice-presidential partner. Maybe we may have both in the same slot as many organizations are setting the pattern...

Rev. Jesse Jackson must register soon for the Iowa and New Hampshire primary election campaigns if he is to be a serious presidential candidate, but supporters realize that he (or another shall we "dark horse") may have a greater chance as the vice-presidential nominee if Jackson enters the Democratic convention in San Francisco next August with a sizeable number of delegates elected in primary campaigns. The minister-civil rights leader-politician must not urge blacks to register and vote for him, but he needs to show he can win white voters in the key state election races

Overlooked in the recent political hoopla was the installation of Rep. Charles Hayes (D-Ill.) as the 21st member of the 98th Congress ...succeeding Congressman Harold Washington, now mayor of Chicago. (We predicted Chicago newsman Lou Palmer would be Washington's successor, but the veteran journalist was sidetracked by the new mayor and Hayes's powerful labor followers) As the first rank and file union laborer to serve in Congress, the 65 year old new member did not

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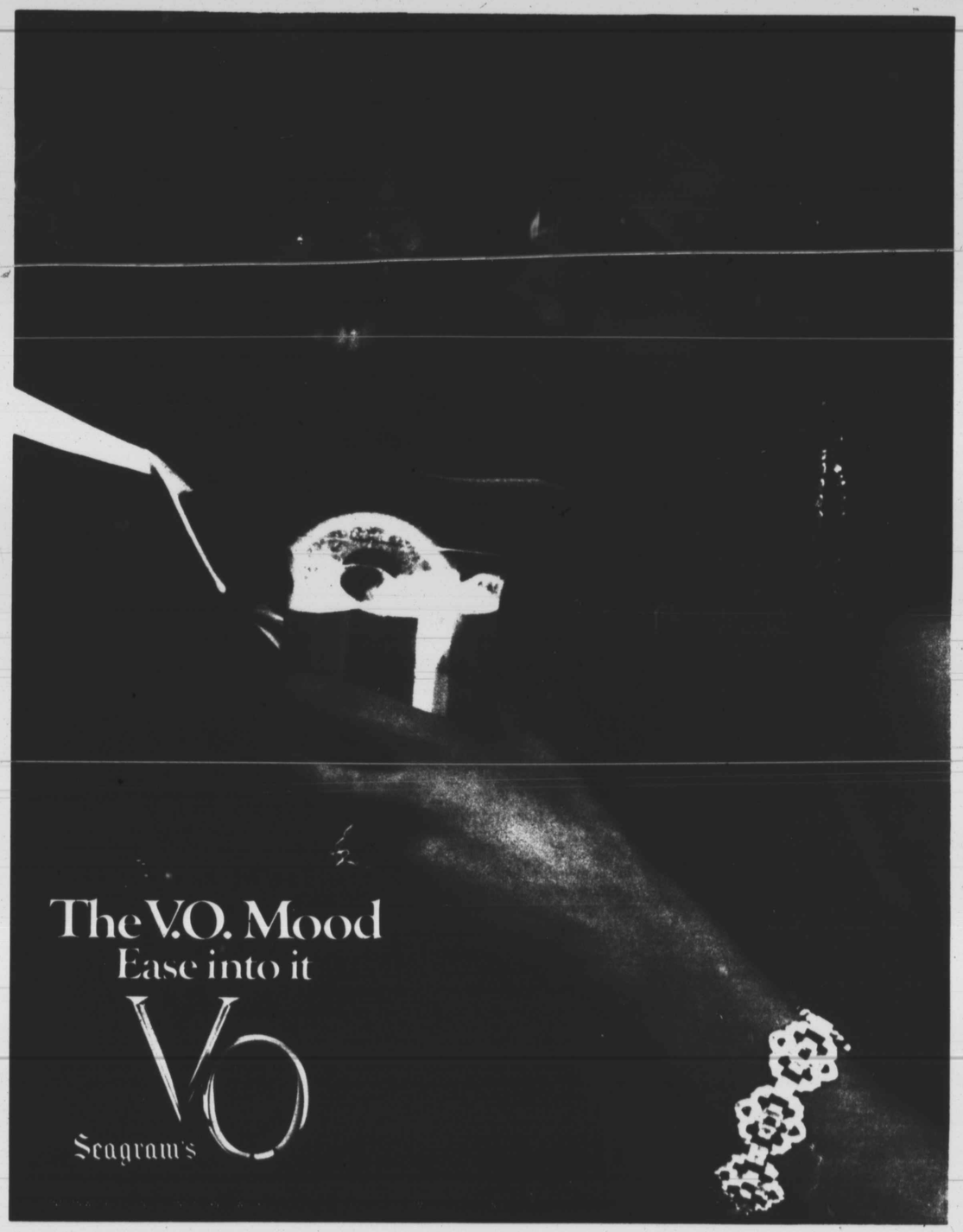
by Larry Still and Art Carter