National Roundup

(Continued from page 12)

him and his wife because of the help the organization has provided throughout his career. "I don't care what position you hold, you should support this organization because it has helped all of us get over," Farrakhan told a black tie crowd. The Muslim minister also issued a dramatic appeal for the support of Reverend Jackson in the presidential race and said his organization will provide protection for the candidate who has received death threats since officially announcing his candidacy. Minister Farrakhan announced that he will register and vote—for the first time in his life, in 1984.

An independent, non-partisan Political Action Committee (PAC) has been organized here by Republican and Democratic leaders "seeking "to transfer the economic strength of the black community into political power..."Called the 21st Century Coalition for Political Action, the group seeks to contribute financially to Democratic, Republican and other candidates who are responsive to the varied concerns of black communities. Additionally, we are interested in providing financial assistance for political education and registration efforts, the announcement stated.

Leaders listed included former Republican Senator Edward Brooke and Councilman Jerry Moore; Democratic Representatives Ronald Dellums, Mickey Leland and Parren Mitchell; United Black Fund founder Calvin Rolark and former D.C. Mayor Walter Washington.

The American Institute for Transportation and Business Development (AITBD) honored Rep. William Gray (D-Pa.) and Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) for their support of the new lobby's program to get more government transportation contracts for minority businessmen. Maurice Dawkins is chairman of the organization and Brenda J. Hamer is executive director...

Proposals for the District of Columbia Cable Television franchise may be accepted until February 16, the deadline for all applications. Contact Antonio-Ruiz, D.C. Government, 1350 E Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20004.

Vernon Jordan, Jr., former president of the National Urban League, received the organization's coveted Equal Opportunity Day Award, along with George Weissman, Chairman of the board of Philip Morris, Inc., recently. John R. Opel, IBM chairman and John Jacob, NUL prexy now, made the presentations. Jacobs replaced Jesse Jackson as speaker at the Atlanta Association of Minority Business Accountants convention when the latter asked $3,000 for speaking before he became an official presidential candidate....Jackson cannot receive pay for speaking engagements now, but he may demand equal time for television appearances of other candidates. A TV debate is in the works soon....

Poet, playwright Amiri Baraka shared the podium with beat generation author Allan Ginsberg here before the Institute for Policy Studies....Sign of the Times:—Howard University reports the average salary of the 1983 graduate is $20,582 with the highest annual income reported at $55,000 and the lowest at $6,000 among 257 graduates surveyed. The most sought after graduate for first year positions are engineering students.

Jesse Jackson

The New Year (1984) is hardly a month old but there is promise of an exciting twelve months, particularly on the political horizon. With Jesse Jackson, who is off and running as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, having established headquarters in the nation's capital, and President Reagan making what looks like a late bid for some black votes, black leaders in both political parties are in a stew...The Democrats are split over the Rev. Jackson's move, although they view the crusade for vote registration as a campaign that is needed but some are undecided as to whether or not Jesse's running is going to divide the votes in the upcoming primaries....The real problem is that many of the veteran Democratic leaders had made unannounced commitments to one of the rival democratic presidential candidates prior to the time the PUSH leader go into the race and they are fearful of dropping off the bandwagon now because they "honestly feel" that Jesse cannot win but might well make it troublesome for their man. It is perplexing but once the primary results begin to come in, the full picture will be developed and we are going to see some switching, jumping and just plain mind-changing.

As for the black Republicans, they are hesitant about sounding off loudly for Reagan as they are unaware that the political feeling in the Black community is stirred up on the slogan—"Reagan Must Go." Little by little, however, the political pundits point out that the Reagan administration is trying hard to get back into the swim in the black voting circles. For instance, in the wake of the signing of the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday bill, which the President had months before indicated he was against. The Reagans (the President and his wife, Nancy) played host to a top drawer gathering of guests at a "Young Artists in Performance Program of Spiritual and Gospel Music" to open the Yuletide holiday season in Washington on December 1....There was nothing unusual about this, except that in this event, the third such music affair the Reagans have hosted, all the artists were black and the event was held at a black Baptist church in the inner city community....The scene of the pre-Christmas program, with Leontyne Price serving as mistress of ceremonies, was the Shiloh Baptist Church at Ninth and P Streets, N.W., in Washington.

Shiloh, founded in 1863, is a historic and prominent church in the city and lists among its members some of Washington's outstanding citizens. The program featuring young artists and the Howard University choir attracted a large segment of the city's music leaders as well as educators, governmental officials and politicians, but it left a bitter pill in the mouths of residents of the surrounding church area. Entrance to the affair was by invitation only, and security was so tight that many who waited on the chilly sidewalks to get a looksee at the Reagans never did so as the Secret Service men insisted that all guests be in the church before the President arrived and stay until after he left, which, of course, they did....And those on the outside had little chance to see the Reagans as their car was routed through the alley to the back entrance of the church while the street spectators were kept behind roped lines. What made it worse, police towed away cars which had inadvertently parked along the street and motorists had to pay $50 to get their cars back. All of this did not set well with many of the people in the neighborhood and their feelings were well expressed by one who was interviewed by a daily paper reporter. This man told the reporter: "He's a cheese president; he gives us cheese instead of jobs." He had reference to the food distribution program the Reagan administration has in effect in Washington whereas a number of churches through the Council of Churches provides free surplus cheese on certain days during the month. So you see, on both sides — Democratic and Republican—the situation in Washington is touch and go.

(Continued on page 23)

THE 75 YEAR MARCH.

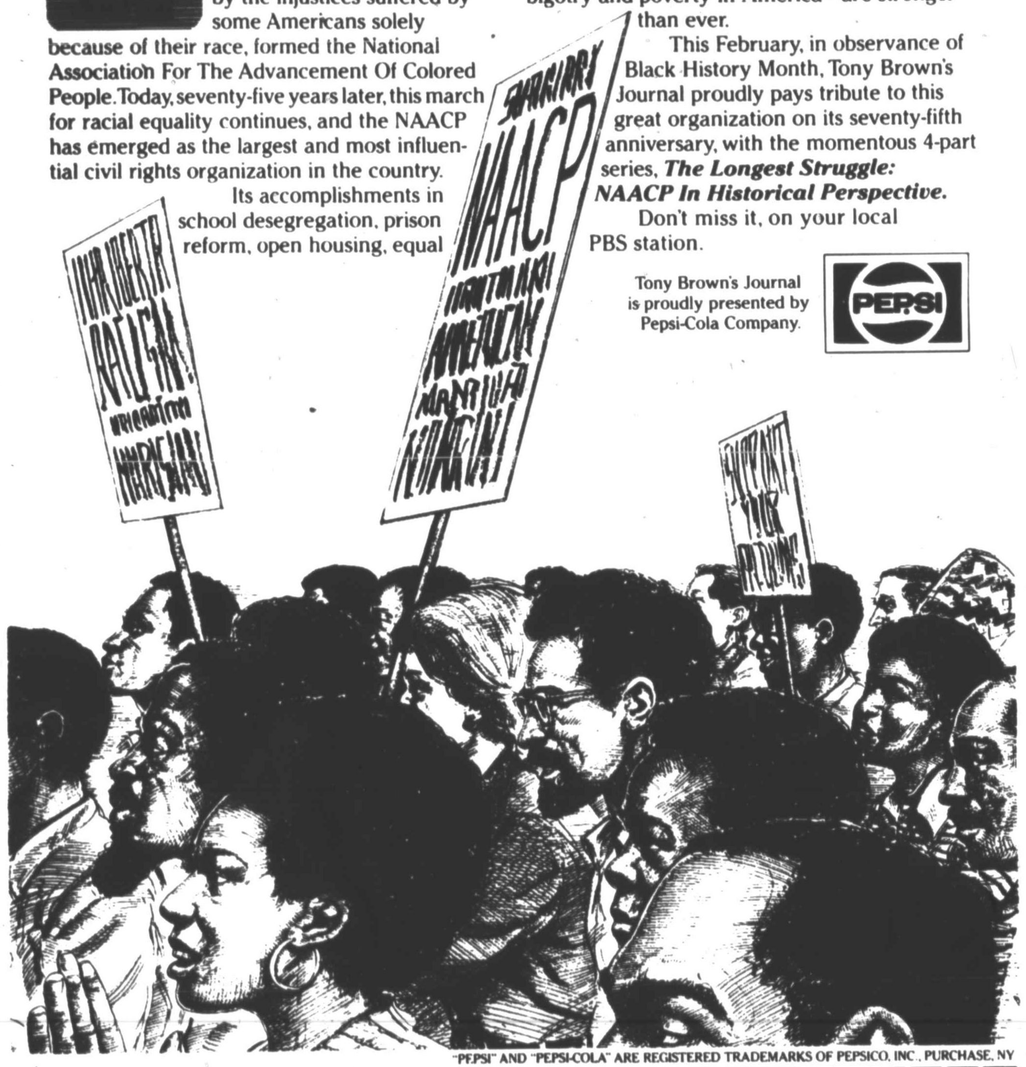
The march began in 1909, when a small group of Black and White citizens, appalled by the injustices suffered by some Americans solely because of their race, formed the National Association For The Advancement Of Colored People. Today, seventy-five years later, this march for racial equality continues, and the NAACP has emerged as the largest and most influential civil rights organization in the country.

Its accomplishments in school desegregation, prison reform, open housing, equal employment and voter registration have been extraordinary. And its plans for the future—its march towards victory over racial hatred, bigotry and poverty in America—are stronger than ever.

This February, in observance of Black History Month, Tony Brown's Journal proudly pays tribute to this great organization on its seventy-fifth anniversary, with the momentous 4-part series, ***The Longest Struggle: NAACP In Historical Perspective.***

Don't miss it, on your local PBS station.

Tony Brown's Journal is proudly presented by Pepsi-Cola Company.



"PEPSI" AND "PEPSI-COLA" ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF PEPSICO, INC., PURCHASE, NY

For an issue of the **Tony Brown's Journal Magazine**, featuring Black historical facts and containing program transcripts and background information, please enclose $3.00 and send to:
Tony Brown Productions
1501 Broadway, Suite 2014, New York, NY 10036