NATIONAL ROUNDUP

Washington, D.C. — The United States Postal Service disclosed plans to observe February as Black History Month this year by issuing the Carter G. Woodson Commemorative Stamp in honor of the founder of the Association for The Study of Afro-American Life and History. Woodson, who was the first black American to receive a doctor of philosophy degree in history at Harvard University, pioneered in the teaching of Afro-American studies at Howard University before establishing ASALH with headquarters here in the capital.

February was chosen as Black History Month because it is the birthdate of so many outstanding Afro-Americans and abolitionists of slavery, including Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln and W.E.B. Dubois, founder of the NAACP. The Woodson stamp is the official U.S. government's 10th recognition of an outstanding Afro-American since the Black Heritage series was started by the U.S. Post Office. Postal Information Officer Ron Powell will help coordinate first cover issue of the stamp available in all branches throughout the nation.

Meanwhile Dr. Samuel Banks, professor of history at Morgan State University in Baltimore has taken over the reigns as ASALH president with a complete housecleaning of the organization. Dr. Sammy Miller has replaced Dr. Rupert Picott as Executive Director of the organization and the publishing arm, Associated Publishers, is being reorganized to provide greater distribution of books and literature about black Americans through schools, colleges, community groups, government offices, and business firms. Ms. Sammie Miller (no relation), Washington representative of the Carnation Milk Co., heads the annual National Observance Committee which kicked off the 1984 Black History Month with a tribute to Dr. Lorraine Williams, retired Vice President of Howard University. Local Observance committees are established in most major cities and ASALH is already planning for its convention here in October, for information on establishing ASALH Chapter and Black History Month Committees in your community, contact Dr. Sammy Miller, ASALH, 1401 14th NW, Washington, D.C., 20005.

The Department of Labor recently announced that the $3.5 billion Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) signed into law by President Reagan replaces the old Concentrated Employment Training Act first authorized by President Lyndon Johnson under the Great Society programs. But few people know that both programs were developed in the House, Labor and Education Subcommittee headed by Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D.-Calif.) who has been pushing for full employment legislation for the past decades. Full Employment was once the main item on Dr. King's Peace, Jobs and Equality agenda but it is apparently being given lower priority by his sucessors...

The new Job Training Act allocates $3.5 billion to provide job training for disadvantaged youth, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) recipients, and dislocated workers. Under the terms of the new Act, the states will receive a block grant from the federal government allowing states and localities to target their specific training and retraining needs. When fully implemented, JTPA is expected to offer training for up to one million Americans.

Dr. Samuel L. Banks

Dr. James Cheek

Cong. Augustus Hawkins

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Deborah M. Hall, of Philadelphia, a secretary with the U.S. Labor Department's Office of the Civil Rights, recently received the department's "Outstanding Handicapped Federal Employee of the Year for 1983" award.

Hall received the award, signed by President Ronald Reagan, at ceremonies held at the Labor Department's mid-Atlantic regional headquarters in the University City section of Philadelphia.

Hall, 34, leads an active, productive life both on and off the job, despite severe handicaps-deformity of both hands as well as double leg-amputations that necessitate her wearing prostheses. An accomplished stenographer, word processor operator and typist, she is also an avid swimmer, amateur singer and ardent fan of the Philadelphia 76ers' basketball team.

"I began working when I was 16-years old," she relates. "In every job I've held, I've tried to give it my best effort. And for the most part, it's never taken very long for my co-workers to accept me as part of the team...once they realized I could do the job and pull my own weight."

Currently, she provides secretarial support to a staff of equal opportunity sepcialists in the Philadelphia regional Office of Civil Rights. This unit monitors programs administered by the Labor Department to ensure that they are open to all eligible persons on a non-discriminatory basis. A 1978 graduate of the Community College of Philadelphia, where she concentrated on social sciences, Hall has also taken advantage of an array of work-related courses offered by the Labor Department and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

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Dr. James E. Cheek, president of Howard University, recently, took the lead in organizing a national mobilization committee to save under-financed Fisk University in Nashville after sending 7,000 Howard employees an appeal in their payroll checks. Meanwhile, Howard is continuing its campaign to establish a multi-million dollar endowment for the University. A total of 6,100 private donors contributed a total of $5,041,622 to the Capital Hill institution, during 1983, including a record $1,248,172.34 from the Alumnus, in addition to $59,942,08 from Alumni Organizations. The amount ranked close behind $1,392,268 in gifts from corporations and $1,531,636.59 from foundations bringing the school's "New Direction" fund campaign to over 57 million....

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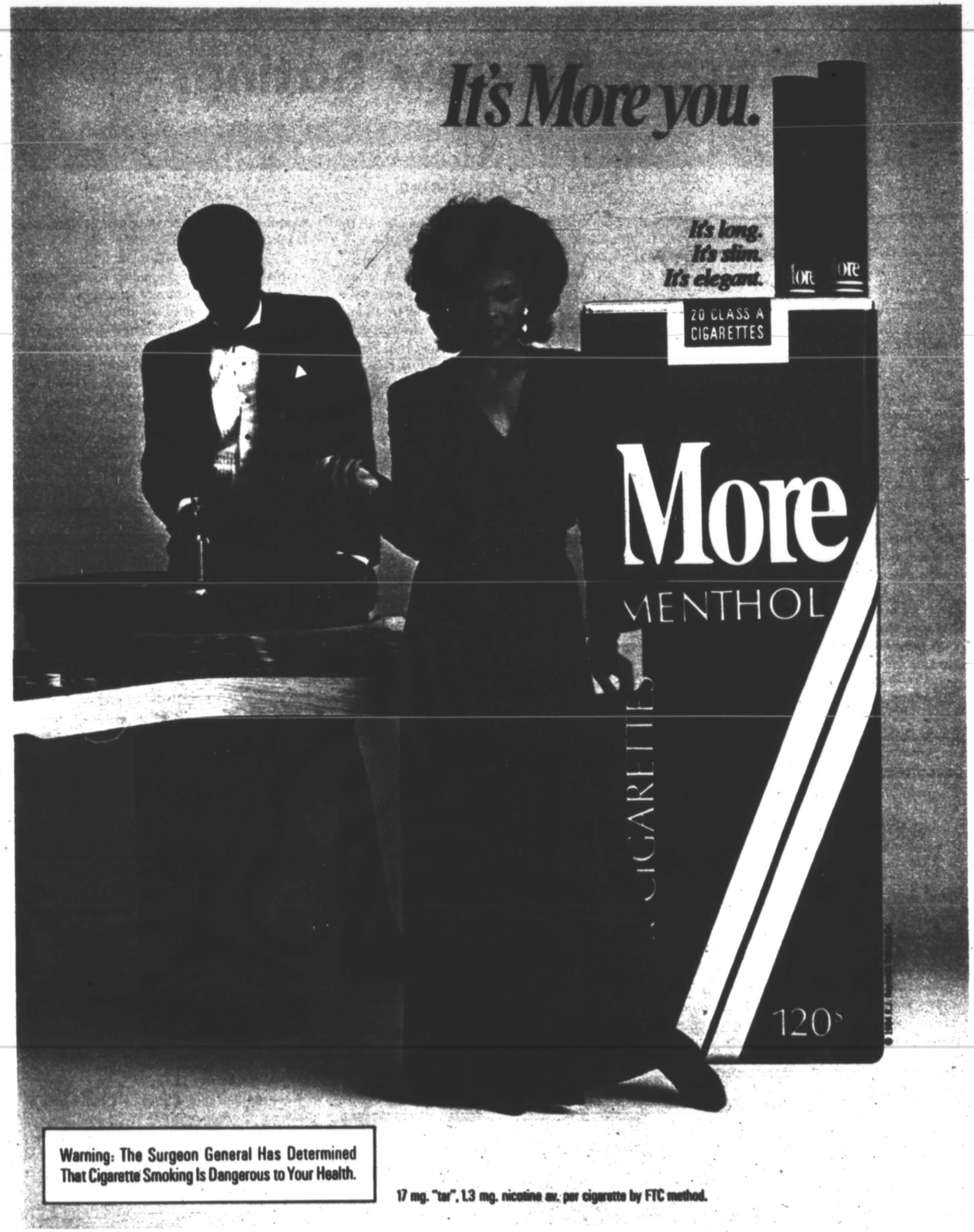
Minister Louis Farrakhan, head of the Nation of Islam, in America has joined the inner circle of Rev. Jesse Jackson's campaign following the presidential candidate's outstanding coup in the Middle East in securing the release of Navy Lt. Robert Goodman. Accompanying Jackson on the successful mission were Rep. Wyatt T. Walker, pastor of Cannan Baptist Church in New York; Rev. William Howard past president of the National Council of Churches and Dr. Andrew Thomas of Chicago.... Meanwhile the candidate's wife, Jackie was in Central America with former congresswoman Bella Abzug president women, U.S.A., and Faye Wattleton, national president, Planned Parenthood, U.S.A.

by Larry Still and Art Carter