NATIONAL ROUNDUP

WASHINGTON — Bolstered by the full endorsement of Rev. Jesse Jackson and undergirded by a meeting of a group of black political leaders with Democratic presidential contender, Walter F. Mondale, the Mondale - Ferraro campaign was officially launched last month.

When newsmen sought to make an issue of Jackson's words of "embracing" the Mondale-Ferraro ticket, Jackson asserted that "the media was just playing games" and that he, in fact, endorsed the ticket and would work hard to insure the election of the Democratic party to defeat the Republican ticket of Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Jackson added that he is also concerned about the congressional elections and the more than 500 black candidates who are running for election in different local races throughout the country. He will focus on the campaign in these 60 congressional districts.

"With seven million Blacks unregistered, we have the opportunity to increase substantially black political empowerment to the extent of our votes making a decisive difference in the presidential election, as well as the congressional and state and municipal elections," he said.

The group of Blacks met with Mondale for several hours to thrash out a common agenda reflecting the priority concerns of both Mondale and Jackson black supporters.

Included are the following appointments in the Mondale - Ferraro campaign: Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit, Campaign vice chairman in charge of voter registration; former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, senior policy advisor; George Dalley, deputy campaign manager for issue development; Doris Crenshaw, a national political coordinator; Jim Dyke, assistant to John Reilly, senior political advisory; Ernie Greene, a national political coordinator; Conrad Mallet, assistant deputy director (Mike Berman) of Democratic National Committee.

Charles Atkins, deputy campaign manager for Ferraro; Barbara Mason, senior political advisor for Ferraro; Michael Frazier, Campaign director for State of Maryland; Gayle Perkins, deputy press secretary; Larry Reid, deputy campaign director for California; Donita Hicks, regional campaign manager for Northeast area; Donna Brazille, deputy director for women issues;

Florence McAfee, assistant press secretary for Ferraro; Dawn Alexander, regional press coordinator; Carl hall, deputy director of scheduling; Michael Pitts, deputy director of surrogate scheduling.

Other participants in the Minnesota meetings were Mayors Andrew Young of Atlanta and Richard Hatcher of Gary, who declined to take an active leadership role in the campaign.

Many Americans still do not realize that civil rights laws are in serious jeopardy, says Ralph Neas, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the coalition of 165 national organizations representing Blacks, Hispanic and Asian Americans, women, labor, the disabled, the aged, religious groups and minority businesses and professions.

Referring to the recent controversial Grove City (Calif.) College decision, Neas outlines how six months ago, the U.S. Supreme Court sided with the Reagan Administration and

Dr. Curtis M. Graves

dramatically narrowed the coverage of Title IX, which prohibited the use of Federal funds at any institution which had sports programs discriminating against women.

As a result of the Grove City decision which restricted the application of Title IX to the particular program in which discrimination is determined to exist, rather than the entire institution, "there is no longer any Federal law which comprehensively prohibits sex discrimination in education. Women's athletic programs have been stripped of the federal protections that allowed women athletes to come into their own over the past decade" in several arenas, including the Olympics, says Neas.

Even more tragically, the Reagan Administration has applied the holding of the Grove City case to other major civil rights statutes: Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. These are the laws, along with Title IX, that prohibit discrimination in those institutions which receive federal funding. These are the laws that have desegregated schools and hospitals and have provided equality of opportunity for millions of Americans.

Because of the Grove City decision and the actions of the Reagan Administration, the federal government may now subsidize discrimination against women, minorities, the disabled, and senior citizens.

The disastrous consequences have already begun. In just the first three months after the decision, the Reagan Administration dropped more than 20 discrimination suits brought by women and minorities.

In response to this unconscionable situation, the House of Representatives quickly acted.

Last summer the House passed the Civil Rights Act of 1984 by a vote of 375 to 32. In the Senate, 63 members, including the Republican leadership, have sponsored the Civil Rights Act of 1984.

But regrettably, the Reagan Administration and the "Radical Right," led by Senators Orrin Hatch, Jesse Helms and John East are vigorously opposing the legislation. They are conducting a stall strategy coupled with a campaign of scare tactics regarding the effects of the bill.

"While we are confident that the measure will pass, we also expect that Senators Hatch, Helms and East will filibuster the bill when it reaches the Senate Floor. With only four legislative weeks remaining in the 98th Congress, the Senate leadership will have to make a concerted effort to ensure that the measure is enacted," Mr. Neas stated.

Thus, every citizen should be busy writing his or her senator now before the November election regarding this significant matter. It may be too late in Novvember.

* * *

NOTES OFF THE CUFF: The Frederick Douglass Home in Washington's Anacostia section has shown a significant increase in visitors in the past two years. All this is due to the decision by the National Park Service to add the Douglass Home to the itinerary of the Tourmobile which includes stops at the White House, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and Jefferson Memorial. NPS records for the past two years reveal figures for the first even months each year have jumped from a few thousand a year to 19,627 in 1983, and 22,035 in 1984. Include the Douglass Home on your program when in Washington; hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DR. CURTIS M. GRAVES of NASA has been named a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Princeton University for the 1984 - 85 school year. Graves, who is deputy director of public affairs for Academic Services, will be studying ways of improving the quality of science and

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by Larry Still and Art Carter

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