TNATIONAL ROUNDUP

correcting information we provided in a recent the November elections. We look forward to American citizens. These groups are among National Roundup column. Since the details reporting the activities of all these organizathe 150 "caucuses" supporting various legislaare significant in this election year, we are tions upon gathering information about their tion in the Capital, which is why support of the enclosing the response from the National Black Leadership Roundtable.

Dear Mr. Still:

of the National Black Leadership Roundtable (NBLR). Holman is serving the Roundtable with distinction as vice office of Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.), we president for Public Policy. However Congressman Walter E. Fauntray is the national president and Chair of the board tional black organizations and caucuses.

I note also that in your opening paragraph you ask,

What happened to the annual summit of repres of all organizations and political persuasions called politics". The "summit", which has now been incorporate as the newly reconstituted NBLR, is alive and perhaps more prolific than ever. The arganization is dictated by its bylaws to meet at least twice annually. In this past year, the issues conferences in at least 21 states where blacks comprice a substantial portion of the population.

These meetings resulted in the publication of the organization's first public policy document, The People's Plutterm. This document was responded to by three of the presidential aspirants, and was extensively used in the shaping of the Jackson Platform as well as The 1984 Democratic Platform. To date, the document has been obtained by some 80 organizations (A People's Platform report will be distributed at the September meeting of the

I agree with your assertion that by and large those in attendance at the Congressional Black Caucus weekend (CBC weekend) are "not grass roots" however, I disagree with your conclusion that the September NBLR meeting will be non-representative of the voting masses. (n fact, we went to substantial lengths and expense to ensure the

We have invited the chief executive officer of every national black organization in the 1984 Blackbeck to attend the September NBLR meeting, and to become a member, or renew their membership in the organization.

More than 800 invitations were mailed out to such ublican Council: the Congress of National Black Churches, and the American Muelim Mission; SCLC, and the National Black Independent Political Party; the NAACP, and the National Black United Front, Invitations were mailed to the traditional civil rights, religious, fraternal, political workers, black firefighters, beauty culturists, drug addicts the physically and mentally impaired, the youth and the elderly and other "grass-roots" blacks.

We apologize for the confusion we demonstrated over the difference between the NBLR and the National Black Leadership Forum, an organization composed of the chief executive officers of 15 major black groups. Republican colleagues to black passage of the We are happy to make this correction, but we civil rights bill in the closing session of the still emphasize the need for a full "summit" Senate after it was passed overwhelmingly by meeting of the Forum which was convened the House of Representatives under the during the recent Congressional Black Caucus - leadership of the NBLR, the Leadership Conannual legislative weekend.

although we are seldom contacted by citizens the communities they serve. who need the spotlight most.

Since receiving the communication from the have been informed of the NBLR's efforts to increase voter participation by 25 percent in the 22 states where black citizens comprise 20 percent or more of the voting age population.

These states include Georgia, North Carolina and Louisiana where black can-



Joanne Burgees MEAC official

didates lost Democratic party primary elections for congressional districts and South Carolina, Mississippi and Ohio, where black candidates had an opportunity to add three more congressional seats to the 21 member Congressional Black Caucus delegation.

In addition, increased black voter turnout in South Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee could have a tremendous impact upon the future careers of conservative white U.S. Senators who helped defeat the Civil Rights Bill of 1984. The November elections may be over by the time you read this, but we trust that voters will have a long memory of Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee, the Republican majority leader, when he seeks the nomination for President, to succeed Ronald Reagan.

Baker was instrumental in allowing ference on Civil Rights, the Congressional Unfortunately, only five of the major leaders Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, the new

We received the following important letter were present at such a critical period before Women's Caucus and the Caucus of Disabled programs. The Black Press is the only media Congressional Black Caucus is very much which primarily focuses on these efforts needed to develop progressive legislation for

> NOTES OFF THE CUFF: In the waning minutes of the bid for adjournment by Congress, an amendment to the Senate's catch-all spending bill called for \$100,000 to mark the site and restore the historic Washington home of the famed educator and political leader of the Roosevelt Days in the White House, Mary McLeod Bethune.

Dr. Bethune (1875-1955) was the founder and president of Daytona Normal and Industrial Institute for Negro Girls, now coed Bethune-Cookman College in Daytana, Florida. She also founded the National Council of Negro Women and was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the director of the Division of Negro-Affairs of the National Youth Administration.

She became a close friend and confidante of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, the president's wife, and the two were instrumental in acquiring many gains for women and young black youths.

Dr. Bethune's Washington home, "Council House," located at 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W., in Washington, served as the first national headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women. It was in this house that Dr. Bethune received and entertained some of the highest officials in government and scores of international and national leaders in the 1940's and 1950's.

Today, the house is the home of the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History. The archives contain the largest manuscript collection of materials pertaining to black women and their organizations, plus extensive correspondence, photographs and memorabilia relating to Dr. Bethune.

For those who may visit the Bethune Home during their trips to Washington, they will find a lot of history there. "Mary McLead Bethune taught not only women and people of her race, she

Continued on page 9

by Larry Still and Art Carter



Very current. Very classic. The Durham and the Rosa.



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