NATIONAL ROUNDUP

WASHINGTON, DC — The nationwide concern over the single-family home, working mothers and teen-age parents is not confined to the black community. Some of the country's top agencies, the Bureau of National Affairs, the Department of Labor, the AFL-CIO labor union and the National Association of Manufacturers arranged to co-sponsor a Washington Conference on Work and Family during April. Alex Herman, chairperson of the National Commission for Working Women, and Dr. Lenora Cole Alexander, assistant secretary of labor, are among key officials making recommendations on improving all family conditions with the help of major private and government organizations. For information, contact the Work and Family Conference, BNA, 2550 M St., NW, Suite 699, Washington, DC 20037.

This year began with the unemployment rate for black men and women dropping to 14 and 12 percent respectively, while the jobless rate for black youth increased to approximately 42 percent. The white unemployment figure for men decreased to 5.9% and rated 6.1% for women with only 18.4 percent of employable white teenagers out of work and 10% of Hispanics unemployed (the lowest rate of all groups). The job figures complete the PICTURE of black family conditions, according to U.S. Department of Labor statistics.

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Washington columnist Dorothy Gilliam who has earned a reputation for "telling it like it is," speaking out more as she told a Labor Department forum "Black Americans are standing at a crossroad, facing dangers more extreme than any of us have ever witnessed in the past." Blacks must "rediscover" what is special about themselves as a people and forge that identity (by) building stronger institutions, she emphasized. We say "amen" to this statement with the growing re-awareness of the need for a strong Black Press and other community mediums of communications.

Art Teele, dynamic president of the National Business League, is reviving the 100 year old philosophy of Booker T. Washington, founder of Tuskegee Institute and the NBL, (in 1900) by developing a coalition between historically black colleges and pioneer black businesses, including the National Newspaper Publishers Association of some 200 black-owned publications...But we wonder why all the resources of the organized Black Church are not being used more in the campaign to strengthen the family. A summit conference of business leaders is being planned for next October, here, by supporters of the growing nationwide "Buy Freedom" campaign, organized by television personality and former Howard School of Communications Dean Tony Brown, chairman of the new Council for Economic Development.

Speaking of coalitions, Rev. Jesse Jackson, 1984 presidential candidate, offered to outline plans for the Rainbow organization he founded when the minister-politician was invited to address presidents of the 114 historically black colleges at the annual conference of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) this spring. Jackson recently joined the board of the Jobs With Peace Campaign, among the many other multi-racial organizations he is leading. JPC officials announced that out the $5,767 in federal taxes paid by the average U.S. household, $3,103 goes for military spending and only $115 is targeted for housing, $126 goes for education and $138 is spent for food and nutrition, according to the government's priorities.

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During the national memorial period for civil rights martyr, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of some 800 black churches, his successor, Rev. Joseph Lowery, announced the results of a victorious SCLC boycott against South African apartheid. The Winn-Dixie supermarkets agreed to remove all imported products from South African from their 1,262 stores throughout Florida and the "old south." Lowery credited the black clergy, the National Council of Negro Women, the National Organization of Women, the NAACP and the AFL-CIO union for their aid in the successful drive.

At a U.S. reception, African National Congress representative Dumi Matabane, announced that the black liberation organization leading the struggle for Freedom in the white controlled nation, is looking forward to celebrating its 75 year anniversary with full citizenship rights for all Africans in the country in 1987. The ANC and the United Democratic Front, a multi-racial coalition of 700 organization in the land of apartheid, moved closer together in unity this year, when the UDE named jailed ANC leader, Nelson Mandela, its honorary president, and adopted the official charter of the black liberators...And, led by Amnesty International, the peace seeking international organization, 50 members of the U.S. Congress sent facsimiles of African "passbooks" with their individual congressional photos to the embassy of South Africa.

The legislators, who demanded an immediate end to arbitrary arrest, imprisonment and forced labor from President Botha and the South African government, included (Senators): Rudy Boschwitz, Bill Bradley, Dennis DeConcini, Christopher Dodd, Tom Harkin, Ted Kennedy, John Kerry, Frank Lautenberg, Carl Levin, Howard Metzenbaum, William Proxmire, Paul Simon, Arlen Specter and Lowell wineiker; and (House of Representatives): Michael Barnes, David Bonior, Barbara Boxer, William Clay, John Convers, Sylvio Conte, William Coyne, George Crockett, Ron Dellums, Thomas Downey, Richard Durbin, Meryn Dymally, Lane Evans, Walter Fauntroy, Barney Frank, Robert Garcia, William Gray, Dennis Hertel, Steny Hoyer, Robert Kastemeier, Peter Kostmayer, Meldon Levine, Matthew, Martinez, Stewart McKinney, Parren Mitchell, Jim Moody, Bruce Morrison, Robert Mrazek, James Oberstar, Major Owens, Tommy Robinson, Gus Savage. Charles Shumer, Esteban Torres, Ed Towns, Pat Schroeder, Gerry Sikorski, Mike Synor, Bob Traxler, Morris Udall, Bruce Vento, Doug Walgren, Ted Weiss, George Wortley, Tom Lantos.

If your senator and/or representative is on the above list, write the member of congress a letter of congratulations for their efforts to end apartheid. If he or she is not, then you should write and ask why.

Meanwhile, back at the White House, key Reagan administration has not given up their efforts to overturn affirmative action goals, but, believe it or not, 69 (out of 100 senators) and seven of 12 cabinet members have urged the president not to change the executive order supported by seven past administrations since the beginning of the civil rights movement.

In fact, the soft-spoken rebels and some 200 supporting organizations took out full page advertisement urging passage of the proposed Civil Rights Restoration Act (which was defeated in the last congressional session) but the sponsors did not exercise equal opportunity by delivering their message in the Black Press which leads in demanding passage of the legislation...Black media and other "minority' communications organizations were also overlooked by some sponsors of the well publicized Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial period. We wonder why advocates of black economic development as another phase of equal rights only focus on the mainstream while overlooking the communities they say that are trying to serve.

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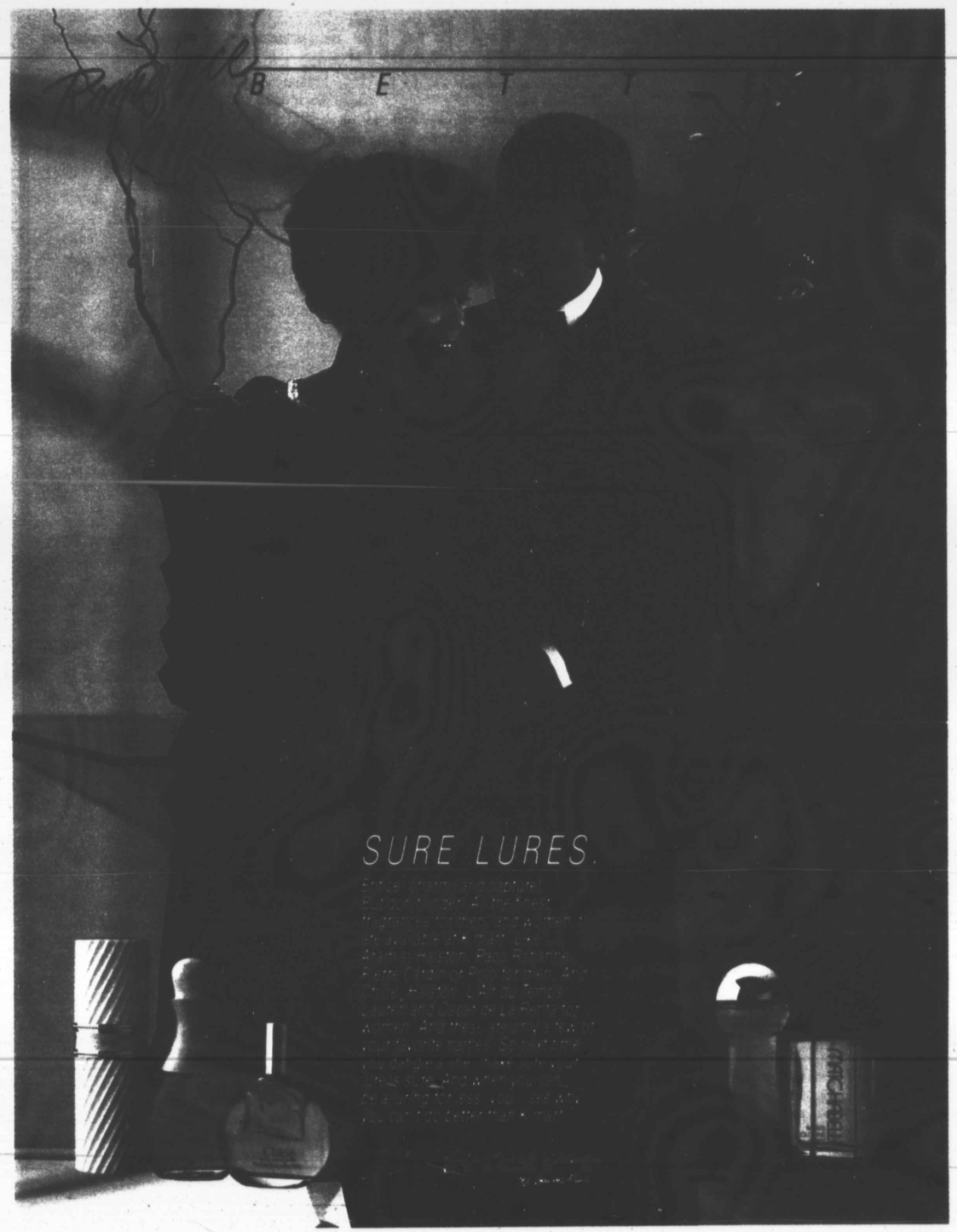
By Larry Still and Art Carter