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# FOCUS

## FIGHTING INFLATION: A NEW STRATEGY



## CARDISS COLLINS & THE BLACK CAUCUS

Joint Center for Political Studies

# Perspective

*(Editor's Note: The following is a guest editorial by Bayard Rustin, president of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute.)*

For quite a number of years I have preferred personal observation to supposedly scientific polls. When I participated in the early Freedom Rides and other civil rights demonstrations in the South, I did not need a computer print-out sheet to inform me that a majority of whites hated black people. My own "unscientific" experience taught me that America suffered from a kind of ingrown racism, that manifested itself in the widespread discrimination and repression of blacks. And I needed no sophisticated economic studies to prove to me that the majority of blacks attended wretched schools, lived in sub-standard housing, and earned considerably less than their white counterparts.

A recent study on racial issues commissioned by the National Conference of Christians and Jews serves as a perfect example of the power and controversial nature of polls. According to the survey, a majority of whites—71 percent to be precise—believes that "after years of discrimination, it is only fair to set up special programs to make sure that women and minorities are given every opportunity to have equal opportunities in employment and education." Based on this and other findings, the Conference concluded that "a period of real progress is now imminent."

All this provoked an outpouring of criticism from several highly respected black leaders. One important black community spokesman claimed that the survey results "do not square with actual behavior." Another civil rights leader noted that the study's conclusions are "not true and totally inconsistent with what we find in our day-to-day lives as blacks and professionals." And still another suggested that the study might be used to justify "going along with the status quo of racism."

In my view, the controversial study—like so many other pseudo-scientific polls—is a mixed bag. Critics who point out that the poll may be used to paint an overly rosy picture of race relations seem to have a point. Allow me to give you an illustration: The headline on the *New York Times* story reporting the survey results read "White Majority Found to Favor Affirmative Action for Blacks if Quotas Are Not Rigid." From this, a casual reader might conclude that all is well, that the last vestiges of racism have finally disappeared.

Among the most disturbing features of the study were the following results: 49 percent of whites still believe that blacks have considerably less ambition than whites; 36 percent agree that blacks simply want a free ride, a welfare hand-out; and 25 percent tenaciously cling to the idea that blacks are inherently less intelligent than whites. To conclude that racism in America has largely vanished and that new breakthroughs are on the horizon strikes me as a bit premature. Although the National Conference of Christians and Jews certainly makes no such claim, the survey results, if surgically dissected and reassembled, can be used to justify complacency and unwarranted euphoria about the condition of black people.

As a mixed bag, the survey also contains some good news, news which should not be ignored. Like numerous other studies—I can think of last year's CBS News/New York Times poll, and several surveys completed by the National Opinion Research Center, General Social Surveys, and the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research—the Conference study documents a slow but rather consistent shift in white attitudes toward blacks. Every poll I have seen in the last few years shows that a significantly larger number of whites now accept the idea of open housing, equal employment opportunity, continued welfare assistance to the poor, and even various forms of meaningful affirmative action.

Again, I hasten to restate my skepticism about polls, but I think I can reasonably assert that my own limited experience confirms the findings of the pollsters. There has been a change in racial attitudes, and the change has been more than merely cosmetic. Racism, of course, has not died, but it has taken a beating. To deny the existence of positive change is to deny hope. And to deny hope is to risk lulling black America into a state of desperation, and apathy. A demoralized movement is the weakest movement of all.

FOCUS

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# CBC: The Southern Regional Forum

by **Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy (D D.C.)**

*Rep. Fauntroy is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.*

"Don't mourn. Organize!" The last words of the immortal labor leader Joe Hill have been taken to heart by the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). On Friday, May 25 and Saturday, May 26, the Caucus, jointly with the Alabama Democratic Conference, in Birmingham, will sponsor a Southern Regional Forum designed to further the development of an action alert network which will maximize the influence of black Americans on national policy issues.

There are only 17 black Americans who serve in the United States Congress, hardly a sufficient number among the 535 members of the U.S. House and Senate to impact heavily upon the outcome of many votes that seriously affect the plight of black and poor Americans.

There are, however, over 100 white members of the Congress who owe their election victories to the margin of votes that their black constituents gave them. Were these members to rally to the call of the Congressional Black Caucus on items of high priority on its Legislative Agenda, the impact of black Americans upon national policy judgments would be tremendous. The development of the "ACTION ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK" in Congressional districts across the nation, and the regional forum, will enable the Caucus to do just that: to expand the impact of the CBC to include all responsible members of Congress.

The Forum is a major step forward in the Caucus' efforts to work with people throughout the country to mobilize black Americans and other groups with similar concerns to play a more influential role in determining public policy on the national level.

## Caucus Efforts

Early in the Caucus' existence, individual Caucus members held public forums in different sections of the country on issues ranging from education to health to national priorities. The Caucus members then put primary emphasis on working through the legislative process to pass laws responsive to the recommendations they had received in the national forums.

It rapidly became evident that far too few members of Congress were sympathetic to the positions, concerns and legislative proposals of the black community. Most strikingly, as was brought out in a study done by the Joint Center for Political Studies, many congresspersons represent congressional districts with large black populations, and the members of Congress representing those districts frequently vote against the interests of their black constituents. (See FOCUS, April, 1978). This was found to be particularly true in the South, where many congressional districts are 30, 35, 40, and even 45 percent black.

The Caucus has pursued, for the past several years, an effort to provide information on current issues before Congress and before the Administration to black and other concerned Americans across the country. Fact sheets have been distributed. Caucus members have spoken out through the media on current issues. The National Black Leadership Roundtable, composed of heads of 150 major black organizations, was formed and involved in the educational effort, and Caucus members have individually traveled throughout the country to spread the word on the congressional process.

There have been results. The 1965 Voting Rights Act was extended in 1975 in part because of such activity; the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act of 1978 was passed in large part because of vocal citizen support at the local level. The constitutional amendment to provide full congressional representation to the District of Columbia was approved by a two-thirds vote of the U.S. House and Senate (See FOCUS, October, 1978) also with national citizen support. And there have been numerous other examples of the success of local citizen action.

The Southern Regional Forum will give persons from the 11 southern states an opportunity to work more closely together in pursuing their concerns at the national level. Following activities arranged by the Alabama Democratic Conference for Friday evening and Saturday morning, there will be a plenary session to discuss major issues now before the Congress, such as the Budget Resolution, and the D.C. Voting Rights Amendment for the District of Columbia, now before state legislatures for ratification.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been active in mobilizing support for an adequate domestic social budget, but as of this writing, the Congress appears intent on passing a First Budget Resolution which starves programs to aid less affluent people while increasing military expenditures.

## Common Strategies

The Forum's afternoon sessions on Saturday will be meetings by state, and sub-meetings by congressional district within states. At these meetings, those individuals present will discuss common strategies to maximize their local influence. Many of those present will be local representatives of the civil rights, civic, labor, religious, and other organizations which make up the National Black Leadership Roundtable, which has met quarterly at the national level in Washington. Black political leaders, community leaders and others from throughout the South, along with state Black Caucus leaders from other areas of the country, will participate as well.

Caucus members also participated in a Town Meeting May 4 and 5 which was planned and organized by the Black-Hispanic Democratic Coalition. This group grew out of a meeting during the December Democratic Party Mid-Term Conference, during which black and Hispanic leaders within the party met to plan a common agenda and strategy on issues of mutual concern. The Town Meeting was held in Houston, Texas, a city with large black and Hispanic populations, and also the home of Congressman Mickey Leland (D Texas), who has led Caucus efforts in this area.

There has been an enthusiastic response to the Southern Regional Forum and to the Houston Town Meeting among Congressional Black Caucus members and among the many persons with whom the Caucus has been in contact across the South. There is a real feeling that we are not going to be taken for granted in Washington any more.

# Interview with Rep. Cardiss Collins

*(Editor's Note: The following is an exclusive interview by FOCUS staffer Barbara LaMarr with Rep. Cardiss Collins (D Ill.) newly named chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). Rep. Collins, 47, has represented Illinois' Seventh Congressional District since 1973. In addition to chairing the Congressional Black Caucus, she serves on the House Government Operations Committee and chairs its Subcommittee on Manpower and Housing. She is on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control.)*

**Q: What plans do you have during your two-year tenure in office for the CBC?**

A: There are a number of things that the CBC is interested in at this time. The one that causes the most concern at the moment, so far as legislation is concerned, is the President's proposed budget cuts. We have geared up all kinds of machinery, we have talked with people, we have had meetings here in Washington—the Black Leadership Roundtable—we have talked with other leaders throughout the country about what these budget cuts will mean and how they will affect our people. And we have discussed it with the President himself.

**Q: What was his response?**

A: He felt that the legislative budget cuts were necessary. While he understood our concern he felt that they were necessary to fight inflation. And we had him to understand that cutting the social programs that are geared for the poor and minorities is not the way to go about it.

**Q: What social programs are being cut?**

A: There are a number. We are very concerned about the CETA program, for example. We're going to lose more than half of the jobs. We are very concerned that youngsters who benefit from the social security program, usually from the loss of a parent, will be cut from the social security program. There are also some cuts in the nutrition programs. There is a cut of one-eighth of the Section 8 monies for new housing construction. Now we discussed those things with the President and he said that he felt that nobody is going to be hurt by them. He just can't show me any kind of logic for how a few cuts in the income of a child, say from the age of 16, is going to help.

**Q: How can you go about changing budget cuts?**

A: Not all of the machinery will be legislative. We are talking to people from the National Urban League, for example. They are not legislators but they can bring pressure to bear. They can let their people know how these cuts are going to affect them and, therefore, we can get a groundswell from the grassroots, if you will. But, those of us who are members of Congress, black members particularly, are in a position to do some things about these budget cuts. For example, we have Bennett Stewart, from Chicago, who is on the Appropriations Committee; we have Charles Rangel, who is on Rules; and other people in key positions who, when these budget cuts come before their committees, can be very vocal and express our views and so forth. In addition to that, by being legislators, we are able to form some coalitions of people who think as we do, for whatever reasons, and therefore our voting strength is increased; and for that reason, legislatively, we feel that we can make an impact on these cuts.

**Q: What else is top priority for the CBC?**

A: Another is going to be the 1980 Census. I guess everybody understands how important that is. First of all, there was the undercount from the 1970 census. It's my own personal belief that we should have roughly three times the number of black members in Congress today and that one of the reasons we don't is that we continue to be undercounted. Another reason, of course, is the way the districts are cut up and how they are gerrymandered. But even then, I am hopeful that based on the 1980 census we will be able to *double* our numbers. Aside from the fact that you want to send more people to representative bodies is the fact that much of the money that comes to the inner-and outer- cities is based on population. The amount of money that goes into the inner city for nutrition, for day care, all of these things are based on population and if our people are undercounted, that means that the few dollars that they get for the city are going to be spread much thinner because more people will have to use them, counted or not.

**Q: Is the CBC going to be working with other organizations to make people aware of how important the census is?**

A: We've pledged ourselves to do that. I myself, personally, am going to be working directly with people at the Census Bureau, to see how we can be of help. The Census Bureau said that they were ready to come to every district that a black person wanted them to come to so they could talk to the people who live there and get them to understand the necessity of filling out their forms and things along those lines.

**Q: What other issues will the CBC concentrate on?**

A: We have two other areas that we are interested in. One, which is of particular interest to us, is federal judgeships. It is my understanding that we have about 500 and something federal judgeships in the United States and of those, only 27 are filled by minorities and, I believe, 11 of those are black. It is also my understanding that President Carter has said that he will create an additional 145 federal judgeships and if he does this, we want to be right on top of the issue with names of people who are eminently qualified. So that of those 145, at least we can get a representative proportion based on population, if nothing more. That's an area that has been severely overlooked and there is no way that we as a people can hope to come even close to getting justice when we don't have justice in numbers.

And, finally, there is no way that we, as black members, can continue to even begin to sit still over the D.C. voting rights amendment. That is important to every one of us. Not because it is a black issue but because we have people in the United States who happen to live in the District of Columbia who don't have the right to have voting representation in either the House or Senate.

We are in the process of dividing the Caucus up into a number of sub-committees or task forces. The purpose for that is because every member of the Caucus has special talents of some kind and also special interests. We will push the implementation of the Humphrey-Hawkins Act, the D.C. voting rights amendment, regional development, coalition politics, things of that nature. Walter Fauntroy will be heading up the D.C. Voting Rights section; he, individually, has done a tremendous job, going throughout the country; and many other things. The caucus will be working in conjunction with Walter to do whatever we can. Now, on an individual basis, what can we do? We can talk it up every time we go around the country. When my own state legislature in Illinois took up the ERA matter, I called all the members of the Illinois delegation that I knew personally and explained to them why it was so very important, wrote letters to my constituents about the whole issue itself. I am doing the same thing on the D.C. Amendment. So there are a number of things that we, individually, can do that will help to augment the efforts of Walter Fauntroy on this.

In May, we will be in Alabama, for the first of several regional meetings. And what we will be trying to do is to see first hand how we are needed and how we can be of help and to let people see us. What we are going to do in Alabama is have a seminar and just really tell people about the legislative process, how we go about it, how their vote is important, what the 1980 election will mean, what the 1980 Census will mean and things of that nature.

It will give them the chance to see that we are not just people that they read about in the newspapers occasionally, but that we are *real* down-to-earth people who are concerned about blacks throughout this nation and particularly about those who cannot afford to spend $1,000 for a weekend to come to Washington, D.C. We're part of them. We're going to go to them.

**Q: Would you consider this your pet project?**

A: I really think that so far as *I* am concerned, my pet project is the federal judgeships, because they are so critical, but next to that it would be. I just want to take the Caucus out of Washington and move it around so that we can build a network of understanding with people and there would be many advantages if we would be able to do that. It would be nice to have a network of people that you could really reach out and get.

**Q: Isn't that possible now? There are so many groups.**

A: Yes, there are many groups but there's no group that is so totally identified with the legislative process. You have the state house groups, for example. Every state that has black elected officials has a black caucus; a black caucus in the city councils; a black caucus in the state legislature; and they are all individual. *We* are the only national legislative body. That's the difference. This doesn't mean that we are going to walk over people and come into their districts and take over. These are the people who will be our contact people.

**Q: You have a lot to do in two years.**

A: Yes, well, if you never start you never get there . . . I think that it's going to be an exciting two years and I guess the most exciting thing of all will sort of culminate in what we are going to do in the election of November 1980. We will have our dinner in September, the elections will be in November, and I think that it is going to be very important, from the time we decide who our nominees are going to be in the conventions, that black people get some real muscle in the Democratic and Republican platforms.

**Q: You have been in Congress since 1973. Have you seen any changes?**

A: I have seen a lot of changes, not only in the makeup of the members but I've seen changes in attitudes, at various times. When I first came here, I was really bothered by some of the conservatism that I saw, and I still am on some key issues. Busing, for example, brings out the worse in a lot of people around here or anything that has black connotations, if you will. But, I have also seen a softening of a lot of lines. I've seen a lot of new people come in who are more liberal than those they are replacing and this is always good. A shocking thing that I have seen, though, and have often wondered about, is that we have so many young Democratic members coming in who have an ideology that is more akin to Republicans. So I don't think you have straight up and down line partisan politics. You have them voting with you sometime; the rest of the time, they vote the other way. And, as a result of that, liberal Democrats don't have the power that they used to have in the House of Representatives, even though we have the numbers.

**Q: Why has this happened? Is there a pattern developing?**

A: I think that it is an overall move in the country that tends to be moving more toward the right. It isn't good for blacks and that's why I am so concerned. I think that you really have a movement toward conservatism. When you see cases like the Bakke case and even more shocking, the Sears case, it shows me that there is a reversal afoot and that our job is to try, first of all, to hang on to what we have; in the way of civil rights and in spite of these roadblocks being placed in our way, to fight and evercome them so that we can continue to grow as a people.

**Q: There is a dearth of black voters between the ages of 18 and 25. They are what you could call hard-core non-voters, many of them are fed up with the system and don't believe that it can work.**

A: Well, they don't have a better system to put in its place and the fact that they are non-participants does not make their cause legitimate. If there is something in the system that they don't like, they at least could exercise the right to vote against it or for it. To say that, well, 'I'm not going to participate because I don't like the system,' is being simplistic.

# Fighting Inflation: A New Strategy

by **Roger Hickey**

*Mr. Hickey is executive director of Consumers Opposed to Inflation in the Necessities (COIN).*

Inflation has clearly emerged as the number one problem on the minds of the vast majority of Americans.

In 1978, prices for the basic necessities of life—food, energy, housing, and health care—increased at a rate of 10.8 percent, nearly twice the rate of luxuries and non-essentials, according to the National Center for Economic Alternatives.

Obviously, this new surge of inflation for basic necessities hurts poor people the most. The "average" family in America spends about 70 percent of its income on the four necessities. Poor people spend almost 100 percent of their smaller incomes on food, heat and fuel, housing and health care. The steady, double digit increases in prices for these essential items are causing real pain and deprivation as people are forced to choose between heating their homes, eating or going to the doctor.

This new surge of inflation, which has eroded poor people's budgets, has also created a powerful conservative political movement which aims to "cure" inflation by cutting budgets for full employment, the cities, social services, and income maintenance programs for the poor. President Carter's new "austerity" budget reflects the power of the new conservative political movement.

The ironic and saddening thing about the conservative "anti-inflation" program now being enacted into law is that it will not significantly reduce the cost of living for poor people or the middle class. Alice Rivlin, director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), estimates that the drastic cuts in the Federal Budget proposed by the Carter Administration in the name of fighting inflation will actually reduce prices in 1980 by only .01 percent.

The new conservatism has gained political momentum in recent years because millions of working people, frustrated and angry at the damage inflation has done to their family budgets, are now desperate to try anything that promises to control spiraling prices. The conservative leadership is all they have heard—so far.

### Alternative Anti-Inflation Program

A very serious campaign to advocate a *progressive* anti-inflation program was announced at a Washington press conference the day before President Carter's television speech on his Phase II guidelines. Led by economist Gar Alperovitz, Ralph Nader, Vernon Jordan, William Winpisinger, and leaders of more than 55 consumer, labor, environmental, senior citizen and minority organizations, Consumers Opposed to Inflation in the Necessities (COIN) demanded government action and called for organized citizen activism to hold down price increases in four "basic necessity" sectors: food, energy, housing, and health care.

At COIN's press conference, Alperovitz read telegrams of support from Doug Fraser, of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and George Meany, of the AFL-CIO, both of whom are backing the effort.

Alperovitz cited analysis by the Administration's own economists that admit that Carter's Phase II wage-price guidelines will have little or no effect on most food and housing price increases. President of the International Association of Machinists, William Winpisinger, pointed out that natural gas deregulation and higher energy prices will hit consumers hard now and continue to do so into the 1980's.

COIN campaign leaders have met with President Carter and his inflation adviser Alfred Kahn, who promised to work with COIN by setting up four "working groups" in the White House to recommend to the President ways to directly control inflation in food, energy, housing, and health care.

The COIN campaign is setting up Task Forces in each necessity sector to propose and fight for programs to stabilize food prices, ensure decent incomes for family farmers and to insulate the domestic food market from the inflationary "jolts" caused by fluctuating international demand. The housing task force will bring together minorities and others, who want new and rehabilitated housing at moderate prices. This will include building trade unions whose jobs will be wiped out if the high interest rate policies of the Federal Reserve Board are allowed to continue.

The COIN program anticipates support from the groups in society now being scapegoated as the cause of our current problems.

Consumers, minorities, and senior citizens, hard hit by price increases for natural gas, gasoline, and fuel oil, are joining with labor and environmentalists through the new Citizen Labor Energy Coalition to demand controls on energy prices and public investment in a transition to low-cost solar and renewable energy.

### A Consumer "Price Watch"

COIN is about to launch a national price monitoring campaign so that citizens around the country can see for themselves what are the real sources of skyrocketing prices for basic necessities. COIN believes this consumer price watch will reveal substantial corporate overcharges, as well as demonstrate the failures of President Carter's wage-price guidelines. And, it can inspire citizens to demand rollbacks of unjustifiable price increases and adoption of an anti-inflation program that can actually hold down prices.

COIN is also encouraging consumers, community organizations, labor, senior citizen and minority groups, and civic leaders to organize local "teach-ins"—such as, seminars and conferences—on inflation and the economy. COIN believes that careful analysis of inflation can shatter the conservative rhetoric that has distorted the debate on inflation and build a new national consensus for a progressive economic program. COIN, itself, is sponsoring a national "teach-in" on inflation June 26-27, in Washington, D.C. Participants will examine the specific structural problems that are causing inflation in the four necessities, as well as the role of the major oil companies, banks, and developers, agribusiness, and the health establishment. It will likely serve as a model for local "teach-ins" around the country.

Citizen action is essential in the battle against inflation. And, people around the country have already begun to organize themselves, recognizing as they do that the conservative offensive cannot be stopped unless people in every community understand the real causes of inflation and demand progressive and effective steps to fight rising prices.

# Telescope

### JCPS Helps Small Cities

East Spencer, N.C. is home for 2,500 people, 60 percent of whom are black and 27 percent of whom live below federally defined poverty levels. Some 30 percent of the town's housing is substandard.

Port Royal, S.C. is in similar circumstances. It is a community of 2,600. Forty percent of its population is black and 20 percent of its people live in poverty. Fifteen percent of its housing is substandard.

Both, in brief, are small disadvantaged towns and, like so many other such places in rural America, they lack funds to do much about their plights. They also lack knowledge and expertise about how to acquire federal funds that could help them grow and develop into more livable communities. They lack staff and technical skills, in such matters as grantsmanship, real estate development, and housing development.

Over the next few months, though, both East Spencer and Port Royal will be receiving federal funds under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. They will be doing so in large measure due to technical assistance provided by the Joint Center's Office of Community and Economic Development Project, launched earlier this year under a contract from HUD. (See FOCUS, February, 1979).

East Spencer will receive $400,000; Port Royal, $371,000. The funds will be used by the cities for such activities as acquiring and demolishing dilapidated housing, expanding sewer services, rehabilitating substandard housing, and improving public facilities.

Three other cities in the rural South which have also been aided—in varying degrees—by the Joint Center will also be funded, for similar projects under the HUD program. Southern Pines, N.C. will be the beneficiary of $750,000; Kingstree, S.C., of $1,700,000; and Hawthorne, Fla., of $316,000.

How has the Joint Center's Community and Economic Development Project played a part? Acquiring funds under the HUD program is a complex, exacting and sometimes frustrating process. Applications must conform to special criteria and data in support of proposed projects must be accurate. Moreover, competition for such funds is extremely intense. Despite a town's obvious needs, as viewed by its residents and public officials, it might not be funded if its application is not adequately articulated, provides insufficient information, or if its officials are unfamiliar with details of the application process. This is where the Joint Center has been able to help. In the case of East Spencer and Port Royal says Director Henry Moore, "We were involved in the developmental stages. We made on-site visits. We designed their pre-application forms, which is really the most critical step. Approval of these forms virtually assures that the final application will also be approved. With the other cities, we also made on-site visits and provided pertinent recommendations for their pre-applications."

At this point, Moore's staff is assisting 21 other small cities throughout the rural South. The needs of these cities are equally as great as the needs of those that have already been approved for funding. Waterproof, La., for instance, is 93 percent black and has a poverty rate of 85 percent. Triana, Ala., 10 percent black, has a poverty rate of 60 percent; 78 percent of its housing is substandard. Of all the 26 cities in which JCPS is involved, 19 have never been approved for a CDBG grant in the past.

Although the help that Moore and his staff have provided has already yielded results, a great deal more remains to be done. "The best part of the program," Moore says, "is that results are not measured solely by the number of cities participating in a workshop or in our on-site technical assistance program where local officials are taught the dynamics of the community development process. The real measure of success is when we see visible change in these cities and in the lives of the people who live in them."—**Robert E. Anderson, Jr.**

### Black United Fund Will Meet in Boston

The Black United Fund will hold its third annual Public Policy Conference June 28 through July 1 at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel in Boston, Mass. The conference will have as its theme "Public Policy and Economic Democracy: Strategies for the 21st Century—Will the Black Masses of the African Diaspora Survive?"

### Black Mayors Meet in Atlanta

"Municipal Development: A Priority for 1980" was the theme of the Fifth Annual Convention of the National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM) held in Atlanta, Ga. April 19-21.

The program included discussions of ways to increase municipal revenue through federal programs, the effects of the 1980 census on city governments, energy conservation, community self-help strategies and international relations.

Featured speakers included Mayor Richard Hatcher, of Gary, Ind., president of NCBM; Jack H. Watson, Jr., assistant to President Carter for Intergovernmental Affairs; and William Peacock, director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the U.S. Department of Energy.

A. J. Cooper, Jr., mayor of Pritchard, Ala., was recipient of the organization's Fannie Lou Hamer Award. The award is given annually to "a living individual whose life symbolizes commitment to the struggle for human rights transformed into concrete political activity."

### Administration Will Provide Speakers on Inflation Policy

William E. Sanborn, director of President Carter's Speakers on Inflation Program, announced this month that organizations looking for speakers to talk about the Federal government's inflation policies should contact his office, 2001 S St., N.W., Suite 213, Washington, D.C. 20009 or call (202) 673-7922.

Sanborn said that interested parties should give the Speakers Program 30-60 days lead time for each speaking request.

### NBC/LEO Holding Mid-Year Meeting

The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC/LEO) will hold its mid-year meeting June 9-13, during the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual conference in Pittsburgh, Pa. The agenda will include a Board of Directors meeting, and a workshop on the impact of the federal budget cuts on blacks.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

President Woody Etherly, who is a councilman from Flint, Mich., said he hoped that as many NBC/LEO members as possible would attend the meeting and participate in the workshop.

For further information, contact Dolores Spurlock or Malachi Knowles at the Joint Center, (202) 638-4477.

### Census Bureau Seeks Aid of Local Government Officials

The Census Bureau has launched a major campaign to enlist the aid of local government officials in over 39,000 communities to ensure that the 1980 Census is the most accurate ever taken.

The program, known as the Local Review Program, is designed to provide a pre-census review by local officials of census household address counts and also a post-census review of preliminary census totals for each community before they are made public.

The program will give the officials the opportunity to rectify errors in the counts while the census workers are still in the field.

For further information concerning the program, local officials should contact: Earle J. Gerson, Chief, Decennial Census Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C. 20233.

## 1979 Roster Forms in Mail

The Joint Center is updating data on black elected officials which will be included in the 1979 edition of the *National Roster of Black Elected Officials.* Persons receiving the questionnaire are urged to take a few minutes to complete and return it to the Joint Center promptly.

### Affirmative Action Group to Hold Weber Case Demonstration

The National Anti-Weber Mobilization Committee, a New York based organization concerned with promoting affirmative action, will hold a national demonstration in Washington, D.C., June 2, to highlight the need for reversal of a lower court decision in the Weber anti-affirmative action case. (See FOCUS, April, 1979).

The decision, now being considered by the Supreme Court, if left standing could impede affirmative action employment programs throughout the nation.

In a letter urging support of the National Anti-Weber Mobilization, Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) said, "Without millions of people speaking to the government, the nation can suffer a shattering setback in the movement against institutional racial and sexual discrimination. Civil rights were won by the people and must be defended by the people."

## JCPS Seeks Data Collectors

The Joint Center is developing a network of individuals throughout the country who will assist our ongoing data collection tasks. Participants will be designated Joint Center Associates and will be eligible to receive any Joint Center publications up to $15.00 in value. Anyone interested in participating in this very important project should contact Ms. Alice Harper at

Joint Center for Political Studies
1426 H Street N.W., Suite 926
Washington, D.C. 20005

or by calling Area Code 202/638-4477.

FOCUS

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