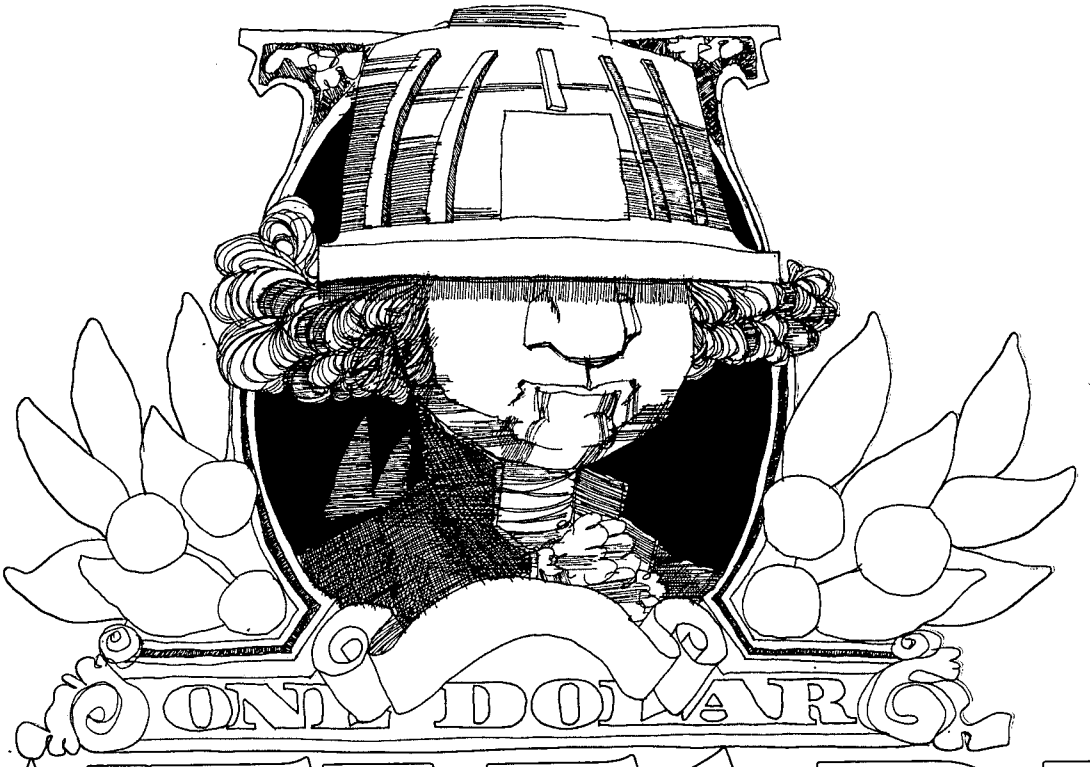
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FOCUS



WELFARE REFORM

Call for November 17th Meeting of Black State Legislators

Joint Center for Political Studies

Perspective

There are now nearly 300 black state legislators in the United States. All have influence on key legislation affecting cities, and many hold important leadership or committee posts which have a significant impact on the role state governments play in our lives.

Despite their small numbers and their substantial influence, black state legislators are not as well organized as other groups of elected officials. But this problem is about to be solved. This month this space is devoted exclusively to a call for these legislators to meet next month.

A historic meeting of the nation's 294 black state legislators will take place in Nashville, Tenn., November 17-20, 1977. Hailed as the First National Institute of Black State Legislators, the meeting will feature two segments: a management training program, sponsored by the Joint Center for Political Studies, and a business meeting of the newly formed National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL).

The Institute, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, is being planned at the request of legislators who asked JCPS to tailor a special segment of its three-year-old Management Training Institute to respond exclusively to their needs. The Institute is funded by the U.S. Civil Service Commission under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

The JCPS Management Training Institute focuses on the "nuts and bolts" of planning, budgeting, and administration and such topics as: the legislative process; intergovernmental relations and communications; and resource acquisition and allocation.

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators was founded in Detroit in August during the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures. (See August-September 1977 FOCUS.) Temporary chairperson of NBCSL is Michigan State Representative Matthew McNeely. Other temporary officers are: Rep. Hannah Atkins (Okla.), Vice chairperson; Rep. Philip B. Curls (Mo.), Secretary; and Sen. Clarence Mitchell III (Md.), Treasurer.

The regional coordinators are: Sen. Sanford Cloud, Jr. (Conn.), Region I; Assemblyman Willie B. Brown, Jr. (Calif.), Region II; Sen. Clarence Mitchell III, Region III; Rep. Melvin H. King (Mass.), Region IV; Sen. Julia M. Carson (Ind.), Region V; Rep. Hannah Atkins, Region VI; Rep. Nathaniel Rivers (Mo.), Region VII; Sen. Regis Groff (Col.), Region VIII; Rep. Charles M. Campbell (Hawaii), Region IX; Sen. George Fleming (Wash.), Region X.

The Caucus plans to serve as the major forum of black state legislators and to play a leadership role in national civil rights and governmental affairs. According to McNeely, the Caucus "will seek the fulfillment of the goals and aspirations of black and disadvantaged Americans while working inside of major national organizations of state legislators and while working outside such structures."

Also participating in the Nashville Institute will be representatives of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University; Legis '50; National Conference of State Legislatures; and the Black Caucus of the Tennessee General Assembly which will host the Institute.

On behalf of JCPS and NBCSL, I am extending this cordial invitation to all black state legislators to attend the Nashville Institute. Any questions concerning the Institute should be referred to Dolores Spurlock (JCPS, 202/638-4477).

We look forward to seeing all black state legislators in Nashville.

Eddie N. Williams
President

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A changing mood toward equality

By Ellis Cose

Mr. Cose, a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times, is presently serving a one-year fellowship at the Joint Center.

It did not happen quickly, but somewhere along the line things began to change. A new mood swept this nation. And somewhere along the line that shift became bound to a lawsuit: The Regents of the University of California vs. Allan Bakke. (See July 1977 FOCUS.)

The case is before the U.S. Supreme Court and a decision is expected next year. The controversy essentially revolves around a central point eloquently and simply summed up by Justice Thurgood Marshall: "You are arguing about keeping somebody out," he pointed out to the attorney for Bakke, "and the other side is arguing about getting somebody in."

The Bakke case, however, is largely a symbol. It is a benchmark of where America has come. The issue, ultimately, is more subjective than objective, more moral than legal. Any decision, inevitably, will rest more on attitudes than on legalities. Where does one person's right end and another's begin?

The law is not like physical chemistry. Water is always hydrogen and oxygen. But the chemistry of law cannot be considered apart from what is happening to a particular society at a particular time.

Howard University professor Faustine Childress Jones noted in a recently published book, *The Changing Mood in America: Eroding Commitment:* "It is the belief of most black Americans in 1976 that there is a clearly changing mood in this nation. . . . At best, the current mood can be described as one of 'benign neglect' toward blacks."

Symbolic Racism

The mood shift, however, is not quite so simple as it sometimes seems. There are few whites, for instance, arguing that blacks don't have a right to equality. There is little, in short, of what one group of researchers call "redneck" racism (John B. McConahay and Joseph C. Hough, Jr., "Symbolic Racism", *Journal of Social Issues,* Nov. 2, 1976). There is instead something much more subtle. And, as Jones noted during her review of a series of the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research Surveys: "The white population in the cities is not universally racist nor can it be divided into contrasting categories called racist and nonracist. White Americans are racist in varying degrees."

McConahay and Hough go to some lengths to explain their concept of symbolic racism, commenting finally: "The final element of symbolic racism is that it is expressed in symbols. Welfare, black anger and militance, riots, crime in the streets, affirmative action programs, fair housing laws, all symbolize the unfair advances of or demands of blacks at the expense of the values that made this nation great."

In one field study, for instance, a number of persons were asked whether "Negroes are getting too demanding in their push for equal rights." The overwhelming number of people who felt that this was true, were inclined to support a scandal-ridden white mayoral candidate over an obviously better qualified black. The opposite was true for those who felt otherwise.

Affirmative Action

In essence, a most curious thing has happened. While the "redneck" racism seems to have declined, the symbolic racism has come to take its place. It is a respectable way to put a halt to calls for such things as affirmative action programs.

Nathan Glazer, a Harvard professor, eloquently argues for this point of view.

Affirmative action, he argues in his book, *Affirmative Discrimination,* "threatens the abandonment of our concern for individual claims and consideration on the basis of justice and equity, now to be replaced with a concern for rights for publicly determined and delimited racial and ethnic groups."

In other words, justice and equity have been thrown out the window, sacrificed to some indefensible concept called affirmative action. The concept is not only unworkable, he argues, but wrongheaded. Still, he offers no creative alternative. He seems to propose instead that things be allowed to take their natural course, that we officially refuse to see color.

That view, taking more and more of a hold, ignores a great deal. It ignores the fact that regardless of whether race is taken note of officially, it most certainly will be taken note of unofficially. Blacks will continue to be discriminated against, they just won't be discriminated for. And the racial caste system will continue.

The affirmative discrimination argument ignores that reality. Affirmative action programs, by that reasoning, are the cause of discrimination — not the solution.

Whether one believes in affirmative action or not, the argument borders on the absurd. For while "discrimination for" does not necessarily balance the scales for "discrimination against", discrimination for is certainly not the root cause of discrimination against.

Thus, to eliminate "discrimination for" and to let things take their natural course only makes sense if one assumes that the natural course is nondiscriminatory.

Instead of facing that, many whites have convinced themselves that racism is largely a problem of the past. In rooting out much of the "redneck" racism, they have convinced themselves that they have largely rooted out racism.

The problem is not so much that whites are arguing against affirmative action as it is that they no longer acknowledge the seriousness of the problems which brought it into being. The benefits no longer, in that view, outweigh the costs. Thus, judgment is beyond the bounds of a Supreme Court decision. For the court follows more than it leads. In 1954, the issues were clearly black and white — just as they were in 1896 (when the practice of separate but equal was formally endorsed). Now things are gray and symbols mask more than they reveal. The Supreme Court case is more an excuse for not dealing with that, as it is an opportunity for sorting things out again.

Carter's welfare reform proposal

One of Jimmy Carter's campaign pledges was to streamline and simplify the existing welfare system in the United States. He maintained that any welfare reform "must recognize that there are three distinct categories of poor people — the unemployable poor, the jobless poor and the working poor." (See September 1976 FOCUS.)

In an August 6 message to Congress, President Carter called for the abolition of the existing welfare system. He proposed in its place "a job oriented program for those able to work and a simplified, uniform, equitable cash assistance program for those in need who are unable to work by virtue of disability, age or family circumstance."

As proposed, the welfare plan would create up to 1.4 million public service jobs, provide cash assistance for the needy, give financial aid to state and local governments, provide incentives to keep families together, and provide benefits for the first time to those who work but whose incomes are inadequate to support their families.

The proposal would cost $30.7-billion in 1978 dollars, $2.8-billion above the cost for existing welfare programs.

Approximately 32 million persons would receive benefits under the new system which would merge the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and food stamp programs into a single cash assistance plan. Approximately 30 million persons receive aid under these programs now.

Jobs

A major component of the President's welfare reform package is a national effort to secure jobs for the principal wage earners in low-income families. Under the jobs program, Carter proposed that the federal government, working along with state and local governments, assist workers from low-income families to find regular employment in the private and public sectors. When such employment cannot be found the worker would be eligible for a public service job.

The 1.4 million public service jobs (including part-time jobs and training) would pay the federal minimum wage, although the state minimum wage would apply if it were higher.

According to the President, public service jobs could be created in the following areas: public safety; recreational facilities and programs; facilities for the handicapped; environmental monitoring; child care; waste treatment and recycling; clean-up and pest and insect control; home services for the elderly and ill; weatherization of homes and buildings and other energy-saving activities; teachers' aides and other paraprofessionals in schools; school facilities improvements; and cultural arts activities.

Job applicants would be required to engage in an intensive five week search for regular employment before becoming eligible for a public service job. After 12 months in a public service job, the participant would have to spend another five weeks looking for employment in the private sector before being eligible again for a subsidized job.

It would be the responsibility of state and local officials to assure an unbroken sequence of employment and training services, including job search, training and placement.

On the state level, the governor working along with prime sponsors under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) would be responsible for a state plan setting numerical goals for private sector job placement, subsidized jobs and training.

On the local level, job applicants would seek assistance from local employment and training agencies. These agencies would give search assistance, make arrangements with public and private non-profit organizations to create subsidized work and training positions and would be responsible for placing all job applicants, including those in public service jobs, in private employment as jobs became available.

In the event that state and local governments were unable to provide an adequate number of jobs, the Secretary of Labor would be empowered to make direct contact with public and private non-profit agencies in an effort to secure more jobs and training slots.

The Carter proposal assumes that unemployment will be down to 5.6 percent in 1981, the year the plan is scheduled to take effect. The national unemployment rate for August 1977 was 7.1 percent.

Cash Assistance

Under the Carter proposal eligible families would receive a flat cash payment. The amount of the payment would depend on which one of two categories the families were in.

The first category would be composed of individuals not expected to work or for whom no employment was available. The aged, blind or disabled and single parents with children under seven would fall in this category. Also in this category would be single parents caring for children from seven to thirteen years of age in areas where no day care facilities were available. However, if day care facilities and part-time employment was available such parents would be required to accept a part-time job during school hours. Refusal to accept such employment would result in reduced benefits.

For those qualifying for income support in the first category, the basic benefit for a family of four with no other income would be $4,200 in 1978 dollars. Benefits would be reduced fifty cents for each dollar of earnings, phasing out completely at $8,400 of earnings.

An aged, blind or disabled individual would receive a benefit of $2,500 and a couple would receive $3,750 under the reform proposal. This is about $100 more than such individuals now receive under the SSI program. These individuals would cease to be eligible for benefits at $5,000 of earnings or at $7,500 for a couple.

The second category of assistance would be for those expected to work. This would include two-parent families with children, single parents with no children under 14 and childless couples and single persons unable to find employment.

For those expected to work, the basic benefit (called a work benefit) would be $2,300 for a family of four. In an effort to encourage continued work, benefits would not be reduced at all for the first $3,800 of earnings and thereafter would be reduced by fifty cents for each dollar earned up to $8,400.

In most cases, under the existing welfare system, two-parent families are not eligible for cash assistance and, therefore, a working father can often increase his family's income by leaving home. Carter noted that in Michigan a two-parent family with the father working at the minimum wage has a total income, including tax credits and food stamps of $5,922. But if the father leaves home, the family will be eligible for benefits totaling $7,076.

A single healthy person would receive a flat cash grant of $1,100 and a childless couple $2,200, if no job was available.

Work Incentives

The expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) would improve work incentives, according to the President. Under existing law, the EITC provides a 10 percent credit on earnings up to $4,000 per year ($400). The EITC is reduced by $1 for each $10 of earnings over $4,000 and is eliminated altogether after $8,000 of adjusted gross income.

Under the Carter proposal, the EITC of 10 percent on earnings up to $4,000 would remain. However, there would be a 5 percent credit on earnings between $4,000 and approximately $9,000 for a family of four (the point at which the family would become eligible for federal income taxes).

The tax credit would be phased out above $9,000 of earnings at 10 percent (i.e. $1 for every $10 of income). The EITC would provide benefits to a family of four earning up to $15,600. The maximum credit for a family of four would be well over $600.

By expanding the EITC and not reducing benefits for the first $3,800 of earnings, the Carter administration believes that work incentives will be improved.

Eligibility

In an effort to insure that assistance goes to those most in need, Carter proposed that eligibility rules be tightened. Benefits would be calculated based on a retrospective accounting period. The actual income of a person over the previous six months would determine whether that person was eligible for benefits. Under the present welfare system, benefits are based on anticipated income.

The reform proposal also calls for a review of a welfare applicants assets to insure that those with substantial bank accounts or other resources do not receive benefits.

Single persons who lived in the same household with parents who received benefits, would not be eligible to file for separate benefits. However, the aged, disabled and young mothers would be entitled to file for benefits separately.

Role of State and Local Governments

Under the Carter reform plan each state would be guaranteed that it would save at least 10 percent of its current welfare expenses in the first year of the program, with substantially increased fiscal relief thereafter.

Every state would be required to pay 10 percent of the basic federal income benefits provided to its residents unless that amount was more than 90 percent of what the state was paying under the existing welfare system.

Under the first year of the welfare program, Carter said that states and localities would receive over $2-billion in fiscal relief, while at the same time ensuring that no current SSI beneficiary receives a reduced benefit and that over 90 percent of current AFDC beneficiaries receive similar protection. States would be required to pass through their fiscal relief to municipal and county governments in proportion to their contributions.

Reaction to the Reform Proposal

A special 29-member House Welfare Reform Subcommittee has already held hearings on the President's welfare reform proposal. The subcommittee, set up to expedite consideration of the plan, includes three members of the Congressional Black Caucus. – Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins (D Calif.), Rep. William Clay (D Mo.), and Rep. Charles Rangel (D N.Y.).

The Caucus members all agree on the need for welfare reform but they have expressed some reservations about the Carter proposal.

After three days of hearings by the special subcommittee, Clay told reporters that the reform plan "doesn't even begin to attack the problems of joblessness of the inner cities of this country." He noted that existing jobs programs have failed to find jobs for unemployed people in his St. Louis district.

Rangel also noted that existing jobs programs have been inadequate in his Harlem district. "It's difficult to deal with this bill with the track record we have now with jobs programs," Rangel said.

Hawkins said that without a cost of living clause in the proposal, workers receiving the same cash assistance in 1985 as they received in 1981 would have their buying power eroded by 25 to 35 percent.

Caucus chairman Rep. Parren Mitchell (D Md.), commenting on the jobs aspect of the reform proposal said: "Even if the unemployment rate does fall to 5.6 percent, there is no guarantee that there will be a proportionate decrease in the unemployment in our cities. Furthermore, at the 5.6 percent level, will the necessary number of jobs open up in the private sector? That is an assumption that is extremely critical to the success of the proposal."

Timetable

The welfare subcommittee, which is composed of the members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Assistance and Unemployment Compensation, the chairman of the full Ways and Means Committee, plus the chairmen and representatives of the Committees on Agriculture and Education and Labor, will hold hearings on the proposal through November. The subcommittee is expected to complete its markup of the proposal by the end of the year. Then the proposal will go back to the three committees who have jurisdiction over various aspects of the welfare reform package — Ways and Means, Education and Labor and Agriculture. These committees will further consider the reform legislation before sending it to the House floor sometime next year.

Oliver W. Cromwell

A look at six mayoral contests

Editor's note: Scattered municipalities in 25 states will hold elections for local officials in November. And in three states — Kentucky, New Jersey, and Virginia — elections will be held for state legislative seats. Many black candidates will be vying for the various elected positions. The following article deals with selected mayoral contests involving black candidates. The research for the article was conducted by Ms. Maybelle Bennett, a member of the JCPS research department.

New Orleans, Louisiana

For the first time in the history of the city of New Orleans, a black candidate has been nominated for mayor. In an October 1 non-partisan mayoral primary, Fourth Circuit Court Appeal Judge Ernest N. Morial led a field of eleven candidates, winning almost 27 percent of the citywide vote and 60 percent of the vote in sample black precincts. Morial was the first black elected to the Louisiana State House of Reprsentatives in the twentieth century and the first black to be elected to an appellate bench in Louisiana.

Approximately 42 percent of the New Orleans electorate is black, and in the sample black precincts monitored during the primary, turnout was about 70 percent of the registered black voters.

Since no candidate in the primary received at least 50 percent of the vote, a runoff election will be held on November 12. Morial will face city councilmember Joseph V. Di Rosa in the runoff. Di Rosa finished second in the primary and received 24 percent of the citywide vote but only 4 percent of the vote in sample black areas.

Bridgeton, New Jersey

Ms. Pauline Boykin, a professor at Glasboro State College and current member of the Bridgeton Board of Education, is running for mayor of Bridgeton in a November 8 special election. The election is being held to fill the unexpired term of former Mayor Edison Shinn who resigned from office. The winner of the special election will hold office until May of 1978.

Ms. Boykin, the lone black candidate and the only woman in the race, faces three opponents: E. Morgan Maxwell, Jr., a former city councilmember and current acting mayor; Anthony Polo, a state employee; and John C. Stanton, an employee with Bell Telephone and former member of the Board of Education.

Bridgeton is a small rural community in southern New Jersey with a black population of about 40 percent.

Detroit, Michigan

Detroit has the distinction of being the first major American city in which two black mayoral candidates will face each other in a runoff election. Incumbent Mayor Coleman Young easily won the September 13, non-partisan primary election garnering 55 percent of the citywide votes and 84 percent of the votes in sample black precincts.

Young will face city councilmember Ernest C. Browne, Jr., in the November 8 runoff election. Browne finished second in the primary and received 21 percent of the citywide vote but only 7 percent in sample black areas.

Detroit's voting population is almost evenly divided between blacks and whites. Turnout of black voters in sample precincts was 45 percent in the primary election.

East Orange, New Jersey

In a June 7 primary election, Thomas Cook defeated incumbent Mayor William Hart for the Democratic mayoral nomination. Cook, a black educator, polled only 362 more votes than Hart and won 41 percent of the citywide Democratic vote in the primary. Hart, who is also black, won 38 percent of the Democratic primary vote.

East Orange has an electorate which is approximately 50 percent black and heavily Democratic. Cook will face his white Republican opponent Daniel Bell in the November 8 general election.

Buffalo, New York

In what was considered an upset victory, State Rep. Arthur O. Eve (D N.Y.) won the September 9 Democratic primary race for mayor of Buffalo. Eve is the first black to be nominated for mayor of Buffalo by either major party.

Eve, a prominent civil rights leader, led a field of four candidates in the primary and received 37 percent of the citywide Democratic vote and 94 percent of the Democratic vote in sample black precincts. State Sen. James Griffin, who ran as an independent, finished second in the primary with 34 percent of the citywide Democratic vote but only 3 percent of the Democratic vote in sample black areas. The third major candidate in the primary contest, corporation counsel Leslie G. Foshio won 26 percent of the citywide Democratic vote.

Buffalo has a black voting-age population that comprises only 17 percent of the total electorate. Citywide, of the 117,509 registered Democrats, 73,988 or 63 percent voted in the mayoral primary. In sample black districts, almost 78 percent of registered black democrats turned out to cast their ballots.

In the November 8 general election Eve will again face Griffin, who is running on the Conservative Party ticket, and white Republican candidate John J. Phelan.

Youngstown, Ohio

Ron Daniels, former professor at Youngstown State University and one of the major architects of the National Black Political Assembly, is running for mayor of Youngstown in the November 8 general election. Daniels, who is running as an independent candidate, did not run in the June 7 mayoral primary. He will face Republican candidate Emmanuel Catsoules, current president of the city council and Democratic candidate Phil Richley, an engineer, in the general election. A little more than one-fifth of Youngstown's electorate is black.

Telescope

Carnegie Book Calls for a National Family Policy

The Carnegie Council on Children, after a five-year study, has published a book entitled, *All Our Children: The American Family Under Pressure.* The new book calls for a "national family policy" aimed at strengthening and preserving family life.

The Council, in its report states that "we do not focus primarily on services for children or on programs designed especially for 'needy' children and families. Instead, we believe the goal of public action should be to change the context in which all families live, so that parents and children are freer to exercise their best instincts about the process of growing up."

To achieve that goal the council recommends that the federal government give highest priority to employment and income support policies for low-income families. The Council recommends that jobs be provided for parents who can work, and a floor of decent income for those who cannot, so that no children grow up in families below the commonly held decency standard, or 50 percent of the median income for every family. The Council maintains that the benefits of such a full employment and income support program would greatly improve the lives of all children and families, and would result in the saving of billions of dollars now spent on remedial, corrective or compensatory programs.

"If our society is determined that the family is to remain the basic institution for rearing children, and if all children are to have a chance to develop and use their potential, then it is necessary for the economic status of American families to be more secure," the Council said.

The Council also strongly recommends equal employment opportunity programs. They advocate more flexible and family conscious work practices and describe ways that could be accomplished.

The minimum income level for all families would be accomplished primarily by employment strategies, and secondarily by direct income supports.

The Council also emphasizes reform and reorganization of public services to support and strengthen — not to replace — families in the rearing of their children. Changes in the delivery of health care to children, so that preventive comprehensive primary care is available to all families is another one of their recommendations.

The Carnegie Concil urges that the nation adopt a family policy "as comprehensive as the nation's defense policy."

Burke Announces for California Attorney General

Rep. Yvonne Braithwaite Burke (D Calif.) has announced her intention to run for the office of state attorney general in California. She announced her candidacy at a fund raising dinner October 15, in Los Angeles. Rep. Burke is the only black woman elected to Congress from California. She was first elected from her Los Angeles district in 1971.

Two Blacks Appointed as PRO's

Two blacks, Wellington E. Webb and Eddie Bernice Johnson, have been appointed to the newly created position of Principal Regional Official (PRO) for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Part of a reorganization plan for HEW's 10 regional cities, the PRO will be the liaison with governors, mayors, the public, special interest groups, and various other organizations.

Webb, who served as a Colorado state representative, will be in the Denver regional office. He will be replaced in the Colorado State legislature by King Trimble, a black Denver attorney.

Johnson, who also served as a state representative in Texas, will be in the Dallas regional office. There will be a special election on November 8 to decide who will succeed her in the Texas State legislature.

Racial Disparities in Health Documented in Paper

Rep. Louis Stokes (D Ohio), Chairman of the Community and Physical Resources Task Force of the House Budget Committee, has released a background paper entitled, "Health Differentials between White and non-White Americans."

The report identifies the racial health disparity that currently exists between whites and blacks, despite recent progress in narrowing the gap. Blacks still experience nearly 50 percent more bed disability days, a 70 percent higher infant mortality rate, and a life expectancy six years shorter than that of whites. Blacks are three times more likely to die of hypertension than whites and almost four times as likely to die of heart disease. Blacks also have twice the incidence of death from diabetes and the death rate from chronic kidney disease is four times higher.

Poverty is also identified as a major factor in health care for blacks. It contributes to problems of housing, sanitation, and nutrition which have strong negative effects on health. Discrimination in education and employment relegates a disproportionate number of blacks to low economic status and also contributes to the lack of supply of physicians in the areas with high concentrations of blacks.

Stokes has introduced amendments that recently passed in the Labor-Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations Bill for Fiscal 1978 that would establish a new medical school at Morehouse College and would provide scholarships of $4.5-million for disadvantaged youths in the health professions.

NOBLE Marks First Anniversary

The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) marked its first anniversary in September and has become an important representative of the interests of the minority community in law enforcement.

Organized as an outgrowth of a JCPS sponsored, "Symposium on Reducing Crime in Urban Low-Income Areas," (See October 1976 FOCUS) NOBLE has expanded its membership from 60 to almost 300 members.It has developed a proposal for a program tying into community anti-crime efforts. Newark's Police Direc-

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tor Hubert Williams, NOBLE's president says, "We hope to serve as a liaison between community groups and police as well as a repository for community anti-crime information."

NOBLE has also sought to challenge some members of the International Association of Chiefs of Police for racist and sexist remarks. Williams says that "these attitudes prevent law enforcement agencies from fulfilling their mandates, especially at a time when we desperately need to attract minorities and women."

Hispanic Poor Decreased While Black Poor Increased

According to new Census Bureau samplings, the number of the nation's poor people with Hispanic backgrounds decreased last year, but the number of black poor rose. Although the federal experts are expressing some caution about the report, it states that of the 24,975,000 people classified as poor, 2,783,000 were of "Spanish origin," representing a decrease of 208,000 or 7 percent from 1975. The number of black poor was estimated at 7,595,000, up 50,000 or 0.7 percent.

The new report, whose definition of poverty involved incomes under $5,815 for a nonfarm family of four, said the nation's overall poverty population had decreased by 902,000, or 3.5 percent in 1976.

Jackson Wins Re-election

Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson won re-election Oct. 4 to a second four-year term with more than 60 percent of the vote against six challengers. The unofficial figures show Jackson with 54,375 votes, or 63.2 percent; Harold Dye, a 69-year-old businessman, with 15,295, or 17.7 percent; Milton Farris, 70, a county commissioner, with 12,265, or 14.2 percent; Emma Darnell, 38, a former city administrator, with 3,560, or 4.1 percent. Three minor candidates received a scattering of the votes.

Correction: In the June FOCUS article, "Environment: A Major Issue for Minorities," by Sidney Howe, it was implied that the cancer death rate for non-whites is twice that for whites. However, since 1950 when the cancer death rate for non-whites and whites was approximately equal, the non-white cancer death rate has increased twice as fast as the rate for whites.

The 1977 edition of the National Roster of Black Elected Officials will go on sale November 25, 1977. To obtain your copy of this valuable reference source, send $15 for each copy to Publications Department, JCPS, 1426 H Street, N.W., Suite 926, Washington, D.C. 20005. All orders for a single copy must be accompanied by payment. On orders of two copies or more, we will send a bill if you request, but postage and handling charges will be added to the bill.

Field Hearings Set on Welfare Reform Measure

Field hearings on the administration's Welfare Reform Bill (H R 9030), have been scheduled by the special Welfare Reform Subcommittee of the House of Representatives. Hearings will be held at the following locations: Huntington, W. Va., Nov. 7-8; Salem, Ore., Nov. 9; New York City, N.Y., Nov. 9-10; Oakland, Calif., Nov. 14-15; Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 16-17; West Memphis, Ark., Nov. 17; Los Angeles, Calif., Nov. 17-18; Miami, Fla., Nov. 21-22.

Individuals desiring further information on the hearings should contact John M. Martin Jr., Chief Counsel, Committee on Ways and Means, 1102 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, (202) 225-3625.

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