VOL. 7, NO. 9 September 1979

FOCUS

HOUSING

FOR THE ELDERLY:

HOW BLACKS FARE

Joint Center for Political Studies

Perspective

In an era of political expediency, Andrew Young was a man who could only be honest with himself and with the public.

In an earlier time of fear and intimidation he marched with Dr. King and, like Dr. King himself, put his body where the truth was—on picketlines, in demonstrations around the South.

In the United Nations he spoke with candor and wisdom. He took his peacemaking role seriously.

Now U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young has resigned from the position of high responsibility which his country entrusted to him. The circumstances of that resignation remain unclear, but the shock of it to black America is evident in newspaper headlines from coast to coast.

A statement by the Black Leadership Forum last month, one of many expressions of concern by black leaders over the resignation, put the situation this way: "We in the black community deeply regret the departure of Andy Young from his post as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. While we do not fully understand the circumstances related to his resignation, we respect his decision to resign. It is regrettable, however, that the President accepted his resignation. . . .

"Ambassador Young has been an indispensable asset in forging foreign policy. He has created new links for America with the Third World. He helped shape and implement a new, more humane and more effective policy toward Africa. He became a symbol of America's concern with the aspirations of the developing nations and our devotion to human rights. Andy Young has served honorably and we believe his accomplishments will be long remembered."

Aside from the resignation itself, aside from the performance of Andrew Young in the United Nations, aside even from the issues involved between the Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.) and the state of Israel, other significant points have emerged from events.

Historically, black Americans have been far more concerned with domestic policy than with foreign policy. Yet in an era of global interdependence, the effects of foreign policy decisions in such matters as tariffs and trade policy and in energy policy affect blacks equally as much as the bread and butter issues of employment and inflation in the United States. We must understand that when an economic crisis affects one nation in the western world it ultimately touches the United States. Thus, blacks should concern themselves increasingly with international affairs.

It was fortuitous that despite the limited access of blacks to foreign policy making positions, the Administration could replace Ambassador Young with so able a black diplomatic representative as Deputy United Nations Ambassador Donald McHenry. He has served his country with great distinction.

In the aftermath of the resignation, racial tensions between black Americans and the Jewish community have been exacerbated. This is a matter of concern to thoughtful leaders on both sides. But there is evidence that this breach can be healed as the two groups—so long allied in the civil rights struggle—close ranks to discuss mutual problems.

There is also the question of the future leadership role of Andrew Young. That a man of his caliber and character will fade from the political scene seems out of the question. He has much yet to contribute to his country. His leadership qualities stamp him as one of the outstanding blacks of his time.

Finally, the resignation has demonstrated that, contrary to conventional wisdom, the fervor of the civil rights movement among blacks is not dead. The unprecedented meeting in New York of some 200 black leaders from around the country to protest Andrew Young's U.N. departure is eloquent testimony to the fact that black leaders can be rallied on very quick notice in response to actions which deeply concern them.

These are some of the conclusions and questions now in the minds of black Americans. They will be discussed more in these pages over the next few months.

Eddie N. Williams
President

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Youth and the Needs of the Nation

by **Roger Landrum**

Roger Landrum, a staffer with the Potomac Institute, was study director for a report recently released by the Committee for the Study of National Service entitled Youth and the Needs of the Nation. *(See FOCUS, February 1979)*

A lively mix of 250 high school and college youth, public officials, educators, and representatives from public interest groups came to a May 30-31 conference called by the Committee for the Study of National Service. The purpose of the conference was to discuss and debate the implications and feasibility of a new system of national youth service. If any consensus can be culled from the meetings, it is that the concept of youth service has enormous potential for meeting a variety of community and national needs, but there are key questions to be considered before legislation should be drafted.

Some of these questions were intensely debated throughout the conference deliberations. Is compulsory national service "involuntary servitude?" If national service is voluntary, will the poor and unemployed participate? Are the various plans for youth service a backdoor approach to a new military draft?

The Committee called the conference as a follow-up to its report, *Youth and the Needs of the Nation,* issued in February. Some 20,000 copies of the report have been circulated, and to set the stage for the conference the Committee asked governors, mayors, youth groups, and non-governmental organizations to prepare studies from their various perspectives and bring the findings to the conference. Congressmen were asked to bring the report to the attention of college and high school students in their home districts.

Co-chair Harris Wofford, a Philadelphia attorney, opened the conference by warning that the country may well be back into a military draft unless those at the conference succeeded in pressing the case for voluntary youth service.

At the first session of the conference, George Gallup Jr. reported a national survey taken in March of this year. Young people (18-24) were asked: "Would you favor or oppose a system of voluntary national service in which young people (both men and women) after high school or college would be given opportunities to serve for one year, either in the military forces or in non-military work here or abroad, such as VISTA or the Peace Corps?" Such a system was favored by 77 percent of respondents, with 14 percent opposed. Thirty-five percent were interested in volunteering themselves (15 percent said "definitely," 20 percent said "they might"). Of those expressing interest, 1 out of 3 would prefer military service, while 2 out of 3 would prefer non-military service. Support dropped off sharply for compulsory service. Forty-two percent favored this for young men, 29 percent for young women. Gallup found, however, that 60 percent of a national sample of all ages were in favor of compulsory national service for young men, with only 40 percent in favor of this for young women.

Similar levels of support for a voluntary system of youth service were reported in surveys from Delaware, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Montana. A Chicago youth newspaper found 60 percent of its readers supported voluntary service. At the same time, the Minnesota study, conducted by the Center for Youth Development and Research, found intense opposition to compulsory service or a military draft.

In a keynote speech, Jeffrey Schwartz, a Cornell student, warned that young people are "extremely suspicious" of plans for youth service because they view them as the flip side of a coin. "The other side is military service."

Not everyone was suspicious about military service or opposed to required service. Rep. John Cavanaugh (D Neb.) said, "Why should those who have benefited the least from society be asked to give their all in defense of those who have the most?" Cavanaugh described his bill (H.R. 3603) that would require either civilian or military service when quotas are not filled by volunteers. Two mayors at the conference, Thomas H. Cooke, of East Orange, N.J., and Robert Buhai, of Highland Park, Ill., reported that their advisory committees favored a mandatory system on the grounds that this was the only way a plan could be made to work. Buhai said that he had been surprised by how interested the youth on his committee were in the idea of national service, though they had reservations about compulsion.

A portion of conference time was spent on discussing what human needs could be served by a system of youth service. Papers were prepared and workshops were conducted on needs that youth could help meet in the fields of conservation and protection of the environment, day care for children, housing and neighborhood rehabilitation, services to the elderly, health care, the arts, and education.

Economist Bernard Anderson spoke on the economic implications of a system of youth service. The tools of economic analysis are inadequate for predicting all the effects accurately, he said, but emphasizing what youth give, rather than what they get, could be an improvement over existing policies and programs for youth. If you assume a million youth are in service, he suggested, the cost would be in the range of $6-billion a year.

By the conclusion of the conference, a full range of proposals and hard questions had been stated, but clear directions seemed distant. Co-chair Jacqueline Wexler, president of Hunter College, made the summary statement. It is clear, she said, that most of the participants opposed compulsion and the military draft in peacetime, but agreed that the possibilities for service would offer important new opportunities for every young person who wished to participate. Restoring "an honest respect for service" would change the tone of selfishness of the country in ways that are critical to our future. The next step, she proposed, is a coalition of groups and individuals who will continue the discussion of these possibilities and opportunities at the state and local levels.

Many at the conference had plans to do this. The Committee, which will dissolve itself this summer, plans to publish a conference report and take the steps necessary to form such a coalition.

Housing for the Elderly: How Blacks Fare

by **Louise Taylor**

Louise Taylor, JCPS Director of Education Programs, is a former consultant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development where she served as Project Director of the HUD evaluation described in this article.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the elderly comprise an increasing share of the nation's total black population. While only three percent of black Americans were aged 65 or older in 1910, the figure grew to seven percent in 1975 and is projected to reach nine percent by the year 2000.

Presently, there are 1,976,000 blacks in this country who are 65 or over. Most live on relatively low fixed incomes, have dwindling assets and high medical expenses. One out of three lives at or below federally defined poverty levels.

The consequences of their low incomes is particularly evident in the housing market. Many, for example, are unable to maintain their single family houses because they are either too ill to do so or lack the funds to do so. Others are paying a large portion of their incomes for rent and are forced to move either into deteriorating private sector housing or into public housing. A large number of elderly persons live with family members because they cannot afford to live independently. There are also those who need but cannot afford home or institutional care.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides housing assistance to the elderly through homeownership programs, nursing home and intermediate care facilities, and rental housing and rent subsidy programs.

One of the first federal efforts to produce housing for the elderly was what is known as the "Section 202" program. (Its name was taken from the authorizing legislation—Section 202 of the 1959 Housing Act.)

The program is generally considered a model for what an effective housing program for the elderly should be. President Carter, in fact, during his campaign for the presidency praised the program as a positive example to be followed in developing new elderly housing policies and promised that the concept of Section 202 would be expanded under his administration.

What is Section 202? How successful has it actually been? How has it met the needs of black Americans?

The program was designed to provide independent living arrangements for elderly and handicapped people whose incomes were above public housing limits but below a level sufficient to afford standard housing in the private sector. The program provides loans to nonprofit sponsors at an interest rate of between three and four percent with a loan term up to 50 years. Although Section 202 loans can be used for rehabilitating or converting existing housing, their primary use has been for new housing construction.

The program was suspended in 1968 during a moratorium on federal housing projects, but was reactivated in 1974 with passage of the Housing and Community Development Act. At the time of its 1968 suspension the program had provided loans for 335 multi-family projects making up a total of 45,000 units.

When the program was reactivated five years ago, HUD's office of Policy Development and Research began an evaluation of the original program to determine how its features should be applied under the Housing and Community Development Act. Earlier this year the department released an evaluation report which dealt with Section 202 housing prior to 1968 and since 1974.

The report finds that Section 202 has been successful in producing good quality, cost-effective and financially viable housing. As for how it has affected the needs of minorities, however, the program has left something to be desired. For instance, the overwhelming majority of projects have few black tenants and are located in predominantly white neighborhoods. Only 5.3 percent of tenants are black and only 13 percent of the projects have minority sponsors.

Although HUD regulations prohibit the exclusion of tenants based on race, a variety of factors apparently have affected the low participation rate of minorities.

Rent Subsidy Problems

Without substantial federal rent subsidies, the apartments are out of the price range of significant numbers of elderly blacks. Under the original Section 202 program, rent subsidies were optional and few sponsors allowed them. When they were available, they apparently were granted only to those already occupying a project rather than being used to attract new low-income tenants.

Some sponsors and apartment house managers, in fact, said that subsidies would bring tenants who would not "fit in" with the other residents. Here are a few comments given to HUD evaluators on the subject:

"No, we don't have any rent subsidies. We're not a public housing program."

"If people ask about subsidies, we just say we don't have rent subsidies."

"Subsidies are a form of charity. We don't encourage taking charity."

Other project sponsors were less direct in their remarks on the matter. Some said they just wanted to maintain a tenant group composed of moderate income people with similar life styles and backgrounds. Others said that the tenants themselves were too proud to accept rent subsidies.

The HUD evaluators also found that project location and the nature of sponsorship are factors in the low rate of minority participation. Most projects are located in predominantly single-family residential or residential-commercial neighborhoods where there is little subsidized housing and the residents are white. Elderly black renters who wish to live near friends, family and familiar social and cultural activities obviously would not be greatly attracted to these locations.

Racial Characteristics of Neighborhoods Surrounding Elderly Housing Projects

Neighborhood Characteristics	% of Section 202 Projects
96% White	41
81%-96% White	13
61%-80% White	16
About evenly mixed	8
61%-80% Non-white	11
81%-96% Non-white	3
96% Non-white	6

Over half of the non-profit sponsors are religious organizations. Many, too, are civic organizations or labor unions. Sometimes the name of the sponsor—such as Quaker Retirement Home, Teamster Housing, or Rotary Club House—not only identify the sponsor but tacitly suggest that the tenants must be members of, or affiliated with, the sponsoring group. This, of course, is not true.

A social service director at one project told HUD evaluators that brochures describing the project for which he worked were carefully worded so that certain groups would *know* they were not welcome and would, therefore, not apply.

One such brochure stated: "We are the People—the Residents—and by a strange anomaly, Hosts and Hostesses, as well. We are mainly retired: salesmen, career women, teachers, bankers, housewives, barbers, technicians, accountants, mechanics, and a representation of a multitude of other professions or careers—all products of the private enterprise system—all have made his or her contributions to the growth and strength of Our Country."

Some of the managers rationalized the low rate of minority residence in their units. Some said blacks just do not like to live in high rise buildings. Others said that the minority elderly have strong family ties and want to remain in the larger family unit elsewhere. Some said elderly persons of all races prefer to live in racially homogeneous settings. They said that people who were not accustomed to living in an integrated environment had great difficulty in adjusting to a new way of life in their late years. Overall, the managers felt, elderly people find projects that are racially, economically and socially alike provide the most secure and comfortable atmosphere.

Lessons From the Past

Only one project manager, however, admitted that he was actually glad that his project had not had to face the problem of admitting minorities. Most project representatives at least *said* they would welcome such new tenants.

Percentage of Elderly and Minorities Served by Section 202 Housing

Non-minority	Black	Minority Hispanic	Other
93.1	5.3	.6	1.0

Of the 1,512 units in projects sponsored by minorities, approximately 88 percent are occupied by minorities. Thus, an increase in minority sponsorship should increase the number of minority tenants. Minority sponsors in one HUD region, however, contend that they have encountered what they feel is subtle racism on the part of area offices. One example of such racism, they say, is the local HUD office's insistence that professional companies be hired to manage projects. The sponsors feel that this policy is an undue constraint on their authority and is part of a larger effort to take control of housing projects—even those sponsored by minorities—out of the minority community. The sponsors added that minorities can develop managerial skills through experience and in the process help promote community pride in the project.

In summary, the 18 year record of the Section 202 housing program does not present a positive picture regarding black participation. That record can be improved, however, under the new Section 202/Section 8 of the Community Development Act which *mandates* that rent subsidies be made available to all tenants. This addition makes it possible for low income persons to afford the rents. Thus, it is likely that the new program will serve a broader range of income groups as well as attract more elderly blacks.

Lessons of the past should be recalled, however, if the black population is to be served adequately. If projects continue to be built in locations similar to those in the original program and if residents continue to associate projects with predominantly white middle class people, the number of black tenants probably will not greatly increase.

There are some steps which minority groups themselves might take to help make the program more relevant to them. Minority churches, clubs and fraternal groups, for instance, should become more familiar with the program and invest their financial and human resources in sponsoring housing for the elderly. Citizens, too, should monitor plans for elderly housing to insure that sponsors are practicing affirmative action in site selection and also that their advertising of such projects encourages minority participation.

"Grow old along with me," wrote Robert Browning, "the best is yet to be." It might be too much to expect that a government housing program can make real any such optimistic credo, but it can improve the living conditions of the nation's black elderly and ease somewhat the hardship of growing old.

(To order a copy of the evaluation report referred to in this article, the full title is Housing for the Elderly and Handicapped: The Experience of the Section 202 Program from 1959 to 1977. *Readers may write: Publications Service Center, Room B-258, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th St., Washington, D.C., 20410. HUD staffers involved in the evaluation included: Martin Abravanel, Director of the Division of Policy Studies, Allan Mandel, and Michael Roanhouse. Prospective sponsors of Section 202/Section 8 housing should contact their HUD area office.)*

Housing Bias Against Chicanos

by **Jon Hakken**

Jon Hakken is on the staff of the Division of Evaluation, Office of Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

(Editor's note: This article is extracted from a recent HUD report by Mr. Hakken on housing discrimination against non-black minorities in Dallas, Texas. The methodology of the survey described in the article is known as an "audit." In an "audit" pairs of people simulate a search for housing in the same places, but one of the pairs is white and the other is from a minority group. The difference in the treatment they receive at the various places is the measure of discrimination. The methodology has frequently been used in tests of the treatment received by blacks and whites. In this report, however, the test was between whites and Chicanos (or Mexican-Americans) an Hispanic sub-group. As a further refinement, the methodology also took into account the skin color of the Chicano auditors, whether light skinned or dark skinned.)

Most studies of housing discrimination have focused on the housing market experiences of blacks. Little is known about the nature and extent of housing discrimination against other minorities.

This study was undertaken as an experimental extension of the nationwide Housing Market Practices Survey (HMPS). Using an "audit" technique, the HMPS study measured the extent of housing discrimination against blacks in both rental and sales markets. This study was undertaken to determine whether the same audit technique could be used to measure the extent of housing discrimination against another minority, the Hispanic.

The audit procedure prescribed that the two members of each audit team be as similar as possible in every respect except skin color and ethnicity. In addition, all of the auditors received rigorous audit training to standardize their behavior as apartment seekers and improve their objectivity.

This study focuses on three issues:

1. What types of discriminatory treatment are Chicanos likely to encounter in the rental housing market?

2. Does the extent to which Chicanos encounter various types of discriminatory treatment depend on their skin color?

3. How does the extent of discriminatory treatment against Chicanos compare to that against blacks in the same rental housing market?

Five types of discriminatory, or potentially discriminatory treatment by rental agents were measured: providing false or incomplete information about apartment availability, offering less favorable terms and conditions in the lease, withholding information about the apartment complex or the lease, not providing common courtesies which might facilitate the rental process, and screening the qualifications of apartment seekers in different ways.

The audit results show that, although dark-skinned and light-skinned Chicano auditors encountered all five types of discriminatory treatment, the dark-skinned auditors encountered discriminatory treatment on availability and on terms and conditions significantly more often than the light-skinned Chicano auditors did. In terms of apartment availability, the dark-skinned Chicano auditors encountered discriminatory treatment at approximately 42.5 percent of the apartment complexes which they visited, while the light-skinned Chicano auditors only encountered discriminatory treatment at approximately 16.0 percent of the apartment complexes which they visited. Dark-skinned Chicano auditors encountered discriminatory treatment on terms and conditions at approximately 20.7 percent of the apartment complexes, while light-skinned Chicano auditors only encountered such treatment at approximately 1.4 percent of the apartment complexes.

Audit Comparisons

In order to determine how the extent of discrimination against Chicanos compares to that against blacks, the audit results for Chicanos were compared to the results of similar audits of the same rental housing market which were conducted with black auditors as part of the nationwide Housing Market Practices Survey. The comparison suggests that, in Dallas, the extent of discrimination against blacks is about the same as that against light-skinned Chicanos, but less than that against dark-skinned Chicanos. Black auditors encountered discriminatory treatment on availability at approximately 17.3 percent of the apartment complexes they visited as compared to 16.0 percent for light-skinned Chicanos and 42.5 percent for dark-skinned Chicanos.

That dark-skinned Chicanos in the Dallas rental housing market are discriminated against significantly more often than either blacks or light-skinned Chicanos in the same rental market is clearly the most important finding of the study. There are several possible reasons. One could be that different rental agents discriminate for different reasons and that dark-skinned Chicanos, as a group, are discriminated against not only by agents who discriminate against Chicanos, *per se,* but also by agents who discriminate solely because of skin color. Another reason could be that rental agents are more averse to renting to Chicanos with dark skins because they consider them to be less assimilated or of lower socioeconomic status than Chicanos with light skins. It is also possible that dark-skinned Chicanos are more likely to be thought of as illegal immigrants.

It should be kept in mind that all of the audits used in this study were conducted in the Dallas metropolitan area; levels of housing discrimination against Chicanos and other Hispanics in other metropolitan areas may be quite different. However, despite the narrow scope of this study, its findings are important because they demonstrate that at least in certain instances, the audit technique can be used to examine the extent of housing discrimination against non-black minorities. This is especially important because so little is known about the extent of housing discrimination against these groups.

Telescope

Black Leaders Strongly Support U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young

The resignation of U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young last month following widespread publicity concerning his meeting with a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) sent shock waves through the ranks of the nation's black leadership. The resignation, believed by many to have been forced by the Carter Administration which maintained that Ambassador Young's action violated U.S. foreign policy, drew sharp criticism from an unprecedented meeting August 22 in New York of some 200 leaders from civil rights organizations and the black business, labor, academic, and church communities.

The group, which met to discuss the implications for Black America of the resignation, voiced its strong support of Ambassador Young's conduct in the high office entrusted to him. After the meeting the group issued the following statement:

"We affirm the right of black citizens and organizations to engage in dialogue with individuals and groups whose actions have serious consequences for them. We applaud the initiative of those individuals and organizations that have come to the defense of Ambassador Young, our colleague and brother.

"We respect and affirm the right of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and any other individual or organization to express their views on international and domestic issues.

"We join with Ambassador Young in rejecting the notion that any foreign nation should dictate the foreign policies of the United States of America. We summarily reject the implication that any one other than Blacks themselves can determine their proper role in helping to shape and mold American foreign policies which directly affect their lives."

Civil rights leaders signing the statement included: Kenneth Clark, nationally renowned writer and psychologist; Eddie N. Williams, President of the Joint Center for Political Studies; Vernon Jordan, President of the National Urban League; Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Carl Holman, President of the National Urban Coalition; Richard Hatcher, Mayor of Gary, Indiana; Jesse Jackson, National President, Operation PUSH, Inc.; and Joseph Lowery, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Michigan High School Principals Will be Deputy Voter Registrars

Michigan Gov. William Milliken on August 14 signed into a law a measure requiring that state's public high school principals to be appointed deputy voter registrars in their schools. (See FOCUS June, 1979)

The bill is designed to encourage young people to participate in the electoral process by providing an opportunity for them to register to vote while still attending high school. Patterned after a similar law enacted by the Georgia legislature in 1971, the Michigan statute was sponsored by State Sen. Jackie Vaughan, III. The Michigan NAACP took the lead in pushing for the legislation as part of the NAACP's nationwide drive to increase 18 year old voter registration.

Michigan each year graduates some 140,000 high school students.

National Council of La Raza Holds Affiliate Convention

The Second Annual Affiliate Convention of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) was held in Washington, D.C., September 6-9 at the Shoreham Americana Hotel.

The convention, which attracted representatives from some 100 community based organizations that are affiliated with NCLR, focused on the need to assess priorities for the coming decade and outline an Hispanic strategy to achieve them.

Representatives of various government agencies as well as foundations, corporations, and private organizations were featured at the convention as speakers, panel members and moderators. Among these were: Alex Mercure, Assistant Secretary for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture; William Medina, Assistant Secretary for Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Robert Hall, Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, U.S. Department of Commerce; Graciela Olivarez, Director, Community Services Administration; Ernie Gutierrez, Associate Director for Allocations, Campaign for Human Development, U.S. Catholic Conference; Pablo Eisenberg, Executive Director, Center for Community Change; and Herman Gallegos, President, Human Resources Corporation.

Ford Foundation Releases Study On Funding for Women's Programs

The Ford Foundation has released a comprehensive study of private foundation and government funding of women's programs.

The study, entitled "Financial Support of Women's Programs in the 1970s" reveals that:

- Less than 1 percent of private foundation grants went to support activities designed to eliminate sex discrimination or to further opportunities in non-traditional fields.

- More than half of the money that did go to women's projects supported education-related activities or research while another third went for direct services. Only 13 percent supported "public activist" programs intended to change institutions rather than individuals.

The National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) has prepared a summary of the Ford study which includes recommendations to increase funding for women's issues. The summary is available for $.88 from NCRP, 810 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

The full study may be ordered for $3.95 from the Ford Foundation, P.O. Box 559, Naugatuck, Conn. 06770.

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North Carolina Black Mayors Hold Energy Conference

North Carolina black mayors last month hosted a conference at Asheville, N.C. on energy needs for black managed towns.

Program participants from the federal government included U.S. Department of Energy staffers William Peacock, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs; Morrall Foushee, program analyst; Burt McGarry, Deputy Director, Division of Business Education and Labor. Other conferees were Mayors Robert Drakeford of Carboro and Willie Dixon of East Arcadia; Michelle Kourouma, Executive Director, the National Conference of Black Mayors; Dr. Roy Dugger of the American Association of Small Cities; State Rep. Carl Stewart and Robert Powell of the North Carolina Department of Energy.

CETA Report

In the August issue of FOCUS it was announced that the September issue would carry a guide for local elected officials on how to involve themselves more closely in various aspects of the CETA program. This guide has been delayed until October at which time there will also be a report from the Joint Center's CETA project on a meeting between JCPS representatives and the Vice President's Task Force on Youth Employment.

Black Women's Agenda Honors Rep. Cardiss Collins

The Black Women's Agenda, a Washington, D.C. based organization concerned with achieving full rights for black women and their families, will hold a luncheon September 21 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington, D.C. The luncheon will honor Rep. Cardiss Collins (D Ill.). Yvonne Burke, member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and a former California congresswoman, will lead the luncheon ceremonies.

For further information contact Lynette Taylor, Black Women's Agenda, c/o National Council of Negro Women, 1819 H Street, N.W., Suite 900, Washington, D.C. (202) 293-3902.

Administration Expands Minority Business Program

Under Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges last month announced substantial changes in federal efforts to bring minority businesses into the mainstream of the American economy.

Hodges said the Commerce Department is upgrading and expanding its current minority business development program under a new federal entity called the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). The new agency will replace the Department's 10 year old Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE).

Hodges said the reorganization will make basic changes in the structure, management and focus of existing OMBE programs in an effort to increase the quality, duration and accountability of management and technical assistance to smaller firms, and to provide comparable assistance to medium sized firms.

Presently, OMBE provides services to about 24,000 small businesses, most with about $150,000 in annual sales and having at least five paid employees. The new agency will provide assistance to firms of all sizes.

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