

Negro "Complacency" Blasted

WASHINGTON, D.C.--A Washington Negro leader has deplored the complacency of middle class Negroes in the field of civil reform here.

In a speech at the annual awards banquet of the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations, Patricia Roberts Harris said the "respectable and responsible" Negro community should enter the vanguard of the civil rights effort and not sit back watching.

Mrs. Harris was named by President Kennedy as co-chairman of the Women's Committee for Civil Rights. She is a Howard University law professor and Democratic candidate for District presidential elector.

She told the more than 600 persons attending the Sheraton-Park banquet, most of whom were Negroes, that "respectable and responsible" citizens should demand better educational opportunities and housing to make Washington a showcase.

She said she did oppose the efforts of whites for civil rights, but criticized Negro satisfaction with "the appearance of change and progress that makes us feel very comfortable."

Middle class Negroes should not rest on their own laurels, Mrs. Harris declared, "as long as there are people who suffer the consequences of race."

She said that the traditional distinction here between the Negro civic associations and white citizen's associations denotes the historical position of discrimination that Negroes have in common.

Because American Negroes share a 300-year-old history as a "disadvantaged" minority, they can best define the consequences of discrimination and the urgency for ending it, she said.

She criticized the very group she addressed: "Would the housing ordinance have come if we had to rely on the Federation of Civil Associations?"

She asked: "Why should we not be in the forefront? Why must these questions be raised by single voices outside the Federation?"

"As a Negro I have certain experience that a white person can never have," she declared. Nonetheless, "a significant portion of agitation for racial justice has come from outside the Negro community."

Mrs. Harris described a major achievement of Negro efforts. "The Negro minority has in fact rescued the American people from apathy in the '50s. Sit-ins began an open debate about the nature of American Democracy," and the awareness that a racial problem exists, she said.

VOICE HOST TEACHERS

Teachers in West Las Vegas schools are cordially invited to attend a reception sponsored by The Las Vegas VOICE at Ruben's Supper Club tomorrow night (Oct 23) from 7 to 10 p.m. Wives and husbands of local teachers also are urged to join their spouses as guests of Dr. Charles I. West and his staff.

Directing her attention to Washington, she called on Federation members to use their first-hand knowledge "as a lever" against their own inertia and the status quo.

Among the others who addressed the gathering were Charles A. Horsky, White House advisor on Washington affairs, who brought President Johnson's greetings, and District Commissioner Charles M. Duke.

Commissioner John B. Duncan and School Superintendent Carl F. Hansen received citizenship awards.

LA Honors Judge Miller

LOS ANGELES -- Municipal Judge Loren Miller was honored last week for 35 years' service to the civil rights movement at the fourth annual life membership banquet of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People in the Statler Hilton.

Judge Miller was a national vice president of the NAACP un-

til his recent appointment to the bench.

Dr. Christopher L. Taylor, president of the NAACP Los Angeles Branch, presided. Eugene P. Foley, administrator of the Small Business Administration, spoke.

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