Areas Of Utmost Urgency In Fulfilling Rights

WASHINGTON--The 29-member Council to the White House Conference "To Fulfill These Rights" has agreed to concentrate major work sessions at the forthcoming June 1-2 Conference on three problem areas--jobs and economic security and welfare, education and housing.

"While recognizing the importance of many other areas in fulfilling the rights of the American Negro, the Council was of the opinion that these three areas are of the utmost urgency and magnitude as to require the closest attention, Ben W. Heineman, council chairman, declared.

HEINEMAN SAID the decision had been reached in a series of weekend work sessions of the past month. He added that staff papers also are being prepared on the Administration of Justice and Health for possible inclusion on the conference agenda.

The conference was first proposed by President Johnson last June in a speech at Howard University, when he said its object would be "to help the American Negro fulfill the rights which after the long time of injustice, he is fin-ally about to secure."

About 2,000 persons will participate in the two-day session which will be held at the Sheraton Park Hotel. A. Phillip Randolph, dean of the nation's civil rights leaders, is the honorary

Heineman, who is chairman of the Chicago and North Western Railway Company, explained that task forces, under the supervision of Edward C. Sylvester, Jr., vice chairman of the conference, have been assisting the council in developing action-oriented programs in Housing, Education, and Jobs and Economic Security and

'Without in any way minimizing the vital role of the Federal Government, the major purpose of this Conference is to attempt to bring other segments of society--business, labor and state and local governments -- into the cause of helping to make the American Negro an equal partner in the society," Mr. Heineman said.

Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, also a Conference Vice Chairman, who is Washington director,

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Southern Christian Leadership Conference, has been meeting with leaders of a cross section of groups and organizations throughout the country to further explain their ideas and suggestions in the major problem areas.

Currently staff members, under the direction of Berl I. Bernhard, Special Counsel to Mr. Heineman and the Conference, are seeking to develop the widest possible participation.

Heineman has emphasized that "it is the Council's desire that this will be a how-to-doit Conference, rather than a mere re-identification of the problems.

I HAVE BEEN GREATLY encouraged by the devoted work and energy of the council, composed of a cross section of the nation's leadership in civil rights, business labor and local and state governments, in going over the wide range of concepts, proposals, and programs outlined during the 1965 Planning Session, and in developing new thoughts and programs based on their own knowledge and experience" Heineman said. Members of the Council are: Morris B.

Abram, co-chairman, Planning Session; William T. Coleman, Jr., co-chairman, Planning Session; Gov. Edward T. Breathitt, Jr., of Kentucky; Dr. Jerome Bruner, director, Center of Cognitive Studies, Harvard University; Stephen Currier, president, Taconic Foundation, Inc.

Dr. Allison Davis, school of education, University of Chicago; John S. Gleason, Jr., vice president, First National Bank of Chicago; Eli Goldston, president, Eastern Gas and Fuel As-

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sociates; Courtlandt S. Gross, chairman, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation; Miss Dorothy I. Height, President, National Council of Negro Women.

Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, president, Notre Dame University; Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., U.S. District Court, Philadelphia; Rafer Johnson, former Olympic Decathlon champion; Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., director, Voter Education Project, Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

John Lewis, chairman, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; James A. Linen, III, president, Time Inc.; Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin, of Baltimore; Floyd McKissick, national director, Congress of Racial Equality.

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