

# NAACP Presidency By Robert Archie

It has been said that the NAACP does not address itself to the needs and the goals of the Black Community. The individuals who make such statements, attempt to state what they will do, if they are elected. They list what they believe the priorities of the Black Community are or should be. I take no such bold step. I will not attempt to dictate to the Black Community what the priorities are or what the needs are. I have my firm beliefs as to which ills must be administered to, and I have my own beliefs as to priorities, but I believe to dispell all confusion, to dispell all resentment, and to dispell or get rid of any possibility that people can say that the NAACP is not relevant, that we should no longer have a personality cult. We must not allow one man to dictate the needs of the community.

I firmly believe that the community must state its needs. If I am elected President of the NAACP, this will be my method of operation. The NAACP should, in the month of January, hold hearings every weekend for approximately 30 days, so that members of the Black Community can appear before a special Strategy Committee of the NAACP, and state, on behalf of the special interest groups in the Black Community, what they believe the needs are, what they believe the priorities should be, and what these members of the community would like to see the NAACP do for the next 24 months. Based upon the testimony of interested parties, we can better serve the community. In other words, the burden is to be put on the shoulders of the community, and the NAACP will be as relevant as the community. Any black man who says he is a Messiah, and he knows all the needs of the Black Community, without talking to all of the people is a liar.

After the aforementioned hearings are had, this Strategy Committee will take all the information, digest it, and then make a list of priorities, and then set completion dates for various projects which we will attempt to accomplish over the next 24 months. And then, we can take the offensive and we will have an effective program to solve the problems of the Community. If anyone says we are not relevant, after such a program is initiated, it is only because those people, who are complaining, would not come forth and tell us what they believe the community needed to do. Even though we would have this plan, it would be flexible, and as the needs change, the plans would again change direction.

It is true that we must address ourselves to employment, housing, educational and related problems. But still, the people should make the choice as to what the priorities should be.

I firmly believe that the voice belongs to the people, and the President of the NAACP is merely an executive, and administrator. He is the person who is the official spokesman, and he is to give guiding light, but the 27 members of the Executive Board, and the Chairman of the various committees, should have a very high profile. They should actually be the Spokesman for the various areas, in which they have expertise. And the President should maintain a low profile. The Committee Chairmen and the Executive Board members are the key members of the NAACP.

I have campaigned on what I consider to be an honorable platform. I have attempted to hurt no one. I have attempted to slander no one. But I find it distressing that some persons want to be militant for militant sake. I would only ask the people to think affirmatively, to think properly, to think in terms of which man can best do the job, which man can be more effective, which man knows his way around the halls of power, and would not stand on the outside just shouting, but will be able to go inside and get the job done.

Brothers and sisters, I am a professional; I take pride in my ability to succeed and I firmly believe that if I am elected President of the NAACP, I will be able to do the job. I will be able to lead, to give guidance and to bring success, out of what so far has been utter confusion. I am from the Black Community. I have lived here since 1942. I have trained for years to be effective. The White Community has said in the past, that we weren't qualified. Ladies and gentlemen, I am qualified for every job I do. I have been successful for that very

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## THE SEEN AT THE SCENE



Robert Archie, candidate for the NAACP Presidency, speaks to group at the Cosmo Lounge.



SUPPORTERS OF EDMOND L. LEWIS FOR PRESIDENT--left to right; Patricia Evans, Carol Moore, Betty Toler, Mary Harper, Edmond Lewis, Barbara Shelton, Grace McGlothen, Johnnie Duke, Lonnie Stevenson.



Left to right: Maxine Fincher, Queenet Woods, Lucille Pendelton, Louise Nelson, Dixie Harris, Claudette Enus, Jean Dunn, Albert Dunn, Judith Mangum, Tony McCormick, Marylin Spears and Mrs. Carter. Hostess for the Dunn-Mc Cormack Election Party.