

## HUD MINORITY DIRECTORY

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development publishes a Directory listing the minority housing contractors, accountants, real estate appraisers, architects, engineers, lawyers, housing managers, real estate salesmen, urban planners, housing consultants, non-profit housing sponsors, mortgage bankers and brokers, housing developers and insurance brokers and agents throughout the Country. The purpose of this Directory is to stimulate a greater participation by minority housing professionals, craftsmen and small businessmen in the various programs which are funded through H.U.D. If you are Black, Puerto Rican, Spanish-Speaking American, American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut and you perform any of the jobs listed here, please contact Ms. Carolyn J. Wade at Ken Guscott Associates, 4256 Prudential Towers, Boston, Massachusetts 02199.

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## JESSE SCOTT, EQUAL RIGHTS DIRECTOR REPORTS ON NAACP NATIONAL CONVENTION

I attended the 65th annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people held in New Orleans, Louisiana during the first week in July 1974. The theme of the Convention was "65 and Still Alive."

This report is made, although belatedly, to inform you of the fact that I was an observer-delegate and, as such, take this opportunity to share my observations and reflections with you.

There were many new faces and first time delegates in attendance, however, to be sure, there were many faces that I have seen many times before during ten consecutive years that I have attended the Convention since 1964.

With much sadness I must report that there were two very prominent NAACPers, friends of mine, who were not in attendance this year because they have passed on. Namely: Dr. John Morsell, Administrative Assistant to Mr. Roy Wilkins and Mr. Leonard Carter, West Coast Regional Director of the Association.

When I was employed on the National staff of the NAACP both of these men gave me my direction and supervision. I can truly say without equivocation and fear of contradiction that the NAACP and the Nation have lost two Freedom Fighters in the field of civil and human rights.

In keeping with the NAACP tradition there were a large number of national speakers in attendance and they are as follows: Bishop Stephen Spottswood, of the AME Zion Church, Chairman of the NAACP Board of Directors; Roy Wilkins, Executive Director of the NAACP; Congressman Charles Diggs of Michigan, Kivie Kaplan, President of the NAACP; Judge William H. Hastie, Sr., Judge U. S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals; Judge Damon J. Keith, U. S. District Judge Eastern District of Michigan; Mayor Walter Washington, of Washington, D. C.; Mayor Kenneth Gibson of Newark, New Jersey; Herbert Hill, Secretary of Labor for the NAACP; Attorney John H. Powell, Jr., Chairman, Equal Employ-

ment Opportunity Commission, Washington, D.C.; C. Delores Tucker, Secretary of the Commonwealth from Washington, D. C.; Walter E. Flountroy, Congressional Representative from Washington, D. C.; and Dr. Buell G. Gallagher, Vice Chairman National Board NAACP.

The New Orleans branch hosted the largest Convention the Association has ever had. There were 3,150 delegates, alternates and observers in attendance. The Convention was headquartered in the Fairmont Roosevelt Hotel and the public meetings were held in the Rivergate Auditorium where Canal Street meets the Mississippi River.

Twenty years ago, when I was in school in Louisiana, I worked one summer for the Roosevelt Hotel as a dish washer. Black hotel workers were not allowed to enter the Hotel through the front door or to go into the Blue Room (Grand Ballroom). As a delegate I made my first trek through the front door and into the ballroom and was entertained as a guest.

The NAACP is the largest dues paying membership civil rights organization in America with approximately 500,000 members representing the entire nation.

Several important resolutions were acted upon by the Convention including one of an emergency nature.

The emergency resolution called upon the legal authorities of Georgia to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law the killers of Ms. Martin Luther King, SR., in Atlanta, Georgia with a dispatch and without delay.

A resolution was proposed demanding that former President Richard Nixon be impeached by the House of Representatives but, after much debate, the resolution was defeated because the delegates thought that their action might be interpreted as a partisan move against a Republican President.

The delegates were reminded that the NAACP as any organization, is political in its purpose but non-partisan in its acts.

Another resolution was passed condemning President Nixon for allowing the Economic condition in America to reach a recession level.

A resolution was passed blaming President Nixon for dismantling the OEO War on Poverty programs that were developed to aid the poor.

A resolution was passed calling for reform, more fairness and equity in the IRS tax collecting formula where the poor and middle income groups in America bear the tax burden while some of the large corporations have incomes and profit margins in the millions of dollars and pay no taxes at all.

Of the many speeches made at the Convention none were more informative, taunting and challenging as that of the Honorable Walter E. Flountroy, Democrat Congressman of Washington, D. C.

## D.A. SEEKS DEATH PENALTY

District Attorney Roy Woofter will seek the death penalty in prosecution of the alleged, murderer, George Andrew Gates, 28.

Gates has been accused of murdering Mrs. Terry Burnett, 27 and her three-year-old son, Jimmy and attempted murders of the woman's two older children, Shirley, 7 and Virginia, 5 at the Bluebird Trailer Park, 4226 Las Vegas Blvd. North, 1 p.m., Tuesday.

In taking immediate action Woofter said: "The brutal murders of Mrs. Burnett and her son and the attempted murders of her two daughters have prompted the District Attorney's office to file a criminal complaint against George Andrews Gates for counts of capital murder in the killing of Mrs. Burnett and her son Jimmy and attempted capital murders of daughters Shirley and Virginia.

"We are taking this action based upon preliminary examination of evidence and the presence of two Chief Deputies, Ray Jeffers and Addeliar Guy, the latter at the scene of the murders and both at the autopsy today. This evidence will support seeking the death penalty under Nevada statutes and a newly enacted capital murder law.

"It is our intent to prosecute vigorously under the death penalty to the extent we are allowed by the courts," Woofter concluded.

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