

**congressional  
black caucus dinner a success**

Congresswoman Yvonne B. Burke (D-Calif.) Chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus called this year's Caucus Dinner weekend "the most successful Caucus Dinner to date and expressed the political unity and strength we as Blacks have gained."

The Caucus Dinner is held each September to raise fund to support a seven-person legislative and research staff to serve the 17-member Caucus. This year, in addition to Saturday nights' dinner itself, The Caucus held a series of legislative workshops on Friday, a conference on the situation in southern Africa, and a fashion show and tennis tournament to benefit the newly-established Caucus internship. The theme for the weekend was "Direction '76: Political Power Through Unity."

At the dinner, a serious drama on Black political involvement over the past century was presented. Entitled "The Advocates Among Us," the show was written by Lonnie Elder and those appearing in it included Roscoe Lee Brown, Rosalind Cash, Novella Nelson, Ron O'Neill, Brock Peters and Esther Rolle, star of the TV's "Good Times." Special guest Ella Fitzgerald, charmed the sell out audience of nearly 3,000 with a selection of popular solos by Black composers.

Congresswoman Barbara Jordan stirred the audience with a speech calling on Black Americans to participate in the elections: "You have been told this evening that you're going to lift your voices and sing....But 12 million Black Americans don't plan to vote this Fall. How are they going to lift their voices and sing?"

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**The Job Market of the Future**

What will the help wanted ads be like in 1985? Which jobs will fade away out of existence and which will be good bets for steady employment?

In order to answer questions such as these for those in the process of career choosing, the Department of Labor has just published its new 1976-77 Occupational Outlook Handbook, an economic crystal ball of sorts which predicts the future of over 850 careers from accelerator operators to zoologist. For example, the Handbook forecasts rough sailing ahead for bosuns and boat-swains, while those in health care, repair, advertising, and the business occupations will be in the fastest growing industries around.

Most job seekers will benefit from the economic stability predicted by Labor which will result in a 4% unemployment rate (full employment according to government economists). Excluding farm workers about 81.8 million workers were on the payrolls in 1974, with an estimated 58 million job openings expected through 1985. This includes a 20% growth in the number of openings available.

Ahead though are stiffer educational requirements for most good jobs and, according to the Labor Department, those with only a high school diploma may all but be out of the competition.

In fact, the fields where greatest growth is expected are those requiring a high degree of skill. Moreover, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that 80% of jobs through 1985 will require specialized vocational training, but only 20% will require college. The wider use of technology is chiefly responsible for this trend, which will accelerate in the years ahead.

In the office where the use of expensive equipment from copying machines to calculators is becoming routine, business machine repairers will find more work than ever, especially since this is still a relatively new field which has not reached a saturation point.

**PARK/ART  
VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED BY CITY**

The Las Vegas Cultural Services Department is looking for high school aged youth, ages 15 to 18, who would like to learn leadership and teaching skills. The Volunteam program is set up to provide leadership training for teenagers as well as to supplement the full time art instructors assigned to the Park/Art Programs.

Selected Volunteams will receive in-service training in leadership supervision and arts and crafts.

Applications are available at the Reed Whipple Center, 821 Las Vegas Blvd. No. or the Cultural Services Department, 400 E. Stewart Ave.

The Park/Art programs are held on Saturdays in the parks, free to the entire family with an opportunity to learn crafts such as chalk/art wood sculpturing, tie-dying and Christmas clay projects supervised by art instructors and the Volunteam participants. The fall program of Park/Art will end in December and will resume in the springtime.

For further information, interested teenagers may call 386-6296 or 386-6386.

**former president  
of  
howard university, dies at 86**

Dr. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson, a major figure in higher education and President of Howard University in its formative years from 1926 to 1960, died recently at his home in Washington, D.C. He was 86.

Under Dr. Johnson's charismatic leadership, Howard University grew into an international university, become a vital center of educational opportunity for all nationalities. In an era when racial segregation severely restricted the educational opportunities of blacks and other minorities, Dr. Johnson, a controversial figure whose career seemed to be thrust forward by his own sense of mission, built Howard University into a haven of learning for the denied and the disadvantaged. His role and that of the University became unique in the annals of education, so much so that in the early decades of his administration, Howard trained nearly 50 percent of all black physicians and dentists and approximately 96 percent of all the black lawyers.

Dr. James E. Cheek, President of Howard University, issued the following statement to the university community:

"I was greatly saddened this morning to learn of the death of our dear colleague, President Emeritus Mordecai Wyatt Johnson, who died peacefully in his sleep.

"Dr. Johnson's love and dedication to Howard University will long be remembered by thousands of persons whose lives he touched throughout the world.

"I am certain you share the sadness felt by the Johnson family and his associates who worked with him for many years to improve quality education for black youth."

**7% Increase for VA Pensioners**

A 7% increase in monthly benefit rates for Veterans Administration pensioners, plus increases in the annual income limits on which the pensions are based, becomes effective January 1, 1977. The pension changes were approved by the President on September 30.

Affected are about a million veterans and 1.6 million veterans' survivors receiving VA pensions, VA also pointed out.

The increases are estimated to cost \$432 million in fiscal year 1977.

Income limitations were raised as follows: To \$3,540 for veterans or surviving spouses without dependents and to \$4,760 for those with dependents under the current program; to \$3,100 and \$4,460 for those under the prior pension law; and for parents under the dependency and indemnity compensation program, the limits were raised to \$3,540 for a single parent and \$4,760 for parents living together or with a spouse.

The maximum unearned income limitation for children entitled under the current pension program was increased \$190 to \$2,890.

A significant addition in the new law provides for a 25% added differential to all pension rates for eligible veterans who are 78 years of age or older. Primary beneficiaries of this provision are some 318,000 World War I veterans whose average age is 80.

Aid and attendance rates for veterans on the pension rolls was increased by \$22 to \$155 and the housebound rate by \$4 to \$57. For surviving spouses on the pension rolls, parents receiving DIC payments and surviving spouses and parents receiving death compensation, the aid and attendance rate was increased to \$74.

Another new provision permits payment of a reduced aid and attendance monthly allowance to eligible veterans whose pension payments are denied or terminated because annual income exceeded the statutory limitation by less than \$500.

Pensions are paid to wartime veterans who are totally disabled from nonservice-connected causes if they are disabled before age 65 and come within income limits. After age 65, only income is taken into account. Pension payments to widows of wartime veterans are determined by income limitations.

The pension bill also makes permanent an 8% increase in monthly pension payments, enacted last year with an Oct. 1, 1976 expiration date.