

NAACP

Ms. Angela V. Shaw and Ms. Veronica M. Jefferson have been appointed to head the newly created department of Communications, Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director, announced today. The department plans to participate in the development of national communications policies and regulations and to provide technical and legal assistance to NAACP branches concerning communications issues.

Ms. Shaw, who will be director of communications, is a 25-year-old Harvard Law School graduate who has worked in both private industry and government. Prior to joining the NAACP this week, she was an adjunct professor at Howard University, teaching a course on "Mass Communications Law," which she developed.

A practicing attorney, she was previously a legal assistant to Commissioner Joseph R. Fogarty. This was during the period that Mr. Hooks was also a member of the FCC.

There she prepared recommendations on questions dealing with the implementation of the 1934 Communications Act as well as on internal administration and management. She assisted Commissioner Fogarty in preparing opinions on FCC actions and in writing speeches, articles and statements.

Within the FCC, she was also an attorney in the Tariff Proceedings Branch of the Common Carrier Bureau, which regulates rates for communications services. She was also an attorney in the certificates of Compliance Branch of the Cable Television Bureau.

Ms. Jefferson has been appointed assistant director of communications. She was previously field director in the Office of Communications, United Church of Christ in New York. There she was responsible for developing educational workshops to train community leaders in techniques to gain access to the media.

She participated in planning and directing regional workshops and seminars on reforms in the broadcast industry. She supervised field staff and evaluated communications programs for their effectiveness.

Her other duties included training community leaders in building coalitions and writing proposals, developing broadcast-citizen agreements and filing petitions. Also, she developed position papers on government broadcast regulations and participated in congressional hearings.

Earlier, she was a field representative for United Church and worked even more directly with community groups, helping to develop curriculums for training programs.

She is a member of the Black Citizens for Fair Media Advisory Committee for WNBC and WCBS television stations. This coalition was created to assist stations in providing better service to the public.

Ms. Jefferson holds bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from Long Island University, where, on the graduate level, she majored in such areas as urban development, public administration, Constitutional law, strategic world diplomacy and international organization -- the United Nations.

The newly created Department of Communications will provide resources and guidance to NAACP branches and state conferences that are concerned with improving local coverage. The department will also help to develop communications policies to ensure that the interests of all segments of the public are protected.

Benjamin L. Hooks, also announced the appointment of Miss Gerda Steele as director of education programs.

A resident of Staten Island, N.Y., Ms. Steele has considerable experience in urban education, having worked in several jobs throughout the city. She was previously a supervisor of urban school services with the State Education Department, which was especially created to serve the 32 New York City school districts.

Earlier, she was assistant dean of continuing education at Pace University, administering a non-traditional adult bachelor's degree program. She was, before that, manager of a federally-funded adult basic

education project at Teachers College, Columbia.

She gained her teaching experience in New York's public junior and high schools. She also taught basic and technical English courses at Medgar Evers and New York City Community Colleges, at the Baldwin School, a private secondary institution in Manhattan, and at the Great Society manpower center in Brooklyn.

Ms. Steele has both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Education from New York University. A second master's degree in Higher and Adult Education Administration was earned at Columbia University's Teachers College, where she is also now a doctoral candidate.

ACTION Against Webster as Head of FBI

ACTION, a St. Louis-based human rights organization, announced its opposition to U.S. 8th Circuit Appeals Court Judge William H. Webster being confirmed to direct the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The protest organization charges that "Webster has a consistent history of practicing racism, sexism, and elitism. And, if he's confirmed, his behavior is not likely to change; instead, he would perpetuate the existing FBI mandate of deceit and deception, which would further promote racism, sexism, and elitism in the country. ACTION calls upon all civil/human rights organizations and concerned individuals everywhere to register all forms of protest demonstrations against Webster's confirmation."

ACTION has protested the annual white Veiled Prophet for 12 years, a mysterious organization of which Webster is an active member. ACTION Chairman Percy Green said, "Besides Webster being an active member of this Ku Klux Klan-like Veiled Prophet organization and doesn't see anything wrong with it, neither has he seen anything wrong with not hiring Blacks, especially Black men, on his various staffs of employment; neither has he seen anything wrong with not ruling in a just manner on court cases which involved Black defendants, or cases which involved Black plaintiffs in racial discrimination matters."

"Since Webster has been unable to distinguish when he is promoting racism, et. al., as opposed to human rights, then he would not be likely to know the difference as FBI chief. In other words, Webster's confirmation would be a national disaster to the human rights cause. It would be comparable to activating former president Richard M. Nixon to direct the White House executive office again."

"The FBI needs a director whose human rights practices, immediate and past, would reflect the likelihood of an end to racism, sexism and elitism within the bureau. A director who is capable of cleaning up the Bureau's internal corruption offers the greatest possibility of ending human rights violations committed by the FBI against this country's citizenry."

"Webster is not the person. His judgment is not up to snuff. Webster is an overt racist (sexist, elitist, etc.), and would use the FBI to further support the ideals of the white Veiled Prophet organization, the St. Louis Country Club, the University Club, and the Noon Day Club, and call it human rights."

When asked about the supportive statements given to Webster by Margaret Bush Wilson, National Board Chairperson of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Missouri Appeals Court Judge Theodore McMillian, Green said his first response was that the Black community should run these two negroes out of town.

"But ACTION's leadership discussed and analyzed their situation within the scheme of things. We formulated 3 possible reasons:

1) that they were shocked into submission by the press calling upon them to make a statement on the matter. Although they knew absolutely nothing about Webster's background via membership in these racist, et. al., organizations, or his employment practices, etc., they felt compelled to pretend that they knew something about the man by sounding off about what they 'think'. And, their reported thoughts indicated a possible fear of some sort of reprisal from the downtown economic regulators if they had been truthful or said nothing.

2) that they felt that by placing their arms around or running interference for this racist, et. al., today, maybe he would return the favor later in terms of using the FBI to help them gain a Supreme Court judgeship.

and, 3) that they might have been tricked again by the media in their attempt to clean up Webster's outrageous image."

ACTION concluded that just because Wilson and McMillian are negro lawyers who are obviously trying to climb all kinds of social and economic ladders for themselves, this should not be done at the expense of misleading people. And, for the crime that they have knowingly committed, or allowed the press to force them to commit, they both need to be run out of town. Because, it was too easy for them to have said nothing, unless they thought the truth would hurt the establishment's feelings.

Therefore, in ACTION's protest campaign opposing Webster's confirmation, ACTION will also include Wilson and McMillian if they don't publicly withdraw their support from this bad actor immediately.

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