



Congressional Black Caucus Reports to the People

This year, thanks to your help, the Congressional Black Caucus has achieved two important victories in the House of Representatives regarding the Congressional Black Caucus legislative program for the 95th Congress -- passage of a Constitutional Amendment authorizing full House and Senate representation for the District of Columbia and passage of the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill. Both measures are of national significance, especially to Black Americans.

I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the D. C. representation amendment. (House Joint Resolution 554) on March 2, 1978, the House passed the proposal by an overwhelming two-thirds vote of 289-127.

The amendment would permit the 700,000 citizens of our Nation's Capital to become full American citizens and elect voting members to the House and Senate. The amendment is now in the Senate where it also needs a two-thirds vote for passage.

You can help the Caucus in the effort to get this through Congress by writing or calling your Senators and urging them to do two things: first, sign a letter to the Senate leadership requesting that the amendment come to a full Senate vote before October; second, fully support and vote yes for the amendment.

Your assistance would be a great support to end what has become "taxation without representation." District citizens pay over a billion dollars a year in federal taxes, yet have no voting voice in either body of Congress.

Voting representation for D. C. is an issue of moral right and must be enacted if we are to truly live by the democratic principle that government drives its just powers from the consent of the governed.

President Carter supports this amendment as part of his worldwide human rights campaign. But how can we honestly pursue human rights and political freedom elsewhere in the world when the citizens of our Nation's Capital -- the Capital of free world democracy -- are denied the right, other Americans have, to elect voting Representatives and Senators?

The answer is obvious and compelling. To deny District citizens full Congressional representation is to say to this group of Americans 100 years ago in the Dred Scott decision, "you are less than a whole person."

District representation is constitutional, it is fair, and most of all it is right.

too costly to do so. It will be helpful to list all the things you would like to do and then number them according to their importance. You should decide on those that will make the dwelling more safe and liveable first. Then indicate those that we want or will enhance the appearance of our homes.

Some of the most common improvements made are the addition of siding - aluminum and vinyl, swimming pools, flowers, trees and shrubs, lawn sprinkler systems, termite control, driveways - concrete and asphalt, storm and screen windows and doors, waterproofing of basements, home fire safety equipment, furnace repair or replacement, room additions, terraces and patios, a new roof, house painted, home insulation, new bathrooms or remodeled kitchens.

Regardless to the type of remodeling you have done you should call several reputable contractors and request a written estimate of the work they will perform, the cost and a project date or time span needed for completion of the job.

It is important to select a contractor who is honest, reliable and skilled in the trade. The Better Business Bureau is a good place to check to see if any complaints have been filed against the prospective contractor.

Another good practice is to decide on the contractor and the price. You will normally get what you pay for, so it is wise sometimes not to try to get the price lowered too much.

Much caution should be taken against accepting a flat price for anything without the contractor visiting your home and inspecting the site of the work to be done.

Once you have made a decision on the contractor, have the contract checked carefully (preferably by an attorney) you may find it better to arrange your own financing. You also want to be sure that you have the option to select the quality of materials to be used. This should be specified, decided upon before a job is begun and put in writing to avoid any problems.

A completion certificate should never be signed before the work is actually completed. Some contractors may try to force you to settle by paying off in part even though you may have received no services at all.

All contracts should be in writing, spelling out specifically type and extent of work, descriptions of materials to be used - grade, quality, name, weight, size, color, etc., protection against liens if the work is to be subcontracted.

Beware of the salesman or contractor who asks you to pay in advance or to pay in cash instead of paying the company or contractor as usual by check or money order, on completion or in installments, as the contract specifies.

You should also be sure that the contractor will clean up when the job is finished. All left over material is your property and should be stored in case you have to make additional repairs - example, paint, tile, carpeting, paneling, etc.

If there is a guarantee be sure that what it covers is spelled out in detail, including the period during which the guarantee will be in effect.

This is the season when telephone solicitors are busy calling homes to secure new business. They usually call you by your first name or begin a conversation like an old acquaintance. If you have no need for any type of improvements, tell them, "No" politely and hang up. Otherwise you will be engaged in a long discussion. Many such businesses are "fly by night" concerns. They do not remain in business for any period of time.

You should also see that someone is always present to supervise the work to see that it is done properly and the way you want it. Companies with bonded employees are the best protection against personal loss. Someone on site lets the contractor know you mean business.

I've found the best way to get the job done right and on time is to control the money, and pay in part. That way you get the best results and your work completed on time.

Just don't be gullible and let anyone do your work - after all you are improving your home because you wish to maintain it and increase or keep up its value.

NEW DAY BEGUN

by

Benjamin L. Hooks



The reopening of the Harry T. Moore murder case by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Brevard County Sheriff's office in Florida hopefully will at long last lead to the conviction of the people responsible for that dreadful act. Harry Moore and his wife Harriet were blown out of their beds on Christmas night in 1951 by a dynamite bomb.

In the annals of NAACP history, their deaths represent the start of that brutal sequence of civil rights slayings that ended with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968.

The Moore murders were especially significant for the NAACP. From 1934 to 1939 he was president of the Brevard County NAACP branch. He next served from 1941 to 1946 as president of the Florida NAACP State Conference, then as executive secretary until the month before his death. He himself organized both the Brevard branch and the State Conference.

The move to reopen the murder case was begun by local NAACP leaders following a memorial service for Mr. Moore last December. As the featured speaker, Gloster B. Current, who was director of branches when the Moores were killed, called for the FBI to reopen the case. But the big break did not come until a 52-year-old victim of terminal cancer, contacted Fort Pierce NAACP branch president Charles F. Matthews in early March to confess to the alleged murders.

The man explained that his wife had just died from cancer and, sensing his own imminent end, wanted to clear his conscience. The recent news about the memorial service and the announced call for the FBI to reopen the case had bothered him.

Mr. Matthews immediately contacted State Conference President Charles Cherry in Daytona Beach. He in turn called in the FBI. For three days, the FBI interrogated the man and reportedly found reason to believe there were grounds for reopening the case.

But the statutes of limitation had run out for the FBI's involvement, so it turned the case over to Capt. W. J. Patterson in the County Sheriff's office. Capt. Patterson spent three days in Washington reviewing FBI files and reportedly plans to pursue the investigation when time permits. Possible problems, however, could be the widespread political alliances that cut across county lines and friendship cliques.

Furthermore, staff and budget limitations could hamper Capt. Patterson's effectiveness. So the state might just have to step in through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Officers.

The self-confessed killer reportedly has named three other men living in the area as alleged participants in the murders, all of whom have responsible positions in neighboring counties. A fifth member, who is dead, reportedly was black.

To ensure that their only contrite witness will not be killed to prevent him from testifying against others implicated in the bombing, the FBI is protecting the informant. The final conviction of Robert E. Chambliss 14 years after the 1963 murder of four small girls in Birmingham, Ala., church gives the NAACP hope that the Harry and Harriet Moore bombings will some day be repaid with the conviction of the killers.

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By Inez Kaiser



Now that spring has finally arrived, many people will be involved in making home improvements. Due to the long hard winter, floods and damages of all kinds to dwellings, more than likely the costs will be higher and the demand for labor greater.

Oftentimes there are a number of improvements we want to make but find that it is

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