

Mrs. Nevada Contest



Mrs. Ada Glover is the only Black contestant in the 1979 Mrs. Nevada Contest, to be held at the Maxim Hotel in the Americana Room Feb. 3, 1979. She is sponsored by the Moulin Rouge lounge. Mrs. Glover is 35 years old, has 2 children, ages 8 and 10, and works for the Reynolds Electric Company.

CETA

Planning grants for the Private Sector Initiative Program (PSIP) have been awarded to 455 state and local governments conducting CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) programs.

Assistant Secretary of Labor Ernest G. Green said that \$11.3 million in discretionary CETA funds, amounting to \$25,000 per prime sponsor, has been distributed to enable program planners to establish Private Industry Councils (PIC) in each CETA prime sponsor's jurisdiction.

The PICs will consist primarily of representatives from business and industry with labor participation. In many instances, educational and community based organizations representing significant segments of the unemployed population also will be involved.

These councils will work with local employers, labor organizations, and educational and training institutions to develop CETA training and job opportunities in the private sector.

The Congress has authorized \$500 million for PSIP for this fiscal year under the new Title VII of CETA. Pending appropriation of operating funds, the Employment and Training Administration is making it possible for prime sponsors to work up plans for the organization of the PICs.

The planning for PSIP was launched last May when the President announced the selection of 34 CETA prime sponsors as initial test sites for PICs to enable all planners to see what types of problems would be inherent in such operations. These 34 prime sponsors are also receiving \$25,000 grants to expand the scope of their initial endeavors.

Five CETA prime sponsors--state and local governments that operate employment and training programs within their jurisdictions with Federal allocations--are not receiving planning grants because their total program is not relatively large.

They are: U.S. Virgin Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Women & Minorities

Employment opportunities for women and minorities in general have increased dramatically during the past two years, Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall said at a news conference on year-end employment figures.

He pointed out that adult female employment has increased by 3.5 million or 10.5 percent. Black employment increased by 1.2 million persons, or 12 percent Marshall added.

Despite the dramatic increases in the number of women and minority members seeking jobs, he noted that unemployment rates for these groups have also declined.

Since December 1976, the unemployment rate for blacks declined from 13.4 percent to 11.5 percent; adult female unemployment declined from 7.3 percent to 5.8 percent.

The year-end employment figures, Marshall said, "mark the end of the second year of strong employment growth," noting that two years ago "we made a commitment to put our Nation back to work."

He added: "Finding jobs for unemployed Americans was the first priority of the Carter Administration.

"We felt everyone willing and able to work should have an opportunity to contribute skills and energies through meaningful employment."

Marshall said the December 1978 unemployment rate of 5.9 percent represents almost a 25 percent reduction since December 1976, when President Carter took office. The unemployment rate then was 7.8 percent. Marshall said that while unemployment among minority youth and all teenagers "is still a terrible problem, much progress has been made where none had been made before."

He noted that employment of black teenagers increased by more than 19.6 percent since December 1976. Between 1969 and 1976, employment of black teenagers had declined, Marshall said.

Marshall also pointed to other achievements in progress made to put Americans back to work, including:

--In December there were 1.3 million fewer people unemployed than there were in December of 1976, and 160,000 fewer than a year ago. This occurred despite an increase of 5.9 million in the number of persons entering the job market over the two-year period.

--Over 7.2 million more people have jobs than they did the month before the President took office. This increase exceeds the employment growth in any other two-year period since World War II. Three million of that increase took place in the past year. Total employment reached a new all-time high of 95.9 million.

--During the past two years, young people, who had been disproportionately hurt by the recession have received special attention. Since December of 1976 employment growth for teenagers has outpaced overall employment growth, rising 11.0% while the latter increased 8.1%.

--The growth in jobs and the reduction in unemployment has also been spread widely across industries and occupations.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

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tary and government officials, persons of influence and culture. Among those present were also a large number of Jews. It was well known that Robeson's repertoire contained many Negro folk songs, African freedom songs, and several Jewish songs.

"Robeson's procedure was to explain the meaning of each song before he sang it. Conscious of the suffering of the Russian Jews, he had decided to sing Kaddish (a stirring Yiddish folk song affirming Jewish identity), and listed it on his program. Suddenly he received a note from a member of the sponsoring committee, which read: 'No one in the audience understands Yiddish. It would, therefore, be out of place to sing any Jewish songs this evening.'

"Robeson was perplexed. Yiddish had been listed in the last Russian census as the mother tongue of 35 per cent of the Jews, who were well represented in the audience. Granting the assumed ignorance of Yiddish, would the African songs that he would sing in the languages of Ghana and the Congo be better understood?"

"He began his program in his usual manner, explaining each song before it was sung. First he introduced a series of songs from the Congo and Ghana, indicating their anti-colonial character, which reflected the new spirit of the rising nationalism there.

Then he boldly announced, 'And now I shall sing an anti-imperialist song for you which you may not have heard in some time. It was written more than 150 years ago by a Russian as a protest against the Czar. The name of the author is Levi Yitzhak, and he lived in the city of Berditchev.'

"So it was that he began to sing Rabbi Levi Yitzhak's Kaddish. When he came to the words: What do You want of Your people Israel? What have You demanded of Your people Israel? For everywhere I look it says, 'Say to the Children of Israel,' And every other verse says, 'Speak to the Children of Israel.'

Father, sweet Father in Heaven, How many nations are there in the world?

a tremor passed through the auditorium, scattered sighs and muffled sobs were heard. And when he began to thunder:

And I, Levi Yitzhak, son of Sarah of Berditchev, say, "From my stand I will not waver, And from my place I shall not move Until there be an end to all this"

weeping could be heard from parts of the auditorium. Tears flowed freely from dozens of faces. The applause, sporadic at first, reached a crescendo which threatened to shake the walls. The song became a rallying cry among the frightened Jews of Moscow for weeks to come."

JUST THE FACTS

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BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

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the means whereby a person is tested as well as identified. It is the way a youngster becomes an adult. Work shaped the thoughts and life of the worker. A change in atmosphere and lifestyle can be effected by an individual by simply changing the way he or she makes a living. For most of us in adult life, being without work just is not living."

Employment is critical to the 16-24 year-old young adult. It is during this period that career patterns will be established--legitimate or illegitimate. When the nation runs a risk of recession, it nominates a life of crime for Black American young adults in this country. This year most economists see a race toward a recession with its corresponding higher unemployment, especially for young Black Americans caught up in the evil of a racist society.

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