

Semi-Monthly Summary...

## HISTORY-MAKING BLACK HAPPENINGS:

(For your continuing calendar of major black events. Please cut out this column and keep it in your own notebook. Please mark the date of each entry.)

### ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE...

**Zimbabwe** — White "Rhodesian" (or Zimbabwe) leader Ian Smith reportedly rejoiced at the prospect of returning to cattle farming after December 31st of this year when "black majority" rule was slated to begin.

The transfer agreement for black majority rule—signed with three black leaders and omitting the crucial Patriotic Front—was in jeopardy, however, from the start.

Smith stated emphatically (but with an obvious tongue in cheek): "My hope of hopes is that on December 31st, I will spend my last day in politics and become a cattle farmer as I have been and always wanted to be." Smith's formula for transfer to "majority rule" all but ruled out Smith's departure from the political center stage.

By omitting the major black group which forced the issue of majority rule, internal chaos was practically assured. More implicitly sinister was Smith's blithe assumption that under black majority rule, white "business as usual" would prevail. The land redistribution issue in the new nation of Zimbabwe is crucial to equity for blacks; and it would condition in substantial ways any projected return to cattle farming, in at least the traditional white Rhodesian style, on Ian Smith's part.

The United Nations —

Meanwhile, at the United Nations heated debate was generated by the "one-sided" Zimbabwe or Rhodesian agreement.

Ministers of black African nations huddled, then openly condemned the "Zimbabwe sell-out," which was quoted as a sure formula for civil war, possibly augmented by the national armies of major black African states and supported by Russian equipment and Cuban technicians.

Outspoken and most often candidly correct U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young supported the sentiments of most black African leadership at the U.N., suggesting that both the United States and Great Britain must see an imperative in their roles to bring about a just Zimbabwe settlement in which the Patriotic Front has a responsible place.

**Zambia** — Zambian President Kenneth D. Kaunda, traditionally a close friend of the United States and Britain, suggested that his nation would be forced to turn to Russia and Cuba for massive aid, if the anti-guerrilla stance of the white majority government of Rhodesia (or Zimbabwe) continued.

The white-led Rhodesian forces had intensified their strikes at black Rhodesian Patriotic Front guerrilla bases allegedly located on Zambian soil.

Reportedly both the United States and Great Britain were anxious that the Russo-Cuban presence in or near Zambia not be increased.

### ON THE NATIONAL SCENE...

Washington, D.C. — The late Daniel "Chappie"

James, the first black to attain the rank of a four-star general, who retired at age 58 as head of the North American Defense Command, and who died several weeks later of a sudden heart attack continued to be mourned by black leaders as a bitter symbol of the precarious perch occupied by every black placed in high appointive—or even elective—position.

Blacks were chagrined at the "forced retirement" (as they saw it) of "Chappie" James who had allegedly been a model and most circumspect—and still credible—black friend of the white establishment. "Regardless of how useful you are, you are still never secure," said one black who spoke for hundreds of blacks who had gathered in Washington to say a fond farewell to a fallen black hero.

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown stated: "The country is wiser, more tolerant and stronger because of General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. . . . Our nation has lost a fine man."

Blacks in the Congress and elsewhere have begun to pressure the Pentagon for the appointment of more blacks at the highest service command levels and more equitability throughout the commissioned and non-commissioned officer ranks.

Washington, D.C. — In a two-pronged attack upon racial and other inequities in the Civil Service system, President Carter has asked for a reorganization of the Civil Service and a consolidation of federal programs to combat discrimination.

From an economic point

of view the Carter proposal to end "across the board" pay raises for top managerial personnel would take many of the lower-paid federal workers—which includes the preponderance of those representing minorities—out of the ignominious class of "poverty level" income employees. The old pay raise formula simply had the federal government playing a major role in widening the dollar gap between white and black Americans.

Regarding the consolidation of enforcement powers to combat job discrimination, the President noted that nearly 40 statutes and regulations were administered by 18 agencies. Mr. Carter stated: "That is a formula not for guaranteeing...justice, but of confusion."

Washington, D.C. — In the face of an awesomely miserable track record on the fair employment front for black businesses which have been rapidly diminishing—a number of cabinet level proposals have been made this year to earmark substantial percentages of federal contract funds to firms who prove that they are using minority sub-contractors equitably.

The cabinet level move, stirred by Mr. Carter himself, allegedly would greatly offset the negative influence of the construction trade unions and of government lethargy.

(For an in-depth analysis of these and other issues on black and Third World life, please see "The MONITOR Microscope" in the monthly magazine supplement to this paper.)

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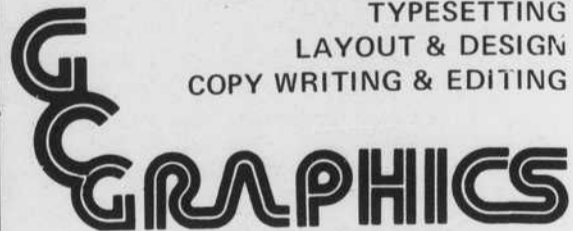
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# Across The Nation

News From Home Folks

This feature is a news compilation from more than 100 black-owned and oriented newspapers in this nation. It deals with what blacks, who are all-too-often little recognized, are doing to promote full participation in American life by black Americans. It is thus a salute from all of our readers for unsung heroes...and is designed to be a challenge for all of us to keep on doing our very best.

Our family of readers across the nation are always responsive, either in spirit, deed or both to good causes. A "more-than-good" cause is presented to us by Mrs. Ralph Bunche, Dr. John Hope Franklin and Dr. Robert Wever on behalf of our world's foremost black archives which are now in grave need.

Let's have their fine letter make its own appeal to your heart...and purse. Their letter reads:

Dear Friend:

Within weeks, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture will face a most important deadline. Because we know of your involvement and your concern for the Center's work, we want to share this challenge with you...and provide you with an opportunity, as well.

The challenge is a matching grant on which the Schomburg Center's immediate future crucially depends. As you may know, the National Endowment for the Humanities has recognized the significance of the Center's work by awarding it a \$390,000 "Challenge Grant."

The e is one major condition attached to the grant—for every dollar the Endowment donates, the Schomburg Center must raise two dollars on its own. And in order to receive any of these Federal funds, the Center must raise its portion of the

challenge grant.

Every effort has been made and is still being made to search out those Americans sensitive to the social and cultural values of this vast collection and willing to give to preserve it. Nevertheless, we are short more than \$26,000 required to qualify for the matching grant.

That is the challenge. To meet it, the Schomburg Center hopes for your special help. And as a token of thanks for your help in this urgent situation, we want you to share something very special with us and the community of scholars which depends so greatly on the Schomburg's resources.

This is the opportunity: for your special contribution of \$10 or more, we will send you the exciting new issue of the *Journal of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture*, a beautiful and widely acclaimed publication

exploring the broad range of black history, culture and achievements. The Journal is published by the Center under the terms of the NEH grant and is mailed to libraries, colleges and universities throughout the world. The new spring issue which you will receive includes:

- A close look at the first fifty years of the Schomburg Center's history and an insider's forecast of the future, as seen by its longtime Curator, Stanton A. Biddle.
- A groundbreaking essay on the achievements of a controversial black historian, Joel A. Rogers—respected by some, rejected by others.
- A fascinating tour of the Center's collection of rare tapes and priceless recordings.



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