## NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE PRESIDENT TELLS:

## What Blacks Can Expect In The '80s

The 1970s are over and the 1980s have begun. I suspect the new decade will be as different from its predecessor as the 1970s were from the

The sixties ended with the nation enmeshed in a war in Vietnam, and exhibiting moral exhaustion derived from a decade of rapid social change. The domestic and international problems it tried to resolve proved more difficult that it imagined, power. and so the nation opted out of the struggle.

those problems to hang during the decade worsened them.

The primary unresolved merly domestic issue was race. minorities. The black Racial disadvantage was attacked head-on in the sharply. sixties, with some segregation was disman- progress stalled just when it mitment to removing the

BY VERNON JORDON, JR. should have powered an even greater thrust ahead.

engine of change stalled just when it should have powered an even greater thrust ahead.

The seventies were marked by a selfish privatism that placed personal concerns first and the common good a poor second. That mood was fed by resentment at minority gains, a sluggish economy that left a smaller pie to be divided, and runaway inflation that eroded purchasin g

So the net result was that the nation's racial In doing so, it left problems persisted and even deteriorated. Some over its head for ten long blacks continued to years, while economic progress in the seventies. and social changes Those with the requisite educational credentials streamed into jobs forclosed to college population rose

Small wonder then that last phenomenal results. The the seventies gave rise to discrimination. of legal the myth of black tled, while blacks made widespread belief that decade of black losses. great breakthroughs in black gains were steady, almost all phases of life. even in the absence of a But the engine of change sustained national com-



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of the pent-up frustrations

of racial and economic

vestiges

But the truth about the inequity will erupt into the seventies is that it was a positive change.

Black income, over 60 percent of white income in 1969, fell to only 57 percent by the end of the decade. Black unemployment rose to two and a half times the white rate by the decade's end. And more blacks were poor at the end of the seventies than at the beginning of the decade. The black middle class, painted by 'experts' as growing, actually declined from 12 to 9 percent of all black families.

Where the sixties showed dramatic leaps in jobs, income, and other indicators of progress, the seventies showed a few gains buried in an overall picture of continued hardship.

What about the 1980s? With the country sliding into recession, with inflation unchecked, and with a continued national mood of selfishness, will they be more of the

My guess is that the pendulum will swing once more and that the coming decade will be characterized by a new thrust of social change.

derives from the fact that serious problems cannot be allowed to linger indefinitely. We are rapidly reaching the point where

Part of my optimism

without changes that and that always results in make better use of the social changes. There full human potential of all will be an acceleration of people, national produc- the trend to a service tivity and the economy economy, increasing the tured in the coming ces. decade.

ternal events - in- and on urban centers. tolerably high unem- The 1980s can be a better ployment and inflation, decade, but minorities treatment, or a foreign fighting for change. crisis that spurs more ingreater America.

mous changes in the way change.

A second reason is that Americans work and live, will decline. Thus it is in demand for educated the national interest that workers and services that social change be nur- enhance human resour-

That kind of change Those changes may must focus new attention also get impetus from ex- on neglected minorities another OPEC shock must take the lead in

Just as the gains of the tensive development of sixties were won by equity in progressive alliances led by the civil rights movement, so too must Finally, the eighties the 1980s be a period of will be a decade of enor- revived alliances for

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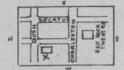
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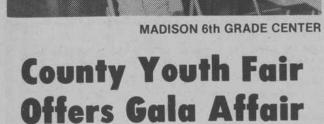
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Clark County School District's Human Relations Department in con-junction with Clark County's Youth Fair, will present a Multi-Cultural Extravangza, Friday April 25, at 7:00 p.m., at the Las Vegas Convention Center. All activities will take place in the South Hall.

For the past five years the extravangza has been an outlet for many local youths. It has given them an opportunity to become involved in the fair, as

well as display their many talents.

In addition many pieces of cultural art work will be on display in the Human Relations art display section. All projects were made or drawn by students. Their outstanding work is an attempt to visually demonstrate the potential of our young