

# Black Tradesmen Focus Elections

By Bayard Rustin

Black trade unionists must take the lead in mobilizing a huge voter turnout in 1980 to guarantee the defeat of conservative candidates for Congress and the presidency. President Norman Hill told more than 1300 participants at the A. Philip Randolph Institute's Eleventh National Conference in New York City.

The Institute, which has 180 local affiliates in 36 states, works closely with the AFL-CIO and civil rights organizations in organizing voter registration drives and labor support activities in the minority community.

Hill criticized economic policy-makers for relying on measures that "carefully allocate economic suffering by class.

"We have workers, many of them union members, being used as cheap and plentiful cannon fodder in the war against inflation. We are lectured repeatedly by conservatives, business leaders and economists about the immense values of suffering and sacrifice. But workers are the only people suffering today," he declared.

Pointing to widespread disillusionment among blacks with President Carter, Ronald Reagan and John Anderson, Hill warned that political apathy could produce a sweeping conservative victory in November.

"If that happens, the disappointments of the last three years will look like achievements, as we are forced into a defensive battle against an onslaught of right-wing

legislation," he said.

Hill said that black trade unionists can counter voter apathy by educating people "about the real issues, the economic issues," and by reminding people that "we have never had a perfect candidate, and we never will."

Recalling the late A. Philip Randolph's support for a black-labor alliance, Hill insisted that "in defending the labor movement, we are defending ourselves.

"We do not look to labor simply because it is powerful. We look to labor because it uses its power to advance the interests of all workers, including blacks.

"The labor movement is our home; it is the one stable institution in an unstable political environment," he said.

Kenneth Young, executive assistant to AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland, praised the Randolph Institute for being "the first among the major black organizations to tie civil rights to economics.

"It doesn't do you any good to win the right to sit down in the lunchroom if you don't have the price of a hamburger in your jeans," he said.

Young called upon Institute leaders "to build coalitions with other minorities, with the elderly, with the young, with the churches, and with all others of good faith.

"If there's one thing we know about the elections of 1980 and beyond, "he continued, "it's that we need allies lined up facing in the direction Mr. Randolph taught us, against

the enemy, not against each other."

Chairman Bayard Rustin presented the 1980 A. Philip Randolph Freedom Award to the late Jesse Owens, and to E.D. Nixon, a retired leader of the Sleeping Porters, who urged Martin Luther King, Jr. to join the civil rights movement in the mid-1950s.

Rustin, who retired as Institute President in February, called Nixon "one of the unsung heroes of the civil rights cause, a man who is consumed by an immense love for his fellow human beings."

Praising Owens as "an outstanding model for young people," Rustin said that the black Olympic athlete "put totalitarianism and racism to shame" at the 1936 games in Berlin.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

We, the staff of Southern Nevada Drug Abuse and Alcoholism Council, take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the articles which appeared in the June 6 issue of the Las Vegas Sentinel. Your concern regarding this ever-growing social problem,

which directly or indirectly affects every person in our community, is to be commended. It is our sincere hope at SN-DAAC that other socially conscious businesses and residents of Clark County will follow your newspaper's lead and join forces to help combat this serious problem.

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Executive Director



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## Political Profile

### Constable Deiss Seeks Re-Election

Las Vegas Constable Will Deiss, appointed to that office July 9, 1979 by the Clark County Commission, seeks to be elected.

Deiss, 49, brings to that office an impressive law enforcement record. During the period 1953 to 1973, he served in the Las Vegas Police Department working in the Uniform Division as a dispatcher, jailer, foot patrolman and in uniform field patrol. He also served as a detective working on larceny and burglary details.

There was a period beginning in 1973, where Deiss served with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Here he was assigned in the Uniform



Patrol and in the Detective Bureau in the Larceny, Fugitive Detail and the Crime Prevention Detail.

In his present post as Constable, Deiss has developed a staff of 14 deputies with a reserve force of 20 deputies. In-

cluded in his corps of deputies are four women, two of whom are black and he has two black men on the force. Deiss says, "we are organized to where we've gained respectability." Proud of the ac-

complishments of his staff, Deiss added: "The days of the cowboys are over. This is serious business and we strive to serve in the best interest of the entire community."

Among the State appointments he experienced was on the Nevada State Retirement Board to serve on the Police-Fire Advisory Committee, July 1, 1975-July 1, 1977. Deiss was also appointed to the Public Employees Retirement Board by the then Gov. Mike O'Callaghan, July 1, 1977 to July 1, 1981.

Born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Deiss is married. His wife is Dorothy and they have 5 children.

## Sentinel Editorial

from page 16

Business Manager Ed Greer warned the board more cuts of about \$3 million probably would be needed to be made in July. His argument was that the cuts were necessary to compensate for the loss of property tax, federal grants and other revenue. Greer held out no hope for the board getting the \$3 million worth of emergency funds mentioned in the May 29 meeting.

### WHERE DO WE STAND?

The other day, our youngest son, who will enter one of the area's high schools this fall, wondered aloud rather apprehensively what he will do now that JV sports is eliminated. His whole heart and mind had been set on his athletic pursuits. Through all of his earlier school years, he "busted his gut" to prepare himself to make the junior varsity teams. Through much sweat and sacrifice, he was able to make the junior high school teams. He was involved in three sports. He took great pride in those accomplishments. This was to be his big chance to dig in and shape his future. The one way to make such determination would have been for him to get a chance to participate in that school's junior varsity program.

Now it's all for naught.

Our son is among the many thousands of youth in this area caught up in this dilemma. In some situations, the elimination of JV sports may develop undesirable problems among the youth, of unbelievable proportions. What will these energetic, vibrant youth now turn to?

Further, it appears the elimination of the sixth-grade counselors is catastrophic. It could have long-range repercussions.

The whole matter is an area of deep concern. What does the future really hold for our youth?

We agree with Janet Sobel that it is a "heartless way we are terminating employees." She concluded: "The cuts are not well thought through and I am going to vote against them."

We agree with her action. It's too bad the majority did not see it differently.