

## Social Workers in Politics Conference

WASHINGTON—"More Black women are not actively involved in the women's movement because race discrimination is a more critical obstacle (to equal rights) than sex discrimination," according to Barbara White, who is to make a presentation on anti-minority legislation before the National Association of Social Workers 4th Annual Social Workers in Politics Conference being held here this Spring.

"Black women are more reluctant to join any organization that does not list the elimination of racism as its primary objective," she went on.

White, who is president of NASW's Florida Chapter and a member of the Association's National Committee on Minority Affairs added, "Another obstacle is the belief among minorities that only white women will benefit from the women's movement.

"This," she believes, "has prevented the formation of any large-scale coalition of minority and women's groups."

White, who is also an instructor at Florida State University School of Social Work, Tallahassee, will make a formal presentation entitled "Can We Stop Anti-Minority Legislation in Congress?" at NASW's SWIP Conference Sunday, April 12 at 4 pm. According to White, many Black women keep their distance because they perceive feminist groups as being anti-male. However, the Black male is not the enemy.

"This attitude is understandable," she pointed out. "If Black women believe participating in the groups will put down the Black man, there is a reluctance to help the antagonism between Black males and females."

Although there is still a great hesitancy among Black women to actively participate in the women's rights movement, White does not consider herself an anti-feminist nor does she perceive this as meaning Black women are not seeking the same basic rights and freedoms that the women's movement advocates.

The SWIP Conference which is being sponsored by NASW and its PACE (Political Action For Candidate Election) committee, is scheduled for April 12 - 14 at Washington, D.C.'s International Inn.

NASW is the largest national organization representing professional social workers with 85,000 members in 55 chapters located in each State the District of Columbia, New York City, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Europe.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

LAS VEGAS — Decisive and immediate reform of the Nevada tax structure is one of the initiatives the state is taking to meet the challenges of the 1980s, Governor Robert List said Monday night.

In a speech to the Southern Nevada Homebuilders Association, the governor said the proposed shift of the tax burden in Nevada to all the people who enjoy and expect state services will provide a more equitable and responsive tax system.

The governor's tax reform proposal was made in response to the needs and concerns of the vast majority of Nevada taxpayers, the governor said.

"I am convinced that Nevadans deserve the kind of tax reform that I am proposing," the governor said. "I am determined to give Nevadans the greatest measure of tax relief possible."

Tax reform is one of several areas in which Nevada has taken a national leadership position, the governor said. The state has taken the lead in such areas as use of public lands, fire safety, and nuclear waste disposal.

"We have waited for no one to show us the way," the governor said. "We have not looked to the federal government to solve our problems. We have not waited for other states to devise models for us to follow.

"We have taken the initiative. We are showing others the way."

CARSON CITY — Governor Robert List Wednesday signed legislation requiring all new district judges and masters who rule on juvenile justice matters to attend courses at the National College of Juvenile Justice.

Under Senate Bill No. 32, all district judges and masters appointed after July 1, will be required to attend training classes in juvenile justice offered by the Juvenile Justice College in Reno.

"By requiring juvenile court judges and masters to attend courses of instruction, this bill will ensure that juvenile justice in Nevada will always be of the highest caliber," Governor Robert List said.

"This is an important bill to the judicial system in Nevada. It's a good bill. Effective and responsive juvenile courts are a key element in the overall judicial system in Nevada."

The Juvenile Justice College currently sponsors four two-week seminars in juvenile justice each year. In addition, the college offers advanced courses in juvenile justice and family law, and regional training seminars.

## Reaction to President Reagan's Economic Message

"We are deeply apprehensive and see a potentially devastating retreat from a national commitment to justice, human rights, dignity and welfare, replaced by a responsiveness to the special interests of the comfortable few," the chief executive of the American Friends Service committee declared today in reaction to President Reagan's economic message.

Executive Secretary Asia A. Bennett said "We recognize that there have to be efforts to curb inflation, but the big waste is in the billions for military spending. The economy will be in deeper trouble if the nation continues to feed the Pentagon.

"Our decades of experience on the stubborn issues of poverty and discrimination led us to be struck by three themes in the President's address -- lifting burdensome regulations, 'response to those who need our benevolence', and flexibility in the use of federal funds."

Asia Bennett said that "What President Reagan calls burdensome regulations are in many cases critical safeguards to health and equal opportunity. What he sees as 'benevolence' is instead the responsibility of citizens to the well-being of society, a responsibility which must be chiefly expressed through government action in such areas as housing and education assistance, and job training and employment.

"The flexibility implied in President Reagan's proposed block grant to state governments, such as his health block grant proposal, a grant with inadequate safeguards, reneges on the accountability of the federal government for the proper use of tax dollars, paid by citizens to the federal government."

The AFSC executive said "The President asked who has an alternative plan. We do. It is to open a two-pronged assault on the military waste of our resources and incomes. One step is to initiate really serious international work on arms control and strategic weapons limitations. The accompanying step is to begin a phased reduction of military expenditures, a significant percentage each year for the next three years. The ultimate goal should be the reduction and elimination of war machines in step with the imaginative and sound development of the machinery of peace-keeping and peace-making."

Recent studies from the World Bank and U.S. Arms Control Agency reveal that industrial-capitalist economies which have a higher percentage of GNP (Gross National Product) devoted to military production also have lower economic growth rate. Spending on national defense represents a diversion of resources from consumption and from investment required to achieve higher rates of economic growth. Japan, for example, has the highest growth rate of 8.8% but the least GNP % on military, .9%. Canada spends 2.8% GNP on arms and has a growth rate of 5.1%. The U.S. however, has a growth rate of only 3.4% but uses 7.6% GNP for military. Increasing the military budget will not stimulate U.S. domestic productivity.

Asia Bennett added that "The budget message also appeared to be consistent with the President's announced intent to downplay the importance of human rights in foreign policy determination."

The AFSC, founded in 1917, seeks to put into practice the beliefs of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

## HEATWAVE'S JOHNNIE WILDER'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN TO RECORDING; GROUP GIVEN LISTENING PARTY IN CINCINNATI



At a recent listening party in Cincinnati, Heatwave vocalist Johnnie Wilder, Jr. was presented with an exact replica -- in cake form -- of the cover from CANDLES, Heatwave's most recent Epic release.