

APRI CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON 'STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE'

By Adrian Karatnycky

"Blacks and workers must move from politics to political protest," Norman Hill, President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute told over 750 black trade unionists and community leaders who gathered in Los Angeles June 19-21 for the Institute's Twelfth National Conference.

"By political protest we do not mean violence and destructiveness," Hill asserted. "We mean a well thought-out and well-structured attempt to develop a wideranging, socially equitable program and to put this program before the American people." Hill criticized the rightward drift of the Senate and the executive branch, and asserted that the Reagan administration has launched "the most formidable challenge to the interests of blacks and other workers since the Republican administrations of the 1920s." Hill's keynote address sounded the theme of the Randolph Institute's annual conference, "The Struggle For Social Justice: Where We Are

And Where We Go."

California Governor Jerry Brown, who addressed the opening session of the conference, spoke of the

problem of world hunger and emphasized that millions of blacks are starving to death in Africa. He called for foreign policy initiatives designed to help stem the problem of starvation and criticized the social and economic program of the Reagan administration.

Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley praised APRI's work in the Los Angeles area and highlighted APRI's "very important contributions to voter registration and voter participation." Mayor Bradley, who is rumored to be considering a run for California Governorship, hinted at what he termed his "future ambitions at a higher level."

Other speakers at the conference included William Pollard, AFL-CIO Civil Rights Department Director, who spoke on coalition-building; Frederick

O'Neal, AFL-CIO Vice President; John Henning, Secretary-Treasurer of the California State AFL-CIO; and William Robertson, Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles County AF-CIO.

The high point APRI's conference was the presentation of the A. Philip Randolph Freedom Award to Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins of California. Rep. Hawkins was cited for his contributions to the concepts of full employment, social justice, and interracial cooperation. APRI Chairman Bayard Rustin praised Hawkins as "one of our country's most outstanding legislators," and noted that "like A. Philip Randolph, Gus Hawkins knows that freedom for black workers is only possible in an atmosphere of political, social and economic security."

Donald Slaiman, AFL-CIO Deputy Director for Organization and Field Services delivered greetings to the conference and award dinner from AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland and Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Donahue. Slaiman urged Randolph Institute leaders to play a leading role in building black community support for the federation's planned September 19th "Solidarity Day" demonstration, and stressed the need for APRI to support labor's grassroots legislative lobbying efforts and organizing drives in the South. He also urged active participation by black workers in the selection of candidates for public office.

Conference participants had an opportunity to participate in an extensive workshop program which focused on such topics as occupational safety and health, union organizing drives, the grassroots legislative lobbying.

WAITING CHILDREN



Lloyd and Willie Morris With Four Of Seven Children

Sharing Spirit Hooks Families On Adoption

Lloyd and Willie Morris often reflect on how fortunate they are to have had the opportunity to adopt four children, those in addition to their three natural children.

Willie came from a family of 12 children. Lloyd, a rental office clerk for Clark County, who was raised in a family of 15 children, said that he and his wife decided to have such a large family because "with all the family we had, including nephews and nieces, aunts and uncles, we always had someone else's kids in the house."

Lloyd and Willie's three oldest children have moved out and started lives of their own, but their four adoptive children — Paula, 5, Brian, 6, Candace, 11 and Christopher, 7 — have brought much youth and happiness back into the Morris home.

Willie says, "It was a challenge, seeing how each child adjusted to the family. It's a struggle to stay young to raise

them all."

The Morris received help and support from AASK (Aid To The Adoption Of Special Kids), when sisters Candace and Paula were adopted. The two sons, Brian and Christopher were adopted through the state system.

"Staying around the kids keeps you feeling young," says Lloyd. "Originally, we hadn't intended on four, but you get hooked."

HOW YOU CAN ADOPT Nationwide, there are over 300,000 children who, for various reasons, have not found permanent parents, some have physical, mental or emotional handicaps; some are of mixed racial background; some are older. Others are siblings.

The Sentinel, working with AASK (Aid to Adoption of Special Kids) hopes to find homes for these children.

AASK is looking for people who can give love and nurturing to hard-to-place children. Prospective

parents may be single or married.

Subsidies (payment to the adopting family each month and medical expenses) are available for many of the children. Subsidies may depend on the financial situation of the adoptive family or the child's needs.

If you'd like more information on how to adopt a special child or how you can help financially support the AASK program, please call 876-7420 or write AASK Adoption Agency, 3305 W. Spring Mountain Road, Suite 92, Las Vegas 89102.

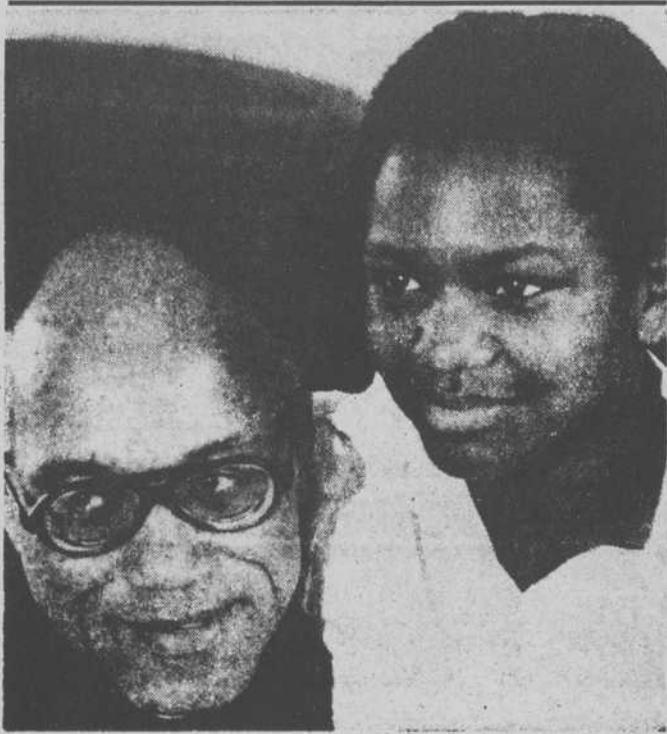
Adoption is a specific legal matter, and the Las Vegas Sentinel can answer no questions concerning the children.



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FATHER'S A FATHER —Rev. George Clements introduces his newly adopted son, Joey, 13, following a news conference at Holy Angels church in Chicago. Clements, a Roman Catholic priest, rocked the religious community when he first announced his plan to adopt a child to call attention to the plight of black orphans.

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