

Lubertha M. Johnson Election Committee States Purpose And Goals

As citizens committed to the task of reviving the Las Vegas branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), we are urging every citizen interested in justice to join in a crusade to restore the organization to its former status as the influential organ that moved the Las Vegas community to eliminate many practices which were oppressive, unfair, and in direct conflict with the constitutional guarantee of the rights of American citizens.

A major factor in implementing our plan and accomplishing desired goals is to select an individual of proven qualifications to head the organization. To this end, we have sought out Mrs. Lubertha Johnson to ask her to become a candidate for the Las Vegas NAACP presidency.

A 39-year-resident of Las Vegas, Mrs. Johnson has a history of more than 40 years of dedicated service to the NAACP.

In announcing her candidacy, Mrs. Johnson

issued the following statement as the platform on which she will run.

"My platform is very simple. I pledge to do everything in my power to obtain the cooperation of every individual and every group interested in justice to come together and establish a powerful coalition through which we can, under the guidance of our national organization, achieve full realization of all rights and privileges guaranteed by the constitution of the United States of America.

"These rights include equal opportunities in the job market, access to adequate education to qualify for any position in every job classification — indeed, equal opportunity to participate in every facet of American life.

"It will be my objective for us all to succeed to the point of being worthy of the heritage left by those who gave their very lives that we might walk throughout this land in dignity and in respect."

"Today, there can be no question that the Reagan Administration's policies have created a disaster of major proportions for blacks and all workers," Norman Hill, President of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, noted in a Labor Day message issued in New York.

Hill, a long-time civil rights and trade union activist, is a leading figure in the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, an organization with 180 affiliates active in 37 states, whose membership numbers over 15,000. The Institute is involved in a significant nationwide voter registration, voter education and get-out-the-vote effort.

The full text of Mr. Hill's statement follows:

LABOR DAY MESSAGE

For working people, Labor Day is traditionally a moment of celebration. It is a moment when we pay tribute to the working men and women of our country who produce the great wealth of our land. It is a time when we recognize the dignity of work and acknowledge that

NORMAN HILL ISSUES LABOR DAY STATEMENT

work is a means by which life is made more meaningful and purposeful. It is a time when, traditionally, we honor American's labor unions, which, remain the principal means of economic advancement for blacks and all working Americans.

This Labor Day, however, requires us to depart from tradition. For this Labor Day — the second since the Administration of President Ronald Reagan took office — finds our country confronting a severe economic and social crisis. The unemployment rate of 9.8 percent is the highest since the end of World War II, Black unemployment stands at 18.5 percent.

The country is in the midst of a protracted recession brought about by the fiscal and economic policies of this Administration. In the midst of this economic downturn, the Reagan Administration has mounted the most significant attack on social programs since the Great Depression.

Yet despite the onslaughts of Reaganism

we have witnessed the validation of civil rights leader A. Phillip Randolph's view that organized labor is the only force under our economic system which unites divergent constituencies of working people. It is the only mass-based institution in which we can find represented blacks, Hispanics, women, and the dispossessed. It is the only institution which seeks to defend the interests of these diverse constituencies. Thus the labor movement is the central instrument for social progress in our time. And, in this election year, its role in setting the economic and political agenda for the forces committed to social justice is the vital task of our time.

In a very real sense, this Labor Day marks the beginning of the 1982 electoral campaign. The results of this campaign will be a referendum on the policies of Ronald Reagan. Economically these policies have been a tragic disaster. But only if blacks turn out to vote in numbers greater than ever before, will

we be able to ensure that this economic disaster is translated into a political disaster for its architects.

This Labor Day must be a moment of summoning up strength for the difficult battles that confront us. This Labor Day must be a moment of reflection in which we recognize that we are one link in the long and difficult struggle of working people to achieve dignity and justice. Above all it must be a moment of renewed commitment to the principles so eloquently formulated by A. Phillip Randolph when he stated that:

"Salvation for a race, nation or class must come from within. Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given; it is exacted. Freedom and justice must be struggled for by the oppressed of all lands and races, and the struggle must be continuous, for freedom is never a final act, but a continuing, evolving process to higher and higher levels of human, social, economic, political and religious relationships."

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