

AOIP*(Continued from page 4.)*

Samuel L. Banks, president of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, and Dr. Gilbert Francis set the tone and the directional focus of the discussion. Dr. Banks urged the assembly to take a strong stance. To get our fair share we must be demonstrative, Banks added. "All of us must be in the meeting and/or simply be available to back up the spokespersons. We have to stop pussyfooting around. We can't be perpetual mendicants. Let's stand up and demand our full share," he concluded.

There was overwhelming agreement that a show of strength was imperative and that a delegation of four or five persons as approved by DOE would not adequately convey the numerical strength of the constituency represented by AOIP organizations. Subsequently, the number of delegates was increased to 12 with one alternate. However, the suggestion that all present be "available to back up the spokespersons" was unanimously adopted.

At this juncture, Clarence Thomas, chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, former assistant secretary for civil rights in the Department of Education and a close friend of Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, left the meeting to perform an invaluable service for the group. He contacted Secretary Bell at his home and received his invitation for the entire group to form the delegation.

Highlights of the Historic Meeting at DOE

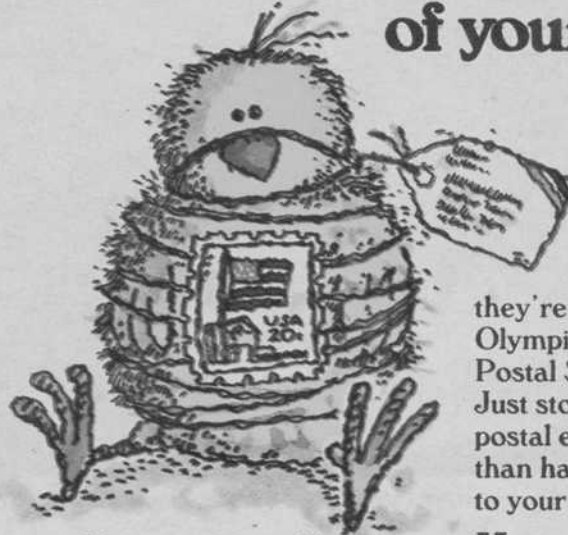
THE second meeting provided an auspicious and salutary occasion for a broad spectrum of national leaders, representing literally millions of Black people, to come together and present to Secretary Terrel H. Bell an unmistakably strong statement of unity and concern. The general tone of the meeting was set when Secretary Bell entered the room and immediately invited Ben Wright to take a seat beside him at the head of the table, thus publicly acknowledging his understanding of Ben's courageous and unrelenting struggle within his department and his acceptance of us in AOIP as needed friends.

The size of the delegation demonstrated the exciting response of the organization people. Among those present were: Clara Allen, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (membership over 100,000); Dr. Samuel L. Banks, president of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History; Lucille F. Bland, national AOIP representative for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority; James

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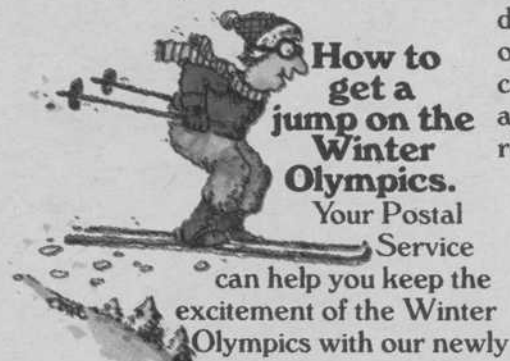
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