

# AOIP

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periences and successes at the Grape Street School in Watts which was second to the last school in achievement in Los Angeles when she assumed the principalship in 1969. She "counseled out" much of the staff and recruited new teachers who believed in the learning capability of the students. By 1976, out of 1100 children only 56 were not on grade level and 40 of these were only one year behind. The secret of this dedicated and resourceful principal was re-building the children's battered self-images. She helped the students take pride in what they did and would like to see this spirit spread with the help of DOE.

Mrs. Haynes told Secretary Bell that the delegation would like to see the department take the lead in sponsoring workshops to involve other departments of the federal government, such as HUD and the Justice Department. "But first, Mr. Secretary," she said, "we need your public endorsement." The Secretary replied in no uncertain terms: "You've got it. You've got my endorsement."

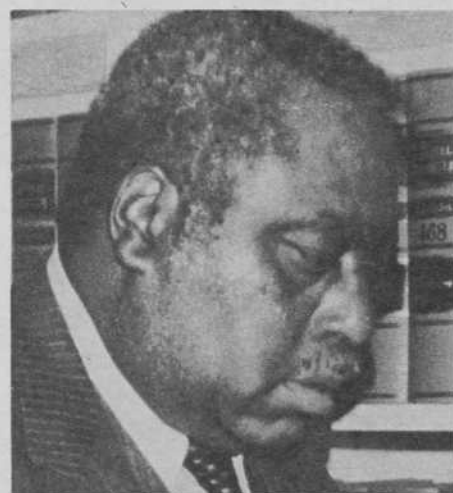
Chairman Sutton summarized the demands being made of DOE:

1. *A full and sincere endorsement of the unique AOIP framework as respected partners with the U.S. Department of Education in the eradication of functional illiteracy. This would include direct liaison with the office of the Secretary especially since intermediaries have (in the past) appeared to undermine commitments from the Secretary's office.*
2. *Direct assistance in opening up avenues of the fullest possible cooperation between state and local governments and the vast array of volunteers available through the AOIP concept. This would include aligning the DOE regional and other representatives with the state and local AOIP leadership in a priority cooperative manner.*

Here the Secretary expressed his willingness to sign letters, drafted by representatives of AOIP working in conjunction with Dianne Vines, to take care of 1 and 2 above.

3. *Leadership by your intergovernmental and interagency liaison staff in establishing a one (1) or two (2) day workshop. The purpose of that essential workshop would be to determine roles each of these agencies could play in helping to prevent and eradicate the functional illiteracy so costly to their agencies and to America as a whole.*

At Ozell Sutton's request, Ben Wright



## THE NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL, INC.

(Top, left to right) Gilbert H. Francis, President, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc.; Faye Bryant, National President, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Ozell Sutton, General President, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; (center, left to right) Hortense G. Canady, National President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Robert L. Gordon, Grand Polemarch, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; L. Benjamin Livingston, Grand Basileus, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; (bottom, left to right) Demetrius C. Newton, National President, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; Alice M. Swain, Grand Basileus, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; Edith V. Francis, National President, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

added two other points. He said DOE has been a "dumping ground" for other problems. AOIP is here to help the department shed the burden of being liable for some things for which no educational system should have been held accountable. He therefore stressed the necessity of DOE's taking the leadership in initiating interdepartmental and interagency workshops. His points 4 and 5 were as follows:

4. *Leadership from your office in*

*establishing a close and productive relationship between the leaderships of the National Institute of Education (NIE) and AOIP. NIE's leadership has indicated a receptivity to us. However, illiteracy eradication requires this to be a tripartite and continuing one that includes DOE as well. And...*

5. *Continuous assistance from your office in a sincere searching for—and in obtaining com-*

*mitments for—funding from whatever sources there may be in government or otherwise.*

AOIP, Wright reminded the Secretary, will monitor the implementation of the department's commitment. Everyone here wants to see our people move from dependency to self-sufficiency. "Whoever is going to do this will get our unequivocal support," Wright concluded.

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