

**AOIP**

(Continued on page 18.)

"Immediately after the first of the year," Bell asked, "can we schedule a follow-up meeting? I'm not trying to be altruistic here, but what you propose to do helps the department do its work...and I want to be a central part of this next meeting."

Dr. Calvin Rolark, chairman of THE BMI COOPERATIVE, and president of the United Black Fund of America, summed up the significance of the events saying, "This is one of the greatest Christmas gifts to Black America—a sensitive Secretary who is committed to rid Black America of illiteracy. This kind of commitment has never been made by anyone within this century. This truly is historic!"

When Rev. Saul Williams had closed the meeting with a prayer, the delegates left this place confident that they had witnessed a great historical event and a totally new directional focus on the part of the U.S. Department of Education for the good of everyone in America—both Black and White.

These reflections by one of the delegates mirror the sentiments of all:

The meeting, in short, from my perspective, was a glowing, needed and luminous example of Black solidarity, unity and affirmation of human possibilities. I left the meeting buoyed and inspired by the possibilities for the present and future uplift, renewal, racial cohesion and forward movement. AOIP, as an umbrella organization, can be a potent and monumental catalyst in this unfolding process.

—Dr. Samuel L. Banks

**N**O sooner than the soft-spoken but



(Left to right) Dianne Vines, DOE's Director, Special Initiative on Adult Literacy; and Gilbert Francis.

prudently-concise Dr. Gilbert H. Francis was installed as the new president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc., one of the very first things he did was to contact the Black press. "My intent," he said to the publishers, "is to make it unmistakably clear that there are two essential aspects of one major focus that will be the overriding priorities under our new leadership team."

"Our focus unmistakably is on education. The two aspects of education we will be dealing with are (1) voter education, which includes registration and (2) self-image education and enhancement, which is a prerequisite to the excellence which must be our goal in every community-building endeavor. In our view, AOIP epitomizes this latter kind of education far better than any framework ever established in America."

"Accordingly," he concluded, "AOIP must be a top priority with Pan-Hellenic. From its beginning 54 years ago, all of the Greek-letter organizations associated with us have assumed a major leadership role in encouraging our people to focus on educational excellence. Thus, with the enormous potential of the AOIP framework, along with the solid commitment from the United States Department of Education, all of our local councils are being asked to serve as primary coordinators of AOIP in every community."

The local Pan-Hellenic Councils, indeed, are uniquely qualified to accept that larger and fulfilling responsibility. These eight organizations truly represent the very best among our college-educated Black Americans. The present leaders of these organizations working with Dr. Gilbert "Gil" Francis are shown on page 18. Any questions relative to AOIP may be addressed to Dr. Francis, in care of AOIP, Suite 1101, 507 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017. The telephone number is (212) 867-0898.

[Mention should be made of the following persons who were present at the strategy session but unable to attend this meeting: CDR King D. Bell, National Naval Officers Association; William C. Brooks, National Black MBA Association; Dorothy Height, National Council of Negro Women; Rev. Archie Le Mone, Progressive Baptist Convention; Maxine Maye, Association of Black Social Workers; and Harold R. Sims, WNJR/Sound Radio. A very special mention should be made of Dr. T. Gayle Snowden of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, who was unable to be present but made tremendous input via several telephone calls during the strategy session.]

## Notice From U.S. District Court of **SETTLEMENT**

TO: ALL BLACK APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND ALL  
PRESENT AND FORMER BLACK EMPLOYEES OF THE

### **BURLINGTON NORTHERN RAILROAD**

This notice is to inform you that a settlement between the Burlington Northern Railroad Company (BN), and the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and counsel in a class action has been reached in a race discrimination employment practices case (1) on behalf of black applicants for employment who were not hired by BN, and (2) on behalf of black present and former employees of BN. Thirteen international unions representing BN employees are also involved in the case and the settlement. The Court has preliminarily approved the settlement consent decree, and will reach a final decision as to its fairness and adequacy after class members have had an opportunity, if they wish, to comment on or object to its terms.

Black persons who applied for employment to BN or were employed by BN at any time between March 1, 1970 and November 21, 1983, are members of the class and may be entitled to cash awards or other relief as part of the settlement.

Cash awards will be made to class members who file claims out of settlement funds provided by BN amounting to \$10 million which will be used solely to pay those claims. Any excess remaining after those claims are paid will be used to promote the interests of black people. In addition, you may be eligible to be considered for future vacancies at the Company on a priority basis, to transfer into certain vacancies or to otherwise benefit from agreed upon changes.

To be eligible to share in this \$10 million fund, you must obtain and file a claim form. Claim forms, with filing instructions, and a summary of the settlement, may be obtained by supplying in writing your name and current address by mail to:

#### Lead Counsel for the Plaintiff Class

Paul C. Sprenger, Esquire Sprenger, Olson & Shutes, P.A. 325 Ridgewood Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403	or Charles H. Barnhill, Esquire Davis, Miner, Barnhill & Galland, P.C. 14 West Erie Street Chicago, Illinois 60610
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You may also contact Bruce B. Elfvin, Esquire  
government counsel: Assistant General Counsel  
U.S. Equal Employment  
Opportunity Commission,  
#1 Playhouse Square, Suite 600,  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

Or, if you call toll free 1-800-223-9001 or in New York state only (1-212-245-3151), and supply your name and address, a claim form will be sent to you. All completed claim forms must be postmarked on or before May 15, 1984.

You may view a copy of the settlement consent decree itself and the full record in the case at any office of the EEOC or at the office of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604, file reference In Re Burlington Northern Employment Practices Litigation, MDL 374, 78 C 269.

The Court will hold a hearing at 9:30 a.m. on April 2, 1984, at the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. At that time, the Court will hear comments and objections, if any, from class members regarding the consent decree. You need not be present in court to file a claim or receive money from the \$10 million fund or otherwise benefit from the settlement. You will be represented there, as you have been throughout this litigation, at no cost to you by class counsel. If, however, you want to comment on or object to the settlement, you must file your comments in writing with the Clerk of the Court by March 16, 1984, and you may then appear at the hearing with an attorney of your own choice, at your own cost. You will, however, be bound by the judgment of the Court, whether or not it is favorable.

**George N. Leighton**  
United States District Judge