

MONITOR Microscope

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throughout the year. Their annual national training conference sets the goals for the coming year.

Last month the Coalition held a very successful 11th Annual In-Service Training Conference in Crystal City, Virginia. Lloyd Hargrave, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Coalition, has this to say about their meeting:

"Our theme this year was "Chapter I ECIA—Encourage Children to Improve Academically." This theme represents our renewed commitment to the Chapter I program, despite weakened legislation and reduced funding, and reflects our determination to continue to arm ourselves with the knowledge and skills that encourage our children to achieve academically and allow us to meaningfully respond to the issues that affect children.

Important in this regard is that the long-experienced and deeply-concerned educators in AOIP, with whom we now are in full partnership, have developed some easy-to-obtain material especially for our Chapter I children. The approach they have taken is that of *motivating our young people to want to learn...* and that is the very essence of what this conference is all about. In that regard, I have printed a reminder message on page 49 of our Annual Report that lets us know why we need to see that purchase orders are issued so that this AOIP reading-motivational and comprehension-enhancement material can be in the hands of all Chapter I students right away.

Thus, a major highlight of this entire conference will be AOIP's presentation to us of a unique, easily-achieved, provenly-successful and low-cost way we finally can effectively *Encourage Our Children To Improve Academically*. May God continue to bless us all.

For those who want more information about the conference or about the Coalition, call or write:

The National Parent Center
1314 14th Street, N.W. — Suite 6
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 483-8822

Helping to Produce Committed Teachers

The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. is an organization of Black teachers dedicated to promoting the highest ideals of the teaching profession.

This fall there are at least 125 students across the United States training to become teachers through scholarships given by the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson



During 1984 alone, this organization of committed teachers granted \$84,000 in new scholarships and \$60,000 in continuing scholarships on the local, regional and national levels.

Excellent teachers are needed all across this country. If you know of exceptional high school seniors desiring to enter the teaching profession, please contact the local National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa chapter in your community or contact:

Winnie Palmer
National Program Director
5516 Ramillete Road
Las Vegas, NV 89120
(702) 454-0482

Deadline for applications is December

1, 1984.

ASALH Announces New Task Force

Illiteracy afflicts 47 percent of our Black population age 18 and over. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the Black educator and historian, recognized the severe ego-damage that was being perpetrated on our youth by the deliberate omission and distortion of our history in order to foster an intentionally demeaning myth of Black inferiority. It is fitting that, in this time of crisis in Black education, the organization he founded, The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH), takes a leadership role in confronting this

predicament.

Dr. Samuel L. Banks, national president of ASALH, has announced the formation of a 22-member national task force entitled, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: A BLACK PERSPECTIVE. The basic purpose of the task force is two-fold:

1. Assess the quality and quantity of education available to Black children and youths in the United States; and,
2. To provide specific recommendations for uplift and assistance to Black children and youths.

Dr. Banks stated that it is urgent that "positive intervention strategies" are developed in order to save a generation of Black children and youths in our nation's public schools. The task force is expected to have a preliminary report ready by May 1, 1985.

Dr. Herman Brown, distinguished professor of psychology at the University of the District of Columbia, has agreed to chair the task force. The task force embraces a cross section of professionals in history, the social sciences and education.

Dr. Banks believes that the task force is of monumental and historic importance to Black children and youths and our nation. The task force will execute its mission within the ASALH national office at:

1401 Fourteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

The education of our youth is the business of every person in Black America. What are you doing to help motivate our young people to want to learn? Have you heard of the National Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP)? The story of this unique Black-conceived program, which is the joint effort of 80 Black-led organizations working together interorganizationally, is told in the Cover Stories of the following issues of the *National BLACK MONITOR*. Read them and join AOIP:

"The Time Is Now: AOIP," August 1982, p. 10ff.

"AOIP Phase II: Networking to Address Effectively Our Community Priorities," June 1983, p. 2ff.

"An Historic Educational Breakthrough for Black and White America," Part I, May 1984, p. 4ff.

"An Historic Educational Breakthrough for Black and White America," Part II, June 1984, p. 6ff.