

Black Physicians Held 9th Annual Convention in Las Vegas

The National Medical Association, an organization that has represented the concerns of black physicians and their patients since 1895, convened its 90th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, July 20-25. An historic highlight of the convention was the exchange of leadership from Dr. Philip M. Smith of Los Angeles to Dr. Edith Irby Jones of Houston, Texas, who was installed as the organization's first woman president.

"The National Medical Association was founded 90 years ago out of the need to allow its members exchange of scientific and professional information among black physicians so they might improve professionally to serve and ensure that patients receive quality health care," she said. "Our mission has not changed. The need for NMA is even greater today than 90 years ago.

"The NMA has a commitment to assure that all may enjoy life, liberty and health, and the pursuit of happiness.

"We are working to ensure that all have equal access to the highest quality of health care, to eliminate starvation for everyone in the world, to ensure that a clean environment is enjoyed by all, and to be advocates for the poor, minorities, aged and imprisoned."

Dr. Jones has all the credentials to merit the position, however, with many years of service to the NMA, to her profession, and to her community.

In assuming the presidency of NMA, Dr. Jones becomes one of America's most influential blacks and women.

The NMA is confident that over the next year she will make an important contribution in addressing the health needs of low-income and minority Americans, as well as health policy and practice concerns of its members.

Dr. Jones is a member of the Council on Concerns of Women Physicians; has been chairperson of the NMA's scientific council, public health section, and internal medicine section; a member of the NMA board of directors; executive secretary of the NMA.

The theme of the 1985 Convention was: "New

Strategies for the 80's: The Dynamics of Opportunity in an Age of Change." It reflects the overall content of the Conference and its Scientific forums which will address: critical political policy issues; the emergence of for-profit corporations in health care delivery; ways to alleviate increased stress on physicians and their families; the potential negative impact on black patients and physicians of the new Federal medicare regulations, (DRG's); and hunger in America which disproportionately affects blacks. The impact of Apartheid in South Africa and starvation in Africa on the health status of Third World populations was also addressed.

Among significant speakers who appeared at the Convention were Dorothy I. Height, president, National Council of Negro Women; Michael E. DeBakey, world renowned heart surgeon and Robert S. Eliot, author of "Is

Rose Thornton-McKinney has been appointed director of intergovernmental affairs for the city of Las Vegas.

Thornton-McKinney, 32, will represent the city at the state legislature, federal and state agencies, regional and local governments and neighborhood councils, according to City Manager Ashley Hall. She was a city

It Worth Dying For?"

Last Saturday afternoon, the NMA held its first Political Awareness Seminar led by Congressmen Mickey Leland of Texas and Louis Stokes of Ohio.

A number of special programs were arranged for conferees and their families including a Youth Career Workshop, tennis and golf tournaments for sports enthusiasts and a tour of the fabulous home of Las Vegas neurosurgeon, Lonnie Hammargren, whose home was featured on the national TV program, "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous."

lobbyist at the 1985 legislative session.

A certified economic development professional, Thornton-McKinney had



Rose Thornton-McKinney

been a project manager for the Nevada Economic Development Company. She also served as senior legislative analyst for the Institute of Economic Development in Washington, D.C., and was an assistant to Rep. Shirley Chisolm.

Thornton-McKinney received her doctorate at Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C.

Rose Thornton-McKinney Appointed to Las Vegas Post

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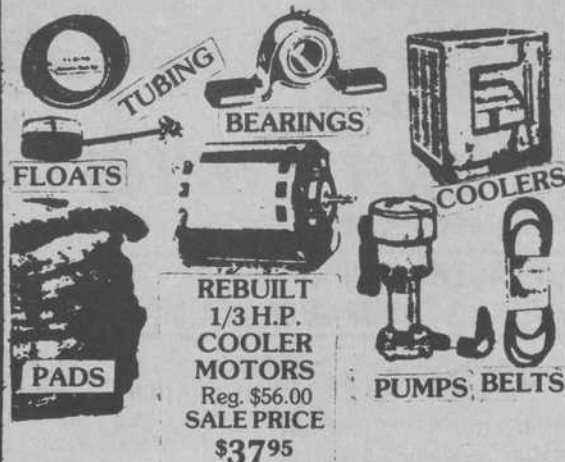


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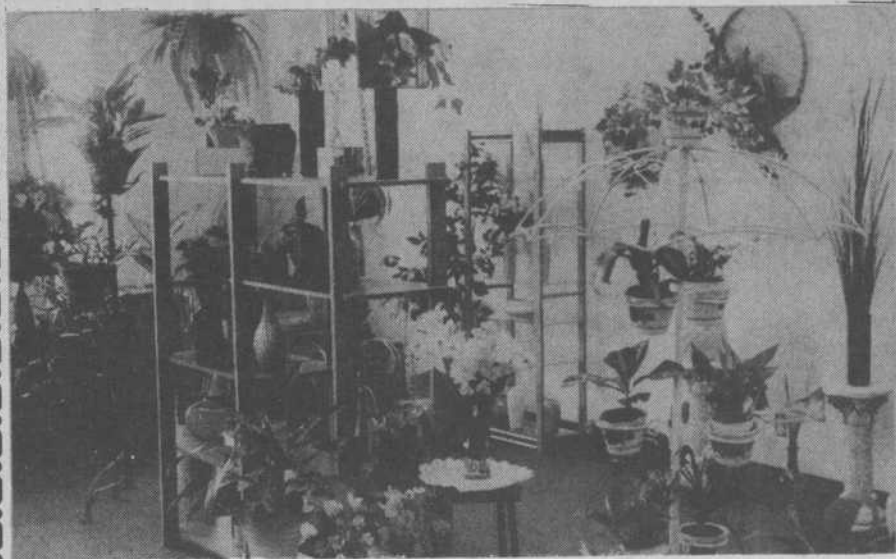
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