

## Editorial Notes

Many of us have heard the expression, "The impossible takes a little longer!" Well, we who have been close to the slow but steady development of the Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP) have seen it all. Few believed it possible that the many variedly-focused organizations in Black America would ever commit themselves to work together in mutually-supportive ways. Yet, over the period of the last five and one-half years, we all saw that—with determination on our part and God's help on the other hand through others of His children—we truly could achieve the "impossible."

We now not only have well over 80 Black-led organizations committed to work together, but also we have a set of broad-based goals to achieve collectively. Our combined effort is to be known as the Year 2000 Campaign.

Although quite important to us in Black America and others in White America, we have never had a press conference before now to announce our efforts focused on transforming our communities into the totally secure, highly productive and universally hope-filled entities wherein illiteracy and all its awesome accompanying "ills" would never likely occur again. The reason for this low profile was that all of our needed forces were not in place. However, today they are in a state of readiness and the specifics of this unprecedented illiteracy-eradication effort—including our year 2000 goals—will be announced at a major multi-media press conference in Washington, D.C. on May 12, 1986.

Much credit for this "impossible" broad-based effort led by Black Americans must go to many other supportive sources. These importantly include the United States Department of Education, select leaders from White Corporate America, both the Democratic Party and Republican Party leadership and many of the White-led enhancement groups. Persons like the Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan, Mrs. Barbara Bush, Dr. Calvin W. Rolark and Mrs. Carrie Ayers Haynes were without peer in terms of their crucial support over all the tenuous years of tedious work.

This issue of the *National BLACK MONITOR* introduces you to the dawning of this new day of mutually-supportive uplifting cooperation by listing the broad parameters of those year 2000 goals. And, it—along with our June issue—also introduces you to some of our new and strategic leaders. One is Ms. Faye Bryant—National President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.—who is one of our two new national programmatic co-chairpersons. Noble Earl Gray—Deputy Imperial Potentate of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles

Mystic Shrine, Inc.—is the other national co-chairperson.

Joining Co-Chairman Gray in a major supportive leadership way is Mr. Earl Bradford, who is chairman of the Steering Committee of the Conference of

Prince Hall (state) Grand Masters. Also joining our leadership team is Mr. Fred Brown, President of the National Black Republican Council (NBRC). He will co-chair (along with Dr. Moses Norman) AOIP's Long-Range Planning and Resource Identification Committee.

These and other leaders—including corporate executives and the Grand Masters from every state—will be portrayed in the June issue in which the specific short-term objectives for reaching our year 2000 goals will be the main subject. □

# Dare to be More.



**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, And May Complicate Pregnancy.**

17 mg. "tar", 1.3 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.