

THE YEAR 2000..... (Continued from page 19.)

ourselves up largely by our own bootstraps."

Where We Are Now

Even though many of the root causes of the lack of self-worth (or "affective" aspects of learning) among so many Black Americans have been brought on and maintained by policies and practices of others in the past and present, it is Black Americans themselves who rightfully are assuming the leadership in a massive and essential all-out war to transform the negative climate within their communities into one that is secure, mutually-supportive, productive and hope-filled. In this manner and under these conditions, the unique root causes of illiteracy—and many other resultant ills—will become eliminated.

The significance of pursuing this route as a complementing adjunct to the presently-worsening situation was made evident when the United States Department of Education, in an unprecedented move and as a model for others, endorsed the AOIP "affective-oriented" approach to literacy enhancement in June 1984. In a released statement at that time, the Secretary said, "The Department will continue its cooperative efforts with [the organizations of] AOIP as they begin their community-building approach toward literacy promotion."

All of us must keep in mind that our focus is on identifying with—and *uplifting*—the masses of Black Americans whom all of us have failed in one way or another. No less emphasis must be placed on the *uplifting* needs of all other Americans. However, the awesome predicament within Black America calls for high priority both as to concern and as to resource allocation.

What We Shall Be: Our Year 2000 Campaign

The Bible tells us that all of us should be in a state of "becoming" the best that we (as children of God) can be. In order to make a reasonable assessment as to what state of being we who live in—and/or identify with—our largely-Black communities should be in by the year 2000, a group of over 30 of AOIP's national leaders and other resource persons met in mid-January in closed session for three full days in Freeport, Bahamas. Chairman of the planning group was Dr. Moses Norman, Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Others included the following persons:

AOIP Leaders



William Waters, Council of Construction Professionals



Tommy Dortch, Council of National Alumni Associations



Winnie Palmer, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa



Rejesta Perry, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority



Shirle Childs, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority



William Brpoks, National Black MBAs

Name	Affiliation
Dr. Mildred Bradham	Zeta Phi Beta
Dr. Lynn Beckwith Jr.	Omega Psi Phi
Faye B. Bryant	Alpha Kappa Alpha
James "Biff" Carter	USED Task Force
Dr. Shirle Childs	East Orange Bd of Ed.
Oscar Coffey	Nat'l Black Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Houston Conley	D.C. Public Schools
Comer Cottrell	Pro-Line Corp.
James T. Floyd	Phi Beta Sigma
Mrs. Wendell Foster	Educator
Rev. Wendell Foster	Bronx City Council
Dr. Edith Francis	Zeta Phi Beta
Charles Gomez	Charles Gomez CPA
Carrie Haynes	Nat'l Assn. University Women
Dr. Ada Jackson	Pan-Hellenic Council
Jerry Johnson	Newark City Council
Dr. Willie Kimmons	Educator
Dr. Wilhelmina Lawrence	Women's Missionary Society
Byron Lewis	UniWorld
Dr. Ulysses McBride	Kappa Alpha Psi
James McQuay	James McQuay Inc.
Dr. Moses Norman	Omega Psi Phi
Dr. Calvin W. Rolark	United Black Fund
Gen. William Rumsey	United Black Fund
Julia Shepherd	U.S. Dept. of Ed.
Dr. Leon Sullivan	OIC
Ozell Sutton	Alpha Phi Alpha
Dr. Augustus Witherspoon	Alpha Phi Alpha
Carol Gerdes	Columbus Times
Ibn Sharrieff	Tri-City Journal
Thomas Watkins	N.Y. Daily Challenge

Nearly fifty suggestions were reduced to eleven (11) major categories. *Total agreement on every single point was not attempted. Rather, the focus was on general consensus around broad goals (which always will change) felt necessary and to be reasonably achievable by the year 2000 if all of our organizations work in a coordinated way both independently where best, and interorganizationally where more productive.* AOIP's voluntary agency—UniWorld Group Inc.—is the major consultant group for the promotional and coordinating aspects of this campaign.

The overall effort is to be known as our collective *Year 2000 Campaign*. Objectives toward these goals (on which we will report in the next issue) were broken down within three five-year time frames...and are to be reduced (timewise) into even more frequent and realistic time segments.

By making assiduous efforts to achieve these objectives in three five-year plans, Black Americans can realize the kind of emancipation few of us dared dream of doing by the year 2000. Workshops on these goals are to take place within our AOIP organizations beginning in June 1986.

Goals for the Year 2000 include:

1. To completely eradicate all "functional illiteracy" within Black America. While illiteracy is only one of many major "ills" which plague Black America,

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