

AOIP

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"Many of us here thoroughly agree with President Reagan when he said that 'God, the source of all knowledge, should never have been expelled from our children's classrooms: It's time we brought Him back.' But, in order to help us help President Reagan do that, we in AOIP need his and Secretary Bennett's full moral—and some modest financial—support by means of simply adjusting some priorities. It is unfair for us to have had to depend so much on Dr. Rolark and his publishers...and we have committed ourselves to do our part. Can we get an Amen!

"Again, we are grateful to Secretary Bennett, Under Secretary Bauer and their entire Department of Education staff for helping make today, May 12, 1986, a day of human advancement. We also are especially grateful to Dr. Moses Norman (who was unable to be here), to the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., to Dr. Ada Jackson and all of the affiliated Pan-Hellenic organizations. Will the supporters of those organizations please stand.

"Finally, please know that we, too, can never forget the AOIP-participating publishers and ACTION agency which also supplied some modest help, for our existence today. Our AOIP effort was only a dream in 1980...But, today we pass a major milestone on the road to full functional literacy for all our people.

"On behalf of all of us in AOIP, I thank you."

AOIP's Earl Gray

The Honorable Earl Gray, Deputy Imperial Potentate of the Shriners (Prince Hall Affiliation) who also is the other national co-chairperson of AOIP, was the next to respond with his carefully planned remarks which were coupled with an extraordinary commitment from all Masonic groups of Prince Hall affiliation. His words were as follows:

"I, too, bring greetings to you from all within AOIP, but especially from a vast army of concerned doers from every state in America where Free Masonry-Prince Hall Affiliation exists...and that is everywhere. The commitment from every State Grand Master and Grand Matron to accept the highest level of leadership within AOIP is firm and solid just as it is with all in the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, Inc.—commonly known as the Shriners where I have long served and had my value system nourished. Now we are expanding into a much larger arena where all of us can serve God's children in a greater way through AOIP.

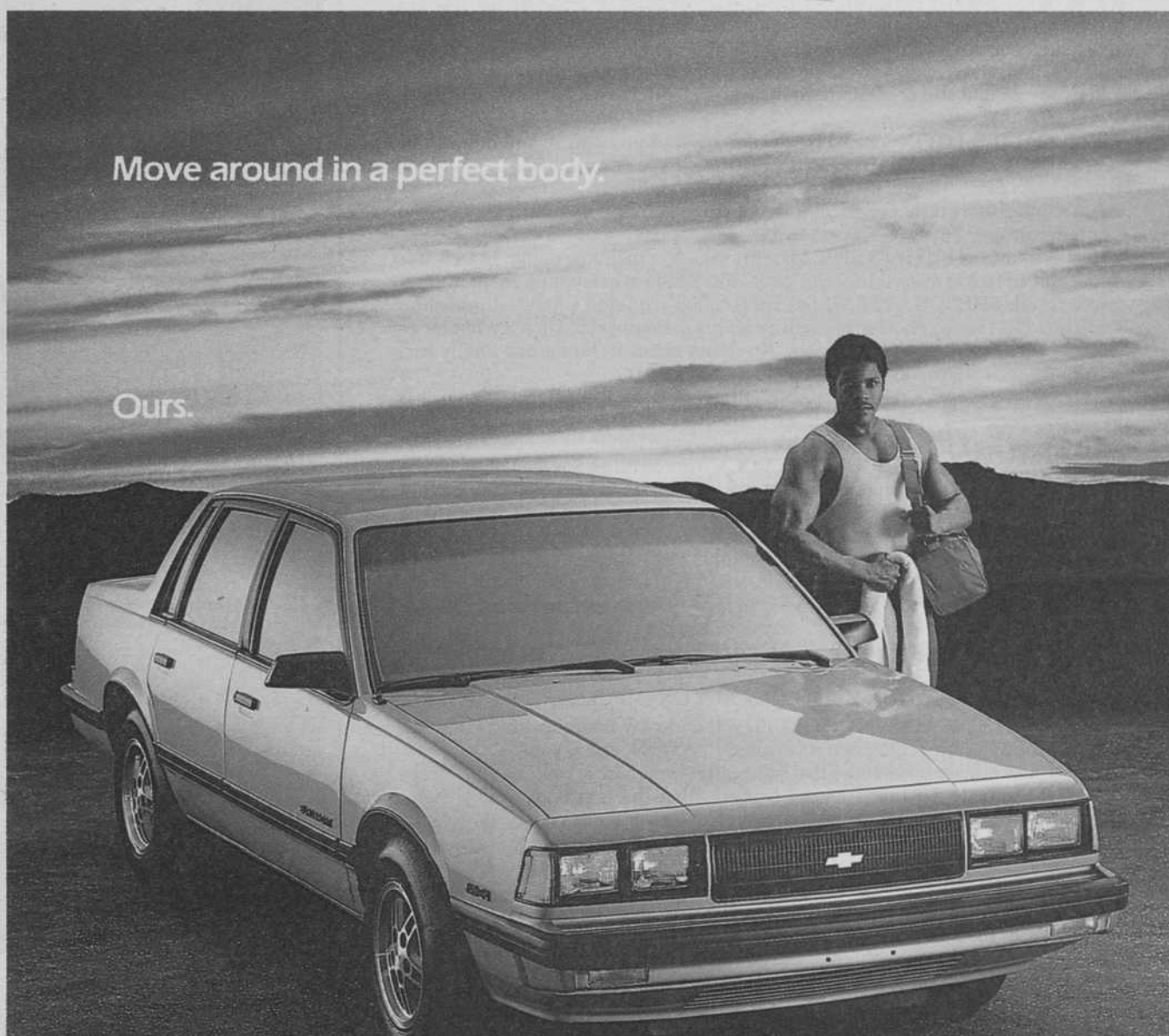
"I'd like to add to what my esteemed associate, Faye Bryant, said about President Reagan. Representing 88 Black-led organizations—groups which have diverse interests and constituencies—we recognize

that we have had differences with the Administration as we will with any administration. Being independent means having the freedom to criticize when we differ. But independence also means hav-

ing the freedom to commend and to cooperate whenever the best interests of Black Americans require it. In this "affective-oriented" and/or "community-
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