

Bethune-DuBois Fund Begins Plans To Prepare Blacks for '88 Elections

Attributing the success of a number of Democratic Senatorial candidates and regaining control of the U.S. Senate in the November 4 election to the "power of the Black vote", C. Delores Tucker, Chair of the DNC Black Caucus, founder and president of the Bethune-DuBois Fund, called on Black leadership to begin preparing immediately for the election of 1988.

The Bethune-DuBois Fund is a newly formed national organization, established in 1986 by the Democratic National Committee Black Caucus and chaired by Jesse Hill, President of Atlanta Life Insurance Company, to expand the participation and increase the power and influence of Blacks in the political process. The Fund played an active role in activating the Black vote in key states in the recent election.

On August 13 and 14, 1986, the Bethune-DuBois Fund convened a two-day Black leadership briefing on

Election '86. The presidents and representatives of 40 national Black organizations attended the briefing, which was co-sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus and the National Black Leadership Roundtable.

Coming out of the meeting was an "Action Plan" for a series of Black Voter meetings to mobilize local Black leadership and organizations in key areas where the Black vote was expected to make a decisive difference in the congressional races.

As President of the Bethune-DuBois Fund, Mrs. Tucker keynoted Get-Out-The-Vote regional meetings in Kansas City, Missouri; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Greenville, Mississippi; Birmingham, Alabama; and Atlanta Georgia.

"I was thrilled to see the local heads of non-profit, non-partisan Black organizations rallying to the urgent need for Black voters to exercise their constitutional rights by

voting en masse in the November 4 election. The election results indicated that the Black vote gave control of the U.S. Senate to the party they deemed more responsive to their needs. This is a most encouraging victory for us," Mrs. Tucker said.

Mrs. Tucker added, "Now, before we lose that momentum, we need to begin developing our plans and strategies for the difficult work of reaching those millions of Blacks who remain indifferent and unregistered, or who just failed to vote at all last month.

"There remains the ongoing need to educate and to train young Black professionals for greater participation in the political arena. These young Blacks represent the foundation for our future political process.

"Most importantly, our present and urgent need is to assist Congressman Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) to move into the very important leadership position of Majority Whip in

National Business League Wraps Up 86th Annual Convention

Approximately 1500 people attended the National Business League's 86th Annual Convention recently held in Cleveland, Ohio. The theme of the conference was

"Networking/Leveraging the \$200 Billion Black Consumer Market."

NBL President Arthur E. Teele, Jr., opened the convention with a call for a

market. Teele also called for the development of business networks, coalitions, partnerships, and joint ventures, both with other



Left to Right are: Leola Early, Sr. Vice President, NBL; Dr. C.J. Patterson, Chairman of NBL Board of Directors; Sherman Copeline, First Vice Chairman, NBL; George Forbes, President of Cleveland City Council; Cheryle A. Wills, Newly Elected NBL Board Member; and Arthur E. Teele, Jr. President and CEO of the NBL.

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the U.S. House of Representatives. We need every Black person of voting age -- Democrat, Republican, or Independent, to write or call his or her Democratic Representatives and urge that Congressperson to vote for Congressman Rangel for the Majority Whip post when the House Democrats meet on December 8."

The Bethune-DuBois Fund will launch an Associates Membership campaign in 1987 to raise funds to sponsor a series of political, educational and leadership seminars with a specific focus on training young Blacks for total involvement in local and national campaigns and other party activities.

change in the Black community's attitude toward the lack of capital.

"We must begin to understand that the \$204 billion black consumer market is a potential source of capital," said Teele. "It is a potential source of capital primarily because the Black business community has never really attempted to capture this market," he said.

Teele said that in order to further minority business development, the minority business community must develop an economic infrastructure through the utilization of the resources of the existing Black business community and the \$200 billion black consumer

minority entrepreneurs and with majority corporations.

In other convention activity, several members of the board of directors were re-elected. They are: Mr. Bryant G. Harris, of Washington, D.C.; Mr. Marion "Rex" Harris, of Fayetteville, N.C.; Mr. James R. Johnson, of Jackson, Mississippi; Mr. C.J. Patterson (Chairman), of Oakland, California; Mr. Maceo A. Sloan, of Durham, N.C.; and Mr. Percy Sutton, of New York, New York.

New members elected to the Board of Directors are: Andres N. McCall, of Fayetteville, N.C.; Sallie B. Parrish, of Atlanta, Ga.; Leslie G. Range, of Jackson, Mississippi; Cheryle A. Wills, of Cleveland, Ohio; Richard Shealey, replaced Charles Allen as newly elected President of the National Bankers Association; and Roy Alstor as National Student Business League President.

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