

FROM CAPITOL HILL

By Alfreda L. Madison

Blacks Nationwide Learn Their Role In Making A Better America

Recently, more than six thousand Black people descended on Washington for the sixteenth Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) weekend. They were from all across the country -- from various walks of life and different economic categories.

The Caucus theme was "Black America: Generations in Transition." For three days, forty-seven workshops were conducted on subjects that have special relevance to Blacks. At these workshops, panels of experts presented information which was followed by a dialogue between the audience and the panel members.

Since the life span of Blacks is shorter than Whites, several workshops were conducted on various

phases of health as they concerned the Black community. These included diseases in which Blacks are highly susceptible--drugs, cancer, heart trouble, health hazards peculiar to the Black community, homicide, AIDS myths and the realities of its impact on the Black community, infant mortality and high blood pressure. In these workshops, strategies for survival were offered.

The Thursday morning plenary session was televised for America's Black Forum. The CBC members were questioned by Georgia State Senator Julian Bond, the Forum moderator. These members talked about major issues confronting Black America. While all Caucus members participate in all issues, each is assigned to

take the lead in specific fields, so Mr. Bond questioned them about his or her special category. At the conclusion of the members' presentation there was participation by the audience. It was revealed that CBC has sponsored 300 pieces of legislation during the present 99th Congress.

Representative Cardiss Collins, the only Black female member of Congress, held a workshop on discrimination in the broadcast media and discrimination in advertising in minority media. It was highly emphasized that Blacks suffer from the unfairness of big businesses' advertising policies.

Mrs. Collins also conducted a workshop on the "Future of Black Women In Politics." This report revealed that in the spring of 1986, there were 146 Black women elected as state judges, mayors and legislators.

Representative Walter Fauntroy held a "Youth Braintrust" workshop. On the panel were Malcolm Jamal Warner of the Bill Cosby Show and John Lucas, basketball player for the Houston Rockets and Washington Bullets. Drugs
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Pepsi-Cola Company Receives Majority Firm Of The Year Award



Craig Weatherup (right), President of Pepsi-Cola Bottling Group (PBG), received the Majority Firm of the Year Award during the Fourth Annual Regional Minority Economic Development (MED) Week Awards Banquet, held at the New York Grand Hyatt. The award was presented by Theron Bell (left), Deputy National Director, Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and Gina Sanchez, Regional Director, MBDA. Pepsi-Cola was honored for its long-standing commitment to developing and expanding opportunities for minority and women-owned business, and for its sponsorship of MED Week activities which brought together some 1,800 minority and women entrepreneurs with corporate and government purchasing agents from the eastern United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Weatherup was keynote speaker at the banquet which recognized minority business owners for their significant accomplishments in the free enterprise system. In his address, he stated that since 1982, the company's Minority Business Enterprise Program has paid out more than \$125 million to minority businesses, and that Pepsi-Cola will spend another \$140 million in the next three years. "At Pepsi" he concluded, "we share a deep and ongoing commitment to fighting social injustice and balancing economic inequity. Hiring minority businesses isn't just good citizenship -- its good business."

Emergency Energy Funds Available Family Support Division Relocated

Governor Richard Bryan announced today that the Energy Crisis Intervention Program, administered by the state, will provide up to \$200 for eligible households with an energy related

emergency.

The Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) will help pay utility bills to avoid termination of service, minor repairs on furnaces or heaters, stove pipes, chimneys, broken windows or fuel lines.

The ECIP, which begins January 1, is for emergency situations only. Qualified applicants can get immediate aid from local agencies, such as county welfare offices, the Salvation Army or senior centers. Local agencies in each of Nevada's 17 counties have received federally funded grants from the state Office of Community Services.

In order to qualify for ECIP, you must have a total household income for the previous month, which falls at our below 150% of the federally established guideline. For instance, a one person household, must be at or below \$670, while a four person household must be at or below \$1375.

Nevada also has a second energy assistance program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which began November 1. This program is designed to help low income Nevadans with the purchase of fuel for winter heating. It isn't designed for emergency situations.

The Family Support Division of the Clark County District Attorney's Office has just completed the relocation of its offices into the Clark County Courthouse Building at 200 South Third Street, Room 545.

The Family Support Division is responsible for providing child support enforcement and paternity establishment services to the citizens of Clark County. These services are free of charge to all families participating in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. A nominal fee of \$2.00 is required for all other individuals requesting assistance.

"It's important that the people of Clark County know that these services exist," stated District Attorney Bob Miller, "and where they can go to find them."

Anyone who would like assistance or more information from the Family Support Division can call 455-4755. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on how to receive this emergency energy assistance, call the Nevada statewide toll-free number 1-800-992-0900, extension 4420.



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