

NAACP

From Page 5

reality that the black freedom struggle has been a constant in American society." (The theme of the convention was "The Struggle: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow").

After describing Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall as America's greatest authority on racism and the law, Mrs. King said "if Mr. Bork is confirmed, it is likely the Supreme Court will tilt to the right for many years to come. We must make sure our senators understand that their vote against Bork is a prerequisite for the next election."

Gov. Kean, calling the failure of the public schools to teach the nation's youth a form of "educational child abuse," drew applause from the audience as he urged them to make improved schools their "number one priority" by forcing change in the education system.

Two emergency resolutions were introduced and approved by the delegates at this session. The first called for the withdrawal of funds from any bank or other lending institution doing business with South Africa, and for the national NAACP to apply the policy in its dealings with vendors not subscribing to the Sullivan principles. The second opposed the nomination of Judge Bork.

Awards Made To ACT-SO Winners

That afternoon, before another overflow audience, the three top award winners in the 22 categories of the 1987 NAACP ACT-SO competitions were announced with the winners receiving over \$50,000 in scholarships. In addition, McDonald's added an additional \$1,000 in prize money for the gold medalists, and the Digital Corporation presented computer equipment valued in excess of \$10,000 to the gold medalists in ten categories.

The awards ceremonies culminated the final competition which attracted some 670 students from all across the country. This ten-year-old program of the NAACP is designed to foster educational excellence and on a national basis involves more than 25,000 young people.

That evening, Dr. William F. Gibson, Chairman of the NAACP National Board of Directors, told a cheering audience that "today the NAACP is a vibrant, live

national association of over 400,000, headquartered for the first time, in a house it owns."

However, despite its strengths reflected in its national network of branches, state conferences, youth councils and college chapters, Dr. Gibson said the organization needs to remain the leader in waging the right for more civil rights legislation.

Tuesday morning opened with an address by Governor Mario Cuomo of New York. He told the audience that even though the NAACP had made major strides in helping to better conditions for black Americans, there still remains a major struggle to assure that America's clock on civil rights is not rolled back.

Reminding the audience of the need for this country has to provide quality education for its youth, Cuomo said "today we face the battle for the nation's soul that is in many ways as momentous as your first conference."

Joining the governor was New York's senior senator, Daniel P. Moynihan (D-N.Y.) who paid a stirring tribute to the NAACP's late Washington representative, Clarence Mitchell, and vowed to work for meaningful welfare reform saying "I know for certain the NAACP will be at our side and on our side and it is going to make all the difference."

Washington, Babbitt, Dr. J. Address Luncheons

At one of two luncheons on Tuesday afternoon, Chicago's Mayor Harold Washington said that vigorously applied, affirmative action "is transforming the way we in the public sector organize, the way we do business, and the way we impact the private sector and society at large."

In his spirited defense of affirmative action he added "it doesn't mean that things become more expensive, or that standards drop, or that anyone is unfairly excluded from any opportunity to participate."

Former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, a current Democratic Presidential candidate, addressed the second Tuesday luncheon and covered a number of issues including the need to block Judge Bork's confirmation, health care, South Africa, and the rescinding by the present governor of his proclamation of Martin Luther King's birthday as a holiday in Arizona.

One of the greatest figures

in the history of professional basketball, Julius (Dr. J.) Erving, was featured on Tuesday night at a youth mass meeting. He told his audience that his first rule for youngsters is to find a skill they enjoy and work hard at developing it. He suggested that "the best time to test a skill is when you are young, and the best place is in school."

Jackson, Jacob Deliver Spirited Speeches

In a rousing and emotionally charged speech at the Wednesday, July 8th, plenary session, Rev. Jesse Jackson congratulated the NAACP for its efforts to acquire full civil and economic rights for black Americans and assailed the economic, social and political thrusts and ideologies of the Reagan administration.

"The Reagan administration has shifted the civil rights climate from 'We Shall Overcome' to 'We Shall Overturn,'" Rev. Jackson said. He also called Judge Bork's nomination "a threat to women's rights, the rights of privacy of every American citizen, workers' rights, affirmative action, voting rights, school desegregation, the first Amendment, and more."

Appearing at the same session was John E. Jacob, President of the National Urban League. He said that the opportunity exists to continue to fight against "the tide of neglect and indifference to social issues that is now engulfing our nation," and he attacked the Reagan administration's assertion that American society has become color blind.

Mr. Jacob made it clear that the National Urban League is also committed to blocking the confirmation of Judge Bork to the Supreme Court.

Surgeon General C. Everett Koop emphasized that the black population, while it does not have the highest number of recorded AIDS cases, has a disproportionate share. He commended the NAACP on its establishment of health care committees.

\$2 Million Sought From Corporations

DuPont Chairman Robert E. Heckert, speaking at the Life Membership Luncheon on Wednesday, said he is on an all-out campaign to help raise \$2 million over the next year, Mr. Heckert, who serves as the 1988 Special Contribution Fund Chairman, contributed \$50,000 toward that goal.

At a Wednesday afternoon press conference, the NAACP and the National Basketball Association, announced the finalizing of a partnership to develop plans and programs designed to assure equality of employment opportunities throughout the NBA. Dr. Hooks represented the NAACP, and the NBA was represented by its commissioner, David J. Stern.

The principal speaker at the final plenary session on Wednesday morning was former Senator Howard Baker who now served as the White House Chief of Staff. A native Tennessean, Baker paid tribute to the NAACP when he said "since 1909 when you were founded here in New York, (the NAACP) has kept watch on the ramparts of freedom for all Americans."

With the atmosphere so decidedly anti-Bork, there was interest in how Senator Baker would approach the sensitive issue. He did it in a manner that elicited the respect of the audience. He sat the framework with the statement:

"I have come today because I believe that the NAACP, with its long commitment to fairness and the give-and-take of honest, conscientious differences of opinion, is willing to hear arguments on the other side."

He asked basically that judgment be reserved until the confirmation hearing. Referring to continuing racial discrimination, he closed by saying:

"I am proud to be a soldier with you in this struggle. And I share with you the confidence and commitment that we shall some day overcome."

Later that afternoon, Dr. Hooks and Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth held a press conference to announce that the two organizations will be working together to open employment opportunities in the front offices and other key jobs in organized baseball to blacks and other minorities.

Harlem's famed and refurbished Apollo Theatre was the scene for the presentation of the Spingarn Award, the highest honor the NAACP can bestow for outstanding service, to Percy Sutton on Thursday night. Mr. Sutton is an Air Force veteran, civil rights activist, former New York State Assemblyman, President of the Borough of Manhattan, and one of the nation's most outstanding businessmen.



Streaks and Slumps

Why is it that some teams get on a tear and for two weeks are unbeatable? Then a month later that same team loses 10 games in a row.


Why do some players burn up the league for two weeks and then go a month during which they can't seem to buy a hit at the plate or a victory on the pitcher's mound?

If I could find the answer to those questions and bottle it, I'd be a billionaire. Among today's players, Dale Murphy of the Atlanta Braves is known as a streak hitter. When he's hot, pitchers can't keep the ball in the park. I remember my old teammate Joe Adcock from the championship days of the Milwaukee Braves. When he got into a streak, nobody could get him out. You could throw him a low, outside slider and somehow he'd get it up on his bat and hit it 15 rows into the stands. Five days later, throw him that same pitch and he couldn't do anything with it.

This year, the Milwaukee Brewers got off to a super start and won a lot of ball games. Then they went the other way for a long period. That will happen with a young team. The players are relaxed at the beginning of a season when the team is going well. Then when the team is going badly, those same players put too much pressure on themselves and try to do too much.

Through the years what made the Dodgers and the Yankees such consistent clubs is that they always had that one pitcher who could go out and win a close, low-score ball game. By having a pitcher who could go into a series and win a game 1-0 or 2-1, the team was able to relax a little bit and get back on track. That kept them from getting into a deep losing streak.

I do have some personal theories about avoiding slumps. I think the problem is concentration. Some players will go along and have a good week or a good month and have no understanding of what they are doing that's working for them. Then when they get in a slump, they have nothing to fall back on. If you hit a home run on a change-up, how did you stride on that pitch? How close were you standing to the plate? You've got to know what you're doing that's right. You can't wait until you are in slump and then try and figure out what you're doing that's wrong.

These days coaches use videotapes, and it really helps picking out a batter's problems at the plate or spotting if a pitcher is releasing the ball wrong. But looking at a picture cannot replace knowing yourself. 

Hank Aaron is the top home run hitter of all time with 755 homers. A member of baseball's Hall of Fame, Hank is vice president of the Atlanta Braves.

© 1987, PM Editorial Services

Milton "Soul Joe" Miller
Owner, Soul Auto Body & Paint Shop

SOUL
OLD FASHION QUALITY
BODY & PAINT SHOP

BUSINESS 385-4421
MOBILE 385-4940
FREE PICK-UP & DELIVERY

926 NO. MAIN ST. LAS VEGAS, NEVADA