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The following article is reprinted from the March issue of THE CRISIS, the official publication of the NAACP.

PUBLISHER'S FORWARD

by Benjamin L. Hooks

The March issue of *The Crisis* deals with the state of race relations in America. In 1968 following the riots of civil disorders which engulfed many of our nation's cities, President Johnson impaneled a commission which included the then Governor of Illinois,

Gov. Otto Kerner; the NAACP's Executive Director, Roy Wilkins; and then Congressman and later President Gerald R. Ford, and others to look into the causative factors responsible for the violence.

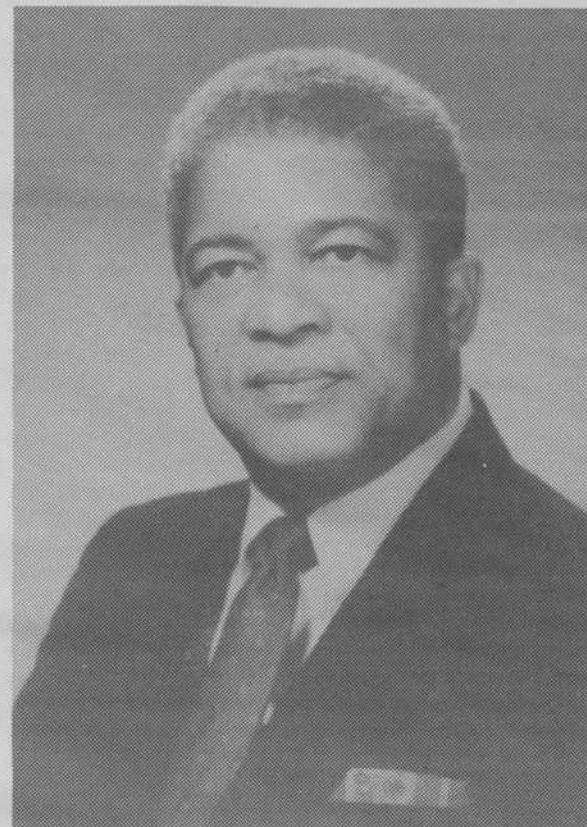
After extensive hearings, comprehensive in-comprehensive investigations, analysis by academicians, civil and human rights activists, theologians and others, the Kerner Commission issued a report which was a stinging indictment on racism in America. Briefly, the Kerner Commission reported that America was rapidly moving towards two societies — one white and privileged, and the other, minority and poor — and that in large measure, racism which breeds despair and hopelessness contributed to the violence which permeated many of our nation's cities. Despite the crippling yoke of racism, progress have been made by blacks in all walks of life. Today, there are over 6,400 black elected officials; over 1 million black college students; and blacks reside in many suburban areas.

A number of recommendations were made which included providing jobs, housing and career opportunities for black Americans and the removal of the veil of racism from every walk of life. In study after study, report after report, including the Urban League's "The State of Black America in 1987" report issued in January, it is abundantly clear that the recommendations of the Kerner Commission have gone unheeded and that America has indeed deteriorated into that predicted quagmire of divisiveness, hopelessness and despair. Housing discrimination is as pronounced in 1987 as it was in 1968. Cicero, Illinois contains rabid racists who are just as determined as they were when Dr. King led demonstrations there in the 60's to exclude black Americans merely for having the misfortune of his car breaking down in a "white enclave." In Forsyth,

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NMA Elects Dr. John E. Joyner As New President

by Sara McKinley
Syndicated Writers & Artists, Inc.



Dr. John E. Joyner

Dr. John E. Joyner, a prominent Indianapolis physician and neurosurgeon, has been elected president of the National Medical Association, a 92-year-old professional organization which represents the country's nearly 16,000 black physicians.

Dr. Joyner was installed during the organization's 92nd Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly, held August 1-6 in New Orleans, La.

Dr. Joyner, 52, has had a private neurosurgery practice for 20 years. After earning his B.S. degree from Albion College in Albion, Michigan in 1955, he did his internship at Indiana University Medical Center. In doing so he became the school's first black intern.

He graduated in 1959, did a stint in the U.S. Army from which he was honorably discharged as a captain, and returned to I.U. Medical Center for his residency. He completed his residency in 1967.

Dr. Joyner joined the NMA in 1967 and became active in the Indianapolis branch, the Aesculapian Medical Society. The NMA is concerned with "today's various health care issues," he said. "They also take a special interest in the black community."

Dr. Joyner personally takes an interest in the black community as well, serving several organizations, including the 100 Black Men of Indianapolis, a chapter of the national organization.

As president of the NMA, Dr. Joyner intends to address several issues, including the high mortality rate of black infants, the growing rate of black teenage pregnancies and the problems of AIDS and substance abuse, both of which disproportionately affect the black community.

Regarding the black infant mortality rate, Dr. Joyner said there must be concern as to whether a black mother

is malnourished and whether she is receiving appropriate prenatal care.

"If she is not, her unborn baby is more likely to become a significant statistic in the increased morbidity and mortality rates that we find in the black population. If her baby lives it is more likely to be a low birth weight infant; also it is more likely to be born with AIDS."

Dr. Joyner sees teen pregnancy as a "nationwide problem. The NMA wants to become more involved. We plan to develop a concerted national campaign. What is the future for our teenagers who are having unwanted and, certainly, unneeded pregnancies if this forces them out of the education system as well?" he asked.

The cost to taxpayers for health and welfare programs for families started by teenagers is approaching \$17 billion a year, he said. "In complete disregard of the fact that thousands of our teenagers are not going to be, but are sexually active, our governmental leadership comes up with the cost-containing simple solution of 'just say no!'"

Dr. Joyner said that government leaders also expect the 'just say no' campaign to apply to the "insidious" problem of drug abuse.

"I have been told that addicts say 'no' every day of their lives, but this doesn't help them. Obviously, in this day of budget cuts, efforts to patrol our borders, to stiffen

the penalties for drug pushers and to provide the needed medical care for those who are addicted, healthcare must compete with other programs such as Star Wars."

The NMA needs to get more involved in health projects of their local branches by coordinating these programs through the national office, he said. For example, he'd like to see NMA physicians conduct educational programs, disease testing centers, workshops and seminars backed by the NMA.

In addition to the 100 Black Men, Dr. Joyner is a member of the College of Surgeons, the Congress of Neurosurgeons, the American Medical Association, the World Medical Association, the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, the American Academy of Neurological and Orthopedic Surgeons, the Royal Society of Medicine and numerous others. He is a life member of the NAACP and has received numerous awards and recognitions.

Dr. Joyner is married to the former Joyce Sterling. They have three children, Sheryl, John III and Monica.

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