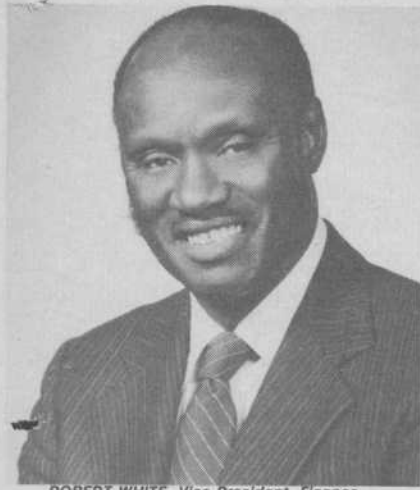


# INVESTING IN BLACK AMERICA..... (Continued from Page 12)



ROBERT WHITE, Vice President, Finance



RONALD WATERS, Secretary



THEODORE ADAMS, Treasurer

the Secretary General the opportunity to meet with various segments of the Black community in order to extend his personal thanks for its support of African development in general and the anti-apartheid struggle in particular.

The Roundtable organized meetings between the Secretary General and Secretary of State George Schultz, key congressional and senate members in the foreign affairs arena, Black businesspersons, academicians and development specialists and grassroots community activists. As a result of Mr. Oumarou's trip, CBC Chairman Mervyn Dymally attended the OAU meeting in Addis Ababa in late July 1987.

Also, in the area of international network development, the Roundtable will assist in generating active Black Family support for and participation in the Coalition for a Free Africa's (CFA) 1988 international telethon for African aid and development. The telethon is being spearheaded by CFA founder and co-chair, Dick Griffey, who is also president of Solar Records and the Black Music Association as well as Roundtable board member representing organizations of entertainers and athletes.

## NBLR/CBC Relationship:

**T**HE Roundtable is the national vehicle for mobilizing national support in Black America for the legislative initiatives of the CBC. The Roundtable's Action Alert Communications Network (AACN) is the communications mechanism which was created to mobilize the national Black community to support Caucus legislative initiatives and other progressive legislative initiatives that are designed to aid poor and disadvantaged people. The Network is also activated to inform, educate and alert its participants about issues that directly affect them.

The Network's effectiveness is based on the fact that, while there are presently only 23 Black members of Congress, there are 128 congressional districts represented by Whites who depend on the Black vote to win their elections.

The Network has five main components:

1. The NBLR National Office
2. Regional Coordinators (CBC Members)
3. State Coordinators (NBCSL Members)
4. Congressional District Coordinators (NBC-LEO Members)
5. NBLR Member Organization Coordinators (State Roundtable Members)

The Network functions in the following way: If a bill that would enhance Black economic development were coming to the floor of the House of Representatives in 30 days, members of the Congressional Black Caucus (Regional Coordinators) would write the state, congressional district and NBLR member network coordinators in the regions they coordinate. The communique would provide a briefing on the pending measure; and would outline specific steps coordinators would be urged to instruct Network members to take in support of the bill. (As a general rule, the request would be to meet with, write or call their members of Congress.)

The written communication to the Network would be followed by a telephone whip system that would function as follows:

1. The CBC coordinator would call his/her state coordinator;
2. The state coordinator would call the local elected official coordinator in each congressional district;
3. The local elected official coordinator would call the list of coordinators for each participating organization who, in turn, would contact the key members of their own organizations in the district.

If properly executed, within days, members of Congress would receive a barrage of calls, letters and/or visits from constituent Network participants. A member of Congress would think a second time before voting against a measure around which such broadbased support among Black voters in his/her district had been mobilized.

The activation of the Network played a large role in getting passage of the King Holiday Bill; the Conyers-Savage Minority Set-Aside Amendment to the Defense Authorization Act; several anti-apartheid bills; the Hawkins School Improvement Act, an omnibus education bill.

The Network was also activated to organize opposition to several federal judicial nominees including Manion, Scalia and Rehnquist; to respond to proposed administration fiats including the proposed recession of Executive Order 11246; and the Network was utilized to mobilize support for several Black candidates for elective office, some of whom were Black congressional candidates.

The Roundtable will continue its efforts to get the activities, legislative initiatives and issue interests of CBC members before the reading public. The Roundtable considers the CBC to be the most progressive wing in the U.S. Congress and in this era of rampant reactionism, its voice has often been a lone one. The Caucus has consistently taken a pro-people stance on all the issues and so it must be supported and its efforts must be publicized. The roundtable will continue to make available on a regular basis to the **National BLACK MONITOR** and

Black newspapers articles written by CBC members which will familiarize readers with what CBC is and what its agenda is about.

## Working With AOIP:

**I**N May of this year, an efficiency-producing alliance—except for political action not engaged in by one of the groups—was formalized between NBLR and the Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP).

Per the request of officials of the national Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP), the national office of the Roundtable has approached corporations and businesspersons to financially assist AOIP. NBLR will continue to assist AOIP personnel in whatever way it can on a request basis.

The president of the Roundtable will continue to honor his commitment to get Roundtable organizations to pool their efforts for the purpose of earning ownership in all types of businesses in, or nearby, Black communities, and which impact heavily on these communities. "I was more than delighted," said Congressman Fauntroy, "when the staff [of AOIP] asked if I, as president of the National Black Leadership Roundtable, would take the lead in asking your memberships to...immediately become involved. Also,...we



Activist/humanitarian/comedian Dick Gregory speaking at NBLR conference.

will be exploring all the many ways our entire Congressional membership—Black and White—can become fully involved and fully supportive."

Rep. Fauntroy further stated: "...This focus is the first and only one in which [Black people] quickly can own and control almost all of the capital instruments in our communities, and can assume full respon-

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