

THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President
Las Vegas, NAACP



NAACP FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

On Saturday, November 14 the Las Vegas Branch NAACP held its 1987 Freedom Fund Banquet at Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas. More than four hundred members and friends of the NAACP came out and enjoyed the festivities of the evening. The Freedom Fund Banquet is the NAACP annual fundraiser, where everyone is asked to make a tax deductible donation to help to pay for the cost of maintaining the branch office. The speaker of the evening was Congressman Bill Gray of Pennsylvania. Congressman Gray has been in office less than ten years yet has risen to the position of Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget. Congressman Gray said that he is a "preacher of the gospel first and a Congressman second." He is the pastor of Bright Hope Baptist Church in North Philadelphia.

The banquet chairman for this year was Dr. James McMillian who was ably assisted by Verlia Davis and the banquet committee. Devotion was made by Rev. S.P. Parks, the Master of Ceremonies was performed in superb manner by Dr. Paul Meacham, the president of Clark County Community College. Musical presentations were made by both Anthony Thomas and Henry Shed. Minister Jesse D. Scott, the president of the branch

gave a State of the State message on the NAACP. Proclamations were received by Governor Richard Bryan, U.S. Senator Harry Reid, Congressman James Bilbray, Mayor Ron Lurie, Commissioner William Pearson, Mayor Pro-Tem Theron Goynes. Remarks were made by State Senator Joe Neal and NAACP West Coast Regional Director Virna Canson. Congressman Bilbray introduced Congressman Gray as one of the most powerful members of the House of Representatives. Congressman Gray's message covered four areas of appeal to Black People. First, register and vote, second work for economic leverage, third commit ourselves to excellence and fourth to reach back and give back to other Blacks. The surprise guest was Bill Cosby who in the main restated the speakers' messages. Benediction was by Rev. Marion Bennett.

RACISM ON THE RUN AGAIN

All freedom loving people everywhere in Las Vegas and Nevada should now know that racism is alive and well. All the department heads of Nevada and the department to the government are all white. The City Council of the City of Las Vegas is all white. Hotel ownership on the Strip and downtown is all white, most of the state boards and commissions are all white or nearly all white.

WEST COAST REGION HOSTS 15TH ANNUAL EQUALITY THROUGH UNITY DINNER

NAACP's 15th Annual Equality Through Unity Dinner, scheduled for December 3rd at the Downtown Hilton Hotel, San Francisco at 6:30 p.m. will feature Assembly Speaker Willie Brown as its Toastmaster, and Dr. Jim Robinson as its Keynote Speaker.

Dr. Robinson has a Doctoral in Philosophy and Masters in Educational Administration and Political Science. He was appointed by Governor Deukmejian to the California State Board of Education in April, 1986. Part of his primary responsibilities for the State Boards to provide liaison services to the Commission on Special Education.

In 1973, the late Leonard H. Carter founded the Equality Through Unity Dinner to general funds for the NAACP's work in the Western Region. Region 1, The Western Region, encompasses nine western states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and our new branch, Okinawa, Japan.

The perpetual award, Leonard H. Carter Memorial Award designed and initiated in 1975, is presented each year. It remains with the recipient throughout the year and serves as a reminder of the goals of the NAACP.

Harold W. Reed, newly elected Chief Executive Officer for Dole Packaged Foods Company is our 1987 award recipient and our Honorary Chairman for the 15th Annual Equality Through Unity Dinner.

Mr. Harold W. Reed joins a long list of top Corporate Executives who have served as past Honorary Chairmen:

1986—Nathaniel S. Colley, Sr. Esq. NAACP Special Contributions Fund Board Chairperson

1986—John A. Sutro Sr., Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro

1985—George Keller, Chairman, Chevron Corporation

1984 — William T. Creson, Crown Zellerbach

1983—Betty Sue Peabody, Citicorp Savings

1982—Peter A. Magawan, Safeway Stores, Inc.

1981—Frederick W. Mielke, Jr., Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

1980—Wells Fargo Bank
1979—Myron DuBain, Firemans Fund Ins. Co.

1978—Thomas R. Wilcox, Crocker National Bank
1977—Robert B. Shetterly,

Clorox Co.

1976—Norman Barker, Jr., United California Bank

1975—John C. Blackman, United Airlines

1974 — A.W. Clausen, Brak of America, and

1973—Jerome Hull, Pacific Telephone Co.

This year's emphasis is on Education. Dr. Robinson's address is entitled, "A Recommended List of Educational Priorities for the 21st Century," a fitting address before our distinguished 1987 Challenge Award recipients. The NAACP is extremely proud to present the Challenge Award at the 15th Equality Through Unity Dinner. The Challenge Award's name is derived from the NAACP's award winning film, "The Challenge," produced by Pacific Telesis. The film is winner of the U.S. Industrial Film Festival's Silver Screen Award and the International Television Association's Silver Reel Award.

The Challenge Award is a companion which acknowledges the on-going services to the NAACP through personal and professional participation. Throughout the year there are individuals, largely from corporations, who work with the Regional Office in quasi-staff positions.

The following individuals have been chosen because of their outstanding contributions as recipients of the 1987 Challenge Award:

Matthew Dawson, Manager, Affirmative Action and EEO, Del Monte Corp.; Dr. Norman K. Freeman, Bio-Medical Research Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, University of California, Retired; Patricia C. Freeman, Lecture and Concert Manager, West Coast Office, W. Colston Leigh Inc.; Dr. Frank Greene, Jr., President, Sterling Software, Zero-One Systems Group; Noah Griffin, Jr., Human Relations Officer, Social Services Department, San Francisco/Talk Show Host KSFO/KYA and KTSF, Channel 26 in San Francisco; Magdalyne P. Gates, Community Relations Manager, McKesson Corporation; Chuck Smith, Executive Director & Assistant Vice President of Recruitment Placement & Training Corporate Education Training Division, Pacific Bell.

As quoted from the Regional Director, Virna M. Canson, The Equality Through Unity Dinner was

PENITENTIARY INMATES BECOME MEMBERS OF NAACP

Within the prison walls of the Maryland State Penitentiary and amid words of praise and applause from inmates, the NAACP chartered its first prison branch in the State of Maryland on November 13, 1987, with over 150 inmates inducted as members

It was a momentous occasion for all the inmates, especially for John McDonald, newly-elected President of the Maryland State Penitentiary NAACP Branch who became the first inmate to hold this position in Maryland's correctional system.

The Maryland State Penitentiary is the 34th prison branch of the NAACP. Nationally, there are 24 NAACP branches in state prisons nine in federal prisons with an estimated 4,000 membership.

McDonald, in giving his welcoming remarks, likened the NAACP to the biblical David who slew the giant Goliath. "Like David," McDonald said, "The NAACP is a giant killer."

According to McDonald, the Maryland State Penitentiary NAACP Branch's first goals are to work with prison officials in (1) changing the penal system's family program to include additional hours with family members, and (2) developing a health-care program that will allow inmates to visit physicians and other healthcare professionals more often.

"The key word is 'advancement,' and we do plan to go forward," added Dennis Wise, Vice President of the Maryland State Penitentiary NAACP Branch. Wise said the NAACP membership will work towards improving other programs that will not only benefit NAACP mem-

bers, but the entire MSP prison population.

Ward Howard N. Lyles encouraged the inmates to serve as role models. "We have to set a good example. But we can't set good examples if we're not ones ourselves . . . The NAACP has always done things with a purpose and goal in mind and in an orderly fashion. We must follow those principles."

Arnold Hopkins, Commissioner of the Maryland Department of Corrections, told the inmates that they must choose their objectives carefully, have integrity and achieve unity among themselves.

"Select some objectives that are achievable and then build your self confidence," he told the inmates. "You are now a part of the NAACP, and you should pay very serious attention to the conscious building of this organization."

NAACP Executive Director William E. Pollard installed the officers. He said:

"The most important thing the NAACP can do is to prepare you to come back on the outside. In taking this oath to become members of the NAACP, you are preparing to play a bigger role in your success. Each of you has a responsibility to do all that you can to the best of your ability. When you get out, we don't want you back here. We want you to take your place in the community."

The Maryland State Penitentiary NAACP Branch was named in honor of the late Dr. Cathy Pope Smith, a pioneer worker in the establishment of the MSP NAACP Branch.

NAACP SEALS, CARD AVAILABLE THROUGH BRANCHES

Available now from local branches of the NAACP all across the country are the Association's colorful holiday seals and season greeting cards which not only add a special meaning to the holiday season, but also help to support the work of the

initiated in 1973 to provide additional funding for the West Coast Regional Programs and other activities. It also provides an annual opportunity for NAACPers and corporate leaders to join together and recommit them-

NAACP.

The seals campaign has been conducted by the NAACP for some 60 years. This years seals, on a rich green background, features an impressionistic rendition of holiday decorations and can be used in a variety of ways.

selves to working together to achieve a common goal."

For information regarding the dinner please call the West Coast Regional Office at 415-931-3243 in San Francisco.

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