

## Nation's Top Civil Rights Leaders Set For NAACP's "Conference On The Present Crisis"

A number of the nation's most influential civil rights leaders will share their thoughts on the present status of civil rights and their projections of what the future holds in a broad ranging panel discussion that will be one of the highest of the NAACP's "Conference on the Present Crisis" in Washington, D.C., Sunday, October 29, through Wednesday, November 1st.

The discussion is set for Monday, October 30th, at the Quality Inn, Capitol Hill, 415 New Jersey Avenue, NW, at 8 P.M. Participating will be Julius Chambers, Director-Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund; Dorothy Height, President, National Council of Negro Women; Dr. William F. Gibson, Chair, NAACP National Board of Directors; Norman Hill, President, A Philip Randolph Institute; Elton Jolly, Executive Director, OIC.

Also, Rev. Willie T. Barrow, President, Operation PUSH; Coretta Scott King, Chairman/CEO, Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change; Rev. Joseph Lowery, President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and Eddie Williams, President, Joint Center for Political Studies.

The Conference is primarily planned as a follow-up to the NAACP's recent "Silent March" in Washington that protected

four adverse civil rights rulings by the Supreme Court this year and called on Congress to pass remedial legislation overturning these decisions. However, it has been broadened to include other areas. Thus, it will confront many of the critical social and economic problems afflicting Black America and concentrate attention on programs and policies that have been proven effective in addressing them, according to Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, the NAACP's Executive Director.

The opening conference plenary session will be held on Sunday, October 29th, at 9 p.m. at the Quality Inn. Dr. Hooks will provide a brief overview of the conference. Dr. Gibson will deliver remarks and there will be a schedule briefing by Rev. Edward A. Hailes Sr., Vice Chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors. A reception for attendees will be held at 8 p.m.

Four mini-conferences have been scheduled, each dealing with a specific subject area -- The Truly Disadvantaged, Crisis in the Courts, Economic Empowerment, and Political Empowerment. The sessions will be held concurrently beginning on Monday morning, October 30th, at 10 a.m., at the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, 900 Massachusetts Ave. NW.

## King Coalition Issues Final Statement On His Last Hours

By Larry A. Still  
NNPA News Service

"In a spirit of love and nonviolence, an unprecedented coalition of friends and beneficiaries of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Dream" issued another dramatic statement "questioning the factual and psychological foundation of the book, 'And The Walls Came Tumbling

Down, by Ralph David Abernathy, a lifelong friend of Dr. King.

These sessions will be preceded at 9 a.m. by a plenary session at which Dr. Hooks will deliver the opening address on "The Present Crisis".

Each of the mini-conferences will examine various aspects of the overall issue. For example, the mini-conference on "The Truly Disadvantaged" will cover such matters as the homeless, adult illiteracy, drop-outs, the black family, single female headed households, teenage pregnancy, the endangered black male, black-on-black crime, intra-group violence, and organizing the black community to fight back.

The Monday morning sessions will break at 12 noon for a luncheon at the church to be addressed by Mayor Richard Arrington of Birmingham, AL.

The mini-sessions will resume at 2 p.m., concluding at 6 p.m., in time for the 8 p.m. session at the Quality Inn.

On Tuesday, October 31st,

Down, by Ralph David Abernathy, a lifelong friend of Dr. King.

"Despite our distaste and disdain for public squabbles, we are forced to issue this second and final statement to put the whole controversy to rest" declared Jesse Hill, Atlanta Life Insurance executive and chairman of the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social

Change. The group met the media at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington 12 days after an Atlanta press conference.

"In that statement...issued with reluctance and compassion after Rev. Abernathy spurned repeated private pleas and appeals," Hill stated... "we asked the author to correct 'the gross inaccuracies and painful distortions' in the book and to respect the privacy and dignity of the Abernathys and Kings, living and dead.

"Since that time, to our dismay, Rev. Abernathy and the promoters of his book have amplified his statements in a carefully orchestrated media campaign which

the mini-sessions will resume at Mount Vernon United Methodist Church from 9 a.m. until noon. They will be followed by a luncheon at the church at which reports will be from the various mini-conferences. An address will be delivered by Dr. J. Clay Smith, Professor of Law, Howard University.

Immediately after the close of the luncheon, visits will be made on Capitol Hill to representatives and senators. The visits will continue on Wednesday morning, November 1st. A closing plenary session has been planned on Capitol Hill at 3 p.m., at which Dr. Hooks will give "The Charge for Back Home Action."

Attending the Conference will be representatives from a wide spectrum of organizations toughing virtually every sector of the black community including the church, school, the professions, business, fraternal and social groups, labor, etc.

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"Since that time, to our dismay, Rev. Abernathy and the promoters of his book have amplified his statements in a carefully orchestrated media campaign which

began cynically enough and sadly enough in Memphis...the site of Dr. King's physical assassination, and now, the attempted spiritual assassination...

Participating in the detailed account of the final hours of Dr. King on April 3 and the early morning of April 4, 1968, before he was slain by convicted sniper James Earl Ray, were Rep. Walter D. Fauntroy, a former King aide; Dr. Benjamin Hooks, NAACP national president and former Memphis Judge; Rt. Rev. John Hurst Adams, African Methodist Episcopal Senior Bishop; Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Dr. King's associate and Ms. Adjuja Abi Naantaanbuu.

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