

'Blacks Face Racism From Without, Deterioration From Within' --NAACP

by Larry A. Still

"Racism from without and deterioration from within" are the major problems facing Black America, NAACP President Benjamin L. Hooks declared following a three day conference on the "Present Crisis in our Society" in the capital.

Approximately 300 representatives from religious, civil rights and community based national organizations attended the sessions on the black family, Black on Black crime, adult illiteracy, teenage pregnancy, unemployment, the homeless, racism, intra-group violence and "organizing the black community to fight back," October 29-November 1.

Although the conference was designed as a follow-up to the NAACP's "Silent March" protest here last August, Hooks said the current response was so great it indicated the need for an "umbrella group" of black leaders to mobilize their communities.

Participants urged greater support and resources for

voter registration, increased participation in the 1990 U.S. Census count to provide more political empowerment, and development of a legislative agenda for the benefit of the "disadvantaged" people, the NAACP executive stated.

"The first thing we have to do is to get Congress to pass some laws reversing those terrible Supreme Court decisions" limiting affirmative action" he emphasized. Several sessions were held on the "Crisis in the Courts".

"Also, we must begin to get our act together in our own communities to do something about drugs, crime and pregnancy," the NAACP leader declared in calling for a unified approach to the mounting problems. He referred conferees to the five-year old recommendations of the Black Family Summit conducted by the National Urban League and the NAACP in 1984.

Attention was focused on addressing the problems of the "so-called black underclass" at a major session on

"Where Are We and Where Do We Go From Here" with panelists Dorothy Height, National Council of Negro Women; Rev. Joseph Lowery, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Norman Hill, A Philip Randolph Institute; Julius Chamber, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and Coretta Scott King.

At the closing plenary session, keynote speaker Jesse Jackson urged nationwide support of legislation to make the District of Columbia a State with two elected senators and voting members of Congress.

Washington, DC, has more

population like other citizens, Jackson emphasized. He cited President George Bush's veto of the District budget because it included abortion rights as an example of DC not having equal authority to pass its own laws like other states.

Although seven states with heavy black populations are likely to increase the number of representatives elected to Congress in 1990 and eleven states are likely to lose representation, the total number of black members in the House of Representatives should increase according to Census projections an analysis of congressional redistricting indicated in a report to the conference.

Art Exhibit At Reed Whipple Cultural Center

The public is invited to attend an exhibit of Art in Public Places to be held at the Reed Whipple Cultural Center from November 15th-28th.

Five artists from around the country have submitted

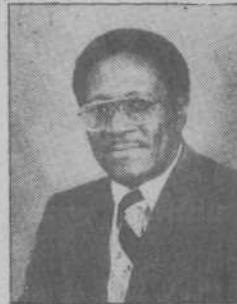
artwork to be displayed. One of the pieces of art will eventually be permanently displayed at City Hall.

For more information, call the City of Las Vegas Cultural Affairs Division at 386-6511.

THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President
Las Vegas, NAACP



-NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet Tickets-

This is the last call to get your banquet ticket, we must give the hotel a count 48 hours before the banquet that is Tuesday November 14.

If you wait until the night of the banquet, we may or may not be able to serve you. With Dr. Benjamin Hooks, our National Executive Director, as our speaker, there will be a large number of people waiting in line to be served. Tickets are available at the branch office, 940 W. Owens Ave. 646-1662.

-NAACP Holds Crisis Conference-

Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks, the National Executive Director of the NAACP convened a meeting in Washington D.C. Quality Hotel on Capitol Hill from October 29 through November 1. The conference was en-

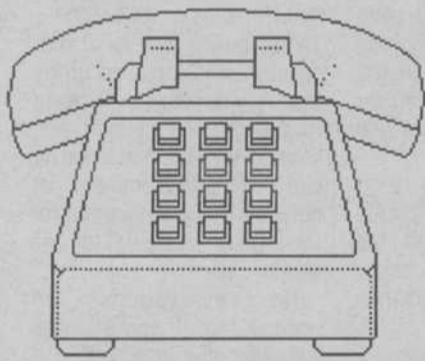
titled NAACP Conference on the Present Crisis". The four topics under discussion were The disadvantaged or underclass, Crisis in the Courts, Resurgence of Racism, Economic Empowerment and Political Empowerment. The call also went out to most of the recognized Civil Rights organizations in America.

-Many Civil Rights Leaders Answered The Call-

Among the Civil Rights Leaders present at the conference on the Present Crisis were: Rev Jesse Jackson of the Rainbow Coalition, Coretta Scott King of the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change, Eddie Williams of Joint Center of Political Studies, Elton Jolly -OIC, Norman Hill -A Philip Randolph Institute, Julius Chambers -NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc., William Gibson NAACP National Board.

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