

THE RANDOLPH-RUSTIN LEGACY

By Norman Hill

Black History Month is a particularly appropriate time to reflect on the contributions made by A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin to the black community, the labor movement, and the nation as a whole. Perhaps more important, however, is to note the continuing relevance of their guiding principles, or democratic mass action and of coalition building for economic justice as well as racial equality.

OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE PLANNED

In recognition of National Vocational Education Week, the Clark County School District's Vocational Counseling Department will present a special workshop, "Occupational Education for the Handicapped: A Commitment in the '90s," Friday, February 15, 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Cashman Field Complex.

Featured speakers include: Dr. Lois Tarkanian, school board member; Dr. Brian Cram, superintendent of schools; Carole Gribble, consultant, Guidance and Counseling, Nevada State Department of Education; and Ward Gubler, assistant superintendent, Occupational Education.

Topics to be discussed are: "School Board Recommendations: The Direction in the '90s," "Commitment to Federal Programs: From Mandates to Service Delivery," and "Guidance and Counseling: Support for the Special Students."

Randolph was the greatest black labor leader in American history, and the "Father" or "Dean" of the American civil rights movement from the 1950's until his death in 1979. He founded and led the most historically significant union for black workers, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and achieved the first contract ever signed by a major employer with a black union leader. He was the architect and strategist behind the 1963 March on

Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and later founded, with Bayard Rustin, the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

Rustin was Randolph's greatest protege and an out until his death in 1987.

Those are the bare facts; to

WOMEN'S ROLE

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of the nation, seldom written.

In 1986 Congress recognized that tribute to the women who have or are serving in our armed forces was long overdue. They enacted Public Law 99-610 authorizing construction in the nation's capital of the first Memorial to honor American Servicewomen.

The Women In Military Service For America Foundation, Inc. (WIMSA) a nonprofit organization was charged by Congress with the responsibility for funding and moving the project forward.

However, due to public apathy and lagging donations the Congressional mandate for WIMSA to raise \$15 million for

understand; fully the greatness, vision, and contemporary relevance of these leaders, however, it is important to examine their guiding principles in more depth. I will begin with perhaps their most stunning success: what ideas and perspectives

motivated Randolph's and Rustin's role as the principle architects and organizers behind the 1963 March on Washington.

Randolph and Rustin viewed democratic mass action as the ideal means to achieve civil rights and other democratic social

change. Unlike the "talented tenth" philosophy of social change exposed by W.E.B. DuBois, they believed that democratic and egalitarian social change required the direct participation, on a massive scale, (See Randolph, Page 24)

construction by November 1991 is in jeopardy of failing to achieve this goal.

Perhaps, this ongoing debate will stimulate interest and garner public support for the need to make American Service-

THE FLAWED DOMESTIC AGENDA

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a billion dollar a week savings and loan bailout, we certainly can afford to do whatever is necessary to make the critical investments in our future.

Instead, the new thinking in Washington is that we can do it on the cheap by "empowering" poor people to improve their lot.

Recognizing that a problem exists is probably an advance over the Reagan-era thinking that said there is no problem at all.

But the empowerment fad is not going to change much.

Instead of investing money in schools, housing, and training programs that make a real difference in people's lives, the

women's contributions to our country a visible part of our national heritage.

It is the hope-the dream that this memorial will inspire others to emulate, follow and surpass these heroines.

new thinking is supposed to give poor people choices enjoyed by the more affluent.

So the Administration's budget includes money for school systems that have programs allowing parents to send their children to schools outside their neighborhood, including private schools.

It's an example of seizing on a simple, easy solution that won't work instead of doing the difficult job of making all our schools provide quality education for all of our children.

Choice gives some parents and children an opportunity to move to a better school, but it will leave most stuck with schools that are underfunded and un-

All contributions and requests for information should be sent to:

Women in Military Service, Memorial Foundation, Dept. 560, Washington, D.C. 2220042-0560 or 1-800-222-2294.

equipped to educate children.

And it doesn't even begin to address such key issues as the tracking that shunts minority children into low achievement classes, inadequate teacher training for a diverse student body, or the low expectations that doom minority children to failure.

Choice is also a panacea for the shortage of affordable housing.

The Administration wants to help tenants of low income housing projects to buy their apartments.

A nice idea. But it won't work unless tenants are trained in management and have the jobs to pay mortgage and maintenance costs.

And it won't work unless those projects, which are often in bad shape, get the massive funds they need for modernization and maintenance.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

(continued from Page 3)
lative process. Understanding how it works and give you input. We are "the people." Our voice whether by phone, newspaper, letters to the editor, phoning the television stations, writing to our legislatures, or demonstrating in a march, campaigning or petition drive will signal to our public officials on all levels of government that "we will not sit idly by" and complain after-the-fact. It will be our testimony that "a vote can make a difference" and by "not voting" we make a difference too, we keep the same representatives that we may disagree with in power. This is the time to get involved.

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Clark County Personnel Department
225 Bridger Avenue, 9th Floor
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155
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ESTIMATED COST: \$1,200,000

PREBID CONFERENCE: 9 AM, MARCH 1, 1991 at Clark County Public Works, Design/Construction Management Conference Room, 5051 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada. The purpose of the Conference is to review and discuss both the specifications and the County's Minority and Women-Owned Business Policy.

Bids will be received in the Office of the Clark County Director of General Services, Purchasing Division, Bridger Building, Tenth Floor, 225 Bridger Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155 on March 14, 1991. Bids must be time-stamped at 3:00 PM or before, bids time-stamped at 3:01 PM or after will be returned to the bidder. Overnight Mail must use the 82101 code.

Specifications and drawings are available at the above address for a nonrefundable charge of \$30, and if specifications are to be mailed, there is an additional nonrefundable charge of \$5. All checks are to be made payable to the Clark County Treasurer.

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