

NNPA FEATURE

# COPING

by

Dr. Charles Faulkner



## THE NEW SEPARATISTS

"If they don't want to be around me, I don't want to be around them, either!"

More and more, the above statement seems to represent the feelings of Black Americans, who are tired of being rejected, daily, by whites. I was somewhat surprised to hear a friend, who has for years staunchly defended integration, make almost the identical statement.

The feeling that I get after talking with many Blacks, friends and strangers, from many walks of life, is that America has no intention of allowing Blacks to have an equal opportunity to prosper. Many Blacks actually believe that a program of "benign neglect" has been politically and officially put into effect. Regarding Blacks, they think that the government could effectively

eliminate racism, if it seriously wanted to do so. However, the decision has been made to simply ignore the horrendous plight of Blacks, especially the poor, and allow them to die off. "Let them complain." We'll act as if we don't hear them. And, if they get too loud, we'll tell them that we don't have the resources to help them. If that doesn't work, just lock them up." Did America say that?

Could America eliminate the problem of racism, if it really wanted to? All that is required is the passage of laws and their enforcement. Whether there is an American plot to destroy Blacks through neglect, the use of illegal drugs, mass imprisonment is an open question. But many Blacks see it as a reality. The races are more divided

today, in virtually every respect, than ever before. Blacks live a life that is nearly ten years shorter than whites. While more whites finish high school and attend college, the number of Blacks reaching this educational level is decreasing, yearly. Many of the Blacks who do attend college fear going to predominantly white colleges because of the blatant racism that exists there. They have already said, "If you don't want to be around me, I don't want to be around you, either."

The "new" young Black seems to take the position that the street is the only way to make a living. Drugs, theft and the law of the street seem practical solutions to poverty and benign neglect. When some Blacks utilize this stop-gap means of survival, whites blame their disregard of the law on their "nature" and throw them in jail.

Whether we like it or not, the races in America are divided and will probably stay that way. The prospect is for division and separation, rather than togetherness and integration. The unfortunate and distressing thing about this is that whites and Blacks seem to want it that way. There approachment between the races. How does an oppressed people react in a society that will

not allow it to fully integrate and enjoy the benefits of being an American? But will not provide it

with the resources needed to survive and prosper as a separate entity in society? The fu-

ture, perhaps the near future, might provide an unpleasant answer to this question.

## RESOLUTIONS

(Continued from Page 4)

### Boycotts

#### Approved

WHEREAS, a number of states, cities and locations do not celebrate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a paid holiday; and,

WHEREAS, the Association has a policy calling for the same;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association consider with policy formulation and administration, the authorization of boycotts of national events such as Conventions, sporting events, etc., where states, cities and other localities have failed to enact legislation honoring a "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday."

### 9. Crawl Lines

#### Approved

WHEREAS, a number of T.V. and cable networks have produced docu-dramas and mini-series on events of the struggle for civil and human rights in this nation and the role that the NAACP has played; and,

WHEREAS, it would be helpful if the public could call the local NAACP if the stations would permit the use of crawl lines contrary to the local branch; BE IT RESOLVED, that NAACP request that T.V. channels and cable stations permit crawl lines during docu-dramas related to the NAACP.

### IX. MILITARY AFFAIRS

#### 1. Armed Forces

##### Approved

A. WHEREAS, the U.S. Armed Forces are formed to defend the U.S. Constitution and its attendant way of life against enemies both foreign and domestic; and,

WHEREAS, many service members are required to defend U.S. and other interests in foreign areas; and,

WHEREAS, there has been rapid increase in the number and relative percentage of African-American soldiers in military units;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the

NAACP National 82nd Convention urge the Department of Defense to vigorously support the NAACP's efforts to combat inequities in the military's recruitment, training, promotion, education, and the reduction of overseas forces and that the National staff monitor this inter-action.

#### 2. Armed Forces

##### Approved

B. WHEREAS, blacks have served faithfully and courageously in all wars from the Revolutionary War to the Persian Gulf War and there have been little or no recognition by the Department of Defense in the way of awards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP 82nd National Convention urge the Department of Defense to establish annual awards relating to the accomplishments of such black military heroes as General Daniel "Chappie" James, General Roscoe Robinson, Jr., and Dorie Miller.

### \$21.4 Million for Domestic Violence - \$250 Million for Women's Diseases

## SENATE PASSES SEN. REID'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WOMEN'S HEALTH MEASURES

The Senate today approved by unanimous consent major legislation sponsored by U.S. Senator Harry Reid to provide un-

precedented help for domestic violence and women's health.

Reid's legislation, contained in the Senate Labor-Health &

Human Services appropriations package, will direct \$21.4 million for domestic violence services, which is double the amount of last year's funding of \$10.7 million for similar services.

Reid also secured more than \$250 million to speed up research into women's diseases and fund prevention programs.

Senator Reid said:

"Money for domestic violence services will provide shelters and counselors for the more than 3,000 women who are abused every day.

Women's health will also receive unprecedented attention. In the long run, the legislation approved today will also save millions of dollars in medical care, legal fees and family needs."

Reid said he will continue to push for passage of legislation to make sex crimes a federal violation of civil rights.

Reid is also a co-sponsor of the "Woman's Health Equity Act," which would authorize a permanent Office of Women's Health at NIH and codify the NIH policy of including women in clinical research studies.

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