

NAACP ENDOWMENT FUND

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businessman, Reginald P. Lewis, to begin a \$100 million NAACP Endowment Fund.

After announcing the gift, which was greeted with a standing ovation, Dr. Chavis set his sights on the organization's civil rights agenda.

He said the civil rights fight is no longer one for public accommodations, but rather one for economic equality. "Community development and economic development are high on our agenda as we move into the 21st century," he said.

Dr. Chavis also announced that the NAACP is entering into a joint venture with the city of Baltimore — the site of its head-

quarters — to establish some 600 housing units for low income residents of that city; called on President Clinton to fire Postmaster General Marvin Runyon for his proposal to restructure the postal system resulting in the loss of jobs for thousands of African-Americans, and reiterated the NAACP's support for the August 28th Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary for the 1993 March on Washington.

Vice President Al Gore addressed the Convention on Monday morning, July 12th, issuing a call to combat environmental racism — a term coined by Dr. Chavis — and reaffirming the Administration's commitment

to issues of importance to the NAACP.

Congressman Kweisi Mfume (D. MD), Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, at the same session, galvanized the audience with a forceful call to remain undaunted in the effort to secure social and economic justice for people of color.

That afternoon there was the excitement of the ACT-SO finals when more than 1,000 young people, from every section of the country, flocked the market arena where the three top finalists in each of the more than 25 categories were applauded and praised for their achievements. More than \$350,000 in scholarships and prizes was awarded.

On Monday night, Dr. William F. Gibson, Chairman, NAACP National Board of Directors, outlined his version of a "New Agenda" for the NAACP to take it into the 21st century.

Electricity was in the air on Tuesday morning when Professor Lani Guinier walked to the microphone to receive a thunderous ovation, indicative of her stature as an authentic heroine.

Nominated by President Clinton as Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the Justice Department, the law professor was denied her day in court — or more accurately the Senate Judiciary Committee — when the president withdrew her nomination after controversy

developed over some of her legal writings.

She received the Torch of Courage Award from Crisis Magazine, and in her remarks, she put bitterness aside, saying that she was sorry she had not been given the opportunity to state her own case. She also said the nation appears to have stopped talking about race in the hopes that the division among racial groups will disappear.

Energy Secretary, Hazel O'Leary told NAACP delegates on Wednesday morning, times will get better if they support the new mission of the civil rights organization and "hang in there with President Clinton."

"You better hang in there with this guy," O'Leary said in a speech to delegates attending the organization's 84th Annual Convention in Indianapolis, at the Wednesday morning session, July 14th.

O'Leary, the first woman and the first black to hold the post of Energy Secretary, said Clinton is committed to giving blacks in his administration a chance to bring about change.

Legislative matters took center stage on Thursday morning, July 18th when voting delegates — those representing local NAACP branches — considered a number of resolutions.

Among the most important approved were (1) opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in its present form because it would further drain the economic base of the community; (2) support of an NAACP Voter Education and Registration Project to assist the African National Congress in the forthcoming elections in South Africa; and (3) support and endorsement of the nomination of Dr. Joycelyn Elders for the position of United States Surgeon General.

Sent down to defeat was a resolution supporting transracial adoptions. Delegates opposing the resolution voiced concerns ranging from African American children as the only group allowed to be adopted transracially, to not incorporating the knowledge and expertise of black social workers and others in the adoption process.

The final event of the convention was at the Freedom Fund Dinner on Thursday night at which Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, former Executive Director of the NAACP, presented the association's highest award, The Springam Medal, to a longtime comrade in the arms, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, president, National Council of Negro Women.

LIBRARY DISTRICT

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Recently, Hunsberger was brought under fire for his handling of the rehabilitation project at the N.L.V. Library.

While millions of dollars are being appropriated for library facilities all over Clark County (Summerlin, Green Valley, The Lakes, etc.) West Las Vegas residents felt that their community was being neglected.

Hunsberger will receive severance and retirement pay of

\$99,000 with his resignation being effective in October of this year.

He had been challenged on the proposed firing of library attendant Linda Porter by the Martin Luther King Committee, WAAK-UP and a host of other community activists, politicians, and concerned citizens.

In the recent renovation project at the W.L.V. Library flaws were found in the square footage of the proposed auditorium

(namely, inadequacies in the dressing rooms, size of the stage, etc.).

According to Marzette Lewis, President of WAAK-UP, Hunsberger had displayed total disregard towards the concerns of the African American community. She said at one point he commented that black people only check out books to get their GED's and seldom utilized the full extent of available services.

In response to this and other derogatory comments made towards the community, Assem-

blyman Wendell P. Williams, the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, WAAK-UP and other organizations and concerned residents staged a month-long book checkout protest to increase circulation at the embattled facility. The response was totally successful and the community has been increasingly involved in ongoing meetings, forums, tutorial programs, dramatic and theatrical performances and other activities to make full use of the library.

HARRY REID INTERVIEW

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and machinery. I'd like them to buy it from the United States and that's the reason some of the aid that we have going to Poland allows them to buy American equipment.

SAVOY: But now when we look at the situation with Israel and the Goran Heights, isn't that somewhat sending a negative message to the rest of the Middle East by the way that they're treating that group of people?

REID: Goran Heights are treating people fine there, but where we're having trouble is in the occupied territories in the east bank and places like that, where we have large refugee camps and there is marshall law. The people in those communities don't have much in the way of civil rights and that's a difficult problem, no question about it.

SAVOY: Should we lift the ban on South Africa now that it seems like they are going to have open elections?

REID: I think that we have to wait until we get word from somebody, but right now Mandella has not indicated he wants the ban completely lifted.

SAVOY: How long are you going to maintain the position on Bosnia and Herzegovina?

REID: Again, if you stop and think what happened in the gulf, the war there, that was a conflict with American industrial interest, but it also involves basic human rights... Muslims, Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, those were people who were asking for our help. The United Emirate has called before, so we have helped other Muslim nations in the past, and we hope we will in the future. Bosnia, one of President Clinton's failures, has been his inability to get the European community to do their fair share, as you may know the President recommended air strikes and military intervention on behalf of Bosnia. The European community would not do anything, and we couldn't do it alone. I would hope that the safe havens that have been established will be maintained while we have a terribly difficult situation of animosities that built up for many years during

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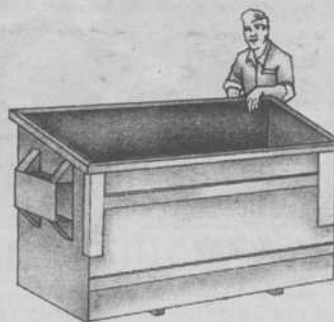
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