National Roundup

By Larry Still and Art Carter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Tis the season for congratulations on weddings and graduations . . . which reminds us of the outstanding black college alumni selected at the recent National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education confab . . . They include Judge Milton Allen, Baltimore (Coppin State College); Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington Jr. (Miles College); Kent Amos, Zerox Equal Opportunity Officer (Delaware State); Corinth, Miss. Alderman Edward S. Bishop Sr. (Jackson State); William A. "Bud" Blakey, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education (Knoxville College); Gale L. Bostic, A & P Tea Company buyer (Shaw College); U.S. Magistrate in Houston Calvin Botley (Grambling); Tyree Sims, Dayton deputy director of police (Central State); U.S. Marshall Jerome Bullock (Tuskegee); Jessalyn P. Bullock, director of equal opportunity for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, (Tuskegee); Elnora Burton, Baltimore bridal consultant; Wilbert E. Cantey, director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business of the U.S. Department of Transportation (Benedict College); Harry D. Carson, New York Giants middle linebacker (South Carolina State); Federal Judge Robert L. Carter, (Lincoln and Howard Universities); Cammie Fludd Clagett, Clemson Univ. extension service home economist, (South Carolina State); Daniel Andrew Collins, president, urban education division, Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, Inc., publishers, (Paine College); Dr. E. Albert Duman, Chicago physician (Alcorn State); Dr. Alfred L. Edwards, professor of business administration, Univ. of Mich., (Livingstone College); Lt. Col. Robert Gest, deputy base commander, 601 Combat Support Group, Sembach, Germany, (Livingstone College); Rubye Maie Hall, speech pathologist, Oklahoma City, (Langston University); Dr. Clarence C. Haydel, New Orleans (Dillard University); Irvin R. Heath. Esq., Resale Pricing Manager, Mobile Oil Co. (Delware State College); Pauline V. Hobbs, Baltimore Elementary School supervisor (Bowie State College); Richard Allen Lewis, chairman and president, Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Co. of Nashville (Tennessee State University); The Rev. Chester A. Kirkendoll, Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Birmingham (Lane College); Therman McKenzie Sr., co-founder of M & M Products Co. in Forest Park, Ga. (Fort Valley State); William De Barry McKissack, president and chairman, McKissack and McKissack Architects and Engineers, Inc. in Nashville, (Howard Univ.); Larry Nichols, Chrysler Corp. personnel officer (Shaw College); Dr. Benjamin F. Payton, program officer, Ford Foundation, (South Carolina State); Edward A. Ragland, State Director, Farmers Home Administration, Richmond (Virginia State Univ); John E. Reinhardt, former director, U.S. International Communications Agency (Knoxville College); Javetta Smith Richardson, Coordinator of the National School Violence Program of the National Education Association (Southern University); Herbert Simmons, Director of D.C. Office of Consumer Protection, (Grambling State Univ.); Dr. Dazelle Dean Simpson, pediatrician, Miami (Meharry Medical College); Carl Ware, vice-president of Coca Cola, USA, (Clark College) and Valerie Watts - James, Assistant State's Attorney, in Anne Arundel County, Md. (University of Maryland - Eastern Shore) . . . The group was selected last year and cited at the sessions this spring.

Terry Bartlett of Lafayette High School in Williamsburg, Va., is among the 1982 June graduates who have won four year scholarships . . . Terry is going to Stanford University in California on a $10,000 a year award and it is not for playing football or basketball . . . The son of Ernest and Ethel Bartlett of the colonial city's Highland Park subdivision, young Bartlett was a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship and the National Achievement Scholarship for Negro Students . . . after winning a summer scholarship to attend the Carnegie Mellon University Action Project for Minority Students in Pittsburgh . . . His specialties . . . Science and Greek and Roman classics.

The Nationhouse Positive Action Center here is seeking funds to continue its Watoto School, which is designed to provide a "comprehensive Pan Afrihanist educational and cultural program" for primary and elementary level pupils . . . Watoto is one of the increasing number of black operated private community schools which would benefit from President Reagan's tuition tax credit plan for parents of pupils attending private schools . . . However, many fear the proposal could eventually destroy the nation's public school systems . . . and District of Columbia parents recently voted down a proposed referendum to receive $1,500 in tax credits for sending their children to a private and-or parochial school . . . The unique vote indicates some people know when to reject government benefits.

The $1,000 a plate fund raising dinner to which President Reagan was invited on the Howard University campus was scheduled following graduation and the end of regular classes. But many students and faculty still opposed the visit of the man who controls much needed budget increases for the expanding institution . . . The university is seeking more private funding to lessen the dependence upon the federal government.

The Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce, which recently admitted that "census takers missed 1.3 million of the estimated 28 million blacks in the U.S. on Census Day, April 1, 1980," has now disclosed a startling new report that claims that the number of poor persons in the nation would be reduced by almost half "if selected noncash government appears to be another way of saying "poverty is all in the mind or the manner in which you count your blessings.

In 1975, the Census study says, the number of poor was estimated at 23.6 million persons or 11.1 percent of the U.S. population, but if assigned values of noncash benefits had been taken into account in determining the poverty status, the number of poor would have been estimated between 13.6 million (6.4 percent) and 20.7 million (9.8 percent).

The report, which the Census Bureau calls highly exploratory (and controversial) examines procedures for assigning values to the noncash — benefits, and presents estimates of how these values affect the size and composition of the poverty population. The benefits include such items as food stamps, subsidized school lunches, public housing, medicaid and medicare.

Previously, poverty accounting has been based solely on money income and did not include the value of such noncash government benefits provided for the "truly needy." These benefits now account for more than two of every three dollars of government assistance received by the low income population, the study concludes. The official poverty level, which varies by family characteristics, was $7,412 in 1979 for a non-farm family of four as established by the Office of Management and Budget.

Incidently, the number of poor "whites" total 15,542,000 households, compared with 7,456,000 poor "black" households (two to one), but the poverty rate among blacks is 30.4 percent compared with 8.5 percent among whites under the current "money income" only concept . . . If cash equivalent value of ggvernment benefits are included, the white poverty rate drops to 7.4 percent and the black rate is 24.7.

The damaging impact of these statistics is already being cited in U.S. Senate hearings and government agency legislation proposals this summer . . . but the human side of the message may be delivered to Congress personally when the revived Poor People's Campaign arrives as a result of the projected, extended march from Salam to Montgomery (Alabama) to Washington (District of Columbia).

The Pilgrimmage through Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia will not only focus on poverty but on changing the basic political system as the original Poor People's Campaign was designed to do, according to The Rev. Joseph E. Lowery, coordinator and national president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Atlanta.

The Poor People's Pilgrimmage had to be revived and extended, Rev. Lowery said, because of the threat in the U.S. Senate to pass a weakened

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