National Roundup

WASHINGTON, DC — The shakedown of the NAACP national office continues as Denton Watson returns to the fold as public relations director and Capital veteran Yvonne Price becomes director of the Combined Federal Campaign Special Contribution Fund . . . A bipartisan Capitol Hill crowd turned out in the Rayburn House Office Building to hail this move . . . The organization is still planning its move from New York's Broadway to Washington, DC's 14th Street, which was first announced in this column last fall . . . From the once great White Way to the new great Black Way.

Many supporters regret that the long standing feud between the Association and the Legal Defense Fund flared into the open with legal fanfare . . . almost on the 25th anniversary of the NAACP's great court victory over segregation in 1954. . . The LDF was established following the Supreme Court Decision to accept tax exempt contributions from a new generation of excited supporters, but it soon became the tail wagging the dog under director Jack Greenburg . . . until the two groups agreed to separate while still continuing their competition between the NAACP legal staff and the new Legal Defense Fund . . . But, do you have to call a press conference to announce you are washing your dirty linen??? There may be more fireworks on this at the Boston convention. . . . In addition to asking the Federal court to prohibit the LDF from using its name, two top NAACP officials have asked President Ronald Reagan to intervene in the dispute between predominantly black Meharry Medical College and mostly white Vanderbilt University over hospital rights at the federally owned 485 - bed veterans hospital in Nashville, where both schools are located.

———

The growing influence of black citizens in influencing U.S. Foreign policy was evident at the recent TransAfrica Forum, headed by

By Larry Still and Art Carter

executive director Randall Robinson on the Howard University campus early this summer . . . Robinson followed up his personal efforts to realign Cuba with the United States by inviting defeated leftist Jamaican President Michael Manley to the TransAfrica Forum, much to the chagrin of the State Department . . . Dr. Elliot Skinner of Columbia University and Bernard Muganda of the office of the United Nations Secretary General headed plenary sessions at the forum on Southern Africa and the Reagan Administration, U.S. Caribbean Basin Policy, Defense Spending in Africa and U.S. Refugee and Immigration Policy.

The Organization of African Unity (of 51 newly independent African nations) which recently established an office in New York this year, observed its 19th anniversary with a gala reception at the Kenyan Embassy residence of Ambassador John Mbogua . . . with popular Tanzanian Ambassador Paul Bomani militantly calling for the end of the last vestiges of colonialism on the continent in southern Africa as State Department and White House staff mingled among the applauding diplomatic crowd.

———

Critics of the President of Howard University, Dr. James E. Cheek's invitation to President Reagan to visit the campus following graduation to help raise a $150 million private endowment for the school were apparently ignorant of the purpose or overlooked the issue. Both Reagan and Cheeks were stressing the need for the university to decrease its dependence upon government support (despite an exception budget increase this year) which could be cut at any time depending upon the politics of the moment . . . The size of the Howard University has tripled under Cheek with enrollment almost doubled and the number of schools and colleges increasing from ten to seventeen during the University president's 12 year "reign". . . However, protesting faculty and students did not oppose "the right of the President of the University to invite the President of the United States to the campus . . ." There was concern over the secrecy and security used to apparently discourage protests of Reagan's domestic and foreign policies which have impacted upon the very population which Howard is designed to serve . . . Incidently, the reception raised $300,000 as University officials reported reaching nearly one third of their goal for the "Challenge Fund."

The Congressional Black Caucus is also still reorganizing as it prepares for its annual fall festival a little earlier this year, Sept. 17 - 21 . . Some major staff shifts are being made in the wake of internal disputes staged in the Capital's public arena . . . But, Congressman Bill Clay (D-MO) is quietly heading up the organization of CBC's new Political Action Committee, in addition to its disputed Foundation . . . Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D - NY), is the only one of the original CBC founders who was not elected chairman of the group before leaving the House of Representatives as she plans to do in December . . . The busy congresswoman led a delegation of more than 100 Brooklyn supporters to her hometown in the Barbados, West Indies, this summer. The annual pilgrimmage to "visit her roots" in the islands is used to help raise thousands of dollars in funds for the education of children in her Brooklyn district.

———

Lenora T. Cartwright, Commissioner of Human Services; Dr. Arnita Boswell, president of the League of Black Women, and Dr. Carroll Felton, head of the National Council of Black Churchmen, were key speakers at the annual conference of the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged in Chicago last month.

———

NOTES ON THE CUFF: Dr. Stephen C. Joseph and Eugene N. Babb, both residents of Washington, DC area, are joint recipients of the 1982 Elliott - Black award at the American Ethical Union annual Assembly at the C. W. Post campus of Long Island University at Greenvale, NY. The awards were presented at the final banquet of the AEU Assembly on Saturday, July 3. Dr. Joseph lives in Washington, DC., and Mr. Babb resides in Great Falls, VA., just outside the city. The award is presented each year in recognition of outstanding concern for others through ethical action, even though personal risk may be involved.

Dr. Joseph P. McKelpin, recently retired from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) but now residing in New Orleans, recently was honored as a "Top Teacher" by the New Orleans NAACP chapter . . . J. Lawrence Smith, an attorney with wide experience in civil aviation law, has been appointed executive vice president, corporate affairs of Northeastern International Airways, Inc. He had been with Airlift International for 13 years and also served as senior trial attorney for the Civil Aeronautics Board . . . Dr. Florette McKenzie, superintendent of schools for the District of Columbia, has been named to the board of directors of The Neediest Kids, Inc., a charitable organization founded in Washington in 1972 by WJLA - TV . . . Gayle Perkins, WRC - TV editorial director, has been awarded first place in the 1982 Unity Awards in Media Competition by Lincoln University of Missouri.

Clarence Thomas was sworn in recently as chairman of the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission (EEOC) . . . Mayor Marion Barry nominated Ruth Hankins Nesbit to serve as chairman of the District of Columbia's Public Service Commission. He also nominated Dr. Wesley Long for reappointment to the PSC . . . Ethel L. Payne, AFRO columnist, was honored here recently and named the first recipient of the Ida B. Wells Distinguished Chair in Journalism and Mass Communications at Fisk University.

J. Lawrence Smith

Gayle Perkins

Jack Greenberg