Baltimore Afro American
PAGE 4 AUGUST 6, 1983

Founded August 1892 by John H. Murphy Sr., 1840-1922. Published every Tuesday and Saturday by the AFRO-AMERICAN CO. of Baltimore City, Inc. Carl Murphy (1889-1967) Editor-Publisher (1922-1967).

Blacks are being ignored again

A judge of the Court of Special Appeals (at large) will retire at the end of this month. David T. Mason, has served as the only black judge on the court, and when he steps down, the court will revert to being a lily-white enclave.

Once again, blacks in the city and state are being ignored, and blatantly denied representation in state offices. The scenario this time is typical of the types of procedures being used to exclude black representation.

The announcement of the impending vacancy by the retirement of Judge Mason, appeared in the Daily Record in July, with applicants interested in the appointment asked to submit the necessary papers to the Appellate Judicial Nominating Commission.

There were 12 who applied, including Circuit Court Judge Robert Bell, and David Mitchell. When the nominating commission submitted its list of qualified nominees to the governor, missing were the names of Bell and Mitchell, the only two blacks of the 12.

Six names were contained on the list, and the governor makes his appointment from the recommendations. Obviously if there are no blacks on the list—no blacks will be appointed.

This is not to disparage the qualifications of those named on the list, but we cannot help but feel that at least one of the blacks in the original list of applicants, was qualified for the appellate bench.

We strongly urge the governor to search for ways to discard this list which gives no chance for black representation on the court and charge the nomination commission with going back to the drawing board.

* * *

Another example of the exclusionary practices against blacks is the failure to give any portion of its contracts to redevelopment of the old B and O building at Charles and Baltimore Sts. to black contractors.

Of the $12 million to be spent in the refurbishing and new construction, not one black contractor was given work on the project, although several submitted competitive prices and were highly qualified.

Attention must be focused on the private sector which has no fear of loss of contracts in keeping their work without minority participation.

Not only were black contractors excluded from the awarding of any contracts, but some black contractors were not even allowed to submit bids.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated incidents, and is one which must be firmly addressed by the knowledgeable citizenry of the city. The old ploy about being unqualified no longer is applicable. The blatant racism is obvious.

We support the minority contractors in their fight for equity in the marketplace. The fight must and will continue.

National holiday for Dr. King

Sometimes persistence and determination pay off in accomplishing a desired goal in a particular area of human endeavor. This appears to be the position that advocates of a national holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. find themselves in at this time. Rep. John Conyers (D. Mich.) has consistently introduced legislation calling for a Martin Luther King holiday, but in the past his efforts have met lukewarm response. Conyers, it must be added, employs Mrs. Rosa Parks, the matriarch of the civil rights movements, in his home office.

The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed legislation that would make Dr. King's birthday a national holiday on January 15. The Senate will act when it returns next month. President Reagan has indicated that he will sign the bill. Reagan has always expressed opposition to the measure with weak excuses in an effort not to offend his right-wing constituency. But this indicated change of heart has not come about voluntarily. The impending change has been caused by a drum-beat of various civil rights organizations and the low esteem with which the president is perceived to be held in the black community.

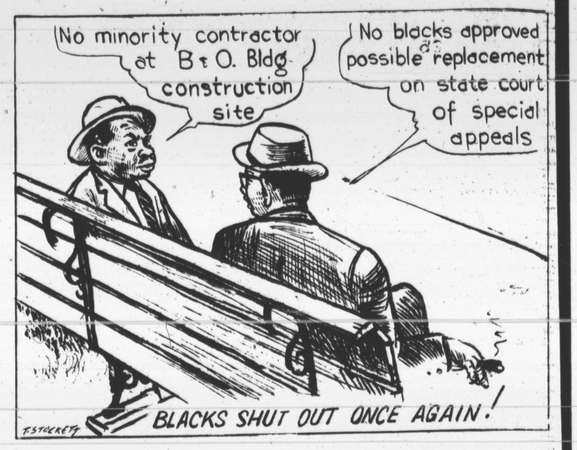
Reagan is judged by most blacks as being insensitive to their vital concerns by his cuts in entitlement programs and the intolerable rate of high unemployment, especially within the black community.

Dr. King changed national thinking about civil rights and racial injustice by waging a non-violent revolution and appealing to all people of good will and understanding. He was able to galvanize black people into a unified coalition by organizing the Montgomery bus boycott of public transportation. The historic situation was touched off when Mrs. Parks, a lady of uncommon valor, refused to give her seat to a white passenger, even though both paid the same fare. The mostly domestic workers that joined the boycott had tremendous courage because their job security was always in jeopardy.

Dr. King's selfless crusade on behalf of the disadvantaged resounded throughout the nation and attracted support outside the black community. Later he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, a distinction not lightly handed down. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the now famous "March on Washington" in August 1963 where he delivered the unforgettable "I Have a Dream" speech that echoed around the world, touching the hearts of even the most impervious racist.

The march attracted a cross-section of leaders from labor, diplomacy, religion and the civil rights movement. Dr. King's widow, Mrs. Coretta King, will lead a group of current civil rights leaders in a Washington march on August 27 to honor the memory of her husband and the principles for which he stood.

The civil rights leader was brutally slain in Memphis, Tennessee in 1968 by an assassin who is now serving a life sentence. Dr. King was in Memphis on behalf of garbage workers calling for increased wages and protesting oppressive working conditions. Dr. King spent his last days working for those who could not effectively speak for themselves. In recent years vicious attacks have been made on his character, but his image will live on untarnished to inspire future generations.



Parren J. MITCHELL

A set-aside not a goal

On Wednesday, August 3, 1983, the House Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation conducted hearings regarding the final regulation for the Land Surface Transportation Act of 1982. As principal author of the ten percent set-aside amendment which achieves a mandatory ten percent set-aside of appropriated funds for small socially and economically disadvantaged business owners, I envision some problem with the final regulations. I would like to share with you the testimony which I submitted during these hearings.

"Madam Chairperson, as you know, in July of this year, the U.S. Department of Transportation promulgated the final regulations to implement Section 105 (f). When the proposed regulations were published in February of this year, I was optimistic that there was a strong commitment to the full implementation of the amendment. However, with the newest set of regulations, in my opinion, it will be extremely difficult for the administration to live up to its earlier commitment. Within the next four days, I will be sending a letter to Secretary Dole outlining my concerns with the final regulations. For the purpose of this hearing, I will generally outline some of these concerns.

(a) The final regulations attempt to change the intent of the law by focusing on Section 105 (f) as a goal. In my opinion there is a distinct difference between a goal and a set-aside. A goal does not have to be achieved. However, a set-aside must be achieved. Section 105 (f) clearly states that a minimum of ten percent shall be awarded to small socially and economically disadvantaged business owners.

Madam chairperson, I contend that U.S. DOT has negated the intent of my amendment by referring to 105 (f) as a goal.

(b) The final regulations do not mandate reciprocity of certification. If states desire to use reciprocity, such will be accepted by U.S. DOT. The failure of the final regulations to mandate reciprocity is, in my opinion, in direct conflict with the principles of the American Free Enterprise System. Prime contractors are not restricted on where they must bid on work. However, because MBE certification will not be given mandatory reciprocity, the MBE community will be relegated to a business status that defies the basic tenets of business. My fear is that some states will attempt to use this as a clever escape hatch to argue for a lower goal because of the insufficient number of qualified state MBEs. finally,

(c) The final regulations address the issue of eligibility for majority female business owners who are defined as small socially and economically disadvantaged business owners. I am some what puzzled by the fact that this issue was omitted from the proposed regulations thus preventing U.S. DOT from receiving public comments. Beyond this the intent of my amendment was not to exclude such legitimate business owners. However, my amendment is clear that the U.S. Small Business Administration has the sole legal responsibility for determining the eligibility of female business owners. I find it unacceptable that the U.S. DOT has not only usurped this responsibility but has delegated such to the states. In addition, while DOT has now allowed for the certification of majority female business owners, the final regulations are silent as to the eligibility of these business owners in the separate women's program created by 40 CFR Part 23 in 1980. One may assume from the final regulations that these female business owners will be allowed to participate in both programs. I sincerely hope that both of these issues are quickly resolved."

In conclusion, I believe that the ten-percent set-aside amendment, Section 105 (f) of Public Law 97-424, is just, right and fair. Evidence strongly supports my contention that the only way minority entrepreneurs will gain meaningful legislation such as set-asides. This, unfortunately is a sad commentary on our sense of justice, but a reality that we in Congress must face and act on accordingly. My greatest hope, however, is that one day amendments of this nature will not be needed because all persons will be judged as equals and treated as equals. Until that time, I urge you, Madam Chairperson and my distinguished colleagues and friends, to work with me to ensure the full realization of the $7 Billion contracting dream for the minority business community.

Letters

Dr. Herbert M. Frisby

Dear AFRO:

Dr. Herbert M. Frisby's dedication for excellence and perseverance in the field of science has inspired many of his students to be successful today in the field of science.

I was fortunate to have been under his influence as a substitute teacher in the late 40s and 50s when he was the head of the science department at Douglass High School. The vision of achievable goals when job opportunities for blacks were very limited was quite concrete whenever Dr. Frisby taught or spoke.

It is good the Herbert M. Frisby Historical Society will perpetuate his attributes for a deserving American minority ethnic group. And perhaps under this aegis for scientific and historic literacy the youth of our day can be further nurtured.

The editorials in the local papers are a fitting tribute to Dr. Frisby.

MIRIAM L. WINBORNE

Auchentoroly Terrace tennis affair

Dear AFRO:

I was very happy to read your commentary on the "Auchentoroly Tennis Courts Affair". It brought back many amusing memories that had long been forgotten. There were times during the commotion that we felt a bit apprehensive about our action. That was due to the fear of losing our job. Fortunately, this did not happen to any of us.

As I look back over those last thirty-five years I can truthfully say that I have no regrets about my participation in the affair. I do not feel like a hero and if a simular challenge should present itself to me in the future I would gladly participate.

Thanks again for including my name in this history making affair.

MACEO T. HOWARD

By Jeffrey P. Postell

The damp morning leaves crushed silently beneath my feet as I walked across the campus of Morehouse College in eager anticipation of the bus ride to Washington, D.C.

It was the day that 10 chartered buses were transporting students from Morehouse, Spelman, Clark, and Morris Brown Colleges in Atlanta to Washington. A rally and march was being held in support of our Native Son, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Being a Morehouse man, I felt a spiritual bond with Dr. King. Just knowing that he walked the same path, studied at the same library and experienced many of the same hardships as it gave me an even stronger sense of pride.

As the buses arrived in Washington, I was in awe of the masses there to recognize that the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King lives.

The day was January 15, '82, and an estimated 25,000 people marched in honor and recognition of King's birthday, a man who lived and died for love. The marchers united collectively to acknowledge the principles taught by King and to support his hopes and dreams.

The spirit of the March was to pay homage to our prince of peace and to make his birthday a national holiday. Waiting at the Washington Monument for the march to begin, I could not help to reminisce how this prophet touched my life as a youngster.

My mind faded back to 1966 in the slums of Southeast Washington, where I shook Dr. King's hand as he protested the poor living conditions of our people. A simple handshake was my personal link to the noble man called Martin Luther King.

I also remember Resurrection City in 1963 where thousands of blacks stayed on the Monument grounds in preparation for the "March on Washington." A record 250,000 people gathered to challenge indecent housing and discrimination.

And now, 14 years after his death, we are still marching, this time with grave respect for a man we love.

As the march progressed down Pennsylvania Avenue towards our destination, the Capitol, the crowd rang out "We want a holiday for M.L.K! We want a holiday for M.L.K! We demand a holiday for M.L.K!"

With the Capitol in sight, the march picked up fervously in spasmodic celebration shouting, "We demand a holiday for M.L.K!" Truthfully, a national holiday was not the only concern. For there were cries of "We need jobs! We need jobs! We want equality," the very essence of what King sought to change.

I began to think of Martin as he faced vicious police dogs, jail and other bloody details, all in the name of equality. We finally had a leader we could trust without fear of being sold out.

As I marched, silent tears eased out of my eyes and I too found myself shouting, "We demand a holiday for M.L.K!"

Assembling at the Capitol in biting 11 degree temperature, I looked over the masses to witness a variety of people from all segments of society. Huddled against the cold, stood everyday hard working people, arm in arm, the rich, the poor, blacks, whites, alcoholics, prostitutes, and blue collar workers. Dr. King was for all people.

One particular incident that still lingers in my mind involved a heroin addict. As he stood next to me nodding in a half-sleep stupor, he seemed completely unaware of the events that were taking place. Reverend Jesse Jackson was introduced and as he took the podium, he began a fiery speech with "I Am Somebody!"

A flicker of life came into the eyes of the junkie as he slowly echoed the response, "I Am Somebody!" I was baffled as I stared intently at this man. Again Jackson roared, "We must stop putting dope in our veins, but hope in our brains."

I saw the junkie slowly shake his head in agreement. Amid shouts and cheers from the masses, I was stunned, confused and hurt from what I had witnessed. But wasn't Martin's life work geared towards the weak, downtrodden and oppressed?

The beauty of this revelation humbled me. This shell of a man, but a man nonetheless, was there to pay homage and respect to a noble king.

Some of the stars present for the march were Gil Scott Heron, Diana Ross, Gladys Knight, Peaches & Herb, and the organizer of the rally, Stevie Wonder, each savoring their own special memories of King's love.

Amid shouts of disapproval, Diana Ross and Peaches & Herb sang "America the Beautiful." The masses did not feel obliged to sing or be patriotic to an administration that gives no respect or recognition to a man of universal brotherhood, a man who lived and died for the very principles this country was founded on.

"We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal..."

REMEMBERING:

Resurrection City; Stevie Wonder and the birthday march

G. JAMES FLEMING

John Douglass: More than oratory

The new spurt of interest in John Douglass as City Comptroller should be a real shot in the arm in the campaign of this very experienced public servant.

This spurt of interest has even more significance, however. It says that every candidate for high public office need not possess a "gift of gab," need not be a Billy Graham or a Ronald Reagan. In other words, it is quite possible that a public servant or candidate for a particular office of responsibility, may have all the qualifications necessary without being a "great communicator," similar to the man presently in the White House.

Indeed, some positions do not call, in any way, for public oratorical performance in the manner of the street-corner evangelist.

All of this is being written because, in the three times that John Douglass has run for citywide office, some griping has been heard that, as a public figure, he is "dull," or "lacks color," or "has no charisma," or "he can't speak."

These critics—even among friends—while griping, often forget that Douglass has had enough charisma, enough color, and enough of everything else, to be elected four times to 4-year terms in the House of Delegates; that his colleagues in the General Assembly have elected him chairman of the Joint Budget and Audit Committee, for a total of eight years; and that the House of Delegates has kept him on its Budget Committee for 13 years.

The record shows that, without being a hell-and-brimstone orator, John Douglass has sponsored over 100 fiscal reform bills. In 1979 he put together a financial aid package which brought Baltimore five million dollars, in addition to helping to shepherd all other financial bills beneficial to the city through the legislature. He also spear-headed the bill legalizing the set-aside of 10 per cent of all state contracts for minority contractors.

In 1975, Douglass floor-managed the legislation which converted Morgan State College into Morgan State University, and, both before and since, he has been a constant friend of Morgan.

He has consistently fought to protect those social programs which benefit poor people, even when the state was compelled to take over former federal projects.

In addition, and most important, when John Douglass runs for public office—any office—he runs with clean hands when it comes to honesty and integrity—and that's saying something in Maryland politics!

Besides his experience in the state legislature, Douglass' background includes the earning of the bachelor of arts degree at Lincoln University and the master of science degree at the Johns Hopkins University, and two years of teaching at the then Morgan State College.

As City Comptroller, Douglass will not need to do much "speechifying" but he will automatically become a voting member of the five member Board of Estimates and its secretary; he will participate in the formation of the budget; he will have a voice in making budget allocations for all city programs; and he will supervise the audit functions over all city business.

He will also be chairman of the two retirement boards of the city, with their millions upon millions of dollars, to be managed for the future payment of pensions—a most important responsibility in the eyes of policemen and firemen and other civil servants.

With his vote and his bargaining power on the Board of Estimates, and with his power to investigate and hold hearings, Comptroller Douglass, to summarize him, in addition to protecting the fiscal integrity of the city, "will be able to look out for the interests of minority contractors and small business people, and for all the programs that spell the growth and prosperity of Baltimore and the welfare of all the people of the city."

The duties of a Comptroller call for high standards of personal honesty, for experience in handling big figures and dealing with budgets, for powers of analysis and judgement, and for being able to take care of one's turf, politically speaking. The speech and personality of T.V. histrionics are not requirements for the job.

Debate of candidates for city council president

This document is intended to convey my surprise and dismay that the League of Women Voters, long proclaimed as an unbiased, non-participant in the Baltimore political arena, would permit and, indeed, further discrimination through the manipulation of the democratic process.

The statements in THE MORNING SUN dated August 4, 1983, which were attributed to your organization, suggest a litany of false premises and faulty judgement.

First, the pretense of categorizing candidates as "major" and "minor" is an affront to the citizens of Baltimore. All candidates are valid candidates upon meeting the State filing requirements. Your actions suggest that you and some others have presumed to add still another requirement—namely, to be designated as "major" by your organization.

Secondly, the practice of exclusion flies in the face of the democratic process but also assures that worthy individuals will be denied equal access to public forums. These same forums supposedly are designed to enhance voter awareness of the viability of ALL candidates.

Third, Mary Pat Clarke alluded to her invitation to the debate in THE CITY PAPER dated July 29, 1983, well before Mr. Swisher or I had even been approached. This suggests to me that she is in a position of favoritism that is not being afforded to all of the candidates.

While I can readily understand Mary Pat Clarke's reluctance to debate with me, I think it unforgivable that your fine organization would participate in such a farce.

If indeed the Baltimore League of Women Voters is interested, as stated, in fairness and equity then one can hardly grasp the reasons why you would actually attempt to damage my candidacy in the public mind by suggesting that I am not a valid candidate. Your actions also clearly denote disregard for the opinions of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and the Baptist Ministers Conference. They have chosen me as their candidate because of my viability and proven ability. Obviously, your organization has chosen to ignore them.

Throughout this campaign, I have suffered from dirty tricks such as being given the wrong address to the NDC-2 forum, omitted from the agendas of the Baltimore Housing Alliance, the United Committee of Unemployed People, CDAO-PDAO, continuously excluded from the print media and forced to send a letter of complaint to the three television stations. This proposed exclusion from the debate for City Council President candidates is merely another in a long series to bring about the active exclusion of my candidacy.

I, therefore, call upon the Baltimore League of Women Voters and all others to cease and resist from damaging my candidacy and participating in any actions which serve to treat candidates differently.

JOHN CLARK

AFRO Survey

Can a family eat for $58 weekly?


Gwen Morgan


Kim Warren


Robert Armstrong


Rosa Newby

This week the question to the man and woman of the street was, "What is your reaction to the Secretary of Agriculture's comment that the average family can survive on $58 a week on food stamps?"

Gwen Morgan, 24, student, "Is he crazy? You can eat $58 worth of food in no time. You can't make a budget off that. I barely survive with two children on my present income."

Kim Warren, 25, nurse, "Absurb, ridiculous. I'd like to know what he was eating. I think he's attempting to justify the system as it is."

Robert Armstrong, 88, retired, "It's not possible; not as high as food is. '58 a week? What kind of food is that? Milk? Shucks, eggs are $1.00 a dozen."

Rosa Newby, 53, housewife, "It's crazy! He didn't have things like salt and pepper. He got the bare necessities. What did he buy to put in the food? Tell him to try it for a year."

David Cannon, 18, porter, "S—t! That's impossible. It would be spent in no time. It will not support anybody out here."

Valerie Griffin, 20, cashier, "It's a shame. Today's economy is very hard as far as food cost and other expenses. $58 is not really a lot."

Jewel Ford, 34, unemployment insurance agent, "Now you know you can't feed a family of four on $58 and expect to supply the necessary nutrients. Food is high. Vegetables and fruits are high. What does he expect the meal to be? It can't be all starch."

Lawrence Mosley, 48, busdriver, "He's crazy! The man is rich and is trying to survive on what poor people survive on. He's used to $500 a week, not $58. Of course he'll say $58 is good for the people because any raise would probably take from his salary. The average family needs at least $70-80 a week to eat well."


David Cannon


Valerie Griffin


Jewel Ford


Lawrence Mosley

JUST THINKING: By Al Sweeney

Year after year, the annual National Urban League Conferences are the best conducted national conventions, conventions or conferences, whatever you call them.

You can attend trade association, labor conventions, religious conferences, chamber of commerce session, you name it, whether it is back, prestigious just plain grassroots, the National Urban League conferences are professionally operated and adhere to time schedules as the best run airlines.

The 73rd annual conference was held last week in New Orleans, LA.

It was not dominated by any unusual gimmicks, internal conflicts or a strong individual leader.

When the league met in New Orleans in 1968, Whitney Young announced the "ghetto thrust" program, which was designed to answer the verbal brickbacks hurled by the Black Power faddists.

The Black Power fad stirred up the black masses against the Black elitists symbolized by the urban league. During the Whitney Young years, President Lyndon B. Johnson has launched the "War on Poverty" crusade using the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) that distributed dollars for all type of programs designed to end poverty in the United States.

One of the conduits of the LBJ dollars in funding the community-based programs was the Urban League, with the millions of federal dollars funnelled through the league . . . to the growing number of affiliates, the attendance at the annual conferences blossomed.

With project directors, heads of various community based groups, a whole new corps of Black elitists developed many of the brothers enjoying their new status had forgotten their roots.

Hence the gap between the clients in the ghetto and the directors of the social program grew. Concurrently the equal employment officers for corporate entities enlarged the ranks of Black elitists.

They made up the bulk of urban league conferences. Whitney Young attempted to remind the escapes that they had better rediscover the ghettoes of the nation.

To dramatize this effort, in New Orleans in 1968, the league forums were taken into the churches and schools in the community. Some of the brothers rediscovered the taste of ham hocks, chitterlings and barbecue at some of the soul dinners.

The program, however, was shotlived. It was repeated a year later in New York, where the league planners attempted to take some fo the programs into Harlem.

That proved to be a disaster. Especially, a soul dinner that was held in a gymnasium of one of the uptown high schools. The brothers and sisters shed their elitist cool and decorum and went native as they stormed the soul gourmet buffet tables with elbows flying in complete disarray attempting to seize a bone or two of barbecue ribs.

Some of the more disgusted attendees sought to find transportation from upper Harlem to their downtown hotels. They learned about transportation as suffered by the ghetto dwellers after dark. They couldn't find a cab. It appears that cabdrivers decline to make regular rounds in upper Harlem.

I might add that when the league returned to New York a few years later, the planners entertained their delegates in style on one of the giant harbor piers.

But, it's the 1983 conference we are discussing . John Jacob provided the keynote speech. He is filling the leadership of the league as expected. He is a good manager, lacks charisma or stature of a Young or Vernon Jordan. But his is competent.

The spotlight was on the forums. The discussion of civil rights enforcement that heard a panel that included EEOC's Clarence Thomas, the Justice of Department's Brad Reynolds, Civil Rights Commission's Mary Berry and Elain Jones of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

The panel got the biggest coverage by the media. The highlight of the league conferences are the sessions planned by Jimmy Williams and his communications department staff.

Over the years, black mayors, black actors, black politicans have locked horns in the forums that are usually held in the evening to a packed house. Black Athlete — On and Off the Playing Field."

Irv Cross, the ex-Philly National Football League star and now an anchor of the CBS' NFL Sunday program, was moderator.

The panel included Dr. Harry Edwards, who gained fame during the Olympics with the Black Power Salute, he is now a sociology prof at Berkley where he attacks the exploitation of the black atheletes by big-time universities.

Joe Paterno, coach of the Penn State Nittany Lions and supporter of NCAA's controversial entrance standard for college athletes; Gayle Sayers, the legendary Chicago Bears star and now athletic director at Southern Illinois University; Marino V. Chossen, veteran coach of the successful Alcorn College basketball teams ano an opponent of the NCAA's proposed minimum standards, and Kevin J. Ross, a former Creighton basketball star.

Ross set the mood for the meeting. He played at Creighton University, where he completed his years as a basketball player never but never received his degree.

When he had completed his basketball usefulness, it was discovered that he was illiterate. Ross unfolded the tragic story and revealed how he was interested in learning how to read and write.

He was denied his college degree because he was told he lacked 36 hours of credit. Showing deep courage and personal commitment he enrolled in the Westside Prepartory School of Marva Collins in Chicago.

He went to classes with youngsters half his age and less his size. He persevered, he had a reading level of a seventh grader and language skills of a fourth grader. When Ross graduated he was selected to give the commencement address. He spoke with authority about such masters as Pushkin, Plato and Michelangelo.

Paterno insisted that the minimum standards for recruiting athletes to play in the major colleges was to attract quality students who were capable of earning their college degrees.

Edwards felt that the entry level proposed by the NCAA committee was too low. Edwards felt that the institutions had a responsibility to the athlete after they were enrolled.

Edwards questioned the importance of earning a college degree. He observed value of the sheepskin symbolized an education that could used to earn a living.

There are too many persons holding college degrees who lack marketable skills and make up the unemployment rolls, Edwards insisted.

Sayers said it was up to the family to play a major roll in the recruiting process. Parents should be interested in what is offered their youngsters.

Sayers indicated that there is little hope that a black person would become a manager of an NFL franchise in the foreseeable future.

Scheduled to appear at the league session was Wilma Rudolph. Her failure has never been explained.

Minorities in the Technology workplace, Black Families in Crisis, Black Colleges in a Technical Society and Blacks in the Military Service were other subjects discussed before well-attended sessions.

The Thelma Duggin mystique was evident. She is the former White House aide, who is now an assistant to Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole.

NAACP REPORT:

Convention presents Spingarn medal

By Magdalene Fennell

When Vernon Jordan presented the Spingarn Medal to Lena Horne at the 74th NAACP Annual Convention in New Orleans last month, Lena became the 68th recipient and the ninth woman to receive the coveted award.

Lena was cited: "In recognition of her eminently distinguished career in the entertainment world of theater, motion pictures, television, radio and recordings; For her continuous contribution to enhancement of the self-image of black citizens throughout this nation and elsewhere; For the elevation of her art form from mere excellence to magnificence, thereby inspiring others; For her unfaltering dedication and commitment to the principles of equality and justice for all, despite innumerable obstacles."

The citation described Lena as "Artist, Humanitarian, and Living Symbol of Excellence." Her predecessors include such distinguished American women as Mary McLeod Bethune, Marian Anderson, Daisy Bates, Leontyne Price, and Rosa Parks.

In 1914 Joel Spingarn, chairman of the Board of Directors of the NAACP, began giving a gold medal annually for "the highest or noblest achievement by an American Negro during the preceding year or years."

Although Spingarn died in 1939 his will provided for the perpetuation of the award. Consequently, each year, usually during the NAACP's annual convention, the medal is given "to the man or woman of African descent and American citizenship who shall have made the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor."

The medal has two purposes. The first is to bring to the attention of the American people the existence of "distinguished merit and achievement among American Negroes." The second is "to serve as a reward for such achievement and as a stimulus to the ambition of colored youth."

To determine who shall receive the Spingarn, the NAACP Board of Directors appoints a Committee of Award, consisting of nine persons. These nine are given a great deal of freedom in selecting a winner, but once their decision is made, it is final. Should committee members feel that no achievement during the preceding year is worthy of the award, they may pick someone from other preceding years or withhold the medal.

The public is invited to submit in writing recommendations for the Spingarn Medal. Such recommendations should detail the accomplishments of the person being suggested and should be submitted by January 1st of each year to the Secretary of the Committee of Award, 186 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11201.

Women receiving the Spingard who may not be as well known as those listed include Mary B. Talbert, the first woman to be so honored. In 1922 Ms. Talbert was cited for service to the women of her race and the restoration of the Frederick Douglass home."

Then in 1951 Mabel Keaton Staupers "spearheaded the successful movement to integrate Negro nurses into American life as equals," thereby eliminating the need for the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses.

One Baltimore recipient of the Spingarn Medal was the late Dr. Carl Murphy. Dr. Murphy was described as a "dedicated editor, publisher, and far sighted civic leader" and cited "for his leadership role in leveling invidious racial barriers in employment, education, and recreation." The award was presented on June 26, 1955, in Atlantic City New Jersey.

A voteless people is a hopeless people