NATIONAL ROUNDUP

Washington, D.C. — We have good news and bad news for our readers in our projections for the future as we enter 1984 and move forward to the 21st Century. Changes in the composition of the labor force from now until 1995 will reflect the aging of the post World War II baby boom generation with women, Blacks and other minority groups of prime working age (25 ot 54 years-old) expected to account for about a 33 percent larger share of the total work force in the mid 1990s.

Black workers and other so-called "minorities" are projected to account for at least one in four among the new entrants in the job market in the next decade, compared with a roughly one in six share during the 1970s, according to the Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. But, the three million new workers hired annually now is expected to drop more than 50 percent to about 1.3 million.

However, this decline will be greatest among potential young workers as they grow older, decreasing the potential of an "explosion" among the 40-50 percent black youth unemployment existing today. This group may be absorbed by participation in military and government service, politicians hope, or by changing patterns of the job market.

Although legal, medical and technological occupations are the fastest growing positions in the nation at the beginning of this decade, over half of the new jobs between now and 2000 will be in the service industries—custodians, secretaries, office and sales clerks, truckdrivers, waiters—and kindergarten-elementary school teachers for the new baby boom generation now developing. The increase in the school age population in expected to require half a million new teachers by 1995...

Check out the monthly Labor Review for your future. It is available from the USDL-BLS, Washington, D.C., 20212.

Mary Hatwood Futrell, the Virginia schoolmarm who is the new president of the influential National Education Association is aware of these job stastics as she urges the government to support more educational programs for students and seeks greater support for more teacher training and a $25,000 annual minimum salary. For the first time in history, the organization endorsed a presidential candidate in supporting former Senator Walter Mondale for the Democratic party nomination because he supports the American Defense Education Act which provides four billion dollars a year to local school districts for "desperately needed programs in math, science and foreign language training" Futrell says.

Speaking at the National Press Club here, Futrell declared "I agree we are 'at risk.' (With 'a rising tide of mediocrity' predicted by the National Commission on Excellence in Education). We stand only 17 years from the year 2000, and our 21st Century does not look particularly bright...." Paraphrasing another presidential commission report on Civil Disorders issued almost 20 years ago, the nation's number one teacher said "I see a society splitting deeper and deeper into two very unequal parts—one part comfortable and content, the other frustrated and falling behind."

Louis Farraken

Leontyne Price

John E. Jacob

As a newsman, I worked on the commission report which blamed America's two separate societies of black and white communities on the media's failure to adequately focus on all problems throughout the nation. Now the educational system, which has been theoretically integrated, is being blamed for the continued pattern of inequities in the USA.

Referring to the rising poverty throughout the country, Futrell said "No one has stepped forward to spell out how we as a nation can practically and rapidly guarantee educational excellence for all our nation's children. At NEA, we are firmly committed to this ongoing struggle to educate every child. We believe quite simply, that in a Democracy there can be no excellence in education if all children do not have equal access to that excellence...."

What I do not understand is why, in view of the obvious employment needs of the future, we continue to focus on elitist college preparation and high technology skills while still giving low priority to vocational and service job training where there is an unfulfilled demand for jobs now and in the future. Explain it to me."

The NEA launched a series of hearings on education problems in three major urban areas over the next three months, starting in Charlotte, N.C., in December; Austin, Texas in January and Seattle Washington (February 12-15.) The hearings will chart the progress of school desegregation 30 years after the Supreme Court handed down its celebrated decision on Brown versus the Kansas City board of Education.

When approximately 20 black leaders of major religious denominations met in Washington recently to plan for the first National Assembly of Black Churches, it was the first time many leaders sat down together. Rev. T.J. Jemison, a new president of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., did not know he was sitting across from the Right Rev. Chester A. Kirkendoll, Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and several top clergymen present at the Howard (University) Inn session turned to shake hands with each other for the first time.

The assembly is designed to bring together pastors of 50,000 black churches throughout the nation to develop educational and economic programs for the benefit of their estimated 15-20 million members. Several leaders emphasized they could not commit themselves to a political agenda in 1984, but Reverend Jemison has already endorsed Jesse Jackson, the minister and civil rights leader, for the Democratic party nomination as president. There is certain to be political pressure on the assembly from other candidates when the ministers convene in New Orleans, April 4-6, at the Superdome.

Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam Muslim faith, is also urging all black organization to join together in a show of unity despite the fact he is separate from the World Community of Al-Islam, headed by Iman Wallace D. Muhammad. Speaking at the Washington NAACP Freedom Fund dinner, Farrakhan pledge $500 life memberships for

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by Larry Still and Art Carter