NATIONAL ROUNDUP

By Larry Still and Art Carter

WASHINGTON — John Jacob, president of the National Urban League, is now leading efforts for revived full employment legislation by calling for the support of the NUL's plan for a Universal Employment and Training System. Although the nation's goal of five to seven percent or less unemployment is still being pursued, Jacob points out that over a fifth of the 100 Americans employed are part-timers and two million work full time for less than poverty wages. "You can't define full employment by white males alone. Full employment is what it says it is — a decent job for all Americans who want to work," the NUL executive declared in urging support for a mass training system which guarantees work for all.

We do not understand why all public and private sectors will not support the Urban League proposals with black male unemployment at 15 percent (compared to seven percent for white males) and youth joblessness is at a dangerous 40 percent level before any threatened recession. Obviously, some sort of National Service (dangerous words) program eventually may be required, but many black leaders are afraid to tackle the risk of urging continued government training in an anti-administration climate. We think the NUL is on the right path in seeking more federal and corporate support in the "privatization of national training and employment before the youth crisis of "mass uprising" predicted by Washington Urban League bureau chief Douglass Glasgow.

The Urban League's 113 chapters will debate the seething issue when the national organization returns to San Francisco, July 20-23, for its 76th annual convention at the Moscone Center. Over 12,00 conferees are expected at the sessions which feature computerized job listings for employment seekers.

The Department of Labor demonstrated some awareness of the potential danger of exploding unemployment by allocating an additional $108.7 million for summer jobs with the $661 million disbursed in 86 for "pacification" funds provided for "economically disadvantaged youth" annually since the 1960s civil disturbances (riots). The funds are distributed under the Job Training Partnership Act which President Reagan still wishes to eliminate.

Testifying before Congress recently, Janet Norwood, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, stated the national concerns succinctly: "A large part of an entire generation of young Blacks in this country is growing up without the job experiences upon which to build future success in the labor market...Their jobless rate is much higher than that for white teenagers and their labor force participation is much lower. Only about one in every four black teenagers has a job, whereas almost one in every two white teenagers is employed."

She added: "We know, for example, that unfortunately much of our minority population has not received the kind of education that the white population has had. Black workers frequently have not had the opportunity to gain the job experience so necessary for successful performance in the labor market." In addition, the commissioner continued, "A large part of our minority population live in areas where



Dr. Samuel L. Myers, NAFEO President



Wilma Roscoe, NAFEO Vice President



Federal Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr.

employment is declining; they have difficulty in finding transportation or in moving to the areas where jobs may be expanding."

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Meanwhile, back at the "ranch" five black women have been named to the advisory council of the U.S. Department of Labor's Federal Women's Program, a special emphasis project designed to increase job opportunities for women. Elaine B. Murrell, FWP coordinator, said the new members are D. Faye Ellis, Sandra Johnson, Alice McKenzie, Brenda Murray and Velma Speight. And 12 more black employees in the department's Division of Printing received meritorious achievement awards in a recent ceremony.

They are Maurice Wade, printing specialist; Verla Johns, production controller; Barbara Truesdale, bindery machine operator; Doris Carter, forms manager; Richard Brown, offset press operator; Calvin Copeland, offset photographer; Joseph Durphy, offset press operator; Stevie Liggins, supply clerk; Clarence Lindsay, offset press operator; Justena Lumpkin, management analyst; Harry Ray Jr., film assembler stripper, and Armstread Swann, offset press operator.

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The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Balanced Budget legislation impact is still being debated in Congress and in conferences throughout the nation such as the recent National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) confab here. The United Negro College Fund government affairs report said negative aspects of the bill included (1) limited deductibility of wealthy taxpayer contributions, (2) new restrictions on tax exempt bonds for renovation and construction at college campuses, (3) new tax rates which could require colleges and universities to redesign retirement plans and new taxes on scholarship and fellowship funds. The UNCF report said G-R-H provisions which could benefit black institutions are (1) corporations would be allowed to write off the support of university research (2) tuition benefits providing employees would be tax free and (3) deductions for state and local taxes would be continued.

A compromise was reached in the revised Title Three Institutional Aid Legislation (formerly designated for deprived and disadvantaged students) to incorporate the Black College Act proposed by Sen. Paul Simon (D-Illinois) and Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Labor and Education Committee. But the bill is endangered by new demands for funds earmarked for "large numbers of Hispanics, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Basin students,": The Reagan administration officials are concerned that "Priority Preferred" status "set asides" for these schools would be viewed as quotas which the White House adamantly opposes.

Retiring Rep. Parren Mitchell (D-Md.) who led the fight for billions of dollars in set aside legislation for black participants in government contracts, and tax supported transportation and construction was honored by a host of colleagues in both house of Congress, in-

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