

# NAACP restoration difficult

WASHINGTON (AP) — Renewal was the recurring theme as Myrlie Evers-Williams took the helm of the NAACP in an elaborate ceremony intended to show unity at the nation's oldest civil rights organization.

But after the choirs and dignitaries, the seven federal judges and the parade of business leaders pledging to help erase the organization's debt, Evers-Williams was quick to recognize the difficulty of the task before her: restoring the troubled National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as a political and social force.

"We have a long way to go in rebuilding this association," she said. "To rebuild it not only as it was, but to expand it."

The mood was jubilant among more than 1,000 supporters at the Metropolitan AME Church as six federal judges and one retired federal judge swore in Evers-Williams, 61, of Bend, Ore., as chairwoman of the 64-member board of the NAACP.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell and Attorney General Janet Reno were among the dignitaries attending.

"Over the years, I have witnessed the remarkable dignity, integrity and courage of Myrlie Evers-Williams," said Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King Jr.

"No one is better prepared to lead this great ship of hope into the next century," she said.

Evers-Williams promised to reach out to younger blacks and fight the scourge of drugs in the inner city, adding that it was time to reach beyond color and class lines to fight for justice.

"What happens to me, happens to you," she said. "If we are to survive, we must work together."

She also criticized public officials who she said wanted to turn back the clock on civil rights. "The NAACP will not yield to that," she said.

The celebration provided a boost to the NAACP's beleaguered finances. The organization is an estimated \$3.2 million in debt.

Syndicated columnist Carl T. Rowan, who criticized former NAACP Chairman William Gibson's handling of the organization's finances, called business leader after business leader to the altar to announce donations and pledges, totaling more than \$1.7 million.

Rowan said nothing he had written during Gibson's tenure was "totally unselfish," but that he told the truth about Gibson's leadership for the good of the NAACP.

The biggest challenge Evers-Williams faces now is unifying the NAACP, and she said Sunday's ceremony was symbolic of the organization's renewal.

"It says very clearly to everyone that we are about unifying our efforts and that indeed we

are family," she said.

She added that while members may disagree from time to time, "All of us are moving toward the same goal, and that is a strong, viable NAACP — the backbone of the civil rights movement."

Evers-Williams, a native of Vicksburg, Miss., has been an NAACP member since she was 18. She was elected to lead the 86-year-old organization on Feb. 18.

She met her first husband, Medgar Evers, while both were attending college in Mississippi. They married and opened the state's first NAACP office.

On June 12, 1963, Medgar Evers was shot dead in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Miss., in front of his wife and three children.

In 1994, Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of murdering Evers and is serving a life sentence. Two earlier trials ended in mistrial.

Her second husband, Walter Williams, died of cancer four days after she was elected.

Evers-Williams said Medgar Evers' spirit was with her as she took over the helm of the organization for which he died.

"I will give my all to the NAACP to see that it becomes stronger, to see that we regain our rightful place as the premier civil rights organization in this country," she said.

# Foster bill too costly

SALEM (AP) — Backers of a bill designed to set quality standards for adult foster care homes in Oregon are concerned the price tag that has been placed on the legislation will bring its doom.

SB679 emerged two weeks ago as the result of an unusual collaboration of regulators, consumers and industry lobbyists.

Penny Davis, a lawyer who is one of the chief architects of the bill, said she is worried the plan will fail because the state Senior and Disabled Services Division has decided it would cost money after all.

After assuring legislators and others the reform bill would require no general fund money, the division has attached a \$231,000 price tag to it.

The division said that is the state's share of a total cost of \$496,000 to maintain four jobs to oversee the adult foster care program. The rest of the money would come from federal sources.

"If it's killed because of the division's action, is the division comfortable maintaining the status quo as far as the problems in adult foster care?" Davis asked. "Does this mean the division's comfortable with abuse, neglect, overmedication, filth and criminals as caregivers?"

State and Multnomah County audits last year found serious problems in about 20 percent of sampled homes. The consensus bill would require, among other things, better checks for criminal records and more training for caregivers.

But Davis said the Legislature would be leery of passing the bill that, at the last minute, has had a price tag attached.

James Wilson, administrator of the Senior and Disabled Services Division, said the earlier assurances that the bill would not require any general fund money were based on his hope the funds would come from an increase in licensing fees.

"I can't print money to pay these people," Wilson said. "Our only option is to get it from somewhere else."

# Resort measure passes House

SALEM (AP) — A measure to make it easier to build large resorts in Oregon won approval Monday despite arguments it circumvents land-use laws.

The measure, HB3348, passed the Oregon House on a 31-27 vote and now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Supporters said the measure is intended to help resort developers get around obstacles while creating economic opportunities for local communities.

"It has a single purpose, to make it possible to site large destination resorts in Oregon without endless delays," said Rep. Ray Baum, R-La Grande, the bill's main sponsor. "For many areas, the bill's resort is their best shot at economic development."

Opponents argued the measure is aimed mainly at clearing the way for a proposed 1,800-acre resort in Deschutes County near Smith Rock State Park, a 641-acre park of volcanic vistas and ridges.

Dubbed the Rimrock Resort, the proposed \$500 million development would have condominiums, shops, a lodge and restaurant and a golf course.

The bill, passed by the House, applies only to destination resorts that are located on 1,000 acres or more and cost at least \$50 million to build.

Critics said the bill's drafters want to give big businesses a chance to get around land-use laws.

"Why should people who have 1,000 acres and \$50 million be able to circumvent land-use laws when others can't?" asked Rep. Terry Thompson, D-Newport.

Under current state land-use laws, a destination resort cannot be built on a site containing 50 or more adjacent acres of prime farm land nor within three miles of high-value crop land.

Developers of the Rimrock Resort say it will add to the park, not detract from it.

Backers said the measure also gives local governments final say over whether applications for large resorts should be approved.

"The bottom line is the counties still call the shots," said Rep. Lynn Lundquist, R-Powell Butte.

Another supporter, Rep. Dennis Luke, R-Bend, said the measure sets needed regulations for resort development.

"If you are going to have destination resorts in this state, you need to have workable rules," he said.

But Rep. Cynthia Wooten, D-Eugene, said the bill would usurp land-use laws that protect farm land and preserve natural areas.

"It's an assault overall on the way Oregonians value farm land," Wooten said. "The measure creates a process for the individual to make an enormous amount of money at the expense of the people of Oregon."

# Intel makes plans to build high school

RIO RANCHO, N.M. (AP) — Intel Corp. is offering to build the town's first high school if local authorities approve \$8 billion in industrial revenue bonds for the computer chip maker.

Intel's 2.3 million square foot manufacturing plant is in suburban Rio Rancho, northwest of Albuquerque. The main product is the Pentium chip.

The state Legislature this year rejected the newly formed school district's request for \$17 million to build a high school. The rejection means high school students must keep making the long bus rides to Albuquerque and Jemez Springs.

Rio Rancho Mayor Tom Swistack said the school proposal calls for Intel to guarantee \$28.5 million in financing to a non-profit community corporation. The school would be leased to the Rio Rancho district for \$1 a year for the 30-year life of the bonds, with an option to buy.

Bill Sheppard, Intel's site committee chairman, said Intel offered to make it possible for Rio Rancho to build a high school as part of its agreement in principle with Sandoval County officials for more money under the Industrial Revenue Bond Act.

Sheppard said the offer exceeds the amount that would

have been available immediately for school construction if Intel's property weren't exempt from property taxes under the revenue bond law.

Rio Rancho School Superintendent Sue Cleveland said the school would be open in about 15 months, in time for the 1996-1997 school year. It would handle up to 2,400 students.

Intel, which is completing an approximately \$2 billion expansion, wants new industrial bonds to update equipment. The company would save about \$480 million in property taxes and gross receipts taxes over the bond term.

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