



Among 24 business leaders participating at the NBL Conference were Berkely G. Burrell, NBL President, Benjamin Scott, executive director, United Mortgage Bankers of America; Eldon Sherman Briscoe, executive director, National Newspaper Publishers Association; Waymon S. Wright, president, National Association of Market Developers; Herbert Long, liaison officer, National Association of Black Manufacturers; and Lawrence N. McClenney, executive director, National Association of Minority C.P.A. Firms. Not shown is Kenneth I. Brown, representative of the National Association of Minority Consultants and Urbanologists.

NBL plans reorganization

The second strategy session on restructuring and reorganizing the National Business League (NBL) held recently at the U.S. Department of Commerce featured John L. Jenkins, Director of the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE).

The strategy session - convened by NBL President Berkeley G. Burrell, and conducted by H. Naylor Fitzhugh, Vice President of the Pepsi-Cola Company - reported on an expansion of task force groups concerned with the problems and opportunities of restructuring the NBL and the membership on those very special units. The task forces

resulted from special sessions held during the last NBL Annual Convention held in Dallas.

Jenkins urged the group of 24 Black Business Leaders to accept the challenge of the problems and opportunities of Black business entrepreneurship in the Seventies.

The newly restructured NBL, Jenkins stressed, must have the manpower, know-how and facilities to be of greatest possible service to the small businessman in the minority sector. He said that the key to the whole operation "is and will continue to be effective communications."

The 72-year-old NBL, founded by Booker T. Washington, is currently in the planning phase of developing into a minority multiracial and professional association.

Toward this end, the OMBE director said that by restructuring itself into a multi-trade service organization, the NBL would be in an ideal position to fulfill the mainstream mission. "But to do this," he added, "greater emphasis must be focused on communications among the membership, its constituency, government officials, leaders of private industry, and the general public."

Black apprentices remain scarce

Enrollment in Oregon's state-registered job training programs has cracked the 4,000 barrier, the State Apprenticeship and Training Council was told at a meeting at Portland Community College on Friday.

According to Norman O. Nilsen, the State Labor Commissioner and Council Chairman, the Apprenticeship and Training Division of the Oregon Bureau of Labor reported that as of October 31, there were 4,046 persons registered in apprenticeship and industrial and service training programs, a new record number.

"Actually, Nilsen said, 'I have been informed that there are about 60 or so more applications to be processed which means we've actually gone over 4,100.'

"This is remarkable in that we have almost doubled our registration in the 5-1/2 years the present Apprenticeship and Training Law has been in effect. Part of the credit must go to the provisions of the law, which has allowed new programs and expansion of existing programs, but part also must go to the dedicated members of our staff who have done their utmost to provide service to the people of Oregon."

"I am extremely pleased that we have been able to give assistance to our returned servicemen. Almost one third of those registered are receiving benefit payments under provision of the GI Bill."

The Council was told that

1,246 trainees and apprentices were under the auspices of the Veterans Administration.

The Council also was told that the number of minority group persons participating has risen to a new high of 173. When the present law, which facilitates entry of minority group members into the various trades, skills and crafts, was adopted in the Spring of 1967, there were 19 minority group persons registered.

Also when the law was adopted, the total registration was slightly more than 2,000, making the growth figure almost 100 per cent. In the first year of operation under the new law, the registration figures remained static, but then they went up almost 2,500 in 1969 and to 3,295 in 1970.

The Council also was told that there have been important strides made to facilitate apprenticeship and training opportunities for inmates in the state prisons. "We've had and we now have inmates on the work release program and on parole and even still in prison who have been apprentices," said William R. Shuck, Director of Apprenticeship and Training.

"Now we're going to try to get programs going in the institutions themselves. They have excellent training facilities for a lot of trades."

Shuck also said an advisory committee has been set up to develop a relationship between the institutions and industry.

HEW asks opinions on unemployed fathers

Because of the widespread interest in the issue, HEW asked for public comment on two alternative regulations regarding the definition of unemployed fathers in the aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) program.

Both alternatives would provide an hours-of-work test for unemployment (less than 100 hours a month).

Under one regulation, States would continue to have the option of adding other conditions, such as the exclusion of fathers whose unemployment results from participation in a labor dispute or who are unemployed by reason of conduct or circumstances which disqualify them for unemployment compensation under the State's unemployment compensation law.

The alternative would make the hours-of-work test the exclusive definition of unemployment, and would bar the States from adding other conditions.

The regulations, proposed by HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service, apply to the optional AFDC-UF program (aid to families with dependent children-unemployed fathers). Twenty-three States are currently operating AFDC-UF programs.

Although States have been determining whether or not to assist strikers, existing HEW regulations have not been specific on this issue.

Several months ago, the Supreme Court requested the views of the United States in a case challenging a Maryland rule which excludes families of strikers and others disqualified for unemployment compensation from the AFDC-UF program.

HEW had earlier filed a brief in the district court supporting Maryland's position that the exclusion did not violate HEW's regulation defining "unemployed father" in terms of hours worked and nothing more. The court, however, had construed the regulation as an exclusive definition barring all collateral conditions, and thus invalidated the Maryland rule. The State appealed to the Supreme Court.

A brief was submitted to the Supreme Court in August 1972, indicating that a regulation would be issued to make the policy explicit. On October 16, 1972, the Supreme Court upheld the lower court decision, which had the effect of leaving the issue for HEW clarification.

Only two of the States (Maryland and Oregon) that have AFDC-UF programs exclude families of fathers who are on strike or are disqualified for unemployment compensation.

The proposed alternative regulations were published in

the FEDERAL REGISTER. Consideration will be given to any comments, suggestions, or objections which are submitted within 30 days to the Administrator, SRS, HEW, Washington, D.C. 20201. Comments received will be available for public inspection in Room 5121 HEW South, 301 C Street, S.W., Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Prefontaine plans race

Olympian Steve Prefontaine will attempt an unprecedented fourth straight victory in the two-mile run at the 13th renewal of the Oregon Indoor Invitational Track & Field Meet Jan. 27 in Portland's Memorial Coliseum.

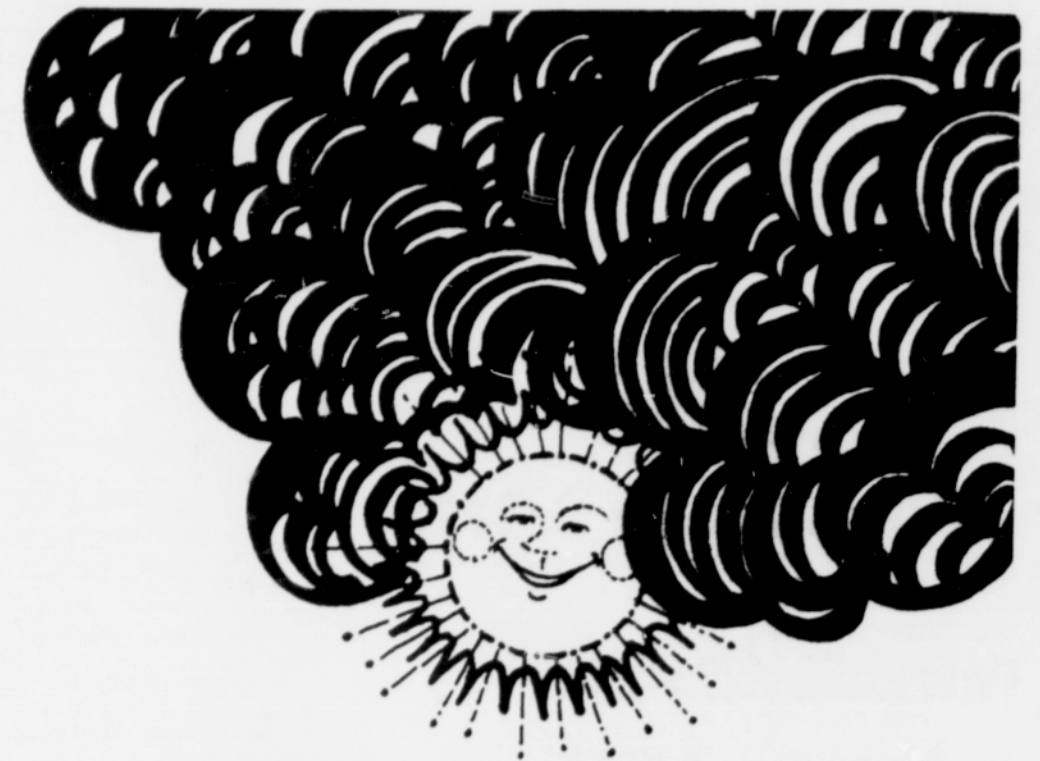
Prefontaine, fourth in the Olympic 5,000 meter run last summer, ran to victory in the Oregon Indoor two-mile the last three years in times of

8:39.2, 8:31.6 and 8:26.5. The latter time, identical to his winning time posted in a later meet at Los Angeles, stands as the collegiate indoor record.

The popular "Pre" also will be trying for his third consecutive title as the meet's "outstanding performer." He is the only two-time winner and is one of five two-milers to win the award.

The University of Oregon senior has an outdoor best of 3:57.5 in the mile.

Ticket applications for the meet will be mailed next week. Tickets will go on sale in mid-January at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University athletic departments, Memorial Coliseum and at various other locations in the Portland area.



A little money in the bank always helps. Come rain or come shine.

Black sergeant retires

The first black sergeant major in the Marine Corps retired this Fall, bringing to a close one of the most distinguished and unique careers any black has served in the American military.

He is Edgar R. Huff who led the first black Marines into China at the close of World War II. Nearly 25 years later, he was decorated for saving a white Marine half his age during the Tet Offensive in South Vietnam.

At retirement, he was the first black to serve 30 years in the Corps and had been sergeant major longer than any other of his rank in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Sgt. Maj. Huff came from modest circumstances to achieve high military distinction and accomplishments in three wars. He was working the night shift in a steel plant in his native Gadsden, Alabama, when America entered World War II. His father, now deceased, was a veteran of World War I and hoped his son would enter the Marines. Young Huff agreed. "I read one day in the paper that if a Negro was qualified he could be accepted," Huff recalls. "I always heard the Marine Corps was the best and toughest. I wanted to be a part of it. I still feel that it's the best Armed Force."

So on June 26, 1942, he began his remarkable career as one of the first 50 blacks ever chosen for the Marines. The Corps, now fully integrated, has changed markedly from those segregated days. But despite the limitations of segregated status, Huff went from private to first sergeant in just 23 months while serving entirely within the U.S.

Then he was made the sergeant-in-charge of all training of black recruits at Montford Point, North Carolina,



EDGAR R. HUFF

near his present home.

In the Pacific, Huff and other blacks of the 5th Marine Depot Company moved supplies to fighting units that were all-white. In 1946, he led a black unit into Tsien Tsin, the first ever on Chinese soil.

Hardly any black has passed through the Corps since then who has not heard of Sgt. Maj. Huff or been impressed by his massive six-foot-six-inch frame, squared away manner, and sense of good humor and fair play.

In Korea he got his chance to fight, serving as a weapons company "gunny" sergeant with the 1st Marine Division. He made sergeant major - his present rank - on December 31, 1955. He had gone as

far as an enlisted man could, and many were recommend-

ing that he become a commissioned officer. "I declined it because the pay for sergeant majors was higher than what I would have received as a newly commissioned second lieutenant," he says. "But, I feel that had I accepted the appointment that by this time I would be a field grade officer."

Huff returned to combat as the sergeant major of the 1st Military Police Battalion in Vietnam. When the enemy attacked Danang in the early morning hours of January 30, 1968, Huff ran through an open field of withering enemy fire to reach a young wounded white Marine. Round after round kicked up dirt around the Marine. So Huff threw himself over the man and took rounds in his elbow and shoulder, but saving the Marine's life.

Though wounded, Huff pulled the man onto a stretcher and dragged him to safety. Later the Marine wrote: "Sergeant Major, I thank you for my life." Says Huff, "He was one of my men, black or white. I would have done the same even if I got shot to hell in the process."

For that action, Huff was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" for valor. When his wounds healed he became the Sergeant Major of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force; the largest combat force ever under Marine command. It also was one of three times in his career that Huff had served as sergeant major to General Robert E. Cushman, now commandant of the Corps.

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