

Committee voices Black concerns

Congressman Andrew Young has initiated legislative action that could enable Black and minority communities in the nation's cities to have a voice in deciding how billions of dollars will be spent for mass transportation. The plan, which has begun to move through Congress, could have a tremendous impact on economic development of the inner cities.

The bill introduced by Congressman Young has been unanimously approved by the House Urban Mass Transportation Subcommittee as part of a measure increasing transit aid to the cities by \$3.1 billion. This legislation has bipartisan support and will go next to the House Banking Committee and then to the floor.

Under Congressman Young's plan, no urban mass transit system could receive the federal money until it sets up a citizen's Advisory Council to review all policies and decisions. The Council would be required to reflect the composition of the

"ridership" — the people who use buses and trains for transportation in the cities.

"This means," the Congressman said, "that Black Americans can be involved in developing mass transportation systems from the very beginning. This is vitally important to the economic development of inner cities because it involves the creation of jobs and spending of billions of dollars."

The Young plan requires that the Advisory Councils will review policies and decisions on planning, design, and architecture, construction contracts and sub-contracts; purchase of equipment and supplies; maintenance; related services such as concessions; hiring and training (including managerial, technical and professional positions); the location of routes; and the amount of fares.

Congressman Young explained the impact this can have by observing that "the Black community in my home city of Atlanta has already

won the right to participate in the development of Atlanta's new mass transit program. Blacks therefore have a major role in saying how \$1.4 billion will be spent in Atlanta — who gets the jobs and contracts, where the routes go, how much the passenger pays. In Atlanta, the fare has been reduced from 40 to 15 cents."

Mr. Young pointed out that poor people, the business and professional community, the labor force, community organizations, and people concerned about pollution and conservation can be represented on the Advisory Councils.

Andrew Young, a Democrat, is the first Black Congressman from Georgia in 101 years and a leader of the civil rights movement. In Congress, one of his first actions was to persuade the House Banking Committee to create the Subcommittee on Urban Mass Transportation. He is a member of this subcommittee which approved the new transportation plan.

Caucus Time

by Jettie B. Wilds, Jr., Chairman of Oregon Black Caucus

Harriet Tubman was known as "Moses" to her people. One of her accomplishments was providing escape routes, via the Underground Railroad, for slaves to the North. The Underground Railroad was a series of hiding places in homes, haystacks or other spots, to help the slaves escape to the North. While thinking about Ms. Tubman I began wondering if history would ever repeat itself. Do we have any Harriet Tubmans around in the year 1973? Ms. Tubman provided a very special service for people in need and would have been missed had she suddenly disappeared. Obviously, she had "connections" in order to succeed. Instead of coveting "connections" as an end unto itself, she risked her life time and time again while utilizing those "connections" to further her people.

In searching for the Harriet Tubmans of today, I looked around at the good brothers and sisters to see if their "connections" were an end unto themselves or whether they served as a medium for changing the posture (how Blacks are viewed) of Portland. Seemingly, there are a few individuals in different positions that could contribute toward changing this posture. Since being in position to act is no guarantee of action and since there is great difficulty in assessing change, I approached the issue with open questions.

What would happen to the City of Portland if suddenly all of the Black leaders and Black groups, or Black oriented groups, disappeared?

Would there be fewer Blacks on the city council? Would there be fewer Black county commissioners? Would there be fewer Black civil servants? Would there be fewer Black school board



Tubman must have asked those questions sometime before her death in 1913. She evidently made a decision to stand up and be counted. Ms. Tubman had a southern strategy. Perhaps we need a southern strategy in the West.

members? Would there be fewer Black state senators and representatives? Would there be fewer Black administrative assistants? The list of questions could be extended to cover many more areas. If the answer is no, then perhaps there is a need for some reassessing. If so-called confidentiality with elected officials and/or the ever-changing power structure has not produced a yes answer to the aforementioned questions then there is surely a need for some reassessing.

There is another set of questions to ask. Do Black leaders and Black groups, or Black oriented groups, stagnate or activate the people? Do they give the people the will to live or do they take it away? Do they serve as enemies to the people by not bringing the issues to them for their decisions? There are so many questions that must be asked and answered.

Bill includes minority plans

In response to the national concern on the part of the Black Community as involves budget cuts relative to anti-poverty programs, housing, welfare, health and employment, Mr. Floyd B. McKissick, new town developer of South City, North Carolina and Mr. Johnny Ford, Mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama, held a joint press conference at which time it was made clear that the number one priority on the Black Agenda is to communicate to The Administration Black concerns while maintaining a strategy of calm, positive anticipation in the future. Soul City, a new community on the rise in North Carolina, was cited as positive example of Black interaction with the administration, the consequence of which will benefit some 50,000 Black and lower income people while having positive fall-out effect on the

national scene. The point was made clear that while the majority of Black party affiliation rests in the Democratic Party, the next four years rest in the judgement of a Republican Administration; therefore, the most solvent Black strategic course toward economic upgrade of the nation must be a coalition of concerned spokesmen and women that transcends affiliation and is predicated upon sound counter proposals to administrative cut-backs, counter proposals meaning positive alternatives necessary to provide the nation socio/economic upgrade on a cost effective basis. McKissick and Ford called upon all national organizations and business concerns to come together at a national summit, the time and place to be announced one month from today, at which time the primary ob-

jective will be to mold into an umbrella plan an economic and political strategy representation of the joint interests and objective forecast by Federal Government and private industry as integrated with minority forces inherent in The National Business League, The National Urban League, The NAACP, CORE, SCLC, Operation PUSH, The Black Caucus and all other human interest groups whose main objective is the uplift of the American people as a major whole and Black Americans as a major part. Inclusive in the McKissick-Ford conference was the national announcement of a newly formed third political force, an organization known as The National Committee For a Two Party System, the purpose of which is a dedication to more effective political action by Blacks and other minority through education.

Voice of the NAACP

by Ellis H. Casson

"Where Are The Parents?"

The sudden eruption of waywardness among Black young people is causing due concern. To be sure, the dramatic and violent rise in gang activity among children of elementary and high school age brackets is violently cogent enough to elicit activated concern in all social levels.

Outeries are coming from police authorities. Civic leaders are speaking out. School officials are demanding that something be done.

Various and sundry pundits on all local communication levels are organizing forums to air, the dire frustrations of these young street soldiers who are now in open street warfare: Robbing, maiming, murdering, articulating their desires to be seen and heard with bricks, knives and guns.

But where are the parents?

It is easy for other "spokesmen" to tell the public what they feel are the true feelings of rampaging youth. But it should be easier, if not fully more fitting and necessary, for the parents of these young people to come forward with their own words of what caused their offspring to become heinous threats to social well-being.

The children are merely products of their upbringing. If their parents are victims of self-hate, self-distrust, hatred, fear, privations, it is a natural corollary that their children will reflect similar mental makeup. If in the home it is customary to hear constant vulgarity and threats to "cut", "shoot", and "kill" supposed antagonists, it is bound to follow that children issuing from that family will reflect like attitudes. If the parent is so



sorry it happened. He is sorry it was his child.

But it should be just as easy and normal for that parent to daily show interest and concern about his child's school attendance, his studies and his grades at school. It should be just as normal for that parent to attend school functions, like open house, to check up on his child's school progress, to learn if his offspring is advancing rather than sliding backwards in his scholastic training.

Not too many Black parents show up for such functions, let alone drop into school often to talk with teachers and the principals about their children's progress before it's too late. Parents should look upon the school as a second home. But sad enough, "Let the teacher be the parents" seems to be the attitude.

Benign neglect of parents is just as bad as benign neglect to society.

Let us remember that airy words about "jobs", "social conditions" and the like are just that, and more often nothing more.

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you do something to save electricity. The PGE Junior Watt Watcher's Kit also brings you a Check List poster with 10 watt watching tips. You'll want to hang this poster on a bulletin board or on the inside of your bedroom door. The Kit also contains a Pennant to stick on your bike, a Junior Watt Watchers Membership Card to sign and carry with

with you and a pass to OMSI. So why not get busy right now and color the pictures below. The best entries in the age groups listed in the rules below will receive award ribbons and will be displayed in the Hall of Electricity at OMSI. Good luck.



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