

Allen Temple hosts CME conference

The 7th Annual Conference of the 9th Episcopal District will convene at Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church July 31 through August 5th, 1973. Highlights of the conference are as follows: **Tuesday night** - Mission night. Sessions will be held all day. **Wednesday** beginning at 6:00 a.m. with the prayer and Power Pool. Dr. R.O. Bass will be preaching at the noon sessions each day. Dr. Bass is pastor of the Lewis Metropolitan CME Church located in Los Angeles, California. **Thursday night** - \$100 Men and Women Program. Delegates from Oregon, Washington, Utah and Alaska will

be participating. Dr. L.S. White of Oakland, California will be the presiding minister. **Friday night** - Annual Laymen's Banquet. This event will be held at the Forestry Building, 4033 S.W. Canyon Road. The Honorable Judge Mercedes Diez will be the principal speaker. Tickets may be obtained from members of Allen Temple CME Church. Donation will be \$10.00. **Saturday** - Youth Day. Reverend Robert Wright of Los Angeles, California will be the presiding minister for the youth sessions. All churches throughout the city are invited to attend and participate in the activities.

IFCO seeks US aid for Africa

A coalition of organizations announced recently a drive to inform Americans about the suffering of 22 million Africans who are facing starvation if help does not come within the next few weeks.

Groups represented which often support liberation movements at home and abroad included: The African Liberation Support Committee; National Welfare Rights Organization; The African Heritage Studies Association; The Africa Information Service; The Congress of African People; AFRAM Associates; IFCO's Task Force on African Affairs; National Black Theater.

The coalition called on the United States government to respond much more quickly stating that only the U.S. government has the apparatus to immediately effect this situation. IFCO's Director, Lu Walker, said "Unlike IFCO's usual function of raising money for a situation such as this one, IFCO is announcing that it will not raise funds for the drought victims. There is only one instrument available that can make any impact on this disaster. We are calling for a program of massive action to demand that the U.S. government respond to this crisis in the way that only the U.S. government can."

Nations in the creeping Sahelian desert area include Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger and Chad.

The people of the area are proud herders, once owning vast herds of cattle, camels and other livestock. Now, thousands of heads of cattle have died and are still dying at a phenomenal rate from hunger, thirst and disease. The carcasses of cattle are blocking entry into many villages and the loss of cattle herds has been estimated at anywhere from 45 to 80 percent. In order to grasp the full gravity of this loss, one must understand the intense, acute importance of cattle - the sole possession and source of income for

millions of nomadic Africans. When cattle die, people must die too.

It is estimated that soon the heavy rains will start. While they may alleviate the almost unquenchable thirst, they will only complicate the supply of food since they will render impassable most of the few roads into the interior. Mauritania and Senegal alone have seaports; rail communications are extremely poor. Therefore, only aircraft will be able to deliver supplies in these areas.

Said Bob Van Lierop of the Africa Information Service "One cannot examine the present situation of drought and impending famine in West Africa without examining the political and economic conditions systematically programmed by Western Europe and North America - which have given rise to this human tragedy.

The past destruction of normal historical routes of trade; the murder and forcible removal of scores of millions of its people; the subdivision of its land into departments of Western European economic institutions; and the initiation of bureaucratic practices which do not correspond to the realities of the life of the peasant populations have all contributed to Africa's present state of economic underdevelopment."

President Nixon has committed only \$24 million in relief. "Greatly increased assistance," African Liberation Support Committee Chairman Gene Locke insists "should be expected since the U.S. committed \$27.8 million to the Nicaragua disaster, \$50 million to the Philippines and \$318 million to counter famine and other natural disasters in Bangladesh." Dr. Herschelle Challenger, formerly a fellow with Congressman Diggs office, asserted that "we should ask for an additional \$30-\$50 million to be earmarked for the disaster in the Sahel desert."

One snag in the relief efforts is being posed by the U.S. Defense Department, which, according to Congressman Charles Diggs, insists on charging its standard rate for flights into the hardest hit, interior regions - \$1,000 per hour of flying time. Diggs has urged the Defense Department to cease the practice and draws a sharp contrast between the relative small outlays and high charges for famine relief in Africa and the \$100 million monthly expenditure for U.S. bombing in South East Asia.

African Liberation Support Committee Chairman, Gene Locke, cited the swiftness with which the Nixon government made a \$436 million grant to Portugal to kill millions of Black people while a year later it reluctantly sends \$20 million, much of it in high transport costs, to alleviate the starvation of 10 million people. Summarized Locke, "The U.S. government cannot be allowed to ignore its role to

help save lives. Action, at every level, should be employed to force such action. We well know that this government does not operate out of humanitarian conviction, but rather a profit motive. Real pressure then must be exerted to force the U.S. government to move to help save lives rather than help take lives."

Concerned people are urged to send letters to Senator J. William Fulbright, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, urging that maximum relief be made available to the stricken countries.



Mr. Carlton Burton, St. Andrews staff member, calls out a few reassuring words as Stefan Spruill mounts a horse for the first time.

Summer school offers exciting program

St. Andrew's Summer School is in its fifth week of operation. Eighty neighborhood youngsters are enrolled in the education-oriented program this year.

Every Wednesday the school goes on special outings. One of the most successful to date was a trip to the Jones Farm in Beaver-ton. The farm day included horseback riding, cow milking, cherry picking, hay stack sealing, and hill hiking. Ms. Shirley Jones gave presenta-

PUSH aids Africans

by Michael L. Culbert

Operation PUSH headquarters will serve as a drop off point beginning Friday for persons wishing to donate food to the six West African nations crippled by a disastrous drought.

The drought - which is considered to be the worst suffered by the area in 60 years - has already cost half the livestock population and half the gross national production of Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Upper Volta, according to figures released by the United Nations Food and

Agricultural Organization. The announcement was made by the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, PUSH's national director.

Arrangements have been made with major shipping companies to transport the dried food products to West Africa, and similar arrangements have been made with major food companies who have agreed to donate food to the starving countries.

Jackson said also that major oil companies would be asked to use their drilling equipment to find water in the affected areas.

Jackson said he will meet with representatives at the United Nations in New York and attend rallies there in support of the African nations. He said that PUSH will continue in its efforts to dramatize the seriousness of conditions in West Africa, where the lives of 25 million Africans are threatened.

Jackson said that plans are also underway to enlist more aid from the American government, but emphasized that Black Americans should exhaust all other avenues first. "We have to help our own people first," he said, "and then challenge the government to do more."

Food donations had already begun to come in Thursday, Jackson observed. However, he was unable to estimate how much had been received. Several trailer trucks will be on hand Friday to transport the collected food to shipping points.

On July 14 PUSH celebrated its First Anniversary. The keynote speaker was Reverend D.E. King, Monumental Baptist Church Minister. He was joined by 26th District State Representative Peggie Smith Martin; Parker House Sausage President Darryl Grisham; Kansas City Chief football great George Seales; and Soul Train producer Don Cornelius.

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Black Jews seek recognition

The status of American Black Jews under Jewish law was explored recently at a national conference on Black Jews sponsored by the Synagogue Council of America.

Attended by 120 religious and community leaders, including Black Jews, the consultation explored the origins, history and current concerns of this special group. This was the first such opportunity, under the auspices of a national Jewish organization, for Black Jews to air their opinions and hear the views of white Jewish spokesmen.

The Synagogue Council of America is the coordinating body for the major rabbinical and synagogal organizations of Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Judaism.

A resolution adopted by the participants called on the Synagogue Council of America to establish a special task force to clarify the religious status of Black Jews and to facilitate their religious and social integration into the larger Jewish community.

"There are no hypenated Jews" was the opening theme of a presentation by Rabbi David Bleich, Rosh Yeshiva of Rabbi Elehanan Theological Seminary in New York.

"The question of who is a Jew can have only one answer: A Jew is one whom Halacha defines as a Jew," he stated. Maintaining that the peoplehood of Israel is not founded on racist principles, he said that "Judaism has always welcomed all individuals seeking to accept the tenets of the Torah, including Black Americans."

tions on honey bees and butter making. After the outing, the school building sounded with imitation animal noises as the youngsters practiced storytelling their experiences. Transportation for excursions is made possible by the City of Portland Summer '73 Project.

The school is planning a neighborhood cleanup with the help of the Marine Corps on Wednesday, July 25, and a parents program at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 26.

Teenage employment averaged 6.7 million in 1972, or 485,000 above the 1971 level. This was the largest annual advance in teenage employment since 1966, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Of Ethiopian and Yemenite origin, respectively, they traced the historical development of the Jewish communities in those countries through centuries of isolation and discrimination.

Whereas some groups, including the Falashas, the Black Jews of Ethiopia, may claim Jewish identity by virtue of Jewish birth, others must show that they have met the traditional requirements of conversion, according to his view.

A number of participants, both Black and white, urged that greater flexibility be exercised in examining the religious status of Black Jews who have a history of Jewish religious observance and of identification with the Jewish community.

Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman, chairman of the conference and head of the Council's Committee on Black Jews, said that "The very real difficulties involved in defining the religious status of Black Jews must not be used by the Jewish community as a pretext for not making available generous assistance to Black Jews where it is needed."

He referred specifically to assistance in such areas as housing, employment and education.

The Flashas and the Yemenite Jews were treated in papers presented by Dr. Ephraim Isaac, Professor of Afro-American studies at Harvard University, and Rabbi Israel Grama, Pedagogic Specialist of the Board of Jewish Education of New York.

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