

## Republican's appoint Art Fletcher

Republican National Chairman George Bush has announced the appointment of Arthur A. Fletcher as consultant to the RNC for minority affairs. Fletcher will advise the Chairman and other party officials on political matters with special emphasis in the minority area.

In announcing the appointment, Bush said: "With the appointment of Art Fletcher, the Republican National Committee is putting the nation on notice that the Republican Party means business and is going to actively and aggressively seek to not only build a broad base of support for the Party and its programs, but also to significantly involve Black leaders in the affairs of the Party."

Fletcher, a longtime advocate of the involvement of Blacks in the policy making areas of the Republican Party, sees as one of his goals the encouragement of qualified Blacks to run for public office as Republicans. "A top priority," Fletcher

said of his new position, "will be to see that electable Black candidates run for Congress in 1974 and that they are supported fully by the official Party structure. It is hoped that one or more Black Republicans will be elected to Congress during the coming mid-term elections."

Fletcher began his work with the Republican Party in 1948 when, as a student at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, he was state Vice-Chairman of the Kansas Republican Party. From 1955 to 1957, Fletcher served as legislative liaison officer for former Kansas Governor Fred Hall.

Fletcher was chairman of the California Republican Assembly 1959 through 1961, and in 1962 ran for a seat in the California State Assembly.

In 1965, Fletcher was elected to the City Council of Pasco, Washington, and he was a candidate for lieutenant governor in that state in 1968.

Fletcher was appointed Assistant Secretary of labor in 1969 and was appointed an alternate delegate to the United Nations in 1971. At the time, RNC Chairman Bush was U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN.

Following his service at the UN, Fletcher was executive director of the United Negro College Fund and during his tenure there raised \$11.2 million dollars for predominantly Negro colleges.

Fletcher currently owns and operates an employment standards consulting firm, Arthur A. Fletcher and Associates.

## Africa hosts law conference



Judge W.S. Thompson

One of the busiest persons in Washington these days (aside from the Watergate cast of characters) is Judge William S. "Turk" Thompson of the D.C. Superior Court.

As Secretary-Treasurer of the World Peace Through Law Center, the affable jurist has a major responsibility in coordinating the Sixth World Peace Through Law Conference to be held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast August 26-31.

The setting for this and the concurrent World Assembly of Judges is the luxurious Hotel Ivoire. There, eminent legal representatives from more than 100 nations will deliberate on such important topics as the International Control of Drugs; Human Rights and Refugees; Population Control; Multi-Nation Trade and Business and Monetary Systems; Afri-

can Culture and Tribal Law Values and the Law of the Seas.

One of the featured presentations will be an actual trial on skyjacking. The Center is also sponsoring an essay contest on the "Impact of Developing Nations on International Law", with a \$1,000 prize for the best entry.

Sunday, August 26 is dedicated to "Religion and the Law". This commemoration will be highlighted by a panel composed of religious leaders directly concerned with law and world peace. It will discuss the relationship of religion to law in today's world and their joint efforts to advance the cause of world peace. A distinguished leader in this field will deliver the World Law Day address.

The U.S. is expected to have about 1,000 persons in attendance, including delegates and their wives, observers, law students and law professors. The Honorable Alphonse Boni, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is Conference Chairman. The Chairman of the World Association of Judges is the Honorable Earl Warren, Retired Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Charles S. Rhyne, former President of the American Bar Association is the President of the Center.

The Center, which has its headquarters in Washington, is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year. It is a non-political, voluntary international association of judges, lawyers and laymen who are devoted to the creation of a new world order in which disputes among the world's people are avoided or settled under international rules of law.

The world assemblies are held every two years. Previous ones have taken place in Athens, Greece; Washington, D.C.; Geneva, Switzerland; Bangkok, Thailand and Belgrade, Yugoslavia. This year's conclave is expected to attract more than 4,000 persons.

Abidjan has a reputation as one of the most exotic capitals in the world. It is often referred to as "The Paris of Africa". In January, Judge Thompson and Mrs. Margaret Henneberry, Director of Meetings for the Center, went to Abidjan to hold discussions on the conference with Boni and President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. Final arrangements are now being completed. It will be the largest conference of its kind ever held in Africa. Because of the growing importance of the developing countries on that continent, world interest will be centered on Abidjan as the conference gets under way.

Judge Thompson is a native of Mebane, N.C. and a past president of the Washington and National Bar Associations. He holds membership in the American Bar Association and has served in several official capacities of that body. His interest in international law goes back many years. Thompson was Secretary General of the Center from 1961 to 1967 and has been the Secretary-Treasurer since 1968. He was appointed to the bench in June, 1969.

Judge Thompson is a graduate of Howard University and the Robert Terrell Law School and did graduate work at City College of New York. He is married to the former Audrey Waller and they have a son, William Waller Thompson.

## Blacks lose economic gains

"Black Americans are twice as likely as whites to be out of work, three times more likely to live below the poverty line, and just as likely today as we were six years ago to earn half as much money as whites do," Julian Bond said this week.

Bond, a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, heads an Atlanta based research firm called Political Associates. His remarks, he said, were based on "a quick look" at a Census Bureau report on Black economic and social status, issued last week in Washington.

The report indicated that during the 1970's, the rate of improvement in Blacks' position in the United States has slowed down from the "substantial social and economic gains" of the 1960's, Bond indicated.

The report said there is evidence that the number of Black poor has increased in the last year while the number of white poor had de-

creased. About 33 percent of the Black population, 7.7 million people, was said to have been below the 1972 poverty level, compared with 9 percent, 16.2 million people, of the white population.

In addition, the jobless rate for Blacks and other non-whites was 10 percent, the same as in 1971, compared with a drop from 5.4 to 5 percent of whites, the report said.

There was a decline in the high school dropout rate among Blacks aged 14-24 - from 23.9 to 17.8 percent during the five-year period. The 1972 white dropout rate was 10.7 percent.

In addition, the proportion of Black high school graduates between 10 and 29 jumped sharply - from 52 percent to 65 percent during the same period, the report said.

It was said there were about 727,000 Blacks enrolled in college in 1972, which was double the number in 1967.

Significant gains also were noted in the number of Blacks holding elective office - 2,600 in 1972, twice the number in 1968.

Also, the proportion of non-whites earning more than \$10,000 increased from 22 percent in 1966 to 30 percent in 1971, the Bureau reported.

"We are now more likely to finish high school, more than twice as many Blacks are in college, and about 8% more of the Black population earns \$10,000 a year," Bond said. "But the Census Bureau report makes liars of those who claim unlimited progress for Blacks over the last few years."

The statistical indices which point to a worsening of the Black condition coincide almost exactly with the beginning of the Nixon Presidency, with its cut-backs, shifts in sharing and reverses in revenue" Bond said.

"If this data shows anything," Bond concluded, "it is that figures don't lie but liars do figure."

## Caucus Time

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

We must realize that we're in the throes of a civil struggle here in Oregon. Therefore, the future of Oregon will be built even, in part, by those who fought on both sides. Those who have been defeated, too, will at least help to make the new Oregon what it is. The question then is how will the struggle have touched us? How will it have touched the victors? Who are the characters in the picture?

The struggle will have touched some of us by the residual rewards received while we sit quietly and reap the individual benefits ac-

rued as a result of the struggles of others. The school system for example will respond to a few Blacks in the system because of the efforts of those openly dissatisfied with the system. When the progress of a few in the system is identified, you will find that its directly related to the specifically identified gripe of the vocal community people. When the appointments of Blacks to government are made, they can be traced back to the need to balance community opinion and federal dollars. Seldom are Blacks appointed to positions where their expertise lies. This puts them at a distinct disadvantage and reeks of tokenism.

How will the struggle have touched the victors? We must assess this in terms of motion and psychological progress. If one speaks of the determination of some Black people not to accept their situation any longer, the determination of some white people not to accept it either, and a consciousness in the part of other white people that changes are bound to come; then in those terms there is forward motion. At the end of each battle the

victors will know that the other party cannot be taken for granted in performing another's will.

Who are the characters? Who happens to be playing the game? The players are minority folks in Oregon who must refuse to allow men and women of influence to buy allegiance by catering to their egos. What about your people and their needs? The players are politicians who drink from the same spring of money, power and influence. Neil Goldschmidt, Don Clark, Jason Boe, Clay Myers, Betty Roberts, Francis Ivancie and others must jump through well defined hoops to win state-wide. In many instances we end up with mediocre prima donas who are making extraordinary decisions about the lives of Blacks and others.

The struggle in Oregon is just beginning to get really warm. The folks that used to play the game all alone have some new partners. This is a big state and there are a lot of fingers in the pot. The future of Black folks in this state is more important than party lines or personalities. Oregon will be better off for having struggled. Long live Oregon!

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