



REVEREND and MRS. MARVIN L. LEWIS. Sunday over one hundred people, representing five generations of the "Lewis Clan," came together to celebrate the Eighty-Fourth birthday of its patriarch, Reverend M.L. Lewis.

(Photo: by Richard J. Brown)

## Organization supports BUF plan

The Committee to support the Black United Front, a group of white parents, students, teachers and community members, today announced its support for the Black United Front's recent school proposal. "We believe that the plan put forth by the Black United Front addresses the issues of equality and quality education for Black students more directly and efficiently than either plan drawn up by the Portland School Board," Marcia LaRose, the Committee Co-Chairperson, said Tuesday.

Ms. LaRose said the committee recognizes the right of members of the Black community to decide the educational policies which affect their children and that the current Black United Front plan is an outgrowth and response to the need articulated by the Black Community.

The committee spokesperson stated that the implementation of the Black United Front plan would give Black students the options that have always been available to white students.

In addition, the committee is initiating a petition drive calling for the resignation of Dr. Robert Blanchard, as the Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools because of his role in creating and administering the current integration/desegregation policies.

## Williams announces House race

Harold C. Williams will formerly announce his candidacy for the House of Representatives, District 14, at Paradise Baptist Church, 4735 N. Commercial at 7:30 pm.

Williams, who is a Labor Relations Manager to the State Executive Dept. is seeking the position held by Dr. Howard Cherry.

Williams was a State affirmative action officer from August of 1975 to January 1979, appointed by Governor Bob Straub. He was responsible for affirmative action in 51 state agencies; increasing the employees of minorities and women from 5 percent to 20 percent.

Previous to that he was employed by the Personnel Division, developing minority recruitment programs.

He taught at Oregon State University, Linfield College and Linn-Benson Community College. Williams helped develop the Portland State University Education Center and was its director for four years. Under his direction the center served 1500 students.

Among Williams community activities are: memberships in the City Club, the Urban League of Portland, the NAACP, the American Association of Affirmative Action Officers.

Williams received awards from the Oregon Education Association and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. He was awarded Fullbright Scholarship to study at University of Zagreb, Yugoslavia. He was Jaycee man of the year in 1973.

Williams was an Outstanding Young Man of America in 1974 and in June of that year was featured in "Jet" magazine for outstanding achievement in human services. He was nominated as a White House Fellow in 1975.

Williams is a member of Bethel AME Church.

## Black mayors vs white police

(Continued from page 1 col. 6) mince words with either the police or criminals.

"I issue open warning now to all dope pushers, to all rip-off artists, to all muggers: It's time to leave Detroit," he warned. "And I don't give a dam if they are Black or white, if they wear superfly suits or blue uniforms with silver badges. Hit the road!"

Young openly attacked corruption in the police narcotics squads and eliminated the department's controversial STRESS (Stop the Robberies, Enjoy Safe Streets) unit, a police decoy operation which many inner-city Blacks viewed as an armed white occupation force.

Regardless of its characterization, STRESS did not seem to solve the city's rising crime problems, and it did seem to exacerbate the city's racial tensions. In one 30-month span, STRESS mounted almost 500 warrantless raids which resulted in 20 killings, mostly of Black teenagers, according to one contemporary tally.

Young also elevated one of his own allies, Frank Blount, to the deputy chief's slot, the highest post a Black man had ever held in the department. When Blount fell victim to bitter political in-fighting, Young appointed the city's first Black police chief, William Hart. He also froze all hiring and promotions pending affirmative action suits, and required all police officers to live within city limits.

Says Justin Ravitz, a prominent judge on the city's felony recorder's court, "Young's people have torcibly and consistently pushed for affirmative action in the force. It's a battle they've fought competently, valiantly and in an exemplary manner -- and they've won."

Young and Chief Hart claim that those victories -- resulting in greater confidence between police and community -- are directly responsible for the steady decline in Detroit murders during recent years, down to 251 in 1979, less than a third of the homicides recorded in 1974.

A year after Young came to

power, Maynard Jackson was elected mayor of Atlanta, a city embroiled in similar community conflicts. Jackson also campaigned on a promise to end police harassment of the city's Blacks. In 1978, after several years of wrangling, he succeeded in replacing the former white police chief, whose job had been protected under contract from an outdated city charter. But affirmative action suits launched by the force's Afro-American Patrolman's League remain unresolved, and in the words of one Jackson advisor, the whole situation is at a stalemate.

In Birmingham, Alabama, where 90 per cent of the police force is white though half the population is non-white, a Black city councilman, Richard Arrington, organized a Black voter registration drive last fall and successfully won the mayor's race -- also on a campaign to end police brutality against Blacks. During the eight years he held a seat on the council, Arrington had filed more than 200 complaints of ill treatment and brutality by the police.

Newark, N.J. has suffered similar police-community problems since it entered a severe economic decline in the late 1960s. With a diminishing tax base and a rising welfare load, Mayor Kenneth Gibson, a Black, has been forced into a no-win conflict with his mostly white police, many of whom live outside the city.

While brutality is not a major issue in Newark, crime and the size of the police force is. Contending that there is little correlation between the crime rate and the number of policemen, Gibson last year laid off 200 officers, among some 775 other city employees, in an attempt to balance the budget. The layoffs enraged the rank and file officers and their union, which helped spread a "Fear In the Streets" slogan campaign to discredit Gibson, and Black police chief Hubert Williams.

However, the Mayor has stood his turf and last November vetoed a city council ordinance which would have required the city to hire nearly 300 additional police officers.

"Crime in our society can't be stopped by a policeman or by the Mayor," said Gibson, insisting that the city's rising crime rate is a function of its worsening economic condition, not of the lack of police.

On the national level, Benjamin Hooks, director of the NAACP, has called for an all-out campaign to establish civilian review boards over police activities -- activities which he claims resulted in several hundred questionable deaths last year. The campaign, launched in January, promises to be especially pointed in both the Southeast and Southwest regions of the NAACP.

"None of us condone crime," explained Earl Shinhoster, southeast director of the organization, "but we have seen that there were seven shootings of young Black men in the city of Pensacola alone last year. None were armed. None were a threat to the police nor to the public. Now three are dead and one is paralyzed."

Virna Canson, the NAACP West Coast director, says that the number of police killing of Blacks has clearly risen in recent years. "In Oakland, Sacramento, Portland, Tucson, San Diego and Los Angeles, in all these cities, we have reports of young Black men murdered by the police under strange circumstances."

Underlying the conflicts that the Justice Dept., the mayors and the NAACP have reported, however, is the question of power, of who holds the ultimate authority in such cities as Oakland and Atlanta and Newark.

"Police review boards -- they're really just the tip of the iceberg," argues Canson. "The real question is whether there's going to be a mayor who has the power or not, of whether the police are ready to fully accept the fact that a Black man was elected to run the city."

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(Frank Browning, co-author with John Gerassi, of the soon-to-be published book, *The American Way of Crime* (Putnam's) surveys the crisis for PNS)

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### Your Chance To Speak \* PUBLIC MEETINGS

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March 7

7:30 TO 10:30 P.M.



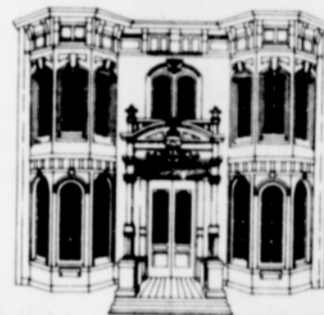
\* PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Regardless, when you call us we will arrange for an initial consultation at your convenience. Cost: \$20. We probably can't solve anything in this meeting, but it is a chance for you to explain your particular problem and for us to give you some idea of what it'll take to reach a solution. If you want us to proceed, we'll give you an estimate of the fees you should plan on. In writing.

