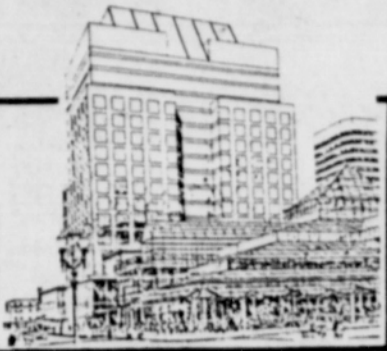


Planning for future

Page 2



Lorenzo West: Champion

Page 10

Black Studies faces threat

Page 3



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No economic recovery for Black Americans



Joshua Kimmons, 3, meets "Famous Amos" Wally Amos of chocolate cookie fame visited Portland to promote Oregon Literacy, Inc., a

newly funded adult literacy program. (Photo: Richard R. Brown)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Declaring that, "the plain, ugly fact is that there is no recovery for Black Americans," John E. Jacob, President of the National Urban League, asserted Black America is in a disastrous state and predicted that, "deep changes in the economy and the freeze in racial progress," will be its vital concern in 1984.

Jacob made this observation as he released "The State of Black America—1984," an annual report by the National Urban League that explores in detail the experiences of Blacks over the past year in a number of crucial areas.

"Overall, unemployment dropped to 8.4 percent (as of November, 1983), the lowest figure in two years, but Black unemployment was 17.3 percent, a decrease from other months to be sure, but still at a level that in any sector of our society would justify the use of the term 'depression,'" The NUL's Hidden Unemployment Index, which tabulates workers not included in official government statistics places the Black unemployment rate at slightly above 33 percent—twice the rate of white hidden unemployment.

This year marks the ninth year that the National Urban League has issued "The State of Black America" report and in that time it has achieved a reputation as the most comprehensive and authoritative study on Black Americans published on a regular basis.

The NUL's specific recommendations are:

1) A Universal Employment and Training System should be established that will guarantee the unemployed productive work and the skills training necessary to obtain and hold a job.

2) Congress should immediately implement a jobs creation program(s) whereby employment opportunities are made available to the long-term unemployed, especially in the areas of the highest unemployment.

3) A bi-partisan joint committee of the House and Senate should be created to exercise oversight for all social service and human resources programs to assure that they fulfill the purposes for which they were formulated, that they are administered fairly, and that they are adequately funded.

4) The nation's welfare system, which varies from state to state, should be federalized through national funding which would assure that financial assistance, including food stamps, would bring families to at least poverty level. Social service programs such as food stamps, school lunches and others that serve the poor and disadvantaged should be funded at levels adequate to meet the needs.

5) The tax system should be modified so that families earning poverty-level incomes no longer lose a significant portion of their meager earnings to income and payroll taxes.

6) There should be increased federal funding for a variety of prevention, vocational and health related initiatives that deal with teenage pregnancy.

7) The Congress, the appropriate federal agencies, and the General Accounting Office should regularly and objectively monitor the implementation of block grants.

8) The Department of Justice should withdraw briefs opposing affirmative action in cases now before (Please turn to page 10 column 4)

Meese replaces French as A.G.

The resignation of Ronald Reagan's Attorney General, William French Smith, is being proclaimed as good news by the advocates of civil and human rights and free speech. The jubilation is dampened by the appointment of his successor, Edwin Meese III.

During his three years in office, Smith reversed the Justice Department's civil rights policies, opposing affirmative action goals and busing to achieve school desegregation.

Smith, a corporate lawyer, is one of Reagan's closest and earliest political associates. Smith served as Reagan's personal attorney and investment advisor and was a member of the California governor's "kitchen cabinet." He is a long-time participant in conservative Republican circles.

Under Smith's leadership, Justice Department policies on civil rights were reversed. "Simply put," he said in 1981, "consistent with the Constitution and the laws of the United States, the Department of Justice intends to play an active role

in effecting the principles upon which Ronald Reagan campaigned." The Department filed many legal briefs with the federal courts, attempting to reverse affirmative action and school desegregation decisions.

Smith also attempted to influence the courts to limit access to abortions. He called earlier anti-trust decisions mistakes, adding that "big business does not necessarily mean badness." He lobbied Congress for support of the Administration's new immigration bill—a bill called "racist" by Mexican and Chicano organizations. He reversed the Carter Administration's emphasis on white-collar crime and launched a war against violent crime and the drug traffic. He attempted to reverse court opinions upholding criminal defendants' rights. John Shattuck, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Washington, D.C. office, said Smith "has been extremely insensitive to civil liberties in the area of criminal justice."

In line for the office of Attorney

General, the highest law-enforcement position in the nation, is Edwin Meese III. Already, the NAACP and others have protested this appointment.

Meese is also a close associate of Reagan. A former deputy district attorney, he served on Reagan's California Administration as legal secretary on clemency and extradition and then as Executive Assistant and Chief of Staff to the Governor.

In 1974 he became Vice President of Rhor Industries and was in private practice until he became the Director of the Center on Criminal Justice and Management and then a law professor at the U.C.-San Diego Law School. He joined the White House staff in 1981 as Counselor to the President.

Meese has been close to and supportive of Smith. In 1981 he called the American Civil Liberties Union "an ongoing lobby opposed to law enforcement."

Meese has supervised many Justice Department activities. He negotiates (Please turn to page 10 col. 4)

Wally 'Famous Amos' pushes Portland adult literacy campaign

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—Surrounded by an enthusiastic group of all ages, Wally Amos—the famous Amos of the chocolate chip cookie—munched out at the King Neighborhood Facility for Oregon Literacy, Inc.

In 1975, Amos, who was once the Jackie Robinson of the theatrical-agency business, started mass-producing his cookie with moral and financial support from Helen Reddy and Marvin Gaye.

He said, "My background in promotions made it easy for me to promote myself."

mote myself.

"My involvement with illiteracy started with a reading program in Hawthorne, California. The librarian devised a program to get children interested in using the library by giving a bag of Famous Amos chocolate chip cookies."

Amos donated 1,200 bags to the library, and later became the national spokesman for the Literacy Volunteer of America.

"It hurts me to see adults and children who do not know how to read. I'm a perfect example of reading and achieving, and I think it should be followed."

Shirley Randles, director of

Oregon Literacy said the problem of non-readers is statewide.

"Educational interruption and various other reasons are the cause. Unemployment and non-reading goes hand in hand."

A new North-Northeast Cooperative Literacy Project will reach the inner Northeast where college work-study students teach adults to read.

Amos told his audience, "You can be a success in whatever you do. Just look at me. I didn't invent the chocolate chip cookie, but I did put a little bit of me in each cookie. I was resourceful. You have to be, too. Create a base and maybe the cookies will crumble your way."

Portland musician joins 'up With People' chorus

Maureen Elise Chavis, 22, of Portland, has been accepted to Up With People, the internationally acclaimed educational and entertainment organization. Chavis is the daughter of Mrs. Aletha Chavis and Mathew Davis. Maureen Chavis is a graduate of John Marshall High School where she was involved in General Business, Rally and Track & Field. Chavis will report to Up With People headquarters in Tucson, Arizona in January, 1984 for a five-week orientation and staging session prior to a ten-month world tour.

Up With People was incorporated in 1968 on the belief that individuals could play an important role in building bridges of understanding

and communication between peoples of different cultures and countries. Up With People also strives to offer its cast members a learning opportunity which not only expands the intellect but matures the person.

The vehicle carrying Up With People towards its goals is a professional quality two-hour show. The performance is a variety of international folk songs, a medley of hit tunes and Up With People's original music. Up With People's music is up-beat, celebrates the brotherhood of mankind, and attempts to instill a sense of hope among members of the audience. But, there's more to Up With People than just music.

During her year with Up With People, Chavis will travel over

32,000 miles around the world, living with host families in each of the 90 or more cities her cast will visit. Host families provide lodging and some meals and an important opportunity for the student to learn more about the rich cultural diversity of the world.

As another part of Up With People's educational dimension, cast members regularly meet with leaders of business, industry, government and the arts to learn about, and discuss, issues of local, national and international significance. These experiences are supplemented by formalized learning opportunities that can earn college credit.

Each cast itself is something of a cultural classroom. Students come

from more than 22 countries, and represent all religions, races and economic backgrounds. All have graduated from high school and most have attended college prior to joining the program. In its 15-year history, Up With People has served over 8,000 students from 51 countries.

Annually, Up With People receives over 10,000 applications for only 550 new positions. Following each show in a community, local applicants are interviewed by Admissions Representatives from the cast. Although musical talent is an asset, it is not required for acceptance into the program. Up With People believes positive attitude, motivation, goals, ability to communicate and a desire to make a positive contribu-

tion to society are particularly important traits.

As with other post-secondary educational programs, each Up With People student pays a tuition to help defray expenses of their participation in the program. Student tuition covers approximately one-third of Up With People's revenue. Remaining funds are generated through performance revenue, the sale of show-related products, and tax-deductible contributions.

Many students raise a portion of their tuition through local sponsorships and fund raising activities. People interested in supporting Chavis' effort to participate in Up With People are asked to contact Maureen or Mrs. Aletha Chavis at 760-1860.



MAUREEN CHAVIS