

NATIONAL NEWS UPDATE

November 1986 Voter Turnout and Registration Rates of Young Blacks Higher Than Whites

Registration and voting rates for young Blacks exceeded those for young Whites in the November 1986 general election, the Commerce Department's Census Bureau announced.

It was the first time rates for Blacks aged 18 to 24 exceeded those of their White counterparts since the Census Bureau began collecting such data in the mid-1960s.

The registration rate for young Blacks moved ahead of Whites, 46 percent to 42 percent, while 25 percent of young Blacks reported voting compared with 22 percent of young Whites.

Young Black voter turnout rates trailed those of Whites by about 10 percentage points prior to 1978. The Black rate, however, rose from 20 percent in 1978 to 25 percent in 1982 and 1986. The White turnout rate dropped from 24 percent in 1978 to 22 percent in 1986.

Registration for Blacks aged 18 to 24 increased from 37 percent in 1978 to 46 percent in 1986, while the White rate remained at about 42 percent.

Here are other highlights:

- Total Black voter turnout in congressional elections had declined from 42 percent to 34 percent from 1966 to 1974. The rate grew to 43 percent in 1982 and 1986.

- Voter participation rates among Whites had dropped from 57 percent in 1966 to 46 percent in 1974. It was 47 percent in 1986.

- Blacks under age 45 reported voting in 1986 at about the same rate as Whites — 36 percent compared with 37 percent.

- Turnout among Blacks aged 45 and over has risen by about 11 percentage points since 1966, from 45 percent to 56 percent. The White rate has fallen by 3 points, from 64 percent to 61 percent.

- In the North and West, total Black voter turnout fell from 52 percent in 1966 to 44 percent in 1986, and for Whites, from 62 percent to 49 percent. In the South, however, Black turnout grew from 33 percent in 1966 to 42 percent in 1986, while White turnouts were 45 percent in 1966 and 44 percent in 1986.

As in all surveys, the data in this report are subject to sampling variability and response errors.

Copies of "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1986," Series P-20, No. 414, are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Health Watch Launches Major Attack on AIDS in the Black Population

HEALTH WATCH information and Promotion Service (HEALTH WATCH), the not-for-profit organization devoted to improving the health and longevity of Black people nationwide, has launched a major attack of AIDS.

"Although AIDS is the leading public health problem world-wide today, it is having a greater impact among Blacks and Hispanics," said Dr. Norma J. Goodwin, founder



Norma J. Goodwin, M.D.

and president of HEALTH WATCH. A striking 24 percent or one-fourth of all persons with AIDS are Black, and another 14 percent of AIDS cases are Hispanic although they make up 12 to 7 percent of the U.S. population respectively. "The magnitude and multitude of problems

signaled by the rise in AIDS cases among minorities has turned HEALTH WATCH to the AIDS issue as the top priority focal point of its 1987-88 campaign to prevent widening of the unacceptable Black/White health gap which exists in America," continued Dr. Goodwin.

With the key message, "AIDS is preventable" HEALTH WATCH develops and disseminates culturally sensitive, accurate and relevant information on the prevention of

AIDS and other HEALTH WATCH targeted disorders including cancer, hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and obesity, each of which is a major killer and disabler.

U.S. Rep. Rangel Receives Public Service Award

AAL, the nation's leading fraternal benefit society, today presented Charles B. Rangel, U.S. Representative from New York and Chairman of the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, with the Henry F. Scheig AAL National Public Service Award.

The award was created by the 1.4 million-member organization in recognition of Henry F. Scheig's fraternal leadership and accomplishments, and was instituted upon his retirement as chief executive officer of AAL in August. According to AAL President and CEO Richard

Gunderson, the award recognizes leadership and acts of personal generosity in public service and was presented to Congressman Rangel (D-NY) for his outstanding contribution to national drug abuse prevention efforts.

"Many people around the country are involved in the fight against drug abuse," Gunderson said, "but Rep. Rangel has devoted himself to this fight throughout his 17-year political career. He saw the problem and took it on long before it became the hot issue it is today."

Judicial Committee to Probe Racial Harassment by FBI

U.S. Rep. William H. Gray, III (D-Pa) announced on November 24, 1987, that the Senate Judiciary Committee has launched an investigation into the alleged racial harassment of a Black FBI agent.

The probe is in response to a letter sent to the committee by Gray on behalf of Special Agent Donald Rochon. Rochon charges that he was the victim of harassment, intimidation and threats of mutilation

and death by white FBI agents in Omaha and Chicago. Rochon now is assigned to the FBI's Philadelphia office.

In his letter to Gray, Sen. Joseph Biden, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, writes that "Rochon's allegations, as described both in your letter and the Department of Justice Final Decision in this matter,

are indeed alarming and certainly warrant investigation by the Judiciary Committee."

Sen. Biden goes on to say that he has instructed committee staff to begin an investigation of the matter. The committee will look not only at Agent Rochon's case, but also at the FBI's overall attitude toward its minority personnel.

Gray welcomed Biden's probe into Rochon's allegations.

"I believe that once this investigation is concluded, it can restore confidence in the FBI, the country's top law enforcement agency."

Gray added: "We have also received communications from the new director of the FBI, William Sessions, saying that the Rochon case has been referred for study and that he would keep us apprised of the inquiry."

Undelivered Tax Refunds Waiting to be Claimed

Nearly \$280,000 in unclaimed federal income tax refunds are waiting for their proper owners to file claims for them, according to Carolyn Leonard, Internal Revenue Service District Director for Oregon. Leonard explained that most of these refunds are going unclaimed for lack of a current address.

The Portland District IRS office has received names of over 800 persons who filed refund due federal income tax returns from Oregon. The original refund checks were mailed to the home address listed on the tax form but were returned to the government as undeliverable by the Post Office.

Leonard said many checks remain undelivered because taxpayers have moved and failed to leave a forwarding address with the Post Office. Other refund delays, according to Leonard, are caused by errors and omissions on the tax return, or illegible names or addresses.

"By publishing these names," Leonard said, "we hope to encourage these people to contact IRS so we can arrange to have their refund checks reissued." The average unclaimed refund amounts to \$343.80. The total amount is \$278,131.56.

People should call the IRS toll-free tax information number (1-800-424-1040) for instructions on how to apply for their checks. Information needed includes: name and addresses as shown on the tax return, present name and address, tax year for which the refund is believed due, social security number, amount of refund claimed, signature of taxpayer, and any other pertinent information to verify the claim.

Leonard indicated that the processing involved for reissuing checks normally takes up to six weeks.

DoD Contracts to Minorities and Blacks Will be Expedited

The House Committee on Appropriations today approved an amendment by U.S. Rep. William H. Gray, II (D-Pa.) that directs the Department of Defense to carry out previous legislative and executive mandates to award at least five percent of its procurement and research and development funds to minority firms and historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

Gray said: "The Department of Defense has conceded that its efforts to date to increase the participation of HBCUs and minority firms in procurement and research and development programs have been inadequate."

"In a memo to the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, dated June 16th, 1987, the Deputy Secretary of Defense says, 'However, HBCU participation in DoD-sponsored programs has not reached full potential. The HBCU program must be supported more vigorously.'"

"My amendment forcefully reminds the Defense Department that its minority contracting efforts are being watched closely by Congress."

"I have every expectation that they can and must meet the goals established by Presidential executive order and by Congress."

"The significance of the goal to minority institutions is clear. If the 5 percent goal had been reached for fiscal 1987 some \$5 billion to \$6 billion in contracts and grants would have been awarded to minority institutions and HBCUs."

Freedom National Bank Presents Top Award to Philip Morris Chairman



Eugene Webb, left, board member of Freedom National Bank, presents the bank's "Chief Executive Officer's Recognition Award" to Hamish Maxwell, Chairman of Philip Morris Companies, Inc. Joining them were Edward Lewis, Chairman of Freedom's Board and publisher of Essence Magazine and Carlton Mitchell, Freedom's Senior Vice President.

Freedom National Bank, the Harlem-based thrift institution with more than \$130-million in assets, presented its first "Chief Executive Officer's Recognition Award" recently to Hamish Maxwell, Chairman, Philip Morris Companies, Inc.

George Bowman, Freedom's Vice President for Retail Banking and Marketing, said the bank was expanding its efforts to call attention to major business corporations that have assisted Black communities with "financial and power resources."

Speaking to more than 75 business and community leaders meeting at Copelands Restaurant in Harlem, Bowman stated: "A principal intent of these meetings is to allow our nation's corporate 'heavy-hitters' to meet our community leaders on a personal basis. We think that first-hand communication will improve the quality of the decision-making that affects the achievement of our community's goals."

Bowman said the bank, which is headquartered in Harlem with a major branch in Brooklyn, would invite other chief executive officers to discussions with minority leaders during the coming months.

When Maxwell received the bank's award, he told the group that Philip Morris had been a leader

among American business corporations in hiring, upgrading and making purchases from the Black community and promised to increase the company's efforts in those areas.

He noted that the company's Corporate Affirmative Action Committee oversees the company's "active, aggressive policy" to increase the number of non-white employees and to support minority-based activities and minority businesses.

Maxwell said: "Minority vendors refresh our creative and competitive spirit and contribute to the growth of the American economy. Ultimately, they strengthen all American business."

The Philip Morris minority banking program, begun in 1963 with a deposit in the Consolidated Bank & Trust Co., Richmond, Va., currently involves activities amounting to more than \$149-million annually. The company's active accounts with Freedom include deposits from Philip Morris Companies, Inc., Philip Morris U.S.A., General Foods and Miller Brewing Company.

Maxwell noted that George R. Lewis, Vice President and Treasurer of Philip Morris Companies, Inc., was recently elected Chairman of the Corporate Advisory Group of the National Bankers Association, a group of treasurers of 60 major American corporations.

Business Success Workshop Slated

Are you interested in starting your own small business or need some help with your present business?

Small Business Administration, S.C.O.R.E., and the Clackamas Small Business Development Center are co-sponsoring a Business Success workshop of Thursday, December 3, 1987, from 8:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Subjects covered will be: financial factors, marketing, recordkeeping, success and failure factors, SBA programs, and legal structures. Each subject is taught by a different instructor with practical experience in dealing with small businesses.

There will be free kits of publications distributed, and time for questions and discussion. The workshop will be held at Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Avenue, Oregon City. It will be in the small dining room of the Community Center building.

Admission fee is \$10.00 for the day. For information and registration, call 656-4447.

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