

# ★ NATIONAL ★

## Gore Urges Voters To Turn Out On Election Day

Vice President Talks On Morning Radio Show

Quoting the words of many African-American leaders describing the 1994 election as "the most important election in 100 years," Vice President Al Gore, in an interview on the "Tom Joyner Morning" show urged voters to turn out and vote on Tuesday.

The opposition is trying to go back to trickle down Reaganomics," the vice president said. Gore reminded the listeners that the biggest loss of jobs in 10 years occurred in the Reagan Administration and America dropped from number one to number 10 in wages during that time.

"Low-income workers and people on the margins did the worse," he said, while the wealthiest fared well.

In contrast to the Republican years, the vice president said the Clinton Administration is "continuing the fight" for progressive legislation. He said programs such as Head Start and others are all "at risk" if the Republicans expand their num-

bers in Congress, and he accused the opposition of trying to lull the black community to sleep.

If Republicans gain control of the Senate, Bob Dole would become Majority Leader, Jesse Helms would likely chair the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Orrin Hatch would likely chair the Judiciary Committee.

"They want to put Jesse Helms in charge of the Foreign Relations Committee," the vice president said.

Helms opposed the restoration of democratically-elected president Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti and failed to support Nelson Mandela in South African, Gore said. Pointing to the Judiciary Committee, the vice president said, "Whose going to be deciding the future of civil rights laws?"

The deciding factor in the elections may be "whether alarm bells go off in African-American communities," the Vice President said. "Folks have got to turn out to vote.



Vice President Al Gore met with the Rev. Jesse Jackson (right), other national leaders at the White House to discuss the importance of exercising the right to vote.

## Converse Tries To Stop All-Star Trademark

Michael W. Jones, a 33-year-old creative African-American entrepreneur, and his business, All World Properties, a Washington D.C.-based product development and license company, is being challenged by Converse, Inc. for usage of his Rap All-Stars trademark in clothing and footwear.

Jones who is involved in the "hip hop" and "rap" entertainment movement, has been using the trademark for his creative clothing and footwear designs since Jan. 1991.

Jones was granted the trademark in the entertainment and education category of the U.S. Patent office in May 1992.

But Converse objects to the trademark being used in clothing and footwear categories.

"This is just another attack on 'rap' and the black community," Jones said. "Converse apparently does not want to be associated with 'rap' or anything black-oriented."

Jones plans to call for a national boycott of the shoe maker.



Michael W. Jones and some of his merchandise under challenge by Converse for trademark infringement.



William Pauli of Toyota and Dorothy Gilliam of the National Association of Black Journalists meet entertainer Patti LaBelle, (left) the emcee at this year's Unity 94 in Atlanta, Ga. The session marked the first joint convention of journalism association's representing blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Native Americans.

## Espy Called Best Agriculture Secretary Ever

Former U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy is being described as the "best Agriculture Secretary this nation has ever had."

To some it may seem like an odd declaration given Espy's conflict of interest questions that have him under investigation by a Department of Justice Special Counsel and has triggered his sudden resignation. But others point to his program initiatives and record of accomplishments.

Espy is not only the first African American to serve as Secretary of Agriculture, one of the most conservative federal agencies, but he was the first non-establishment person to be appointed overseer of the multi-billion dollar agribusiness, farm, meat and poultry industries regulated the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Espy was not the industry's choice," said one government official speaking on the condition of anonymity. "He, first of all, was not the choice of the old-line officials form the agriculture trade associations and corporations representing agribusiness, meat, poultry, cotton, beef and sorghum. He, of course was not from the old boys' network of former and current state commissioners and land-grant colleges, like Ole Miss, Auburn, the University of Georgia, Michigan State and the University of Alabama."

According to the official, Espy did not endear himself to the "USDA



Mike Espy.

establishment" when he arrived and announced he was embarking on a campaign to change "the culture of the Department of Agriculture" with emphasis on economic development, food and nutrition, housing, programs of vital importance to African Americans and other minorities.

Espy himself cited the agency for ranking near the bottom in the hiring and promotion of women and minorities.

Espy's record of accomplishments in two years at the USDA include the following:

- He enhanced racial diversity among the ranks of USDA senior executives by increasing black females from three to 10 and black males from 17 to 26 and increased overall minority employment.

- He provided 75 scholarships to minority students to study the agricultural sciences at historically-black colleges.

- Through the School Meals Initiative for Healthy Children, he has worked to ensure that 25 million school children, including millions of African Americans, receive school lunches that promote health.

- He began working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to increase the availability of supermarkets and other full-service grocery stores in underserved urban and rural areas.

- Under his leadership, USDA has awarded some \$190 million on contracts to small disadvantaged businesses, an increase of \$52 million over 1992.

- USDA's Rural Development Administration has boosted the availability of loans to minority businesses.

- The USDA Rural Enterprise Zone initiative will target \$78 million in 1995 to underserved rural areas that are designated as enterprise zones and communities.

Espy was philosophical about his recent fortunes.

"The pioneer gets the arrows, Espy said with a smile. "I've done my best and now it's time for me to just move off and concentrate on my personal problems and come back stronger than ever."

## Publishing Group's Director Resigns

J. Corliss Jones, acting executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association Black Press of America has tendered his resignation.

During the interim, Bill Reid, direc-

tor of communications for the association and publisher of The Atlanta Inquirer, will serve as acting director.

John B. Smith, second vice president of the organization said the group will take a good, long look at

the character and qualifications of the person chosen to fill the position.

"We all know the importance of this position, the heart, the soul and the essential being needed for the survival of NNPA," Smith said.

ADVERTISE IN  
The Portland  
Observer  
call (503) 288-0033

Photography By  
**DUANE**  
Capturing The Moment  
A Lifetime Of Memories  
Duane Lewis, President  
2808 NE Martin Luther King Blvd  
Portland, Oregon 97211  
Call 503/284-8268



It's history.  
It's art.  
It's culture.  
It's dying.

For centuries, it has steered man to safety. And now because of neglect, vandalism and erosion, it's endangered.

We are The Lighthouse Preservation Society. And we're working to preserve our lighthouse heritage.

Since 1984, we've been helping to restore these landmarks, increase public awareness, and document and interpret their history.

And you can help. Contact The Lighthouse Preservation Society, Post Office Box 736, Rockport, Massachusetts 01966.

Or call us at (800) 727-BEAM. And help us Keep It Shining.



The Lighthouse Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 736, Rockport, MA 01966  
(800) 727-BEAM.