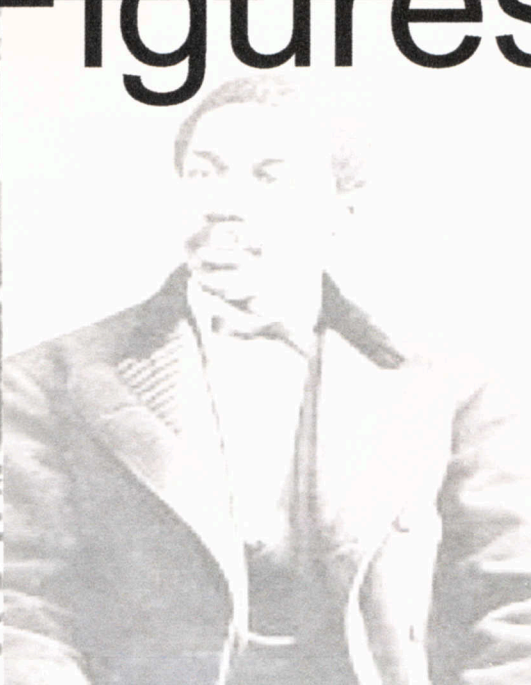
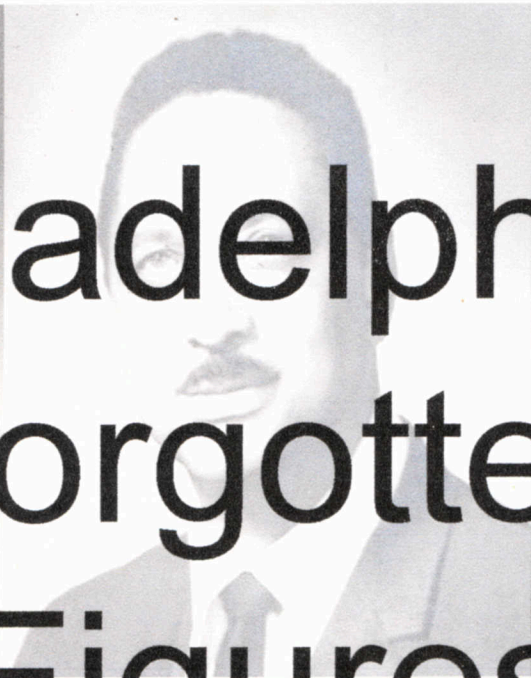
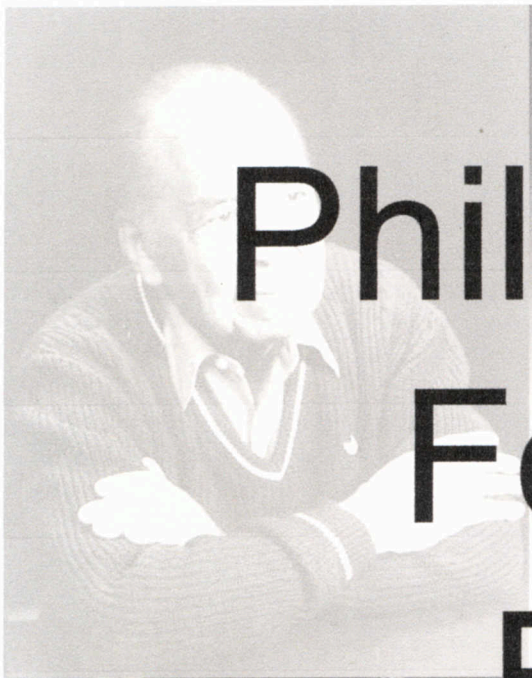


# Philadelphia's Forgotten Figures





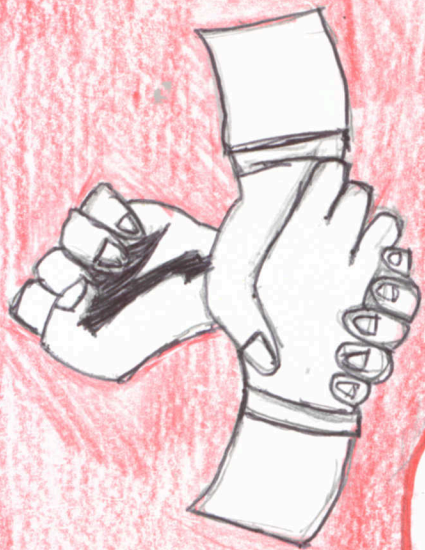
**ARTHUR FAUSET**

NING

ART HUR

H. FAST

UPAC



JIM CROW MUST GO!

WE DRIVE TANKS WHY NOT TROLLEYS?

democracy FREEDOM belongs to ALL!

or this FIGHT MEN are empl

EQUAL

EQUAL WORK

EQUAL

Nathan Pan, Amal Mathew, Elizabeth Kannon, Benjamin Egger

Mrs. Taylor

African American History

24 April 2016

### Arthur Fauset: A Faucet of Hope

Dr. Arthur Huff Fauset was born on the 20th of January in 1899. He grew up as a middle child of three in Flemington, New Jersey. He attended Central High School and would later go to the University of Pennsylvania, where he would receive his Masters in Anthropology.<sup>1</sup> He was also the principal of Douglass-Singerly School, a job in which he would later quit to proactively fight against racial discrimination.<sup>2</sup> Later on, he would write articles for the Philadelphia Tribune, where he informs the people about his organizations and the work they are doing. His name is not often associated with the fight against discrimination, despite of all of his work for the black community.

Fauset is most notable for being the president of the United People Action Committee (UPAC) and chairman of the National Negro Congress (NNC).<sup>3</sup> The NNC advocated for African Americans to receive equal employment and educational opportunities. The organization was also against lynchings, police brutality and wanted to eliminate the legal barriers that prevented blacks from being able to vote.<sup>4</sup> The United People Action Committee protested against whites

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<sup>1</sup> "Arthur Huff Fauset Papers." *Penn Libraries*, University of Pennsylvania, [dla.library.upenn.edu/cocoon/dla/ead/ead.html?fq=subject\\_topic\\_facet%3A%22Authors%22&id=EAD\\_upenn\\_rbml\\_MsColl1&](http://dla.library.upenn.edu/cocoon/dla/ead/ead.html?fq=subject_topic_facet%3A%22Authors%22&id=EAD_upenn_rbml_MsColl1&).

<sup>2</sup> "Arthur Fauset Quits." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Jun 29, 1946, pp. 1. *ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/531803812?accountid=70954>.

<sup>3</sup> "Civil Rights Liberalism in Philadelphia." *Up South: Civil Rights and Black Power in Philadelphia*, by Matthew J. Countryman, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007, pp. 27-31.

<sup>4</sup> "National Negro Congress Seeks United Action on Race Issues." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Jan 09, 1936, pp. 5. *ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/531379148?accountid=70954>

protesting the hiring of black trolley and subway car conductors by the Philadelphia Transit Company. UPAC encouraged more African Americans to vote and worked towards equal job opportunities, regardless of the person's race, gender, and religion.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Fauset, Arthur. "I WRITE AS I SEE." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Dec 18, 1943, pp. 4. *ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/531710675?accountid=70954>.

## GETTING OUT



DR. ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET

# Arthur Fauset Quits

Arthur Huff Fauset, outstanding educator, newspaper columnist, author and zealot of racial rights, is not returning to the Philadelphia Public School System, according to information gleaned today by the TRIBUNE.

Mr. Fauset, principal at the Douglass-Singerley School, 22nd and Norris streets, largest Negro elementary school in the city, corroborated this information when he told subordinates at the school this week that he would not be back next term.

### RESIGNATION HINTED

While some were inclined to view Mr. Fauset's declarations in the light that he intended to resign from the school system, others leaned to the opinion that he was taking a leave to "write and devote some time to his untiring fight against proscription and discrimination."

Efforts to reach him at his home in Brown street near 51st met with the response that he was "not in."

Mr. Fauset is also president and organizer of the United Peoples Action Committee, the organization which became most prominent in the fight against the PTC strike of 1944.

# I WRITE AS I SEE

By **ARTHUR HUFF FAUSET**

## UNITED PEOPLE'S ACTION COMMITTEE

**P**HILADELPHIANS will want to acquaint themselves with a fighting organization which is destined to figure more and more prominently in the development of democratic principles and activities in our city. Its name is United People's Action Committee, called UPAC for short.



**FAUSET**

**UPAC came about in this way: In the summer a call was issued to a conference to be held on September 11 to consider war and post-war problems of the Negro in Philadelphia. The conference was successful beyond the hopes of its organizers, and after deliberations on such questions as employment, the schools, youth problems, etc., a motion was approved to have a continuations committee attempt to carry on the work of the conference. From this attempt emerged UPAC,**

### COLLABORATING WITH NAACP

UPAC has been at the forefront of the NAACP action committee's struggle against PTC. In fact it was UPAC which approached the NAACP and proposed that a campaign be conducted against PTC such as we have been witnessing during the past three months. Subsequently the FEPC entered the fight and issued the order against PTC and the PRT Union. In order to arouse public opinion still further the Monster Mass Meeting at Town Hall will occur at 2:30 P.M., Sunday, December 19, with Adam Clayton Powell as the chief speaker. You must be there.

**UPAC already has fought with no holds barred in the interest of the people. It has gone directly to the Mayor, to the Chief of Police and to the FBI, to the head of the Bellevue Stratford Hotel and to the Director of Public Safety at times when Fascist forces were operating against us.**

### INTERESTED IN SCHOOLS AND YOUTH

UPAC is interested in our schools and the plight of our youth. As the organization expands its base, drawing in more and more representatives of people's organizations, trade unions, civic organizations, etc., it will go directly into the issues presented by segregation and discrimination; it will seek the upgrading of teachers and principals in our schools as well as the upgrading of skilled workers at such plants as Budd's and PTC.

**UPAC will resist attempts to stifle juvenile expression by forcing misguided but ambitious youth into reform schools and penal institutions, and will rally support instead for measures to provide decent recreation for your youth, extension of the use of school facilities for community needs, child care centers, and unlimited opportunities to work and to be upgraded irrespective of race, creed or color.**

### JOIN, WATCH US

UPAC invites all democratic loving individuals and representatives of organizations to join with them. Its next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 6, at the S. W. Y. M. C. A., 1724 Christian street. Why not set aside that evening to join hands with a progressive band which is going to help Philadelphia be the strong citadel of democracy it was intended to be? We extend this open invitation to you.

**The Executive Secretary of UPAC is Miss Elsie Smith, 5809 Haverford avenue. I happen to be its chairman.**



# National Negro Congress Seeks United Action On Race Issues

(Editor's Note: We publish below the agenda of the National Negro Congress, proposed to be held on February 14, 1936, in Chicago, Ill.)

## WHAT WILL A NEGRO CONGRESS DO?

The National Negro Congress will be no new organization, nor does it propose to usurp the work of existing organizations. It will seek rather to accomplish unity of action of existing organizations.

It is with these objectives clearly in mind that we propose for discussion and action by the Congress the issues outlined below:

1. The right of Negroes to jobs at decent living wages and for the right to join all trade union. For the right to equal wages and equal labor conditions with other workers. For the organization of Negro workers with their fellow white workers into democraticallly controlled trade union.

2. Relief and security for every needy Negro family; and, for genuine social and unemployment insurance without discrimination.

1. Aid to the Negro farm population, to ease the burden of debts and taxation; for the right of farmers, tenants and sharecroppers to organize and bargain collectively.

1. A fight against lynching, mob violence and police brutality; for enactment of a federal anti-lynching law; for the right to vote, serve on juries and enjoy complete civil liberty.

5. The right of Negro youth to equal opportunity in education and in the economic life of the community.

6. For complete equality for Negro women; for their right, along with all women, to equal pay for equal work; for their right to suitable environment for themselves and their children recreational an environment which demands adequate housing, good schools, and facilities; for their

right to organize and agitate.  
7. To oppose war and imperialism, the attempted subjugation of Negro people in Ethiopia, the oppression of colonial nations throughout the world; for the independence of Ethiopia.

(See Editorial, Page 4)

**CLARENCE  
FARMER**

# Clarence Farmer

1915 - 2014

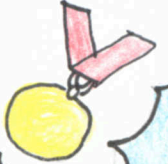
Executive Director of  
Commission on  
Human Relations

Businessman

Anti-Police  
Brutality

Exemplary  
Citizen

Clarence  
Farmer Service  
Award

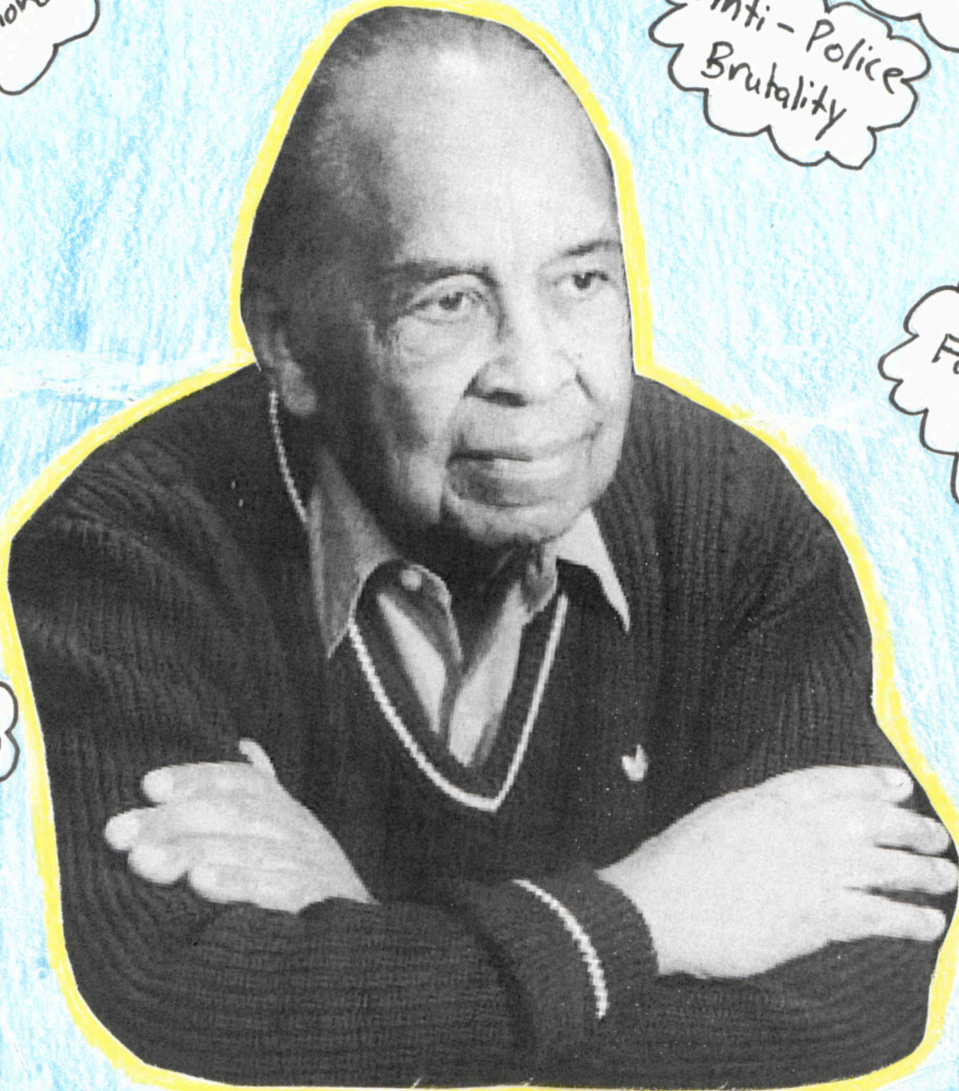


Philadelphia  
Police Department's  
Advisor

Discrimination  
Activist

Service Award  
Winner

Created  
jobs



Hannah Filbert, Alex Tat, Theo Wyss-Flamm, and Emily Zhao

### Clarence Farmer: An Exemplary Civil Servant

Clarence Farmer was a civil rights activist for African Americans during the 1960s and 70s. During his lifetime he achieved numerous accomplishments for the black community.

Although he started out as a Philadelphia businessman who worked at a printing company<sup>1</sup>, the conditions in Philadelphia during the time period led his career to be focused on issues that African Americans faced<sup>2</sup>. His civil service started when he became part of the Philadelphia Police Advisory Board and served two years as the executive secretary<sup>3</sup>. While working with the Police Board, he investigated numerous cases involving police brutality and helped to bring cases of black mistreatment to justice<sup>4</sup>. Because of his hard work and dedication to helping minority communities, he was placed as executive director in the Commission on Human Relations (CHR) on July 11, 1967<sup>5</sup>.

Clarence Farmer's time in CHR is one of the highlights of his career. "The Commission on Human Relations desire is to give equal status to all citizens regardless of race, color, or creed in their efforts to secure decent housing."<sup>6</sup> During his career in CHR, he dealt with the African

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<sup>1</sup> "Clarence Farmer: Urbane Co-Chairman of the Urban Coalition." *Philadelphia Tribune* (1912-2001), May 02, 1970, pp. 1. ProQuest, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532550365?accountid=70954>.

<sup>2</sup> "Clarence Farmer Sr., 97, businessman." *Philadelphia Tribune Obituary*. Feb. 2, 2014, pp. 1. *The Philadelphia Tribune*, [http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/clarence-farmer-sr-businessman/article\\_95f07ed1-4b75-58a1-a499-c0299696c244.html](http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/clarence-farmer-sr-businessman/article_95f07ed1-4b75-58a1-a499-c0299696c244.html)

<sup>3</sup> "Clarence Farmer: Urbane Co-Chairman of the Urban Coalition." *Philadelphia Tribune* (1912-2001), May 02, 1970, pp. 1. ProQuest, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532550365?accountid=70954>.

<sup>4</sup> "Clarence Farmer Sr., 97, businessman." *Philadelphia Tribune Obituary*. Feb. 2, 2014, pp. 1. *The Philadelphia Tribune*, [http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/clarence-farmer-sr-businessman/article\\_95f07ed1-4b75-58a1-a499-c0299696c244.html](http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/clarence-farmer-sr-businessman/article_95f07ed1-4b75-58a1-a499-c0299696c244.html)

<sup>5</sup> "Clarence Farmer: Urbane Co-Chairman of the Urban Coalition." *Philadelphia Tribune* (1912-2001), May 02, 1970, pp. 1. ProQuest, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532550365?accountid=70954>.

<sup>6</sup> "Farmer Lists Realtors Who Discriminated." *Philadelphia Tribune* (1912-2001), May 12, 1970, pp. 2. ProQuest, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532613139?accountid=70954>.

Americans' most prominent issues such as discrimination laws. While in power, he helped African Americans get jobs that were previously racially discriminant, racist housing markets, and created anti-discrimination laws that are still enforced today<sup>7</sup>. Not only that, Farmer also raised awareness to the problems of the black community by writing articles in newspapers, such as the Philadelphia Tribune. He talked about hardships in housing, schools, and their plightful conditions<sup>8</sup>. Due to his major accomplishments, CHR created the Clarence Farmer Service Award in his honor. In addition to the award, he also was part of organizations such as Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation and Black Tennis Foundation of Philadelphia, Inc.<sup>9</sup> Overall, Clarence Farmer's accomplishments significantly helped the African American community and has shaped Philadelphia's history.

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<sup>7</sup> "Clarence Farmer Sr., 97, businessman." *Philadelphia Tribune Obituary*. Feb. 2, 2014, pp. 1. *The Philadelphia Tribune*, [http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/clarence-farmer-sr-businessman/article\\_95f07ed1-4b75-58a1-a499-c0299696c244.html](http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/clarence-farmer-sr-businessman/article_95f07ed1-4b75-58a1-a499-c0299696c244.html)

<sup>8</sup> FARMER, CLARENCE. "Clarence Farmer Reports." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Dec 25, 1971, pp. 9. *ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532567554?accountid=70954>.

<sup>9</sup> "Clarence Farmer Sr., 97, businessman." *Philadelphia Tribune Obituary*. Feb. 2, 2014. *The Philadelphia Tribune*, [http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/clarence-farmer-sr-businessman/article\\_95f07ed1-4b75-58a1-a499-c0299696c244.html](http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/clarence-farmer-sr-businessman/article_95f07ed1-4b75-58a1-a499-c0299696c244.html)

# Clarence Farmer Reports

By CLARENCE FARMER  
Chairman,

**Human Relations Commission**  
The plight of American cities is desperate, and conditions in them are continuing to deteriorate. These are the sobering conclusions of a highly-readable, 20-page report just issued by the Federal Commission on Cities.

Comparing present conditions with those reported in a study made four years ago, the new report states:

Housing is still the national scandal; it was then.

Schools are more tedious and turbulent.

The rates of crime, unemployment and disease and heroin addiction are higher.

Welfare rolls are larger.

And, with few exceptions, relations between minority communities and the police are just as hostile.

The report writers declared: "Since it is hard to be black or brown in America today and not be poor, and if the current trend continues — and if racism continues — most cities by 1980 will be predominantly black and brown, and totally bankrupt."

"The message we received loud and clear wherever we went was that to an ever-increasing extent American institutions, public and private, are losing the confidence of the American people. Scarcely anything or anybody of influence escapes from this pervasive distrust; not corporations or courts or legislatures or schools; not policemen or mayors or bankers or doctors.

"The chief reasons for this distrust, as we hear, is that those institutions and people are unable or unwilling or both to respond to the needs and desires of those whose destinies are in their hands."

But if the report is gloomy, it also has its optimistic side. Across the country, the writers found side by side with despair, "... a new tough pride, self-confidence, and determination." Depressed people everywhere, in other words, are standing up to fight for social justice.

Finally, the report states that amelioration, if it is to come, must be through the medium of government. Government alone, the report emphasizes, can provide the machinery and organization essential to open the way for job-producing factories, for the building of parks and playgrounds, and for the clearing of our pollution-laden air.

I would add that government can be both a servant and a leader, but it must have the support of interested, active citizens and citizens' groups. As an agency of government, our doors at the Commission on Human Relations are open to all comers. On any given day, individual people and groups from all walks of life pass through — welfare rights mothers, Black Panthers, bank presidents and top business leaders.

Obviously, it is impossible to give everyone everything that he wants. Every visitor may be assured, however, that his problems receive careful attention. And those involving the health and welfare of the city at large are taken up at the highest levels.

The report writers urge that citizens apply "energy and determination . . . toward making government better." Assuredly the people who take the trouble to sit down and talk with us are taking this constructive action.

— FIGHT SICKLE CELL ANEMIA —

The 40 persons evacuated from the building took up residence at the Beulah Baptist Church, at 50th and Spruce Sts.

# Farmer Lists Realtors Who Discriminated

Clarence Farmer, Chairman, Commission on Human Relations, this week announced that the Commission at its regular monthly meeting approved the forwarding to the State Real Estate Commission a list of all brokers who have signed Consent orders with the Commission.

Farmer also requested that the State Real Estate Commission notify these brokers that their licenses will be revoked or suspended should they in the future be found guilty of discrimination or in violation of the Consent Orders.

This new procedure was made possible due to the recent amendment of the State Real Estate Commission law forbidding discrimination and making it grounds for suspension or revocation of license.

The list that was sent named 187 active brokers throughout the city.

## EQUAL STATUS

The Commissioners also signed and approved two consent orders involving Beaumont Realty, 4090 N. 7th St. and Shelton Apartments, 6433 N. Broad St.

Farmer reiterated the Commission's desire to give equal status to all citizens regardless of race, color or creed in their efforts to secure decent housing.

He also repeated his request that any citizen who feels he has been denied his rights to contact the Commission. It is only thru citizens claiming their rights that helps the Commission to end discrimination.

-- Feed The Poor --



CLARENCE FARMER

# Clarence Farmer: Urbane Co-Chairman of the Urban Coalition

**EDITOR'S NOTE**—This is the second of a series of profiles of the four co-chairmen heading the Philadelphia Urban Coalition, whose mission is that of catalyst drawing together and coordinating the technological resources and managerial skills of business and industry, labor and government, education

and community interests in a common goal to define the problems of inner city, plan long-range solutions, broaden the scope of existing efforts and initiate new remedial programs. Co-Chairman Clarence Farmer, chairman of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, is the subject of today's profile.

Clarence Farmer, to his present status as the Urbane and respected Chairman of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations and Co-Chairman of the Philadelphia Urban Coalition.

Clarence Farmer from the small town of Rochester, in Western Pennsylvania, where he was born

on Human Relations heads an agency clothed with legal authority to protect the constitutional guarantees of and obtain redress for citizens deprived of equal treatment.

When Farmer recalls the days of his childhood in Rochester, Pennsylvania, where his father was the town barber and his family was one of the few Black families there, and when he speaks of his years at Geneva College where, in addition to his studies and his campus job, he became a track star and captain of his team, he is filled with nostalgia.

One of his pleasurable experiences came last year when Geneva College, a small church-oriented liberal arts school in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, called him back to the campus to give its distinguished alumnus the Distinguished Service Award for his efforts on behalf of equality for minority citizens.

During his childhood he lived for several years in South Philadelphia and attended the Walter George Smith Public School, which still stands and functions. He turned to Rochester and was going to high school when his father died and he made his

home with a brother and a sister, and with the Department of Public Assistance.

As the shadow of World War II deepened over the nation, Farmer went to work in the old Quartermaster Depot and held jobs in several defense industries.

When America was plunged into war, Farmer went into the Air Corps and served for 20 months.

In 1943, Farmer incensed his life by taking a wife, Mrs. Mary Joseph N. Farmer is presently Director of English-Language Arts in the Instructional Services Division of the Board of Education. (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

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# Clarence Farmer, Human Relations Leader

(Continued from Page 1)  
She enjoys wide prominence in her profession, holds two Master's Degrees in Art and one in Education and is currently working on her Doctorate. The Farm-

ers have two grown sons. By 1948, his horizons widened. Farmer organized Farmer Press, Inc., a printing business, of which he is still president but which is now being operated by

a brother.  
**MANY AREAS**  
Farmer's own route to education, employment and business led him into areas of government, civic affairs, politics and to the eye of the storm generated

in the 1950's and 1960's by the upsurge of the Civil Rights movement and Black awareness of too-long discrimination and neglect in the quest for the benefits of equality served to all citizens by the Constitution of the United States.

He was appointed Executive Director of the Commission on Human Relations on July 11, 1967 after having served the previous two years as Executive Secretary of the Police Advisory Board.

In May, 1969, he became Co-Chairman of the Urban Coalition. The following August he was appointed Chairman of the Commission on Human Relations.

His conception of what lies ahead in the 1970's in the area of race relations is contained in a report of the activities of the Commission on Human Relations in which he wrote:

... As an enforcement agency, it will hear complaints and champion the rights of aggrieved citizens deprived of equal treatment in employment, housing or places of public accommodation."

Farmer's conception of the role of the Urban Coalition and his part in it, is set down in the Coalition's 1969 annual report in these words:

## AIMING THE POOR

"While the Coalition is not a policy-making body, it has in the past, and will continue in the future, to voice its opinion and take action to influence policy it believes to be in the community's interest. We feel that the Coalition cannot exist to foster social change and remain silent on relevant and current issues. It cannot ask the community to join forces in assaulting poverty and inequity without itself fighting for policies it believes will help the poor. In doing this the Coalition does not represent any group other than itself. It does not claim to be the community's conscience, only its own."

Farmer expounded at length on his views and philosophy on Black emergence and Black needs and on the winds of change sweeping across the nation in an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer on April 12.

In his efforts to help motivate black people to become self-sustaining, Farmer was the founder and serves as president of the Greater Philadelphia Enterprises Development Corporation, a non-profit firm engaged in the building of an inner-city shopping center, and development of minority entrepreneurs and community job opportunities. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the non-profit Job Loan Corporation, fueled with \$4 million from Philadelphia banks for loans to minority businessmen.

Farmer's civic activities include membership on the Board of Directors of the Wissahickon Boys Club; Founder's Club of St. Joseph's College Academy of Food Marketing; Germantown Homes, Inc.; Voluntary Chamber of Commerce, Fellowship Commission, NAACP, Urban League of Philadelphia National Association of Intergroup Relations Officials and the Pennsylvania Regional Crime Commission.

In the political arena, he won his spurs in the 59th Ward, Germantown, where he formerly served as a member of the Democratic Ward Executive Committee gaining insight into the functions of politics and a wide acquaintance among public officials, political leaders and party workers.

The scope of his service to his fellow men is reflected in the awards and citations showered upon him. In addition to the Geneva College Award, he has also been given the Philadelphia Bar Association Citizenship Award, the Award of the Philadelphia Optometric Association, the Vare Junior High School Award, as well as awards and citations by the North City Congress, Baptist Ministers Conference, Travelers Club, The Guardians, and the Legion of Cornelius and others.

**LEON SULLIVAN**

"I see no mountains"



## Leon Sullivan

Sullivan initiated the Selective Patronage Movement during the late 1950's, a time when Philadelphia (and the rest of the country) was in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement. Black activists all over the United States began different forms of protest with the hopes of reaching social and economic equality. Philadelphia was no exception; with emerging movements around the city, Philadelphia became an epicenter of the Civil Rights Movement. Organizations such as the NAACP and activists like Leon Sullivan found hope and success in Philadelphia due to its increasing black population and desire to work in the black community. Cases like the Brown versus The Board of Education made history by desegregating schools which had a major positive influence on the African American community. While many African Americans were satisfied with the results of the case, the desire to be viewed as equals in every aspect of life was much more of a necessity and African American protests became the primary engine for change<sup>1</sup>.

In the midst of the Civil Rights Movement many blacks were still not allowed jobs at white owned businesses, forcing them to take lower paying jobs, often in worse conditions. In Philadelphia this was all too true, with many black workers struggling with low end jobs. "Everywhere you went where the jobs were good, you saw whites, and everywhere you went where the jobs were poor, you saw blacks". Black exclusion in the workplace became so serious that many black citizens started to not buy products or services from businesses where they could

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<sup>1</sup> Sullivan, Leon. *Moving Mountains: The Principles and purposes of Leon Sullivan/ Leon H. Sullivan*. Sullivan Leon, Library of Congress Cataloging-In-Publication, 1998, pp. 1-15.

not be hired. This influenced Leon Sullivan, who then organized 400 of Philadelphia's local pastors to lay out the groundwork for the Selective Patronage Movement<sup>2</sup>.

Leon Sullivan was an under-sung hero because he proved that by uniting the African American community, they were able to overcome racial discrimination of jobs. Inspired by the nonviolent tactics of the Southern Movement, they protested by sit-ins and boycotts, showing they are able to achieve civil rights liberalism without violence. His selective patronage was shown to be 90% effective, providing more than 40,000 African Americans with jobs, and allowing low and middle-class families to earn jobs easier and fairer. His work with lower class families wasn't finished though; he founded the OIC (Opportunities Industrial Organization), an organization that provided the technologically misfortunate with the basic skills and education they needed to earn a job<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Wilson, Kendall. *Dr Leon H. Sullivan Built a Legacy*, Proquest. Philadelphia Tribune, 1st st., Philadelphia Tribune, April 27th, 2001, pp. 2-4

<sup>3</sup> *Timeline*. OIC Philadelphia. 1st st., OIC of Philadelphia, 2016, Timeline.

# OIC's Adult Education Program Eases Scores of Inner-City Lives

## OIC'S ADULT EDUCATION

Inner-city people respect education as much as anyone—in fact, more so. Because, every day they face the sad results of not having an education.

But, to succeed in the inner-city, education must come as a friend. It mustn't frighten or threaten—as so many things in this complex society do. And that is what we make certain of as we try to help.

Speaking is Ronald W. Howard, director of the Adult Arrcharr Education Program—an innovative component of Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc., the manpower training organization founded in 1964 by Dr. Leon Sud

Since its beginning in March 1964, funded initially by a \$40,000 grant from a private individual, "AAE" has reached some 10,000

persons in the city's largely minority neighborhoods. It has succeeded with a common sense approach of door knocking and fitting not only themselves, but the city as well.

Those demonstrating AAE's excellence are many. For example, Mrs. Barbara Williams, Morley of three, and age 26. Mrs. Williams had been a hospital orderly before enrolling in a neighborhood AAE class. Upon completing it, she started up for an OIC course for Laboratory Technicians, and currently is in Temple University's medical technology program.

Ronald W. Howard, director of the program, looked at when his brother served his business for an AAE class. He volunteered as a fourth group leader, and later enrolled in a university course for computer programming.

Thomas Morrison, after participating in other training programs, Morrison (29) was able to get off the unemployment rolls. The volunteer as an AAE group leader, received his high school diploma via part-time study, and became a mathematics teacher to incoming OIC students.

Previously, these persons may have been counted among America's 40,000,000 poor. Of this number, an estimated 70 percent need adult basic education. And one percent of those needing it receive it.

In Philadelphia, two of every three AAE prospects are functioning below the eighth-grade level. And to this academic lack the

dynamics of dejected, suspicious and various personal problems, and the size of the children's lives and behavior.

## GRAVE NEWS

"Book learning is a great need," says Howard, whose program has been meeting for four years (512 miles) to help the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. But other areas are more pressing.

How to deal with a migrant selling study books. How to spot a bad egg in a group. When we hear of a migrant using facts and figures the students have with them. How to math jobs or finding a few dollars. Black adults, for example, should know of their families in both Africa and America. But they also should know whom to telephone when the phone doesn't get picked up.

Even the teaching of reading must be approached. Typical white suburban situations and lessons are replaced by our better known to the majority. Our analysts, in fact, are prepared for their deceptions.

In all, practicality is the chief criterion in the whole, and why of AAE. And the same applies to the program's flow.

## Rev. Sullivan Cited By Newsmen's Unit

'62 NNPA Honorees Also  
Include Meredith, Gantt

By **MARK BRICKLIN**  
OF THE TRIBUNE STAFF

Reverend **Leon H. Sullivan**, pastor of Philadelphia's Zion Baptist Church, was among the ten Americans named by the National Newspaper Publishers' Association as recipients of the 1962 Russwurm Awards, NNPA President E. Washington Rhodes announced Monday.

The annual awards, in memory of **John B. Russwurm**, founder of the first American Negro newspaper, are presented to those who have done the most during the past year to promote "a richer conception of democratic principles." Rev. Sullivan was cited for his work as one of the leaders of Philadelphia's selective patronage program.

Other NNPA honorees include **James H. Meredith**, the first known Negro to attend the University of Mississippi; Miss **Sidna Brower**, editor of a student publication at "Ole Miss," who supported Meredith's entrance, and **Harvey Gantt**, first Negro enrollee at Clemson College.

Also named were U.S. Attorney General **Robert F. Kennedy**; Housing Administrator **Robert Weaver**; Georgia Senator **Leroy Johnson**; Massachusetts Attorney General **Edward Brooke**; Baltimore Archbishop **Lawrence J. Shehan**, and head football coach of Miami University, **Andy Gustafson**.



**REV. LEON  
SULLIVAN**



**EDWARD  
BROOKE**



**LEROY  
JOHNSON**



**ROBERT  
WEAVER**



**JAMES  
MEREDITH**



**HARVEY  
GANTT**

**Rev. Sullivan May Establish OIC Programs in Africa: Government ...**  
*Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001); Feb 18, 1969; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune*  
pg. 1

# Rev. Sullivan May Establish OIC Programs in Africa

## Government Requested Sullivan To Make Tour

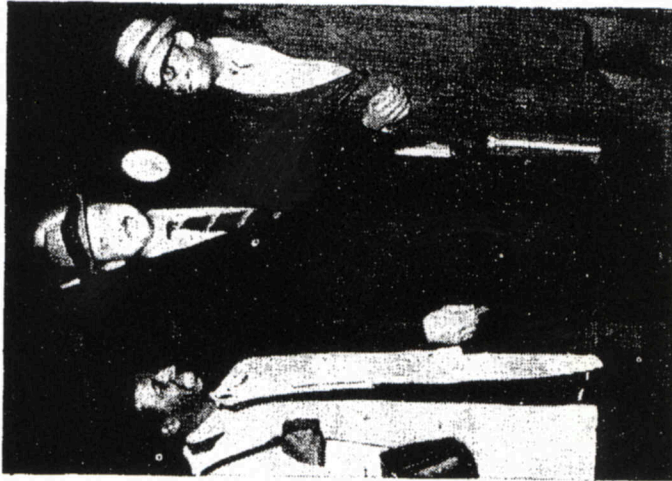
At the request of the United States Government, Rev. Leon H. Sullivan left the country Sunday for a tour of African countries to analyze their possibilities for the development of Opportunities Industrialization Center Programs (OIC) and Rev. Sullivan's related economic development work.

The first stop of the Sullivan entourage will be Athens, Greece. From there the group will travel to Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Lagos and Ghana.

They will return to the United States on March 16.

Traveling with Rev. Sullivan are Rev. Thomas J. Ritter, executive director of the Philadelphia OIC and pastor of the Second Macedonia Baptist Church in Oak Lane; Valo Jordan, of the OIC National Institute and a former Peace Corps volunteer in Africa, and Bou-bacar Diallo, International Student, University of Pennsylvania.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)



**REV. LEON H. SULLIVAN** and members of his African tour entourage paused long enough at the airport Sunday for Tribune photographer Jack Franklin to take this picture. On Rev. Sullivan's right is Valo Jordan and on his left is Rev. Thomas J. Ritter.

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# Sullivan

(Continued from Page 1)

Rev. Sullivan and his aides left Philadelphia Airport at 8:25 Sunday night on a National Airlines plane. Then, at Kennedy Airport in New York, they left the National plane and boarded a Pan-American Jet for the flight to Athens.

While Rev. Sullivan is on tour, services at Zion Baptist Church, Broad and Venango sts., will be conducted by three guest ministers. They are, Rev. I. Venchael Booth, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Cincinnati, O.; Bishop George W. Blakely, of the African Methodist Church, and Rev. J. Quinton Jackson, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, of Germantown.

— "35th Anniversary" —

More than 4,200,000 persons sustained injuries in automobile accidents last year. Driver error, according to The Travelers Insurance Companies annual statistics, was responsible for more than 80 percent of the 1967 highway casualties.

Editorial:

# Leon Sullivan's legacy

The death of any leader as persuasive and tenacious as the **Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan** is a loss that will be felt everywhere. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan made that clear when he said that **Dr. Sullivan** was "known and respected throughout the world for the bold and innovative role he played in the global campaign to dismantle the system of apartheid in South Africa."

High praise indeed for a man who grew up under American apartheid in segregated West Virginia. **Dr. Sullivan**, who ran head-on into Jim Crow at a soda counter when he was eight years old, never forgot it. He grew up resolved to fight it, and did all his life.

He came to Philadelphia to preach and lead a church, but wound up leading the nation and later the world into a new social consciousness. Psychologists Kardiner and Ovesy had called African Americans "people who walk in darkness" because Jim Crow racial domination shadowed their every move, even where segregation was not the law. But **Leon Sullivan** turned Black churches into a potent moral answer.

Striking out from North Philadelphia's Zion Baptist Church, his "Philadelphia 400" ministers led boycotts against the region's biggest corporations, forcing them to re-examine and remake their racially discriminatory employment practices. The list of boycott targets is long – Tastykake and the Budd Co. were the two best-known fights, but the campaign covered every kind of company, from banks to bakeries, insurers and railcar makers to supermarkets.

**Rev. Sullivan's** impact was immeasurable. New York's late

Rev. Adam Clayton Powell put together similar boycotts, crying "Don't Buy where You Can't Work," in Harlem, but the nation had never seen such a sustained, region-wide campaign against workplace discrimination, industry by industry.

The young Dr. Martin Luther King noticed. Dr. King, educated at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., was a protégé of local ministers such as the Revs. William H. Gray Sr. and J. Pius Barber. His Southern Christian Leadership Council, deep into the battle against *de jure* segregation, sent the young Jesse Jackson to emulate the Philadelphia 400, and Operation Breadbasket was born.

Like Dr. King, **Rev. Sullivan** turned his attention to the most downtrodden, pushing new jobs for those on the welfare rolls. When his new Opportunities Industrialization Center took over an abandoned North Philly police station, few in the city believed in his vision of job training and upward mobility for welfare recipients. Now OIC can point to alumni who became millionaires, and thousands of families and thousands of employers have benefited from its programs. OIC, which spread across the nation, and across the ocean to Africa, has trained more than 1.5 million people for new jobs and new lives.

An impressed General Motors made **Rev. Sullivan** its first Black board member, and a new adventure began. Progress Plaza, founded by **Rev. Sullivan** and the members of Zion Baptist Church, made national headlines as the first Black-owned shopping mall. Progress Industries, which followed, moved African Americans to a new level of entrepreneurship,

winning contracts to manufacture lighting fixtures for a major brand, auto parts for carmakers, even parts for aerospace exploits.

But **Rev. Sullivan** never forgot segregation. His outreach to Africa, through OIC, and his work with the GM board taught him that American corporations were deeply implicated in South African apartheid. The Sullivan Principles he worked out put underpinning under a whole new thrust in corporate responsibility in international affairs. The Sullivan Principles showed corporate executives they could fight apartheid by treating their Black workers better, but Dr. Sullivan's annual list of non-participating companies also helped U.S. and international protest groups target the corporations continuing to cooperate with apartheid.

Eventually, Afrikaner intransigence convinced even the **Rev. Sullivan** that national boycotts were the only real weapon, but by that time the publicity he generated caused many multinational corporations to quit South Africa.

Apartheid finally fell, like the American segregation after which it was patterned. Disciplined assaults, by principled campaigners, brought it down so that a new South Africa could emerge, just as a new South – indeed a new America – emerged after African Americans' lawsuits and protests broke Jim Crow's back.

Now the **Rev. Dr. Sullivan's** great voice at last is silenced. His work is done, and he will be remembered by the millions he has helped, here and around the world. Once just a local Philadelphia minister, he now joins Dr. King, Mohandas Gandhi and a host of human-rights leaders whose legacy now belongs to the ages.

**CECIL B. MOORE**

GOVERNOR

"The New Messiah"

"The Goddamn Boss"

LABOR FORCES OF PHILADELPHIA

INTEGRATE PHILLY SCHOOLS!

STRAWBERRY MANSION!

OPEN GREAT



Max Mester, Theodore Winter, & Sophia Jestead

African American History

Taylor

7 May 2018

## Cecil B. Moore

During his time as president of NAACP, Cecil B. Moore attempted to desegregate schools within Philadelphia. Advising parents to not let their children attend schools, Moore led a campaign to force the School District of Philadelphia to take positive action in 1963 towards the desegregation of schools. Refusing to set an immediate plan to end the clear separation of races within the city's school, the district stated that all schools were separated on purpose, implying black children did not deserve the same education— a statement deeply opposed by Moore and his supporters<sup>1</sup>. The support gained by Moore during this time would later increase into the motivation necessary for the picket lines and protests led throughout the late 60s to desegregate Girard College. Moore's persistent presence in local issues and leadership within the NAACP during this time inspired blacks within the city to fight for civil rights and local issues, a common initiative still seen within present day Philadelphia.

Cecil B. Moore also fought vehemently against the discrimination in the construction industry. Although the trade unions of the time did not have rules explicitly prohibiting black members from joining, they did not admit them<sup>2</sup>. Black workers were almost never hired by the

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<sup>1</sup> "NAACP Threatens Strike of School Children in Sept. ." *Philadelphia Tribune*, 20 July 1963. *ProQuest Historical Newspapers [ProQuest]*

<sup>2</sup> Potter, L. (1963, May 21). NAACP Gives City Until Friday to Oust Biased Unions on City Projects. *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)* Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532290258?accountid=70954>

construction industry in Philadelphia, while those hired were only selected for non unionized, low skill jobs with inferior pay to white workers. When the City of Philadelphia decided to build a new high school within a black neighborhood with all white workers, Moore aggressively picketed the construction site. His supporters barricaded the site and interfered with the operations. Once when a truck full of materials drove into the construction site, Moore's supporters jumped into the the truck and halted the unloading of the truck. Eventually the white construction workers gave in and hired five skilled black workers. Although this was a small percentage of the actual workforce at the time, it established an important precedent for equal hiring of workers in the construction industry.

Cecil B. Moore fought diligently to combat unemployment and poverty among Philadelphia's black residents. However, he also had a number of anti-Semitic views. Moore pinned the unemployment problem on "people of Semitic origin," or Jews. During his term as the Philadelphia NAACP's president in the early 1960s, he attacked Jewish business owners for exploiting poor blacks in North Philadelphia<sup>3</sup>. Though the NAACP publicly announced their opposition to anti-Semitism, Moore stood by his comments. As well as being a controversial figure to the Jewish and white communities, Cecil B Moore also had extreme differences and disagreements with other black civil rights organizations. In 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King visited the city of Philadelphia to help fundraise for local organizations and help the cause of civil rights in the North. However initially Moore was viciously opposed to his visit to Philadelphia initially. During the visit, Moore introduced King at the picket lines at Girard College. After King left, Moore demanded a financial report from King. Moore stated that

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<sup>3</sup> NAACP adopts resolution backing moore against challenge of jewish community. (1967, Dec 16). *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)* Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532412234?accountid=70954>

although six thousand dollars were raised for Philadelphia civil rights groups, only, six hundred went towards these groups, with the rest going to “expenses”<sup>4</sup>. Though King’s campaign manager said that the unity and cohesion he brought was more important than money. Cecil refused the statement, saying that he had no interest with “Unity Organizations that do nothing”<sup>[3]</sup>. Despite a legacy tainted by his controversial viewpoints, it is evident that as the years go by, Philadelphia has recognized the significance of Moore’s actions to desegregate various institutions, provide equal opportunity to the city’s labor force, and provide a powerful voice for the oppressed black community in the City of Brotherly Love.

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<sup>4</sup> Perry, C. (1965, Aug 10). King tour earns \$6,000; 'expense' \$5,400. *Philadelphia Tribune* (1912-2001)

## References

- [1] "NAACP Threatens Strike of School Children in Sept. ." *Philadelphia Tribune*, 20 July 1963. *ProQuest Historical Newspapers [ProQuest]*.
- [2] Moore, Cecil. "Cecil Moore Wants Congress to Investigate Korean Businesses--See Story Below." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Jul 26, 1977, pp. 1. *ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532750139?accountid=70954>.
- [3] Perry, C. (1965, Aug 10). King tour earns \$6,000; 'expense' \$5,400. *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)* Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532389272?accountid=70954>



# NAACP Threatens Strike of School Children in Sept.

**Board Given  
Until Fall To**

**Purge System**

**Positive Action  
Demanded By  
Prexy C.B. Moore**

When Philadelphia's public schools open their doors in September, there may be no Negro pupils entering them if NAACP branch president Cecil B. Moore has his way. Moore called Wednesday for parents to keep their children home if the Board of Education has not taken positive action to end segregation in the city's public schools by the time the fall term opens.

Moore's strike threat came in the wake of the refusal of lawyers for the Board to file a desegregation plan with Judge Harold Wood of United States District Court.

"If they don't," Moore said, "we'll give them the shock of their lives. There won't be a Negro child in any school in the City of Philadelphia, June 24th was only the beginning." Moore was referring to the NAACP-sponsored Medgar Evers memorial work stoppage held that day, when an estimated 60 percent of the city's Negro school children were absent from their classes.

## BIAS DENIED

In refusing to file the desegregation plan with the court, Walter Hiddle Saut, attorney for the school board in the desegregation suit brought against the board by the NAACP, admitted that there were all-Negro and all-white schools in the city but claimed that this was not segregation because it was not done on purpose.

## DIFFERS FROM COURT RULE

In essence, Saut claimed that although many Negro children were educated separately from whites, they received an equal education and were not discriminated against. The United States Supreme Court ruled in 1954 that there is no such thing as "separate but equal education." Segregated schools, the court ruled, are by definition unequal.

Isaiah Crippins, attorney for the  
(Continued on Page 4, Col. 2)  
A Negro State Senator

# Board Given

(Continued from Page 1)

NAACP in the suit, told the Tribune that Saul was attempting to "explain away the issue with semantics." There can be no argument over the meaning of the word," Crippins said, "segregation means separation by race and anybody with two eyes can see that white and Negro children are separated in Philadelphia."

The board's refusal to file the plan which was served last month by Judge Wood appears to end any chance of the case being settled out of court. It is slated to come to trial on Sept. 17th.

# Dr. King Tour

(Continued From Page 1)  
made before King came here.

## "MONEY UNIMPORTANT"

While Moore was demanding an accounting, William R. Meek, chairman of the committee for Dr. King's tour, expressed the thought that some things are as important as money. "It is my firm conviction," said that this visit has done a lot of good in making us think in terms of unity."

But, if Meek was selling unity, Moore wasn't buying.

"We're not," he said, "joining any coordinating council or summit conference. We may confer, but that is the extent of it."

## TO GO IT ALONE

Hastening to add that Dr. King brought Philadelphia "a good revival and helped to unify the city's civil rights forces as far as spirit is concerned," Moore said nevertheless that the NAACP "has all the action and we've got concrete plans of our own for the future."

He said that his organization has "no plans" of being involved in any unity moves with organizations that "do nothing."

Moore had first been opposed to the visit last week by Dr. King, but later relented and joined the nationally known leader for all of his street corner rallies and most notably when Dr. King visited Girard College. Insiders had felt that Moore did not want to share the credit for the Girard College integration push with King.

Ironically, Moore wound up introducing King at a rally at the college walls before a crowd of some 3,000 persons.

— A Negro State Senator —

# Dr. King Tour Earns \$6000 But 'Expenses' \$5400 Moore Demands To Know Where The Money Went

By CHRIS J. FERRY  
OF THE TRIBUNE STAFF

Cecil B. Moore, president of the Philadelphia branch of the NAACP, threw nothing but verbal bouquets last week when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was in town. This week, Moore was back in his usual form—throwing brickbats.

The NAACP leader told the Tribune Monday that he wants to know what happened to all the money collected at rallies where Dr. King appeared during his two-day long whirlwind tour of Philadelphia. And, Moore indicated, he would be especially interested in questioning members of the group which arranged for Dr. Martin's appearance here.

Moore said he has been informed that although \$6,000 was collected during King's tour of Philadelphia, \$5,400 of this money was used to pay bills and loans. The remaining \$600, he said, is all that is left to divide among various civil rights groups in Philadelphia in accordance with an agreement.

(Continued on page 2, Col. 8)

## Cecil Moore Wants Congress to Investigate Korean Businesses--See ...

Moore, Cecil

*Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*; Jul 26, 1977; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune

pg. 1

# Cecil Moore Wants Congress to Investigate Korean Businesses—See Story Below

## Councilman Moore Wants Congress To Investigate Korean Businesses

In direct response to the *Tribune's* recent series of articles entitled "Oriental Businesses Invade Black Neighborhoods," Councilman Cecil B. Moore is requesting an investigation of the South Koreans invading North Philadelphia's business districts.

IN A letter to Rep. Robert N. C. Nix, Moore requested that the Congressman inquire about the role the Small Business Administration is playing in the South Korean takeover of North Philadelphia business districts. Following is a copy of Councilman Moore's letter to Nix.

Dear Congressman Nix:  
I am requesting an investigation of the South Koreans who are invading North Philadelphia, buying and operating lucrative

businesses, apparently with the connivance of the federal government, which should be the property of our American citizens who

fought for our country, Black, white and Puerto Ricans. It seems rather strange that if they are able to  
(Continued on Page 6)

# Cecil Moore

(Continued from Page 1)

obtain financing in an area that is already a desert while Americans, Black, white and poor, who fought for this country in Japan and in Korea to liberate those who are now coming to exploit us, are denied the type of financing in order to be gainfully employed and that would enable them to get off the relief rolls.

Through your good offices, I want to inquire as to the participation of the Small Business Administration (SBA) as to who those manipulators are who get financial backing for Koreans while Americans, Black, white and Puerto Ricans, have to wait an interminable length of time for an almost infinitesimal amount.

These businesses are flourishing on Columbia Ave., Ridge Ave., Girard Ave. and Franklin St., when Americans who fought and died to save these very same people who are now following a pattern of exploitation of Americans who saved South Koreans from being exploited by Red China and North Korea.

The Veterans and American citizens who made their contribution to democracy with great sacrifice of time, energy and blood should receive the first priority.

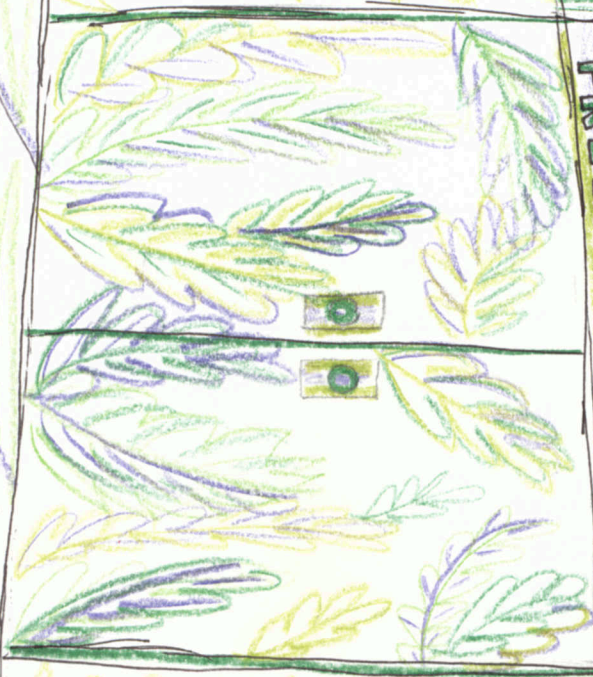
These people are like carrion who are profiting and feasting themselves on the prostrate bodies of the poor, Black, white and Puerto Rican.

Sincerely,  
Cecil B. Moore

**JOHN  
CHURCHVILLE**

# John Churchill

FREEDOM LIBRARY



## John Churchville

John Churchville is a civil rights activist who is best known for founding the Philadelphia Freedom Library. Born in North Philadelphia in 1941, Churchville graduated from Temple University and spent his life working with organizations that supported black rights. His career began at the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) as the field secretary in Georgia and Mississippi. Later, he became involved with the Nation of Islam as well, though he never officially joined. Inspired by Malcolm X, he began to form his own ideas based on black nationalism. His advocacy brought the ideas of black nationalism back to SNCC and he influenced their shift from an interracial group that supported integration to a Black Power organization, which believed that the Civil Rights Movement was not for white people and should not rely on white liberals and put on emphasis on community involvement.<sup>1</sup>

He decided to bring these ideals to his local community as well by founding the Freedom Library Community Project in 1964. The Freedom Library provided a location where students of all ages could receive tutoring and lessons in black history, hear stories of black success, and discuss politics and activism as it pertained to them. He had a focus on ending gang violence by strengthening the community and focusing on community-led and supported programs.<sup>1</sup> Over the years, the Freedom Library continued to educate students as young as two and a half<sup>2</sup> despite challenges with funding.<sup>3</sup> This helped to promote education for black children which was a growing concern among black parents.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Countryman, Matthew. *Up South: Civil Rights and Black Power in Philadelphia*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> "Children begin in this school at 2 1/2-year-old." (1966, Sep 03). *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)* Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532436160?accountid=70954>

<sup>3</sup> "Founder keeps project going despite shortage of 'sponsors'." (1966, Sep 03). *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)* Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532408892?accountid=70954>

<sup>4</sup> "CIBI conference to make plans for good education for black children." (1973, May 05). *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)* Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532643960?accountid=70954>



# Children Begin In This School at 2 1/2-Years-Old

While founder, John Churchville would like to see the Freedom Library program expanded, he can take pride in the fact that he has aided hundreds of Negro children in the North Philadelphia area who are of pre-school age. The pre-schooler is part of a four-point program that has been going on

## Youths, 6-13, Get Help With Reading Ability While Another Course Geared to 'Corner Boys'

are at the top of their class. AFTER SCHOOL PROJECT The second phase of the Freedom Library program is to aid youngsters 6-13 years old in an after school project stressing history and reading. "The trouble with a lot of our children is in their reading ability," Churchville explained, "therefore we have these sessions to teach them to read but by the same token we are giving them a knowledge of their history. To further help them to understand what they are reading and learning we have them dramatize it." These classes are conducted from Monday through Thursday from 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m." The drama portion is held on Saturdays at 11 a.m.

"CORNER" BOYS Perhaps the most commendable part of the program is that deal-

ing with as Churchville says "the boys on the corner." These youngsters come together to discuss problems which affect among young adults; combatting juvenile delinquency and gang conflicts among black people; development of physical education programs; and development of racial pride. They meet on Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

The adult program is a two-pronged one. The first is political education at which attendants are taught at meetings each Tuesday evening beginning at 8 p.m. the differences in the political parties and the political schemes that are used to garner votes, while the second part is held on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. during which Afro-American History is stressed by lectures from prominent persons and discussions.

In respect to the latter, Playthel Benjamin, 24-year-old historian, is presently conducting a 16-week course on the history of the black man. The second part of his course was held Wednesday, and succeeding lectures will be held each Wednesday evenings.

### AT TOP OF CLASS

The classes are composed of 20 children who meet four times a week for two hours. These children can come at 2 1/2 years of age and continue their instructions until they are five. As a result of the program, and where children have attended for as long as three months, records show that when they do enter public schools they

# Founder Keeps Project Going Despite Shortage of 'Sponsors'

**John Churchville**, who operates the Freedom Library, is operating "on a shoestring" because it has few financial sources and further—unlike a Jewish institution, for example—it must fight the battle of "racial unity."

Despite the severe handicap of limited funds, **Churchville** and his wife **Sandra**, who is expecting their first child, have managed to keep the Library functioning.

## MANY CONTRIBUTORS

While there have been past contributions to keep the Library "alive" from such sources as the **Janes Memorial Methodist Church**, the **Union Baptist Church**, the **Zoar Methodist Church**, the **Zion Baptist Church**, the **Temple Student Council**, **Tribune Publisher E. Washington Rhodes**, **Elks Grand Exalted Ruler Hobson R. Reynolds**, **George Woods** and **Father Paul Washington** of the Church of the Advocate (who has pledged a monthly

contribution), the resurces to maintain the library primarily rests on the shoulders of **Churchville**, who puts part of his salary into the project. He also plays piano with

the **Freedom Jazz Trio** (**Roy Lightfoot**, bass; **Emmanuel Thompson**, drums), and the money which this trio raises also helps to prolong the life of the Library.  
**2000 BOOKS NEEDED**

There are presently some 100 books, periodicals and pamphlets from African countries and the U. S. shelved at the library. "But there are about 2000 more we could get. Some of them, such as those from the 17th and 18th Century that are still in Arabic, we could have translated or find a translated version. But we would have to have more money," **Churchville** said.



**FATHER PAUL WASHINGTON**

# CIBI Conference to Make Plans For Good Education for Black Children

On a recent edition of "Soul," Imanu Baraka stated that it is useless to criticize unless you are prepared to take control that which you are criticizing or can offer an alternative to what you are criticizing.

In essence, that is exactly what the Council of Independent Black Institutions has done.

CIBI is presenting a National Black Parent Convention Saturday, May 5, at the Long Island University Urban Center in Brooklyn, N. Y.

The term "parent" is defined by CIBI as all community residents who feel a sense of responsibility towards the education of Black children.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the convention is to formulate a national policy and program for instituting excellence in the education of Black children.

According to John Churchville, director of the Freedom Library Day School, 24th and Ridge Ave., "There is a great need for an independent school movement. Black people have a potent weapon right in their own home. We must educate our children for self-reliance. Our education should evolve around the family."

Churchville further stated, "As Black people, we must strive for educational excellence. We must provide direction and leadership to a group of people.

"We want to lay out to parents why our educational system is the way it is. It is important that Black people know that this country's educational system is a vehicle of suppression. We must, therefore, have control within our own community."

## BASE

Those attending the convention will be shown a factual look at what is happening to Black children in the schools of America and why this educational failure is being perpetuated. Other areas the convention will cover are why Black control of the vehicles of Black learning is the only solution for the saving of our children's lives and how can we use the Independent Black School as a base and model to organize and train our parents for the actual taking over and running of public schools where

we live. CIBI's motto, "dedicated to excellence," is perpetuated throughout their program which includes teacher training, administration, parent councils and youth colleges.

According to Churchville, the CIBI convention will establish a National Black Parents Code which will set up the priorities in education for their children.

"We will also indicate what ought to be taught to Black children and stress parent involvement at teachers," added Churchville.

## WORKSHOPS

The convention will offer

workshop training sessions which are planned to teach the participants the many components of a well prepared educational program. Those participating in the workshops are tasked to have materials available to record and take notes, come prepared to be involved in an active learning experience and bring any information or materials you want to contribute after the instructors have completed their presentations.

Registration is \$10 per person including lunch and dinner. For registration contact Sister Agnes Wilkerson, 787-8835 or EV 6-3469.

**WALTER  
PALMER**



END RACIAL OPPRESSION

MORE BLACK HISTORY COURSES FOR ME & YOU

OVER BROOK WEST CATHOLIC BARTRAM HS

BOK Vocational High School

South Hills Ben Franklin

German Town High Gratz High

William Penn High School High

Kensington High + Edison HS

Westbury

Group 6

Ms. Taylor

AFAM 10

24 April 2018

### Unsung Hero: Walter Palmer

A man who remains a behind-the-scenes hero of the civil rights movement, Walter Palmer's actions display his hard work in the civil rights movement. Focusing on education and especially on the public high schools of Philadelphia, Palmer was able to rally many teenagers of mostly African American schools to demonstrate against the segregation of school population and the conditions within the poorer black schools. Palmer and members of the Black People's Unity Movement (BPUM) were even able to persuade African American teenagers part of gangs to join student councils, to protect their friends and family within schools instead of on the streets.<sup>1</sup> Palmer was the chief organizer of the November 17 Philadelphia high school demonstrations in 1967, the notorious walkout known to have led to police brutality on students by Commissioner Rizzo. A man who had worked toward civil activism and equality all his life, Palmer is a firm believer of education as a key for the advancement of African Americans; it was his main belief during organizations of rallies against segregated schools. Palmer was also known to focus on issues of public health and violence, among various other topics in the movement besides education. He had organized multiple campaigns and created many community projects, such as the MOVE crisis and Model Cities, and aided in public and mental health, gang and anti-violence, both in Philadelphia and nationwide.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Up South: Civil Rights and Black Power in Philadelphia." *University of Pennsylvania Press*. Refer to chapter 6.

<sup>2</sup> "Walter Palmer, JD." *School of Social Policy & Practice*, [www.sp2.upenn.edu/people/view/walter-palmer/](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/people/view/walter-palmer/).

Palmer continued his work of community help and service even after the riot; Palmer began to branch out on his beliefs and beneficiaries. One part of his activism focused on the fact that economic development was essential. He stated that African Americans should steer towards business, and described his political plan as one that would aid African Americans toward higher employment rates. He thought that more jobs for African Americans would lead to improvement of socially concentrated issues. Palmer also worked as the executive director of the BPU (Black People's University) in West Philadelphia, and the BPU's primary priority was linked to the idea of black independence and human liberation. The BPU conducted forums with the mayoral candidates at the time, and their forum highlighted issues within black communities and a deeper look into black political conventions, in an attempt to gain better insight and direction for the future.<sup>3</sup> In regards to religion, he had his own views as to what can move African Americans forward. He believed that African Americans should follow the Muslim philosophy and believed that the Muslim philosophy towards business incorporated a strong relationship with its community and people.<sup>4</sup>

Palmer impacted the youth of Philadelphia because, as an organizer of school protests, he was able to reach out to black youth all over the city. Palmer had organized many protests, but his most prominent rally was the walkout of November 17 in 1967. A massive demonstration with twelve participating schools and over 3,500 students, students that had practiced prior to the meeting, walked out to the school district to negotiate better conditions within primarily black

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<sup>3</sup> Smith, Pamela. BPU to Run Educational Forums. *Philadelphia Tribune* (1912-2001); Oct 21, 1980; *ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune* pg. 11

<sup>4</sup> Jamison, Harold Palmer takes civil rights struggle to economic level *Philadelphia Tribune* (1912-2001); Oct 21, 1980; *ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune* pg. 11

schools. Palmer and members of Central Coordinating Committee and the Student Action Committee guided students along the designated rally path, and after the meeting with the school board, students ended up with 24 of their 25 demands accepted. Their demands included removing non-essential personnel from the schools such as police, incorporating more black history courses in school with black teachers that taught the courses, and a change in dress code that allowed students to wear African-style clothing. This particular demand may have been from the influence of Palmer and other black leaders who advocated for teens with pride for their culture. Black youth also organized a council within the BPU and met at local churches; but in the process of these meetings, black leaders like Palmer were arrested and charged with inciting riots.<sup>5</sup>

Walter Palmer left an almost anonymous impact on the civil rights movement, even with his activism in education, economic and religious sections. Even when he marched at the frontlines of the November 17 demonstrations and received numerous rewards and recognition for his participation and organization of many issues, Palmer is not as honored as Harriet Tubman or Martin Luther King Jr. But not all heroes go unnoticed; Walter Palmer Leadership Charter School was opened and named in his honor, to thank him for the work he has done in his life.<sup>6</sup> And without his work in public schools, the Philadelphian classroom may not look like it does today.

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<sup>5</sup> Countryman, Matthew. *Up South: Civil Rights and Black Power in Philadelphia*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007.

<sup>6</sup> Ahmaddiya, A. He's our perennial man of the hour Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001); Feb 26, 1993; *ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune* pg. 1A



## Palmer takes civil rights struggle to economic level

Jamison, Harold

Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001); Oct 21, 1980; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune

pg. 11

# Palmer takes civil rights struggle to economic level

By HAROLD JAMISON  
(Of The Tribune Staff)

Walter Palmer, human rights activist of the decade of the sixties, has consistently stated that education and economic development was the key to the future of Blacks. Now with his intended acquisition of the Chicago-based Wisconsin Steel Co., he may get the opportunity to put his theory into practice.

"I've been trying to convince people that economic development is part of the struggle. Our position had to be redefined; we had to develop a profit-making venture to pay for our nonprofit endeavors," stated Palmer in a recent interview with the *Tribune*. "The movement must be self-sustaining to support our philosophical beliefs. We must take a position similar to the Muslims philosophy towards business and its relationships to the community."

Stating that Blacks must get away from the "mom and pop and small business syndrome" toward business, Palmer outlined his plan to take over the now defunct Wisconsin Steel Co.

"My dream is not a dream of a steel mill," said Palmer. "But one of industry to move us from beggars to manufacturers and suppliers in a growth industry."

In 1979, following a lengthy strike, the company and its former owners found themselves in deep financial trouble. They closed their gates in March 1980, and filed bankruptcy under Chapter 11 in federal bankruptcy court. According to Palmer, six months into the strike International Harvester and Chase Manhattan Bank, two of the major investors in the steel company, withdrew their support.

"International Harvester decided to foreclose on the mines owned by the company, and Chase took the inventory and the cash receivable. With 44 million dollars tied up in modernization they were in trouble," said Palmer. "The minority marketing investment corporation introduced the idea to me, and I thought it was conceivable and important and just the type of thing I could



WALT PALMER says he was uncontrolled and unafraid to take the big step. — Jamison Photo

handle. Although I have a lot of training in marketing, my strongest areas are in management and organizational communications. I knew if I applied my skills coupled with my contacts all over the country, it would work. My plan hasn't been rejected by anyone yet."

Palmer, who has thus far been able to obtain loans and lines of

credit totalling \$250 million from various funding sources, contends other bidders on the steel mill merely wanted to take control in order to junk the mill and its equipment. But he feels that his plan has been able to progress this far because it's sound.

"My plan is the only one that makes sense and the only one with the prospect of returning

people back to work. We've done what no one else could have done in locking it up in place," asserted Palmer.

Wisconsin Steel, which was the smallest of the country's 16 integrated mills when it closed, is not given much of a chance of revival. However, Palmer dispelled that belief, and asserted that he has contacted at least 1000 of Wisconsin's former customers and is assured that the business will be there.

And, although the steel industry in the U.S. is receiving stiff competition from Japanese importers, he feels a change coming on the horizon. He attributes the Japanese dominance of the steel industry to the fact that in the last 100 years in America no new mills have been built.

And with the new pollution regulations being enforced by the government, Palmer says the new controls are hurting the industry; a fate the Japanese don't have to contend with considering the new mills being built in Japan with the aid of U.S. advisers already have pollution controls.

"Now with the mini-mill concept on the rise, the government has relaxed some laws to allow an opportunity to control pollution. And because Japan didn't have these problems, they could produce cheaper steel including the cost of transportation," said Palmer. "But once Japan's profits get to a certain level, the government will take measures to halt the rise."

Providing the deal goes through, Walter Palmer Industries, Inc., will be acquiring 265 acres of land, three blast furnaces, three hot rolling mills, one cold rolling mill, 45 bake ovens, one vessel with the capacity to carry 13,000 tons of ore, and a railroad consisting of 10 locomotives, 250 cars and 31 miles of rail. And with a proposed opening date of Nov. 15, Palmer feels it's imperative to get things on the road.

"It's important that we get into the plant and begin to winterize the facility and get the equipment rolling," Palmer said.

And to dispel rumors that he was merely acting as a front for a white backer Palmer stated: "There is no reason for a Black

with the skill and ability to front for anyone. My ego is such that I couldn't front for anyone. This is another example of being in the right place at the right time. I must be able to make this thing work and pay these people back their money. I don't know a white man with the courage I have or as gifted as I am."

And although Palmer never poured a ladle of steel in his life, he feels that he has the whole thing put, and he has plans to follow this thing through to the end.

"We must show by example," Palmer explained. "The message has gone out all over the world on what we're doing. Things will never be the same again. Even if they were able to stop me, they can't rub out what I've done so far. The only thing I haven't done was fire up the furnaces."

**He's our perennial man of the hour**  
Ahmaddiya, A  
*Philadelphia Tribune* (1912-2001); Feb 26, 1993; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune  
pg. 1A

# He's our perennial man of the hour



**Walt Palmer: Man of the hour; man of honor. — Paris Gray photo**

**By A. Brahin Ahmaddiya**  
Special to the Tribune

Walt Palmer, man of the hour.

"Man of the Hour" . . . Someone who is always there. Someone who tirelessly, selflessly, and many times at great personal risk places himself in physical danger defending the civil and human rights of those who cannot defend themselves. Someone who is there to comfort a grieving mother who has lost a son to senseless street violence; who offers words of encouragement to an unemployed stranger. . . . this is a "Man of the Hour" . . . Walt Palmer.

At 58, Palmer looks fit and trim. He sits across an expensive desk, nattily dressed, in his Center City office.

Presently, he is president of the Palmer Foundation, a research and training institute geared for human development and improving communities economically and organizationally. The Foundation, which provides training from starting a business to community leadership, presently has 50 community and university student interns.

But the fire in his eyes reminds me more of the brash young Turk of 20 years ago than the businessman

now seated in front of me.

As Palmer is recalling some of his past civil rights victories, my mind drifts to one of my first encounters with him. It was at LaSalle University in the wild and rebellious year of 1968 that I had the distinct honor of appearing with him, Sammy Davis, Jr. and Muhammad Ali.

Of course Ali and Davis were the show's stars. But the festival seemed to revolve around Walt Palmer. He was narrator, interviewer, and master of ceremonies. He was "the man of the hour."

Ron Washington, who now owns and operates Ron's Ribs on South Street, was one of LaSalle's students who produced that 1968 event.

Washington says Palmer was one of our local heroes. "Walt was a great educator. He was always at the grassroots level trying to motivate, stimulate Black thought and energy into positive directions."

That assessment is corroborated when Palmer's work ethic and academic achievements are reviewed.

He holds a juris doctorate in law from Howard University and a degree in business administration. (Continued on Page 4A)

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# Walter Palmer hasn't lost his fire over the decades

(Continued from Page 1A)

from Temple University.

But the greatest testimony is Palmer's grassroots work. He founded one of the nation's first "freedom" schools, the Black People's University of Philadelphia, as early as 1953, in West Philadelphia.

Palmer's insatiable appetite for taking on social and legal challenges led him from one cause to

another.

Bill Meeks smiles at the mention of Palmer's work during the mid-1960s for the Area Wide Council (AWC), a coalition of North Philadelphia community leaders and organizations.

"Walt was charismatic, creative, politically smart, and people loved him," recalled Meeks, who served as AWC's executive director. "Walt

developed brilliant programs. He identified political and economic problems plaguing the African-American community. He held problem-solving, political education classes. He was an excellent teacher and a high motivator."

Consistent with his penchant for problem-solving in the midst of controversy, Walt Palmer stepped into a very dangerous situation in

1977 and prevented what could have been mass bloodshed. The situation involved MOVE.

The City of Philadelphia and MOVE were embroiled in an ongoing series of skirmishes. The city wanted the revolutionary, back-to-nature group to disappear, and MOVE was demanding that some of their comrades, who had been arrested in an earlier demonstration, be released from jail. The drama

escalated. MOVE brandished weapons. The police shut off water to the MOVE compound and set up a barricade.

Pam Africa remembers, "Walt was very sensitive to police brutality."

So, in waded Walter Palmer, with logic and sensibility his only tools. After nearly a year he and others hammered out an uneasy truce and agreement. The city would release MOVE members from jail. MOVE would relinquish its North 33rd Street headquarters.

The truce grew weak and finally crumbled. The tragic culmination arrived on Aug. 8, 1978. One police officer was killed and nine MOVE members arrested and convicted.

But Pam Africa said, "It was Walt who first came to us to offer help. And who told people to stop and examine what we were saying."

Palmer reasons that he fights so hard for the underclass because he knows and hates what it feels like to go hungry and be cold in winter and to be overcrowded in squalid living conditions.

Palmer was born in Atlantic City, where his father, Walter, Sr., did anything to make a dollar. The Palmer clan, which eventually swelled to 13, moved to West Philadelphia's "Black Bottom" at 36th and Market streets, to what they thought were better living conditions. But to his chagrin, what he contended with was "Three boys and five girls, my mom and pop sleeping in two rooms . . . fighting off rats." Palmer's mother Hannah was the disciplinarian, but "When my father spoke, it was an announcement from God!"

Those "announcements" must have rubbed off quite well, because Palmer has been making similar announcements to anyone who'll

listen. And he's been doing it for more than 40 years. But the message is still the same: "Be fiercely independent with a strong sense of pride; respect and love yourself and others."

That's essentially the message that Palmer is sending with his Palmer Foundation: Be aware, be alert, be ready for the challenge of tomorrow!

As I rose to leave, he chuckled and said, "Ya know, people won't let me forget the old days! A guy called me the other day and told me that he lost his job at SEPTA and wanted to know if I could get it back for him." Walt's grin widened. He continued, "So, I ask the guy when did he lose his job. He shoots back . . . 'in 1975!'"

And with that Walt rears back in the chair roaring with laughter. And that's the way I left him . . . the same way I met him . . . deadly serious . . . but with a great sense of humor.

## BPU to Run Educational Forums

Smith, Pamela

Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001); Sep 7, 1979; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Philadelphia Tribune  
pg. 15

# BPU to Run Educational Forums

By PAMELA J. SMITH  
(Of The Tribune Staff)

Walter Palmer, executive director of Black People's University in West Philadelphia, reports the BPU will conduct a series of "educational forums" with the four mayoral candidates within the next few weeks, with its primary focus being geared towards "Black Independence and Human Liberation."

There will be approximately four to six forum programs, two hours in length, each with the four candidates, which will be broadcast live on radio station WDAS in the latter part of September, according to Palmer. He said the forums are an attempt to end the "rhetoric" which has circulated throughout the community and to show the sincerity and/or commitment of each of the candidates.

Palmer said BPU is conducting the forums with candidates because of its broad background and more than 25 years of service in the Black community. Palmer added that BPU has been in the "forefront in successfully developing leadership principles, concepts and goals with the Black, Hispanics, poor whites and third-world people." He said BPU is "exclusive" in the sense of the research and time that it has put in.

**THE ISSUES** which Palmer said the forums will highlight include: health, education, social welfare, communications, employment, business, taxation, public services, utilities, consumerism, environmental control, housing, land utilization, transportation and recreation.

One of the major issues to be discussed during the forums will be a critique and analysis of the Black convention's, human rights platform. Palmer said the forum will take a more in-depth look at the mechanisms of Black political

conventions held in 1959, 1971 and 1979 in an attempt to gain better insight and direction for the future.

Government policies, law and security will also be discussed at the forums, Palmer stated.

Palmer said although the six forums will be broadcast live, there will not be any live audiences. After formal introductions of each participant and statement of purpose, candidates will be given 10 minutes to articulate his/her position on questions posed by a group of preselected journalists from the community. This will all be done during the first hour. The second hour will focus on federal, state and local aid to communities. The final 30 minutes will be for telephone calls from radio listeners.

Palmer, who said he is a "behind-the-scenes" community worker, endorsed Albert Gaudiosi during the primary elections. Gaudiosi later withdrew from the race. Palmer said that his support of Gaudiosi in the primary was a "political device" which "worked tactically." He would not elaborate on either of the two points and said they will be revealed at a later date. Palmer said he had not decided who he wanted to support for mayor as of yet. He said his decision will be based on "the individual candidates" who he said "have to decide whether they are willing to deal with the issues."

**THE MAYORAL** contest presently underway in Philadelphia was described as "dull" by Palmer, who said people are tired of the candidates not addressing real issues.

Palmer said in 1980 there must be an end to "Blacks not about the business of doing something positive." He said Blacks must begin to take responsibility for the problems in the Black community and stop blaming them on other factors. "I'm speaking about self-reliance, self-help, self-

determination, Black independence, human liberation and community control versus community participation. He said he is not speaking about more welfare. Palmer said he was amazed that no candidate has addressed himself to the issue that there is no public hospital in a city as large as Philadelphia. "If Black people are dissatisfied with institutions and what they are doing, then they should create their own," Palmer continued.

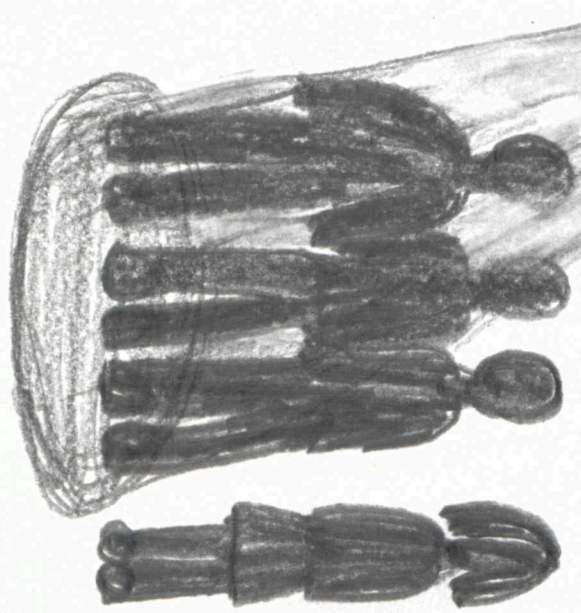
Palmer said the BPU's work includes a collection and the development of historical, cultural and technological materials on Black, white and Hispanic Americans as well as third-world



WALTER PALMER

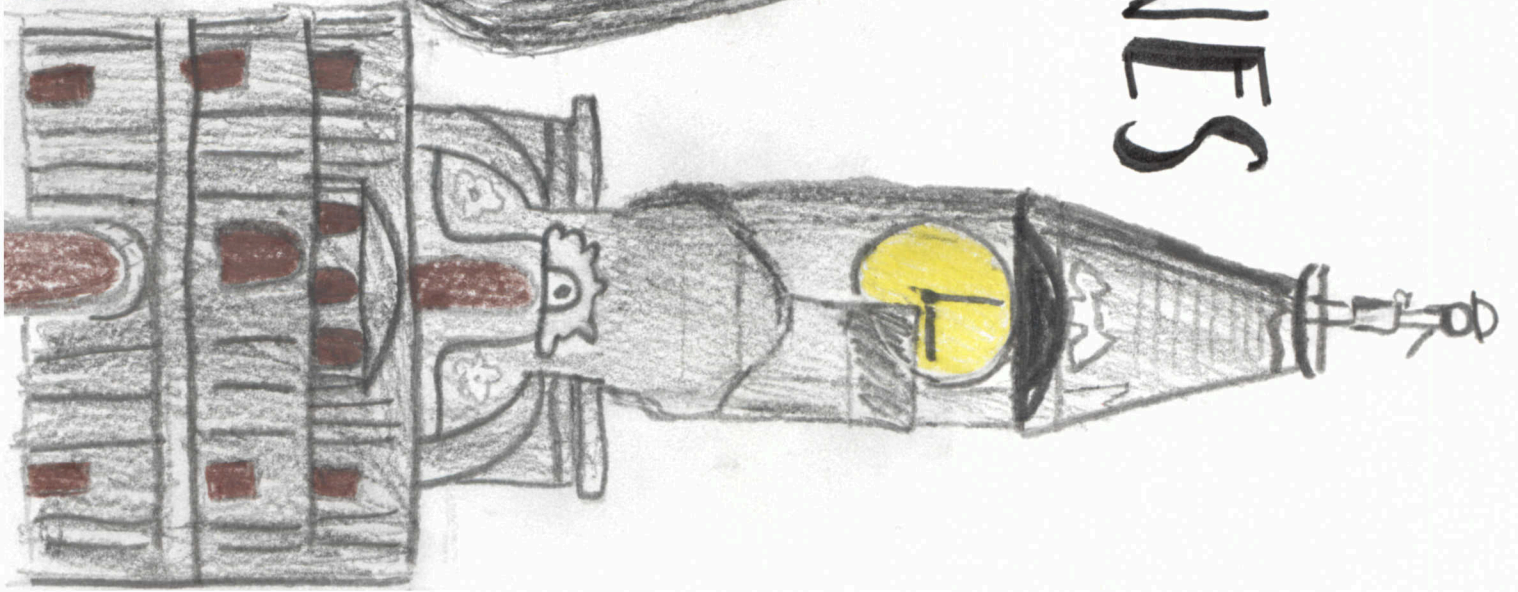
people. He said BPU has examined "closely" the notions of race, class, economics, racism, colonialism, neocolonialism and have developed an analysis of the impact that these notions have on all people.

**ROXANNE JONES**



WELFARE  
RIGHTS  
ORGANIZATION

# ROXANNNE JONES



Roxanne Jones: The Hero Philadelphia Needed  
Shahla Mukhtar, Kayla Gibson, Isaac Finn, Josephine Rosman

In the early 1960s, Roxanne Jones was working as a waitress with two kids and a broken marriage when she fell sick, and had to go on welfare. She was mistreated and disrespected by the welfare system, causing her to go to a Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organization (PWRO) meeting. Jones immediately became the chairperson, and after attending a few more meetings, decided to organize. Her goal was to reform the system in order to claim dignity and respect. Roxanne Jones organized a campaign alongside her fellow welfare recipients to convince the Salvation Army to adapt their policies to accommodate women without husbands. She also called for more jobs for welfare recipients and an end to the practice of giving rotten meats to people on welfare.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, she organized demonstrations to campaign for store credit.<sup>2</sup> Roxanne Jones and the PWRO stationed members inside welfare offices to ensure people were being treated fairly and even slept in front of the local state building to fight for better rights for people on welfare.<sup>3</sup> In 1970, following the PWRO's protest at the state capitol when Welfare Rights Organization members were excluded from a meeting, Roxanne Jones was found guilty of throwing her shoe through the governor's window.<sup>4</sup> However, her efforts kept many older people from getting taken off of welfare. In 1972, she participated in the protest during which the National Welfare Rights Organization's (NWRO) occupied President Nixon's office to draw attention to the NWRO's issues.<sup>5</sup> Last but not least, Roxanne Jones was the first Black woman elected to the State Senate in 1984, and continued to work to secure the rights of the people she served until her death.<sup>6</sup>

We feel that Roxanne Jones is an undersung hero because she did so much for the people of Philadelphia, yet there is little information easily available about her. Roxanne Jones noticed that an entire financial class of Philadelphia was being mistreated and pushed to the side, and then dedicated her life to fixing the problems that the welfare recipients faced. She

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<sup>1</sup> "Interview with Senator Roxanne Jones." *Home - Washington University Digital Gateway*, Washington University in St. Louis, digital.wustl.edu/e/eii/eiiweb/jon5427.0901.083senatorroxannejones.html.

<sup>2</sup> Geller, Lawrence. "Welfare Rights Group Pushers Fight for Store Credit." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Jul 23, 1968, pp. 3. *ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532467293?accountid=70954>.

<sup>3</sup> Geller, L. (1969, Apr 22). Welfare rights members still sleeping in front of local state building. *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)* Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532493929?accountid=70954>

<sup>4</sup> Haynes, P. (1970, Sep 26). Roxanne Jones found 'guilty' despite character witnesses. *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)* Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532579754?accountid=70954>.

<sup>5</sup> "Interview with Senator Roxanne Jones." *Home - Washington University Digital Gateway*, Washington University in St. Louis, digital.wustl.edu/e/eii/eiiweb/jon5427.0901.083senatorroxannejones.html.

<sup>6</sup> Wright, Barnett. "When She Spoke, it Came Straight from the Heart." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, May 21, 1996, pp. 2. *ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/533175679?accountid=70954>.

improved the lives and treatment of welfare recipients by doing whatever she had to do to raise awareness for issues that affected the less wealthy. Through her determination and resilience, Roxanne Jones forced significant change for welfare recipients by improving their quality of life and making women more capable of independence. We think that any undersung hero, who dedicated their life to helping others like Roxanne Jones, should be more widely celebrated.



# Welfare Rights Group Pushes Fight for Store Credit Every City Department Store Will Be Asked to 'Cooperate'

By LAWRENCE H. GELLER  
Lives of other department stores and door-to-door salesmen  
fresh from last week's victory over the problem of obtaining credit  
with the I.L. Brothers Department Store in obtaining a limited amount  
from several downtown stores.  
The Philadelphia Welfare Rights people on relief who are forced to  
Organization (WRO), the organization pay high prices for lower quality  
tion is planning to meet with executives from photo. mer-

OTHER STORES SCREENED  
Mrs. Roxanne Jones, chair-  
division told Mrs. Jones  
Strawbridge and Clothier, Gamble  
Brothers and John Wanamaker de-  
partment stores will be asked to  
agree to the same type of agree-  
ment as was negotiated with I.L.  
Brothers.

This agreement provides for 50  
WRO members to receive \$50 worth  
of credit for a trial period. If it is  
successful at the end of two  
three months, the program will be  
extended to include 100 or more  
WRO members.

WRO picketed Lis at 8th and  
Market six. Before the company  
finally agreed to the program  
It was indicated to The Tribune  
by WRO leaders that if the nego-  
tations with the other three ma-  
jor department stores proved fruit-  
less, picket lines will go up around  
each of their downtown stores.

Mrs. Roxanne Jones, chairman  
of WRO, added that customers who  
already have credit cards in each  
of the stores will be asked to turn  
in their credit cards if they are  
presently in the cause of the  
welfare recipients.

MIDDLE-CLASS SUPPORTERS  
middle-class persons—white and black  
—who have credit in these stores  
and would be sympathetic to our  
cause. If they saw a picket line  
around some of these department  
stores," said Mrs. Jones.

She did report that two persons  
all turn in their Lis credit cards  
within a half-hour after they saw  
the picket lines in front of the store.  
Mrs. Jones said she was with Lis for  
30 years, a subscriber to Lis for  
an from the suburbs turned in her  
credit card to the company's credit  
department.

Picketing not to be identified—  
"I have neighbors who don't agree  
with me"—she told the Tribune that  
when she saw the pickets in front  
of the store, she said to herself,  
"They must have a cause to be  
out here in this 85 degree heat."

CHEMIST CALLED TO WRO  
When I stopped to ask them  
and found out that I was  
just cause and that I could do my  
small bit," said the woman.  
Another sympathizer to the cause  
was Arthur Smith, of 1312 Champ-  
lot st.

He turned over his credit card  
to WRO.  
About an hour after the picketing  
ended, Lis met with the WRO  
leaders and announced its new  
policy.  
Both the woman from the sub-  
urbs and Mr. Smith were notified  
later about the results by WRO.  
— An Oshawa Court Judge —

## Welfare Rights Members Still Sleeping in Front Of Local State Building

By LAWRENCE H. GELLER  
OF THE TRIBUNE STAFF

Ten hardy black and white members of the Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organization (WRO) spent their fifth "hard day's night" sleeping in front of the State Office Building, Broad and Spring Garden sts., last evening, protesting a decision by Gov. Shafer which they claim is making it difficult for welfare recipients to obtain emergency checks.

Shivering and smiling, despite being wrapped in blankets and suffering from aches and pains from the hard ground, the women claim "the Shafer Administration is in financial trouble and trying to grab a few pennies from the already empty pockets of the poorest people in the State of Pennsylvania."

### ISSUE IS EXPLAINED

"The issue is this," explained Mrs. Nancy DeCarles, 31, chairman of this latest WRO demonstration. "Previously, if a woman didn't

get her check on time she could go to her local district office, sign a form and get a check within the same day.

"Now," she continued between sips of hot coffee, "Shafer has ordered that all the paper work be sent to the central office, here at Broad and Spring Garden sts., where delays of between two days and two weeks have developed.

"This is creating a hardship on our people."

Mrs. Davenport, who is white and chairman of Bella Vista WRO in South Philadelphia, cited the case of a Mrs. Patricia Davenport who had to wait eight days before she finally received her overdue check.

"We all gathered around and provided her with food to tide her over," said Mrs. Davenport. "But now the landlord is threatening her with constable eviction because she couldn't pay her rent."

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 4)



SINCE THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN, Mrs. Roxanne Jones (right), chairman of the Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organization, has been stricken with pneumonia. She is shown here last Friday with other demonstrators outside the State Office Building where they have

been "living," protesting an administrative decision by Gov. Shafer which they claim is making it more difficult for welfare recipients to get emergency aid. Mrs. Nancy DeCarles (dark glasses) is the chairman of the demonstration. — (Tribune photo by Lawrence H. Geller)

# Welfare Rights Members

(Continued from Page 1)

"This is only one example of the many cases which have come before us," she said, "and Shafer is going around the state trying to tell people he's trying to help people."

Another WRO member, Mrs. Cora Lee Perkins, spoke out saying, "I am a mother, too, and I can understand what Mrs. Davenport went through. It could happen to anyone of us."

"My check doesn't come out on time frequently," declared Mrs. Anna Hill, who also touched on another sensitive subject to WRO.

"Many clerks and caseworkers just don't treat our people right," she said, "I heard a worker tell a WRO member she would be lucky to get a check because of her association with WRO."

Mrs. Hill claims this incident took place at West District, 2416 Walnut st.

## COOPERATION WANTED

It is a fact that many welfare workers have not been too pleased since WRO has stationed itself within welfare offices throughout the city in order "to see that welfare clients are treated correctly."

Mrs. DeCarles agreed.

"Many of these workers treat our people as if they are a trouble to them instead of trying to help them."

Mrs. DeCarles said "We want to work together with the welfare workers—their working conditions aren't too good either—but while some want to cooperate with us, many still refuse and treat welfare recipients poorly."

A former welfare recipient from New York, Turner Owens, 22, said he was there to lend moral support to their cause.

"I used to be on welfare and I

know what it's like," said the youthful restaurant worker. "It's a mess. I don't like seeing people have to sit out like this to get what is right."

"It would bother my conscience not to take part in their demonstration."

## MRS. ROXANNE JONES

Mrs. Roxanne Jones, the dynamic chairman of WRO, had little to say that morning. She was suffering from a severe chest cold, and sleeping outside was not helping her condition.

But as one demonstrator said, "Roxanne is saying more by her presence here than all the speeches of Mayor Tate or President Nixon."

Mrs. DeCarles gave Roxanne a cup of coffee, and said "I've learned a lot since working with Roxanne together."

anne. Black and white have to work She said they intend to stay there until Shafer rescinds his decision.

William Saito, Philadelphia director of the Department of Public Welfare, refused to see the demonstrators and had "no comment" to make to The Tribune.

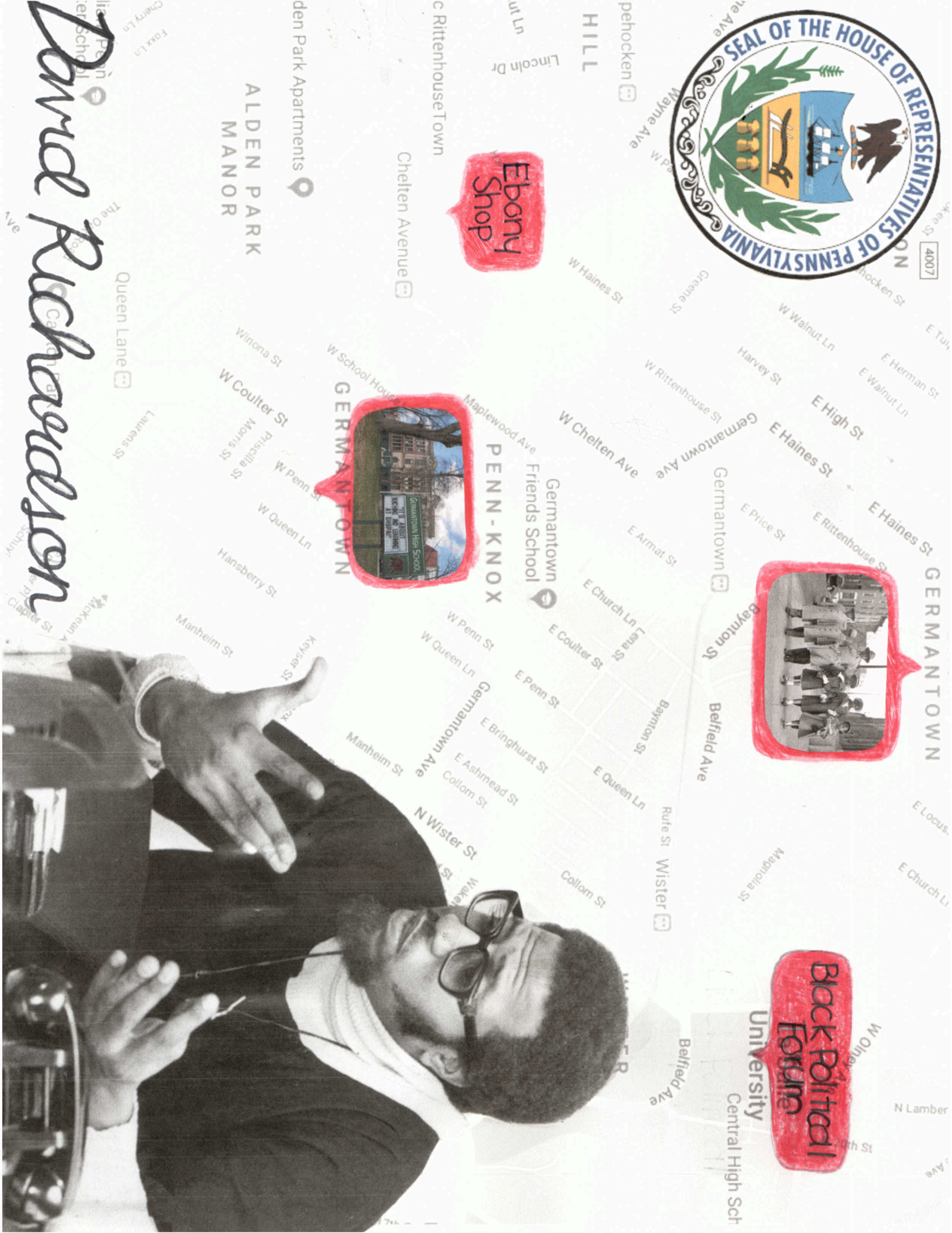
The current demonstration started last Thursday night as prayers were said and songs were sung in a candlelight service with 250 supporters.

— "85th Anniversary" —

**DAVID P.  
RICHARDSON**



*David Richardson*



Josiah Kane-Howell, Zoe Millstein, Julia Morris, Jessica Urofsky

“Rep. Dave Richardson: The People’s Legislator”

David P. Richardson was born April 23, 1948, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Richardson attended Germantown High School. After graduating, he went on to serve in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, representing Germantown, and taking his seat in the House in January of 1973.<sup>1</sup> For the next forty-seven years, Richardson would not only transform the neighborhood, but the city as a whole. Richardson’s devotion to helping Philadelphia and its African American population prosper may have been forgotten, but is still visible today.

Richardson’s political activism began in high school. He organized rallies in effort of making African American History a mandatory course in all high schools in the Philadelphia School District.<sup>2</sup> Later, he founded the Young Afro-Americans of Germantown, a group designed for young black activists. The goal of this youth group was to end gang violence and promote self-pride in being African American. Eventually, Richardson and the Young Afro-Americans of Germantown founded the Ebony shop, selling handmade African products and promoting racial harmony among Philadelphians.<sup>3</sup> Richardson’s drive for change would continue. At twenty-four, Richardson would become the youngest state representative of his time. He was victorious in winning the election due to his personable campaign strategy. Richardson used one on one interactions, such as street rallies, to spread his political views; unlike his white opponents who depended on newsletters to do the job.<sup>4</sup> When he was elected into office, Richardson

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<sup>1</sup> "His Career Marked by Service to Others." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Aug 25, 1995, pp. 1. *ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/533148485?accountid=70954>.

<sup>2</sup> "His Career Marked by Service to Others." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Aug 25, 1995, pp. 1. *ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/533148485?accountid=70954>.

<sup>3</sup> "From Protest to Politics." *Up South: Civil Rights and Black Power in Philadelphia*, by Matthew Countryman, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007, pp. 317–319.

<sup>4</sup> Lear, Len. "Germantown Mt. Airy NORTHWEST NEWS Oak Lane Chestnut Hill." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Apr 29, 1972, pp. 4. *ProQuest*.

immediately began his work on a lien bill. This bill would allow welfare recipient homeowners to place liens against their homes so renters received no penalty. The bill was passed in 1993 and became a significant part of his time in office. It took 16 years to pass.<sup>5</sup> While Richardson was in office, he was sure to be present at every meeting, and even if his schedule was already filled, he would send an assistant. Richardson often provided for his community with money out of his own pocket<sup>6</sup> and was also known for his work with the Philadelphia youth during his time in office. Richardson was honored for his abundant amount of work in 1982.<sup>7</sup> He became the chair of the Health and Human Services Committee in 1994.<sup>8</sup> In 1995 Richardson died of a heart attack. His accomplishments prior to his death left a major impact on Philadelphia.<sup>9</sup>

Despite the amount of change he brought to the communities of Philadelphia, Richardson's work would go mostly unnoticed, making him an unsung hero. He was the founder of the Young Afro-Americans of Germantown, whose mission was to raise leaders that would continue to solve problems that the Democratic machine had neglected for so many years. With the help of this youth group, Richardson personally reached out to residents in Philadelphia to receive their vote when running for State Representative for Germantown.<sup>10</sup> Once elected, Richardson strove for progress in Germantown by working on the lien bill,<sup>11</sup> helping youth

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<https://search.proquest.com/docview/532739064?accountid=70954>.

<sup>5</sup> "His Career Marked by Service to Others." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Aug 25, 1995, pp. 1.

*ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/533148485?accountid=70954>.

<sup>6</sup> Rep. dave richardson: The people's legislator. (1973, Aug 25). *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)* Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532593519?accountid=70954>

<sup>7</sup> Tyner, A. (1982, ). Richardson, honored for his principles. *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)* Retrieved from <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532795700?accountid=70954>

<sup>8</sup> "His Career Marked by Service to Others." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Aug 25, 1995, pp. 1.

*ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/533148485?accountid=70954>.

<sup>9</sup> "From Protest to Politics." *Up South: Civil Rights and Black Power in Philadelphia*, by Matthew Countryman, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007, pp. 317–319.

<sup>10</sup> Lear, Len. "Germantown Mt. Airy NORTHWEST NEWS Oak Lane Chestnut Hill." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Apr 29, 1972, pp. 4. *ProQuest*, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/532739064?accountid=70954>.

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groups, and personally paying attention to his community's specific needs.<sup>12</sup> By his death in 1995, Richardson had made a major impact on Germantown and the city of Philadelphia.

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<sup>12</sup> "His Career Marked by Service to Others." *Philadelphia Tribune (1912-2001)*, Aug 25, 1995, pp. 1. ProQuest, <https://search.proquest.com/docview/533148485?accountid=70954>.





State Rep. Dave Richardson takes time to give thanks for his many accomplishments during a testimonial in his honor. Funds were raised to help keep his Germantown office in operation.

## Richardson honored for his principles

BY ARLENE TYNER  
(Special To The Tribune)

Some 700 people recently gathered to honor State Rep. David P. Richardson Jr. (D-201st), called the "standard bearer for independent politics" in our city.

At 33, Richardson has already spent 10 years in the state legislature. He is currently minority chairman of the House Urban Affairs Committee and vice chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus.

The salute was a virtual who's who of the independent political movement, Black and white. Diverse grassroots groups, community leaders and elected officials, from Germantown and other sections of the city, joined in their praise for "a Man of Principle" who, they declared, never wavered from his commitment to independent politics and steadfast service to poor, oppressed and working people.

Newly elected Mayor Melvin Primas of Camden, the first Black mayor in that city's 151-year history, gave the keynote address at the Twelve Caesars Restaurant on City Line Avenue.

"How can it be that we can put people on the moon and bring them back, that we can push buttons to control travelling for years out in space, yet people in my city and yours don't have food to eat or heat for their homes?" Primas asked.

Only unity and the exercise of political power at a grassroots level can turn back the "conspiracy to renege on the government's commitment to equal opportunity and social justice," Primas said.

He lambasted the Reagan administration's budget cuts, its retreats on affirmative action and the rise in unemployment and inflation due to Reaganomics.

Primas paid tribute to grassroots political activists in both cities in the late '60s and '70s who made possible his own election — first as a councilman in 1973 — as well as Richardson's election in 1972.

He called for the election of independent Black candidates

more responsive to the needs of the Afro-American community.

Afro-Americans number more than 20 percent in 93 congressional districts. Primas noted, urging stronger Black political organization and unity.

Primas scored the Republican National Committee's recent use of armed police to harass Black and Hispanic voters at New Jersey polls, saying he is part of a statewide coalition "to see that the Ballot Security Task Force is put to sleep forever."

A \$10 million lawsuit has since been filed against the Republican national and state committees by the Democratic Party. The suit charges violation of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution by means of "intimidating, threatening and coercing" voters.

A consistent initiator of progressive legislation, Richardson has sponsored 56 bills and cosponsored 44 others in this session alone.

He is responsible for legislation making Jan. 15, Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, a state holiday. Over the last few years, he has been on the front lines to defeat "Thorn-fare" (and now "Reagan-fare") which would disqualify poor people from receiving welfare. He also fought to defeat regressive legislation that is discriminatory against young people caught up in the criminal justice system.

As an initiator of the People's Alliance for Human Needs, a citywide coalition of 100 organizations working to reverse the Reagan budget cuts, Richardson has demanded, "Feed the people, not the Pentagon."

Dr. Paul Vance, school superintendent of Montgomery County and one of Richardson's early supporters, praised his courage in shielding with his own body a young woman being beaten during the bloody police riot of Nov. 17, 1967.

In that incident, police charged into 10,000 Black high school students demanding the teaching of Afro-American history. The attack was led by then chief of police and later mayor, Frank L. Rizzo.

Vance declared that this demonstration and the brutal beating of Richardson, then 19, launched his political career. Richardson was hospitalized and required 13 stitches. Charges against him of "inciting to riot" and "assault and battery" on police officers were later dropped.

Richardson was widely recognized as a North Philadelphia youth leader, and election organizer for state Rep. Hardy Williams when he defeated the Democratic Party-endorsed candidate to become, at 23, the youngest Afro-American elected to office in the state and, possibly, in the nation.

Dr. Ed Robinson, Richardson's uncle, a teacher of Black history and assistant city managing director, compared Richardson to Sunni Ali Ber, "one of our African fathers," who inspired such courage in his followers that "when he entered a room, fear fled by the nearest exit."

Georgia Woods, WDAS radio personality, saluted Richardson's selflessness and great personal sacrifice in finding shelter for homeless, destitute men, women and children, no matter what the hour of the day or night.

The testimonial dinner was co-hosted by WDAS Station Manager Cody Anderson and Eleanor Jean Hendley, host of the "City Lights," KYW-TV variety show. Inspiring music was provided by Alicia B. Tee, Juanita Holiday and the popular vocal group, Sister Sledge.

The testimonial committee was co-chaired by Madaline G. Dunn, Gloria Bethea, Alfedra Powers, Esther Solomon and Samira Woods.

Richardson thanked each member of his family for their support. He urged people to come together once again based on the "old-fashioned" principles of love, respect and trust. He promised direct action, such as "soup lines" so that no one will starve as a result of Reagan's cutbacks.

"We must trample not upon each other, but upon the injustices that oppress us. This is the commitment instilled in me," he said to a standing ovation.

# Dave Richardson Scores Dramatic Upset Over Democratic Machine

By LEN LEAR  
 white man in the race (in a district that is 70 per cent Black) scored a shocking and decisive victory in Tuesday's 201st Legislative District Democratic primary election over incumbent Frank Rush and two other opponents, Gloria Lorente and Levi Wilson. Unofficial returns showed Richardson with 3,251 votes, Rush with 2,361, and Wilson and Lorente with 514 and 377 respectively. The victory was especially sweet for the maverick Richardson because Rush, the only

white man in the race (in a district that is 70 per cent Black), not only had the support of the Democratic Committee but also of the Democratic primary election over incumbent Frank Rush and two other opponents, Gloria Lorente and Levi Wilson. Unofficial returns showed Richardson with 3,251 votes, Rush with 2,361, and Wilson and Lorente with 514 and 377 respectively. The victory was especially sweet for the maverick Richardson because Rush, the only

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DAVE RICHARDSON

# Rep. Dave Richardson: The People's Legislator

David Richardson, State Representative from the city's 201st legislative district, is part of a "new breed" among elected officials. At 25 years of age, he is the youngest member of the Pennsylvania State Legislature, but his uniqueness goes far beyond that.

A former gang member, Richardson overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles last year to achieve his present position. All three Democratic ward leaders in the district—Joe Coleman, Eddie Lee and Frank Rush—supported his opponent in the primary election (Rush). Nevertheless, with an unprecedented effort by many Germantown youth groups, Richardson became the only candidate in all of the city's legislative primary races to win out over the opposition of the powerful Democratic City Committee.

As a legislator, Richardson has proved to be just as independent and hard-working as he was as a campaigner. Every day when the legislature is in session, Dave boards a train to Harrisburg early in the morning, returns at night to spend two or three hours in his office at 6371 Germantown Avenue dealing with constituents' problems, and then attends meetings of community groups, often until late at night.

"If a person wants to maintain a private life, then he should stay a private citizen," Richardson told the Tribune recently. "Once a person becomes a public official, his first obligation must be to the people of his district. If he is only thinking of how much money he can make or how he can win the next higher office, as so many in Harrisburg do, then he has betrayed his constituency.

"I am on call 24 hours a day, and I will get out of bed at 4 A.M. if a con-

stituent needs my help. Furthermore, a public official should attend every community meeting to which he's invited or send an assistant if he's invited to more than one at the same time. My allegiance is not to the Democratic Party but to the people who put me in office."

Richardson's involvement is not just a lot of rhetoric. Earlier this month he was a patron in the Germantown Social Club when a man pulled out a gun and threatened to kill a woman with whom he had been arguing. As other patrons scurried for cover, Richardson rushed over to the man, despite the obvious physical danger, and calmly helped to defuse the potentially tragic situation.

Richardson has also been known to dip into his own pocket to assist constituents in need despite the fact that he has no income outside of his meager legislator's salary, and he has been very active in the struggles against gang violence, police abuses, capital punishment and outdated prison policies.

Unfortunately, too many newspaper accounts have concentrated on Richardson's wardrobe (he often wears a dashiki on the floor of the State House instead of a suit and tie) instead of his performance as a legislator. The Tribune, however, would like to acknowledge the fact that Richardson is a breath of fresh air in the stagnant, cynical world of electoral politics. If more public officials shared Richardson's dedication to the ordinary people who put them in office, many of the Black community's seemingly never-ending problems would be a lot closer to a solution.