

# COUNCIL ON BLACK MINNESOTANS

March 1983

## 1982-83 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**Steven L. Belton**  
Executive Director



1983 marks the third year in existence of the Council on Black Minnesotans and while we are proud of our accomplishments to date (see Chair's report this page), we are deeply troubled by the problems which continue to plague our communities and challenge the quality of life enjoyed by Black Americans.

A quote from A. Philip Randolph is as relevant today as at in anytime in our history: "the salvation of the Negro must come from within".

Black community based organizations and special interest advocacy groups face an enormous challenge today to provide leadership that will lay a foundation for future generations of Black Americans. Many Black leaders believe that we can build the needed foundation if we consolidate our resources and work together according to a common plan.

The idea of a common national plan was articulated at the inaugural dinner for the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971 when actor Ossie Davis admonished the leadership of the CBC to "give Black people a plan of action in which all of us can play a meaningful part." In response to Ossie Davis' admonition the CBC, in conjunction with an amalgam of national civil rights and Black advocacy organizations, developed and produced a "plan" entitled "The Black Leadership Family Plan for the Unity, Survival, and Progress of Black People".

The "family plan", as it is called, has three purposes: 1) to develop a basic set of rules for Black unity, survival, and progress; 2) to establish a Black Development Fund, and 3) to provide a set of instructions for implementation of the Plan by individuals and organizations.

The Plan includes 12 rules that state simply that Blacks should:

- 1) Support the Black church,
- 2) Protect the elderly and support the young,
- 3) Excel in education,
- 4) Oppose crime,
- 5) Contribute to the Black Development Fund,
- 6) Buy and bank Black,
- 7) Register and vote,
- 8) Hold elected officials accountable,
- 9) Support Black family and community life,
- 10) Challenge and boycott negative media and support positive media,
- 11) Secure and defend the Black Community, and;
- 12) Support Mother Africa and Caribbean Nations.

According to the Plan's authors, these rules do not appear in any special order of importance and each rule is an important



**Clarence E. Harris**  
Chairman

The most important reason for the existence of the Council on Black Minnesotans is to help make Minnesota a better place for Black people to live and pursue their goals. Obviously, this is an ongoing commitment. But, we believe that the Council's 1982 activities, summarized below, have furthered our goal of improving the quality of life for Black people living

in Minnesota.

The CBM provided substantial leadership on the issue of Black foster care and adoption, and the reform of the state Set-Aside program for socially and economically disadvantaged businesses. Changes dealing with both issues will be proposed to the 1983 session of the Minnesota legislature as a result of public hearings held by the CBM.

The CBM worked along with other organizations to support passage of a bill that would make Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday a Minnesota state holiday. The bill, authored by Senator Don Moe and Representative Fred Norton (both DFL, St. Paul) has yet to receive a committee hearing, but a resolution authored by Rep. Randy Staten (DFL, Mpls) creating a memorial to Dr. King by placing a bust in the State Capitol did pass the legislature. Senator Linda Berglin (DFL, Mpls) and Rep. Staten have introduced bills in the current session which again would establish an MLK state holiday.

The CBM also worked along with other organizations to lobby the state legislature for passage of a bill sponsored by Representative Randy Staten (D-Mpls.) that would prohibit the State Board of Investment from investing in banks doing business in South Africa. Although the South Africa sanctions bill passed the Minnesota House and Senate in a modified

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# LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

The four part report which follows discusses several bills introduced during the 1981 legislative session which are of particular, and in some instances general importance to Black people.

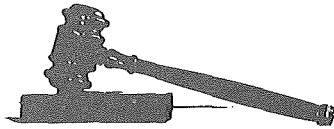
The "New Law" section reports on bills which were passed by both houses of the legislature and ultimately signed into law by the governor.

The section on "Bill Introductions" reports on bills which for any of several possible reasons did not culminate in law.

References precede discussion of each piece of legislation and indicate (for new law) the chapter of Minnesota Statutes in which the law is codified and a senate file (S.F.) number and house file (H.F.) number where applicable. Also listed are the chief Senate and House authors of each bill.

To acquire additional information such as co-authors or committee assignment of bills you may contact the House Index Department, Room 211 State Capitol, St. Paul 55155, (612) 296-6646. Or, Senate Index, Room 231 State Capitol, St. Paul 55155, (612) 296-2887. Copies of bills and resolutions are mailed at your request by contacting the Chief Clerk's office, Room 211 State Capitol, St. Paul 55155 (612) 296-2314.

## New Law



### CIVIL RIGHTS

Chapter 489 (S.F. 1666/H.F. 1826)

Authors: Senator Hanson (DFL, Hallock, 1)  
Representative Wynia (DFL, St. Paul, 62A)

Attaches a surcharge on district, county and municipal civil court filing fees. Receipts from the surcharge will be distributed to legal service programs which would provide legal counsel to persons unable to afford private counsel in civil law matters.

Effective July 1, 1982

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chapter 626 (S.F. 2042/H.F. 1902)

Authors: Senator Lantry (DFL, St. Paul, 67)  
Representative F. Rodriguez (DFL, St. Paul, 67A)

Creates a small business set-aside program in Ramsey County. Small or economically disadvantaged business owners will be ensured a percentage of construction and vendor service contracts awarded by Ramsey County.

Effective upon approval by Ramsey County.

Chapter 632 (S.F. 1930/H.F. 1994)

Authors: Senator Solon (DFL, Duluth, 7)  
Representative Wynia (DFL, St. Paul, 62A)

Authorizes banks and trust companies to invest 2 percent of their assets into community welfare projects, includes rehabilitation or development of economically depressed residential, commercial or industrial areas.

Effective day following final enactment.

### HOUSING

Chapter 380 (S.F./ 2174/H.F. 2249)

Authors: Senator Knoll (DFL, Minneapolis, 61)  
Representative Kostohryz (DFL, North St. Paul, 50B)

Appropriates \$200,000 to the state housing development fund for the purpose of making loans available to individuals eligible according to Section 8 income guidelines.

Effective day following enactment.

### HOUSE ADVISORY

An advisory bill is a proposal for the initiation, termination, or change of a law or program. Advisory bills are referred to a standing legislative committee for consideration and or study.

\*H.A. 49

Author: Representative Byrne (DFL, Minneapolis, 64B)

A proposal to study the extent of out-of-home placements of Minnesota juveniles. The study would consider:

- (1) placement made out-of-state and the reasons they occur;
- (2) length of placement;
- (3) cost and financing of placement facilities;
- (4) reasons for placement;
- (5) categories of juvenile placement

Referred to Health and Welfare Committee.

\*H.A. 53

Author: Representative Greenfield (DFL, Minneapolis, 57B)

A proposal to study the impact of 1981 and 1982 budget cuts in general assistance and general assistance medical care. Case load comparisons and dollar expenditures before and after the reductions would be analyzed, along with effects of budget reductions on providers and consumers.

Referred to Health and Welfare Committee.

\*H.A. 59

Author: Representative Samuelson (DFL, Brainerd, 13A)

A proposal to establish a committee which would study employment and job creation for recipients of general assistance and AFDC.

Referred to Labor-Management Relations Committee.

### WELFARE

Chapter 557 (S.F. 1650/H.F. 1690)

Authors: Senator Knutson (IR, Burnsville, 53)  
Representative Forsythe (IR, Edina, 39A)

Reduces the number of children in residential foster care facilities for periods of more than 24 months. Also allows foster children and adopted children to receive medical assistance payments.

Effective March 22, 1982.



## Bill Introductions

### BUSINESS

S.F. 831/H.F. 1538

Authors: Senator Tennesen (DFL, Minneapolis, 59)  
Representative Berkelman (DFL, Duluth, 8B)

Would allow retail stores (i.e., furniture, appliance, and clothing) to set interest rates on credit purchases. Since many commercial creditors will not lend money to the Black poor, many prospective buyers will be forced to pay extremely high interest rates.

Withdrawn by the authors.

### CIVIL RIGHTS

S.F. 1637/H.F. 1811

Authors: Senator Spear (DFL, Minneapolis, 57)  
Representative Staten (DFL, Minneapolis, 56A)

Would prohibit the State Investment Board which invests state pensions from investing in banks that lend money to South Africa.

Vetoed by Governor Al Quie.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

S.F. 2097/H.F. 2260

Authors: Senator Solon (DFL, Duluth, 7)  
Representative Berkelman (DFL, Duluth, 8)

Would designate as enterprise zones areas of poverty, unemployment, and distress; outlines benefits for business located in enterprise zones.

Nullified in committee.

S.F. 2070/H.F. 1539

Authors: Senator Sieloff (IR, St. Paul, 63)  
Representative Peterson (IR, Bloomington, 36B)

Would authorize the Department of Energy, Planning and Development to administer an enterprise zone act. The act would provide tax incentives for enterprise zone businesses and allow exemptions on price and wage controls, building codes and zoning requirements.

Nullified in session.

S.F. 2049/H.F. 2114

Authors: Senator Pillsbury (IR, Wayzata, 42)  
Representative Heinitz (IR, Plymouth, 43A)

Would grant a state tax credit to businesses that make financial contributions to neighborhood agencies and organizations in low income areas.

Nullified in session.



## A Legislative View of Issues affecting Black Minnesotans

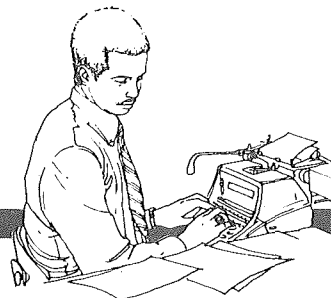
Following the 1982 Legislative session, the CBM presented four public policy questions to Senator Roger Moe, Minnesota Senate Majority Leader and Representative Harry Sieben, Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives. The questions, prepared by the CBM staff, were as follows:

1) Unemployment rates among Black wage earners in Minnesota have increased to alarming proportions. The Minneapolis Urban League estimates the unemployment rates for Black adult and youth wage earners to be 17 and 50.3 percent respectively, as of November, 1981. Do we want to keep these 1981 statistics? *What do you see as the root of this problem? What can be done in Minnesota to remedy this situation?*

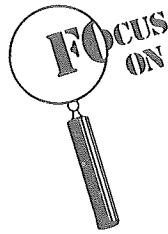
2) A recent Gallup poll showed that 27 percent of the American public was satisfied with the way things were going in this country. The exception in this poll was non-whites, only 17 percent responded as being satisfied—practically unchanged from one year ago. *In your opinion, has the quality of life for Black Minnesotans improved, remained the same, or decreased over the past year?*

3) An overwhelming majority of Black Minnesotans favor making Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday a national and state holiday. For the past several years thousands of Minnesotans from various race and ethnic groups have marched on the State Capitol to express support for such legislation. Currently eleven (11) states have established state holidays in honor of Dr. King. *Would you support legislation making Dr. King's birthday a state holiday in Minnesota?*

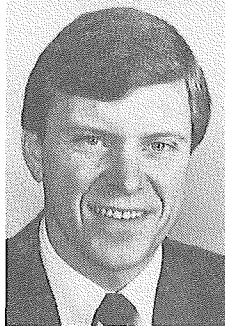
4) President Reagan has proposed a controversial plan to transfer \$47 billion in state and local programs to state and local governments. The heart of the program calls for the federal government to give up its responsibility for the Foodstamp and A.F.D.C. programs and in return, the federal government would, beginning in fiscal 1984, relieve the states of any financial responsibility for Medicaid. *Do you favor the President's proposal? Please speculate on the programmatic and economic impact of the proposed swap on poor people of this state.* ■



The following responses were taken from an interview with Senator Moe by Katherine Harp of the CBM staff, and from Representative Sieben's written response to our questions.



## A Legislative View of Issues affecting Black Minnesotans



### Senator Moe's Response

**Question #1 (Black Unemployment):** Minnesotans get the ripple effect of the nation's economic crisis. The national decline in auto sales has meant a similar decline in the purchase of steel from Minnesota companies. Construction and trade is almost at a standstill due to skyrocketing interest rates. And, the agricultural industry in Minnesota is suffering because of the high cost of equipment, labor, and transportation.

In order for the state to improve its economic situation, I am proposing that the state construct 886 new units of Section 8 housing with below market interest rates. The federal government will provide a \$37 million grant to complete the project if the Legislature provides \$1.5 million. The new construction project would not only provide affordable housing at low interest rates, but also produce a great number of jobs for the unemployed.

Another solution to Minnesota's economic problems would be state highway construction to provide jobs for skilled and unskilled workers.

In terms of providing jobs within the state for the 1980's, new techniques for energy use should be developed. While Minnesota energy resources are being improved, I also suggest training the state's unemployed workers for high technology fields, such as the computer industry which offer a wide range of skilled and unskilled occupations.

**Question #2 (Quality of Life):** The quality of life has declined for most Americans due to the nation's economic crisis, and while the quality of life in Minnesota has declined for everyone during the past year, minorities are getting hit hardest from the downward slope of the state's economy.

In addition, policies of the Reagan administration reveal a conservative bias toward racial minorities and a loss of commitment to civil and human rights fought for by Hubert Humphrey and others. These policies have set back the efforts of the civil rights movement.

**Question #3 (Memorial):** The legislature would be reluctant to create a new state holiday. This would place an additional burden on employers because of the workers' right to take the day off and receive the normal daily salary. The problems we are facing with our state budget deficit would make it an unfavorable move at this time.

Senator Berglin has a resolution in the Rules Committee which would memorialize the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King by having a bust of him placed in the Capitol. This is really the best we can do at this time.

**Question #4 (New Federalism):** President Reagan's proposed swap-aid, or new federalism program is viewed by many as a systematic approach to end the Foodstamp and Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) programs by placing full responsibility for funding these programs on each state, many of which cannot or will not meet this financial obligation.

I believe this type of lessening of the federal role will cause welfare recipients in neighboring states with less benevolent legislatures to be forced to move to states such as Minnesota that attempt to provide the necessary entitlements. Any added influx of recipients to the state welfare rolls, however, would cause a budget deficit which might end the program. ■

### Representative Sieben's Response

**Question #1 (Black Unemployment):** "There are three basic causes of Black unemployment. First there is a mismatch between educational levels and job skills possessed by most of the unemployed and the qualifications necessary for the jobs available. That is a problem in good times as well as bad, but it is especially so in a recession where companies tend to reduce

costs by laying off low and semi-skilled workers to reduce their costs. Secondly, it's critical to restore the economic growth that creates and sustains jobs. Thirdly, despite major strides towards assuring equal opportunity for all, discrimination is still too much a reality in our society.

Much of the threat to the progress that has been made and could be made in these areas arises from the Reagan Administration's efforts to reverse many of the gains of the last two decades in providing decent income, housing, medical care, and education for all Americans assuring equal rights. In addition to working against the Administration's proposals, there are some limited but important things that can be done at the state level:

- Maintain a commitment to education, especially programs that recognize and try to deal with the special problems of poor and disadvantaged students;
- Oppose Reagan Administration efforts to renege on this important, national commitment;
- Do what we can at the state level to promote job creation and training for jobs of the future, and;
- Renew and strengthen personal and legal opposition to discrimination."

**Question #2 (Quality of Life):** "I think the quality of life for most Americans has declined over the past few years. That's the major reason Ronald Reagan was elected president. Unfortunately, he and his policies of a planned recession, tax relief for the wealthy, and a huge increase in the defense budget financed through cuts in social and education programs, have made matters worse for most Americans, especially non-white Americans. The points made in your first question are a powerful reason for the dissatisfaction evidenced in the polls. And until we have national leadership committed to working on these difficult and complex problems, that dissatisfaction will continue."

**Question #3 (Memorial):** "Yes." [I would support legislation making Dr. King's birthday a state holiday in Minnesota].

**Question #4 (New Federalism):** "At this point too little is known about the president's proposal to take a firm position. The "best case" estimate from the Minnesota Department of Welfare is that Minnesota could save \$193 million without any loss of services. The "worst case" estimate is that we could lose over \$200 million in dollars or services as a result of proposed cutbacks in coverage on Medicaid, as well as cuts in the block grants being shifted to the states. Based on what I've read and heard this week, I'm suspicious that the reality will be closer to the latter and that is deeply troublesome, both for those of us who have to struggle with the state's difficult budget problems, but especially for the people who depend on those program." ■

# CBM 1983 Legislative Agenda

1. **Adoption**
  - a. **Racial Preservation** — Bill creating clear and compelling standards for the use of race as a factor in determining the placement of a child who is considered for foster care or adoption.
  - b. **Recruitment** — Bill directing DPW to require local welfare agencies to affirmatively recruit Black adoption and foster parents and to retain expert consultants to advise them on recruitment of Black parents.
  - c. **Recruitment** — Bill creating a pilot project for recruitment — the legislature should appropriate and earmark funds to the DPW to establish a pilot project for recruitment of Black adoptive and foster parents. This project should take the form of a technical/professional services contract to be granted and administered by the department and should be housed in or part of an existing Black community based organization (e.g., Hallie Q. Brown Community Center; Phyllis Wheatley Community Center; Sabathani Community Center or the Minneapolis or St. Paul Urban Leagues.
  - d. **Advisory Task Force** — Bill creating a Black foster Care and Adoption Advisory Task Force to render advice and counsel to the commissioner on all matters relating to law, rules or practice affecting the adoption or foster care of Black children.
  - e. **Recordkeeping** — Bill requiring DPW to compile an annual report on foster care with statistical data for each county and statewide. Such data should include the legal status, race, location, length of stay in foster care and other demographic information for all children in foster care. The report should also include cross-tabulations of variables by race.
  - f. **Monitoring** — legislation should be enacted creating local foster care review boards to review the placement and care of children after a specific period in foster care.
2. **CBM continued funding** — Support of CBM budget requests for FY 1983-85.
3. **CBM Permanence** — A bill creating a permanent CBM (or simply eliminating statutory sunset clause).
4. **Economic Recovery** — Economic recovery measures designed to ease Black and urban unemployment. A bill which would seek funding of an effective mechanism to create jobs and employment opportunities, i.e., state support of organizations which foster and provide Black economic development and employment. (As of January 31, 1983 two bills, which would create jobs and stimulate state economic activity, have been introduced in the 1983 Legislative session).
5. **Martin Luther King** — Bill to make Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday (January 15) a state holiday. (Introduced in the 1983 Senate by Linda Berglin, Mpls. - D).
6. **Set-Aside** —  
**Bill to:**
  - a. Create a program whereby all prime contractors receiving construction or professional/technical contract awards over 200K would be required to sub contract 10 percent of the contract to SED contractors or vendors. Prime contractors would also be required to name each SED sub contractor or vendor and the dollar amount of each contract.
  - b. Limit the percentage of subcontracting to non-SED vendors by SED recipients of a set-aside award.
  - c. Provide for an increased set-aside staff complement.
  - d. Provide for an increase in the small business Set-Aside program for all small businesses and in the SED program component. Require set-aside program administrators to record participant rates for members of the SED classes, i.e., women, Blacks, other minorities, and the handicapped, etc.
  - e. Provide for establishment of a *Small Business Procurement Advisory Council* to advise the commissioner of administration or all matters relating to the administration and operation of the small business set-aside program. The Advisory Council would also hear complaints or review appeals from small business owners regarding bids or awards of state contract.
  - f. Provide for expanded application of set-aside program to include contracts for technical and professional services.
  - g. Provide for elimination of the self-certification process of SED vendors and the establishment of a certification process similar to that utilized by the City of Minneapolis.
7. **State Board of Investment** — Bill to prohibit the SBI from investing in U.S. banks or corporations with substantial business activity (e.g., more than 100 employees or \$10 million) in South Africa.
8. **State Recognition of Roy Wilkins** — Bill to recognize the achievements of Roy Wilkins with a memorial.

## Bills Introduced (cont'd.)

S.F. 2044/H.F. 2123

Authors: Senator Lindgren (IR, Richfield, 37)  
Representative Brandl (DFL, Minneapolis, 61)

Would require the spouse or parent of a medical assistance recipient under the age of 18 to contribute partial or complete repayment for medical assistance fees, except in cases of undue hardship. If payment were not made, the parent or spouse would be subject to court action.

Chapter 607 (S.F. 18081/H.F. 1712)

Authors: Senator Frederickson (IR, Morgan, 28)  
Representative Kaley (IR, Rochester, 33A)

Authorizes the commissioner of public welfare to administer the alcohol, drug abuse and mental health services block grant funds. Changes the qualifications for community mental health centers to receive federal block grants.

Chapter 40 (S.F. 1771/H.F. 2188)

Authors: Senator Berglin (DFL, Minneapolis, 59)  
Representative Brandl (DFL, Minneapolis, 61A)

Increase the income level for AFDC eligibility to maintain work incentives for AFDC parents.

See Chapter 640 for effective dates.

## CORRECTION

In the August issue of the 1981 Legislative Report we incorrectly reported that S.F. 754/H.F. 973, the sliding fee schedule for child care had been nullified in session. Actually, the bill was incorporated into section 22 of HF3, a much broader bill addressing community services. This bill was passed into law and is now chapter 355, laws in 1981.

**Exec. Director's Statement**  
**(cont'd. from page 1)**

rule in itself. The overriding concern that underlies these rules is the integrity of the Black family unit. If these rules are followed by a majority of Black Americans it is believed that we will have instituted a powerful means for the attainment of social, political, and economic equality in this nation.

The Black Development Fund articulated in the Plan will consist of contributions made by individuals to organizations in one of the following segments of the Black community: Black Civil rights organizations; Black political and voter participation organizations; Black religious institutions; Black senior citizens organizations; Black Africa and Caribbean relief; Historical Black colleges; Black legal defense funds; Black hospitals and health organizations; the Congressional Black Caucus Political Action Committee; Black arts and cultural organizations; and Black youth and child care organizations.

The development fund will provide the means to mobilize resources and people for the success of the family plan. It is a positive step toward the survival of Black people because it makes a break with our traditional dependency on external benevolence and operates under a self-help concept. The Black Development Fund will encourage greater trust, self-support, self-reliance and accountability among Black people. If Black Americans contribute as little as 1 percent of their combined annual income (\$150 billion per year), Black organizations would receive \$1.5 billion annually.

Finally, the family plan provides a set of instructions for existing Black organizations to use in implementing the Plan. These instructions are designed for immediate implementation and they encourage interaction and coordination among all types of organizations serving the needs of Black America.

To receive your free copy of the Black Leadership Family Plan write to: NBLR, Box 1965, Washington, D.C. 20013. ■

**Chair's Statement**  
**(cont'd. from page 1)**

form, it was vetoed by the Governor. Both legislative initiatives forced legislators to deal with human rights issues that are important to Black Minnesotans. The modified version of this bill will be reintroduced in the current legislative session.

In the past year, the CBM formed three state-wide task forces. In addition to our Black Women's Legislative Issues Task Force (formed in 1981) we now have task forces on Economic Development; Criminal Justice; and Health, Education, and Welfare.

The CBM staff has continued to carry out liaison activities with other organizations such as the Minneapolis Urban Coalition and the Statewide Affirmative Action Committee. The staff of the CBM has also been expanded to increase our capacity to do public policy research.

As proud as we are of our accomplishments to date, 1983 promises to be our most challenging year. Our legislative agenda for the new year is well researched and deliberative. We look forward to working with our colleagues and constituents. ■

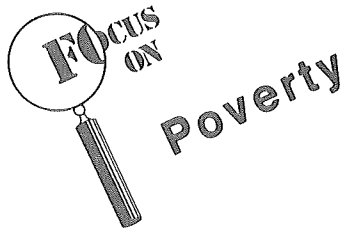
**Black Appointments to the  
 Perpich Administration**

<b>RAY HARP</b>	Commissioner of Insurance Department of Commerce
<b>JOE SIZER</b>	Acting Commissioner Department of Energy, Planning and Economic Development
<b>LURLINE BAKER-KENT</b>	Deputy Commissioner Department of Corrections
<b>DR. OLIVER SPENCER</b>	Deputy Commissioner Department of Human Rights
<b>CHARLES POE</b>	Assistant Commissioner Department of Welfare
<b>MELVIN HARRIS</b>	Assistant Commissioner Department of Welfare
<b>LESLIE R. GREEN</b>	Ex-Officer of Adult Release Department of Corrections
<b>JAMES HAYNES</b>	Principal Planner Department of Economic Security
<b>MICHAEL J. DAVIS</b>	Judge, Hennepin County Municipal Court
<b>PAMELA SMITH ALEXANDER</b>	Judge, Hennepin County Municipal Court
<b>EARL MILLER</b>	Minnesota Open Appointments Commission
<b>VIRGINIA CLARDY</b>	Minnesota Judicial Merit Selection Advisory Commission
<b>STEVEN BELTON</b>	Special Member, Minnesota Judicial Merit Selection Advisory Commission
<b>CLARENCE E. HARRIS</b>	Member, State Board for Community Colleges



→ Governor Perpich administers oath of office to Pamela Smith Alexander and Michael J. Davis.

Photos courtesy of Minneapolis Spokesman and St. Paul Recorder.



## 1982 Census Information Reveals Dramatic Increase in Poverty for Minorities

In 1981 the number of people living below the poverty level in the United States rose from the 1980 level of 29.6 million to 31.8 million—an increase of 2.2 million people. This brings the percentage of officially designated poor people in the United States to its highest level since 1967. The poverty threshold in 1981 was an income below \$9,287 for a family of four.

While the rate of poverty for all people was 14 percent, among racial minorities and women the numbers were significantly more evident. 34.2 percent of Black people lived below the poverty level in 1981 compared to 26.5 percent of the Hispanic population and 11.1 percent of the White population.

Particularly affected were Black and Hispanic children with poverty rates of 44.9 percent and 35.4 percent respectively.

Over half of all people below the poverty level (15.7 million persons) live in households headed by women with no husband present. The official rates for 1981 are 67.7 percent for Black children under 18 and 67.3 percent for Hispanic children.

\*Median family income in 1981 was \$23,520 for Whites; \$13,270 for Blacks; and \$16,400 for Hispanics. After adjusting those figures for inflation, Black and White incomes declined from 1980 while Hispanics experienced a very slight gain. Nevertheless, minority median incomes remain lower than those of Whites. Hispanic median income in 1981 was 70 percent of White's while Black median income compared to that of White's registered its lowest level in the last ten years, 56 percent.

These data were produced from information collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in March 1982 before the full effects of the current recession and governmental budget cuts were felt.

Experts predict that data for 1982 will show even more dramatic increases in the number of people living in poverty.



This report was prepared by the URBAN COALITION CLEARINGHOUSE, a minority, low-income information resource sponsored by the Urban Coalition of Minneapolis. Reprinted by permission of the UCM. ■

## Bills Introduced

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

H.F. 1575

Author: Representative Lemen (IR, Grand Rapids, 3B)

Would allow the commissioner of Energy, Planning and Development to provide income tax credits, licensing requirements assistance, and reduced corporate income tax for businesses that create new jobs.

No Senate author.

S.F. 1815/H.F. 2080

Authors: Senator Kroening (DFL, Minneapolis, 57)  
Representative I. Anderson (DFL, International Falls, 3A)

Representatives from labor, industry, community organizations and government would converge at a Minnesota conference on jobs formation. The purpose of the conference would be to outline the development of jobs and training programs in Minnesota.

Vetoed by Governor Al Quie.

### HOUSING

S.F. 1988/H.F. 2174

Authors: Senator Dicklich (DFL, Hibbing, 5)

Would authorize the commissioner of Energy, Planning and Development to secure funds from the small cities community development block grant program. Low and moderate income residents would benefit from grants used to provide housing and expand economic opportunities in urban communities.

Vetoed by Governor Al Quie.

### WELFARE

H.F. 2149

Author: Representative Lemen (IR, Grand Rapids, 3B)

Would establish a mandatory community work experience program for recipients of AFDC.

No Senate author.

S.F. 2113/H.F. 2231

Authors: Senator Berglin (DFL, Minneapolis, 59)  
Representative Greenfield (DFL, Minneapolis, 57B)

Would establish a state foster care advisory council to monitor and review foster care placements. The council operating under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court would inform interested parties of their rights and responsibilities as foster parents.

Nullified in session.

S.F. 2140/H.F. 1227

Authors: Senator Solon (DFL, Duluth, 7)  
Representative Sviggu (IR, Kenyon, 25A)

Would allow a private insurance firm to underwrite a group medical insurance contracts for persons receiving state medical assistance benefits.

Nullified in committee.

## Background Data on CBM

The Council on Black Minnesotans was formed in July 1980 by the Minnesota legislature to advise the governor and legislature on the nature of issues confronting Black people. Prior to the creation of the Council, there was no state agency responsible for researching the broad spectrum of issues confronting Black Minnesotans and advocating in their behalf.

The Council consists of seven public members and four legislative members. The public members are appointed by the governor and must be "broadly representative of Minnesota's Black communities," including at least three women and at least three men. Legislative members (two senators and two representatives) are appointed by the legislature and do not vote.

The Council operates with a two year budget of \$160,000 and a staff complement of 3 persons, including an executive director, research analyst, government/community liaison and administrative secretary.

### Staff

Paula Baker, Research Analyst  
Steven L. Belton, Executive Director  
Katherine S. Harp, Research Analyst  
Lynette Moore-Adams, Admin. Secretary  
Sandra Tatum, Intern

LEGISLATIVE REPORT is published bi-annually by the CBM to provide organizations and individuals serving the Black community with an overview and projection of legislative activity having significant or special impact on Black people. Ideas or suggestions for LEGISLATIVE REPORT should be forwarded to the CBM, 504 Rice St., St. Paul, MN 55103 (612) 297-3708.

Researched, written and edited by CBM staff.

## 1982 CBM Highlights

The following is a list of significant CBM activity during 1982:

- January 27, 1982 — CBM Public Hearing on Adoption and Foster Care Placement of Black Children in Minnesota.
- May 25, 1982 — CBM Public Hearing on the Minnesota Small Business Procurement Set-Aside program.
- September 7, 1982 - CBM staff was expanded to include one full-time research analyst.
- November 20, 1982 — Second annual CBM Legislative Orientation Workshop held at the State Office Building.
- December 1, 1982 — CBM report on **Adoption and Foster Care Placement of Black Children in Minnesota** released for publication.
- December 8, 1982 — CBM reception honoring international delegation of experts on South Africa and Namibia.
- December 16, 1982 — First CBM open house.

### Members and Staff of the Council on Black Minnesotans:

#### Legislative Members

Senator Linda Berglin (DFL, Mpls., 60)  
Senator Carl Kroening (DFL, Mpls., 57)  
Rep. Janet Clark (DFL, Mpls., 60B)  
Rep. Randy Staten (DFL, Mpls., 57)

#### Public Members

Clarence E. Harris (Roseville), Chair  
Robert Hickman (St. Paul)  
Reginald Kent (St. Paul)  
Leilani Gibbs (St. Paul)  
Fred Johnson (St. Paul), Secretary  
Katie McWatt (St. Paul), Vice Chair

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