

File

Dorothy

Height

I need to state the obvious. Language falls short when it is tasked to convey all that Miss Height has given us. Who can size up her place in history or pay fair tribute to her spirit and accomplishment.

Not surprisingly, Miss Height's description of the woman who most inspired her, comes the closest

Miss Height said, "I never met a person who used her own personal power for others like my mentor, Mary McLeod Bethune." Our country and our community has been blessed with two African American women who fit that description, and Miss Height is the second one.

She walks among us with such beauty and character and creative force--she possesses such a gift for seeing what is possible and teaching what is just--she takes such care to get things right, and once she is fully prepared so often risks her life for us--that it is hard to consider all she has done, and all she will do, and still think of Miss Height as one of us mere mortals. To those who thrive in her wake and wage our own struggle with the rights she has won for us, Miss Height is simply a person of regal stature. To me, ^{when I look into her eyes I see a queen.} in the ancient sense, she is a queen.

The Book of Esther always has been a guide for me, and I never read Esther's story without thinking of Miss Height. Made a

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queen by King Xerxes because her beauty and character had won his heart, Esther risks her life by revealing herself to be a Jew and going before the king to ask that he withdraw his order to kill all those of Jewish birth. She boldly saves her people, but Esther's bravery is never rash. She knows that courage does not supplant careful planning. She calculates the cost of action, and finds her life is at stake. She sets priorities, placing the lives of others above her own safety. She carefully sets a course of action then moves boldly forth. Esther could have risked very little and saved her life and that of Mordecai, her stepfather. Instead, she and Mordecai saw that God had placed them where they were for a purpose--that it was within their reach to save others. They didn't ask God to fix things. They asked Him for direction and they acted.

Miss Height does not ask God to fix things for her or her people. She gets in a position and she uses it. Like Esther, she knows how to use the positive. Like Esther, Miss Height gathers her people together to talk and plan and pray. And like Esther, Miss Height moves when she knows she is ready, saying, "If I perish, I perish...for who knoweth if thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Of all her accomplishments, I like to think of one that may be lesser known as exemplifying Miss Height and her great resolve. She fought long and hard to gain approval for a statue of Mrs.

Bethune in Lincoln Park, in Washington--an image of great power, grace and joy, with the figure of Mrs. Bethune holding the hands of children. It was the first monument to an African American in our nation's capital. But after its unveiling, Miss Height noticed that across the park a statue of President Lincoln stood with his back to Mrs. Bethune. To Miss Height it was obvious--it had to be turned around. Now erecting a sculpture of a black woman was one thing, but uprooting Mr. Lincoln and reversing his field of view was quite another. But Miss Height gathered her people, set her network in action, prayed, explained, argued, cajoled and persevered with one fixed goal in mind. No matter how many city fathers cited precedents or practicality, no matter how many city planners argued aesthetics, Miss Height patiently stood by what she knew was right, for public sculpture is a symbol and a message to our young. and today in Lincoln Park, its namesake gazes with respect at Mary McLeod Bethune.

Remembering her mentor, Miss Height once said, "Next to my own mother, Mrs. Bethune had the greatest impact on me. I learned from her that you have to your homework. You just don't jump off on things."

Miss Height, in large part we are here tonight because you taught us to do our homework. To praise you, we will work with you on all that is left to do. To honor you, we will learn from your works and heed your voice, and use the positions we earn to help people. And inspired by you, we each will ask, as Esther asked so long ago, "How can I endure to see the evil the shall come unto my people, or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred."

I have searched and prayed for adequate words to say about Miss Height. And I must tell you that it is impossible to find words that convey all she has given us, that can size up her place in history or pay fair tribute to her spirit and accomplishment. In fact, the best I've found are words that Dorothy Height herself used to describe the individual who most inspired her. Miss Height said, "I never met a person who used her own personal power for others like my mentor, Mary McLeod Bethune." In fact, however, our country has been blessed with two African American women who fit that description, and Miss Height is the second one.

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PN: SHERRI TO HANDLE WIRELESS MIKES FOR PARTICIPANTS.

- 1. CHILDREN WITH SPEAKING ROLES**
- 2. CANDY CAROWAN FOR ONE MAN HANDS**
- 3. POSSIBLE FOR H.Q.'S SOLOIST**

STOOL AND MIKES FOR GUY AND CANDIE CAROWAN TO THE LEFT OF THE STAGE.

5:30p - 7:30p Dinner

PN: BREAK DOWN CHOIR CHAIRS AFTER SERVICE. STORE BEHIND STAGE. SET TABLE AND CHAIRS FOR EVENING SESSION

ARRANGE ODETTA'S SEATING AND MIKE POSITION

7:30p - 7:55p Break

7:55p Call to order with bell ringing

PN: SHERRI TO RING BELL

8:00p - 8:02p Marylin Levitt to introduce Odetta for a Celebration of our Children's Musical Heritage

8:02p - 8:30p Odetta Performance

8:30p - 8:32p Marylin Levitt to introduce David Lewis

8:32p - 8:42p David Lewis to honor John Hope Franklin

8:42p - 8:57p John Hope Franklin speech

8:57p - 8:59p Marylin Levitt to introduce Maggie Williams

9:00p - 9:10p Maggie to honor Dorothy Height

9:10p - 9:25p Dorothy Height speech

9:25p - 9:30p Marylin Levitt will thank participants and guests and remind everyone participating in the working meetings on Saturdays that breakfast is on your own and we'll be convene at 8:55a.

Musical selection H.Q. Thompson

PN: SOLOIST NEEDS WIRELESS MIKE

PRE-PRODUCTION FOR SATURDAY

BREAKDOWN OF EXTRA TABLES AND CHAIRS IN FOOD TENT. REMOVE DIRTY LINENS (KIM TO CONFIRM #'S FOR SATURDAY SET UP)

REMOVE CHOIR RISERS, TWO PRESS RISERS, EXTRA CHAIRS, AND PRESS TENT

MOVE PIANO FROM PROGRAM TENT TO FOOD TENT
ADD TWO RECTANGULAR TABLES ON EITHER SIDE OR TO THE SIDE OF PODIUM
IN PROGRAM TENT. (CONFIRM ARRANGEMENT WITH AGB)

EAV TO ADD 5 TABLE MIKES TO PROGRAM TENT

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND/BLACK COMMUNITY CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN
Thanksgiving and Homecoming Celebration
Former Alex Haley Farm, Norris, Tennessee
September 23 - 25, 1994

TIME SCRIPT/PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Friday, September, 23, 1994

PN: PIANO DELIVERED	12:00p	
EAV ARRIVAL	2:00p	
ODETTA SOUND CHECK	2:30p	(CONFIRM POSITION AND S E A T I N G)

INTERFAITH LEADERS BRIEFING 3:30p

Opening Ceremony of Welcome

PN: SHERRI TO RING BELL
PN: CHOIRS SEATED UP FRONT

3:55p - 4:00p Call to order with bell ringing followed by music
by H.Q. Thompson

4:00p - 4:05p Statement of Mission by MWE

4:05p - 4:08p Song: Amazing Grace

4:08p - 4:09p MWE introduction of George Haley

4:10p - 4:13p George Haley welcome

4:13p - 4:14p MWE introduction of Charles Burson

4:15p - 4:18p Tennessee Attorney General Charles W. Burson
welcome

4:19p - 4:20p MWE introduction of Bill Purcell

4:21p - 4:24p House Majority Leader Bill Purcell welcome

4:25p - 4:28p MWE introduction of Mary Sasser

4:28p - 4:31p Mary Sasser welcome

4:32p - 4:34p MWE acknowledges Haley family and Haley farm staff
before announcing interfaith service, followed by
dinner in the food tent, and rest room locations.

PN: TEN CHAIRS ADDED TO THE STAGE, SIGNAL TO SHANNON TO BEGIN
PROCESSIONAL

4:35p - 5:30p Interfaith Service

I NEED TO STATE THE OBVIOUS. LANGUAGE FALLS SHORT WHEN IT IS TASKED TO CONVEY ALL THAT MISS HEIGHT HAS GIVEN US. WHO CAN SIZE UP HER PLACE IN HISTORY OR PAY FAIR TRIBUTE TO HER SPIRIT AND ACCOMPLISHMENT.

SHE WALKS AMONG US WITH SUCH GRACE AND CHARACTER AND CREATIVE FORCE SHE POSSESSES SUCH A GIFT FOR SEEING WHAT IS POSSIBLE. SHE TAKES SUCH CARE TO GET THINGS RIGHT, AND ONCE SHE IS FULLY PREPARED, SHE ACTS.

DOROTHY HEIGHT GREW UP IN THE SMALL MINING TOWN OF RANKIN, CHR

PENNSYLVANIA. LIKE HER MOTHER SHE WAS ALWAYS ACTIVE IN CHURCH GROUPS AND CLUBS. SHE WAS AND IS, SMART, BEAUTIFUL AND TALL -- SHE PLAYED CENTER ON HER HIGH SCHOOL BASKET BALL TEAM.

SHE WAS ACTIVE IN THE YWCA AND LED THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE FEDERATION OF GIRLS CLUBS WHEN SHE WAS FOURTEEN. FROM THE VERY BEGINNING SHE WAS BUSY ORGANIZING.

AS A YOUNG WOMAN SHE WENT TO OXFORD ENGLAND REPRESENTING THE UNITED CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT AT THE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH CONFERENCE.

THEN IT WAS ON TO AMSTERDAM AND THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH. LATER AS A MEMBER OF THE ARLINGHAM YOUTH COUNCIL SHE HELPED ELEANOR ROOSEVELT PLAN THE 1938 WORLD YOUTH COUNCIL.

AND THE PEOPLE BEGAN TO NOTICE HER. SHE WAS A WORLD CLASS STAR. SHE WAS AND IS, AS MANY OF HER YOUNG ADMIRERS ARE FOND OF SAYING, "THE HARDEST WORKING WOMAN IN SHOW BUSINESS."

MISS HEGHT THEN WENT TO WORK FOR THE YWCA, FIRST DIRECTING A
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2

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LATER SHE BECAME A STAFF MEMBER FOR THE NATIONAL YWCA BOARD AND EVENTUALLY SERVED AS ITS INTERRACIAL EDUCATION SECRETARY.

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DURING THIS PERIOD MISS HEIGHT WAS ACTIVE IN THE DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY AND THEN AS PRESIDENT^{of} THAT ORGANIZATION, SOUGHT TO BUILD A BRIDGE BETWEEN AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND WOMEN IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. MISS HEIGHT CAN BE CREDITED WITH THE CREATION OF INTERNATIONAL DELTA CHAPTERS. AND THE DELTAS UNDER MISS HEIGHT'S LEADERSHIP ESTABLISHED ONE OF THE FIRST HAITIAN RELIEF FUNDS.

IN 1957 MISS HEIGHT^{became} BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN. MISS HEIGHT HAD FIRST MET HER NCNW PREDECESSOR AND MENTOR , MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE^{some} TWENTY YEARS EARLIER.

MISS HEIGHT RECALLED THAT FIRST MEETING IN AN INTERVIEW WITH ESSENCE MAGAZINE, "I HAD NEVER MET A PERSON WHO USED HER OWN PERSONAL POWER FOR OTHERS LIKE MY MENTOR, MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE. . . THE DAY I MET MRS. BETHUNE WAS NOVEMBER 7, 1937. I WAS WORKING FOR THE PHILLIS WHEATLEY YWCA IN NEW YORK AND MRS BETHUNE WAS HAVING A MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN. I HAD SEEN HER AND HEARD HER BUT NEVER HAD ANY DIRECT CONTACT WITH HER. . .MRS. ROOSEVELT WAS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK AT THE MEETING. I WAS ASSIGNED TO MEET HER AT THE DOOR. SHE CAME THROUGH THE SERVICE ENTRANCE AND I RAN AROUND TO GET HER. SHE MADE HER SPEECH, AND ALL THE WOMEN SANG ONE OF MRS. BETHUNE'S FAVORITE SONG, 'LET ME CALL YOU SWEET HEART'. AS I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE, MRS. BETHUNE STOPPED ME AND ASKED ME MY NAME AND SAID, 'COME BACK WE NEED YOU.' I KNEW MRS. BETHUNE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE. !"

TO NIGHT , I HAVE TOLD YOU VERY LITTLE ABOUT DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT.

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IT IS HARD TO CONSIDER ALL SHE HAS DONE, AND ALL SHE WILL DO, AND STILL THINK OF HER AS ONE OF US MERE MORTALS.

TO THOSE WHO THRIVE IN HER WAKE, MISS HEIGHT IS A PERSON OF REGAL STATURE. TO ME, IN THE ANCIENT SENSE, SHE IS INDEED A QUEEN.

THE OLD TESTAMENT STORY OF ESTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN A KIND OF PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR ME. A HANDBOOK OF ACTION, WHERE PRAYING AND PLANNING AND DEVELOPING A STRATEGY ACTUALLY PAYS OFF. EVEN WHEN THE STAKES ARE HIGH. EVEN WHEN THE MISSION IS RISKY. EVEN WHEN THE CRITICS ARE MANY.

WHEN I READ ESTHER'S STORY I THINK OF MISS HEIGHT.

leap
MADE A QUEEN BY KING XERXES BECAUSE¹ HER BEAUTY AND CHARACTER HAD WON HIS HEART, ESTHER RISKS HER ~~LIFE~~ BY REVEALING HERSELF TO BE A JEW AND GOING BEFORE THE KING TO ASK THAT HE WITHDRAW HIS ORDER TO KILL ALL THOSE OF JEWISH BIRTH.

SHE BOLDLY SAVES HER PEOPLE BUT ESTHER'S BRAVERY IS SUPPLEMENTED BY COOL CALCULATION. SHE KNOWS THAT COURAGE COUPLED WITH VISION AND AN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY IS BOUND TO BE SUCESSFUL. AND SHE'S GOT POSITION, A FORUM, A ~~PA~~ PLATFORM -- AFTER ALL SHE IS THE QUEEN.

ESTHER KNOWS THE COST OF HER ACTION -- HER LIFE IS AT STAKE. SHE SETS PRIORITIES AND PLACES THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS ABOVE HER OWN

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AND THEN MOVES BOLDLY FORTH.

ESTHER COULD HAVE RISKED LITTLE AND SAVED HER OWN LIFE AND THAT OF MORDECAI HER STEPFATHER. INSTEAD SHE UNDERSTOOD THAT HER LIFE ~~AND~~ ^{HAD} A FIXED PURPOSE. ESTHER TRAVELLED TO THE PALACE FOR A REASON. ~~GOD~~ ^D HAD PLACED ESTHER IN HER POSITION "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS".

LIKE ESTHER MISS HEIGHT KNOWS HOW TO USE POSITION. LIKE ESTHER MISS HEIGHT SEIZES THE OPPORTUNE MOEMNT-- AND CREATES, CREATES THE MOMENT IF IT DOES NOT EXIST. MAKING A WAY OUT OF NO WAY.

LIKE ESTHER, MISS HEIGHT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER TO TALK AND PLAN AND PRAY. AND LIKE ESTHER, MISS HEIGHT MOVES WHEN SHE IS READY.

OF ALL OF HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS, I ~~LIKE~~ ^{WANT} TO THINK OF ONE THAT EXEMPLIFIES MISS HEIGHT'S GREAT RESOLVE. AND WHILE I MAY NOT HAVE ALLMY FACTS EXACTLY RIGHT -- YOU'LL GET THE PICTURE.

MISS HEIGHT FOUGHT LONG AND HARD TO ~~AGAIN~~ ^{WIN} APPROVAL FOR A STATURE OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE IN LINCOLN PARK, IN WASHINGTON D.C. -- AN IMAGE OF GREAT POWER, GRACE AND JOY.

IT WAS THE FIRST MONUMENT TO AN AFRICAN AMERICAN IN OUR NATION'S CAPITOL. ACROSS THE PARK A STATUE OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN STOOD WITH HIS BACK TO MRS. BETHUNE. TO MISS HEIGHT IT WAS OBVIOUS--IT HAD TO BE TURNED AROUND. MR LINCOLN MUST NOT HAVE HIS BACK TO MRS.

@PJL RDYMSG DISPLAY = ""

@PJL RDYMSG DISPLAY = "WordPerfect Job"

@PJL SET RESOLUTION = 600

@PJL ENTER LANGUAGE = PCL

Definitely
"Sano"
he was
FBI

If I had
known I would
live this long I
would have taken
better care of my
self

Incredible
world we live
in. Whole
can sit
on a stage
w/ mind like John Deere
Franklin and Dorothy
Height - they is the best
show since 1977 in and in
wife

William
Francis
John Deere

Bill Banett

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AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, MISS HEIGHT

4

QUICKLY BECAME A LEADER IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. THE NCNW HELD VOTER EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION DRIVES AND RAISED MONEY TO SUPPORT THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WERE ACTIVE IN THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN HAS REMAINED VITAL AND CREATIVE GUARANTEEING ITS SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN HERE AND ALL OVER THE WORLD. MOST RECENTLY MISS HEIGHT AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN HAVE SPEARED HEADED A NATIONAL CHALLENGE TO THE MEDIA'S DISTORTION OF BLACK FAMILY LIFE BY SPONSORING ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS - BLACK FAMILY REUNIONS.

PRESIDENT CLINTO RECENTLY AWARDED MISS HEIGHT THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM FOR HER SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY.

TO NIGHT , I HAVE TOLD YOU VERY LITTLE ABOUT DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT. IT IS HARD TO CONSIDER ALL SHE HAS DONE, AND ALL SHE WILL DO, AND STILL THINK OF HER AS ONE OF US MERE MORTALS.

TO THOSE WHO THRIVE IN HER WAKE, MISS HEIGHT IS A PERSON OF REGAL STATURE. TO ME, IN THE ANCIENT SENSE, SHE IS INDEED A QUEEN.

THE OLD TESTAMENT STORY OF ESTER HAS ALWAYS BEEN A KIND OF PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR ME. A HANDBOOK OF ACTION, WHERE PRAYING AND

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPING A STRATEGY ACTUALLY PAYS OFF. EVEN WHEN THE STAKES ARE HIGH. EVEN WHEN THE MISSION IS RISKY. EVEN WHEN THE CRITICS ARE MANY.

WHEN I READ ESTHER'S STORY I THINK OF MISS HEIGHT.

MADE A QUEEN BY KING XERXES BECAUSE HER BEAUTY AND CHARACTER HAD WON HIS HEART, ESTHER RISKS HER LIFE BY REVEALING HERSELF TO BE A JEW AND GOING BEFORE THE KING TO ASK THAT HE WITHDRAW HIS ORDER TO KILL ALL THOSE OF JEWISH BIRTH.

SHE BOLDLY SAVES HER PEOPLE BUT ESTHER'S BRAVERY IS SUPPLEMENTED BY COOL CALCULATION. SHE KNOWS THAT COURAGE COUPLED WITH VISION AND AND AN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY IS BOUND TO BE SUCESSFUL. AND SHE'S GOT POSITION, A FORUM, A PLATFORM -- AFTER ALL SHE IS THE QUEEN.

ESTHER KNOWS THE COST OF HER ACTION -- HER LIFE IS AT STAKE. SHE SETS PRIORITIES AND PLACES THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS ABOVE HER OWN AND THEN MOVES BOLDLY FORTH.

ESTHER COULD HAVE RISKED LITTLE AND SAVED HER OWN LIFE AND THAT OF MORDECAI HER STEPFATHER. INSTEAD SHE UNDERSTOOD THAT HER LIFE HAD A FIXED PURPOSE. ESTHER TRAVELLED TO THE PALACE FOR A REASON. GOD HAD PLACED ESTHER IN HER POSITION "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS".

LIKE ESTHER MISS HEIGHT KNOWS HOW TO USE POSITION. LIKE ESTHER

6

BETHUNE.

NOT ERRECTING A SCULPTURE OF AN AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN WAS ONE THING, BUT UPROOTING MR. LINCOLN AND REVERSING HIS FIELD OF VIEW WAS QUITE ANOTHER. BUT MISS HEIGHT GATHERED HER PEOPLE, SET HER NETWORK IN ACTION, PRAYED, EXPLAINED, ARGUED, CAJOLED AND PERSERVERED WITH ONE FIXED GOAL IN MIND.

NO MATTER HOW MANY MEN OF POWER CITED PRECEDENTS OR PRACTICALITY NO MATTER HOW MANY CITY PLANNERS^S ARGUED ASTHETICS, MISS HEIGHT PATIENTLY STOOD BY WHAT SHE KNEW WAS RIGHT. FOR PUBLIC SCULPTURE IS A SYMBOL AND DELIVERS A MESSAGE TO ALL WHO VIEW IT.

TODAY IN LINCOLN PARK, ITS NAMESAKE GAZES WITH RESPECT AT MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE.

TONIGHT WE HONOR A WOMAN WHO TURNS STATUES AROUND. THERE ARE SO MANY OF US WHO HONOR YOU TONIGHT BECAUSE YOU TAUGHT US TO DO ~~OR~~ *our* HOMEWORK. YOU HAVE OUR COMMITMENT THAT WE WILL WORK WITH YOU ON ALL THAT IS LEFT TO DO FOR OUR CHILDREN, OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR COUNTRY.

AND CHALLENGED BY YOUR EXAMPLE, WE WILL REMEMBER TO USE OUR LIVES, TO BUILD, ENRICH AND DO FOR OTHERS "FOR WHO KNOWTH IF WE ART COME TO THIS KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS. '1

6

MISS HEIGHT SEIZES THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT-- AND CREATES, CREATES THE MOMENT IF IT DOES NOT EXIST. MAKING A WAY OUT OF NO WAY.

LIKE ESTHER, MISS HEIGHT BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER TO TALK AND PLAN AND PRAY. AND LIKE ESTHER, MISS HEIGHT MOVES WHEN SHE IS READY.

OF ALL OF HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS, I THINK OF ONE THAT EXEMPLIFIES MISS HEIGHT'S GREAT RESOLVE. AND WHILE I MAY NOT HAVE ALL MY FACTS EXACTLY RIGHT -- YOU'LL GET THE PICTURE.

MISS HEIGHT FOUGHT LONG AND HARD TO GAIN APPROVAL FOR A STATUE OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE IN LINCOLN PARK, IN WASHINGTON D.C. -- AN IMAGE OF GREAT POWER, GRACE AND JOY.

IT WAS THE FIRST MONUMENT TO AN AFRICAN AMERICAN IN OUR NATION'S CAPITOL. ACROSS THE PARK A STATUE OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN STOOD WITH HIS BACK TO MRS. BETHUNE. TO MISS HEIGHT IT WAS OBVIOUS--IT HAD TO BE TURNED AROUND. MR LINCOLN MUST NOT HAVE HIS BACK TO MRS. BETHUNE.

NOT ERRECTING A SCULPTURE OF AN AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN WAS ONE THING, BUT UPROOTING MR. LINCOLN AND REVERSING HIS FIELD OF VIEW WAS QUITE ANOTHER. BUT MISS HEIGHT GATHERED HER PEOPLE, SET HER NETWORK IN ACTION, PRAYED, EXPLAINED, ARGUED, CAJOLED AND PERSERVERED WITH ONE FIXED GOAL IN MIND.

NO MATTER HOW MANY MEN OF POWER CITED PRECEDENTS OR PRACTICALITY

7

NO MATTER HOW MANY CITY PLANNER ARGUED ASTHETICS, MISS HEIGHT PATIENTLY STOOD BY WHAT SHE KNEW WAS RIGHT. FOR PUBLIC SCULPTURE IS A SYMBOL AND DELIVERS A MESSAGE TO ALL WHO VIEW IT.

TODAY IN LINCOLN PARK, ITS NAMESAKE GAZES WITH RESPECT AT MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE.

TONIGHT WE HONOR A WOMAN WHO TURNS STATUES AROUND. THERE ARE SO MANY OF US WHO HONOR YOU TONIGHT BECAUSE YOU TAUGHT US TO DO OUR HOMEWORK. YOU HAVE OUR COMMITMENT THAT WE WILL WORK WITH YOU ON ALL THAT IS LEFT TO DO FOR OUR CHILDREN, OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR COUNTRY.

AND CHALLENGED BY YOUR EXAMPLE, WE WILL REMEMBER TO USE OUR LIVES, TO BUILD, ENRICH AND DO FOR OTHERS "FOR WHO KNOWTH IF WE ART COME TO THIS KINGDOM FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS.

" Confidence
from the kitchen
* leadership to respond
to need -
Not here! Admirable
for all you are and
all you do, Maggie
Bouchard-Heigh
9/23/94

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND/BLACK COMMUNITY CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN
Thanksgiving and Homecoming Celebration
Former Alex Haley Farm, Norris, Tennessee
September 23 - 25, 1994

TIME SCRIPT/PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Friday, September, 23, 1994

PN: PIANO DELIVERED	12:00p	
EAV ARRIVAL	2:00p	
ODETTA SOUND CHECK	2:30p	(CONFIRM POSITION AND S E A T I N G)

INTERFAITH LEADERS BRIEFING 3:30p

Opening Ceremony of Welcome

PN: SHERRI TO RING BELL
PN: CHOIRS SEATED UP FRONT

3:55p - 4:00p Call to order with bell ringing followed by music
by H.Q. Thompson

4:00p - 4:05p Statement of Mission by MWE

4:05p - 4:08p Song: Amazing Grace

4:08p - 4:09p MWE introduction of George Haley

4:10p - 4:13p George Haley welcome

4:13p - 4:14p MWE introduction of Charles Burson

4:15p - 4:18p Tennessee Attorney General Charles W. Burson
welcome

4:19p - 4:20p MWE introduction of Bill Purcell

4:21p - 4:24p House Majority Leader Bill Purcell welcome

4:25p - 4:28p MWE introduction of Mary Sasser

4:28p - 4:31p Mary Sasser welcome

4:32p - 4:34p MWE acknowledges Haley family and Haley farm staff
before announcing interfaith service, followed by
dinner in the food tent, and rest room locations.

PN: TEN CHAIRS ADDED TO THE STAGE, SIGNAL TO SHANNON TO BEGIN
PROCESSIONAL

4:35p - 5:30p Interfaith Service

PN: SHERRI TO HANDLE WIRELESS MIKES FOR PARTICIPANTS.

- 1. CHILDREN WITH SPEAKING ROLES**
- 2. CANDY CAROWAN FOR ONE MAN HANDS**
- 3. POSSIBLE FOR H.Q.'S SOLOIST**

STOOL AND MIKES FOR GUY AND CANDIE CAROWAN TO THE LEFT OF THE STAGE.

5:30p - 7:30p Dinner

**PN: BREAK DOWN CHOIR CHAIRS AFTER SERVICE. STORE BEHIND STAGE.
SET TABLE AND CHAIRS FOR EVENING SESSION**

ARRANGE ODETTA'S SEATING AND MIKE POSITION

7:30p - 7:55p Break

7:55p Call to order with bell ringing

PN: SHERRI TO RING BELL

**8:00p - 8:02p Marilyn Levitt to introduce Odetta for a
Celebration of our Children's Musical Heritage**

8:02p - 8:30p Odetta Performance

8:30p - 8:32p Marilyn Levitt to introduce David Lewis

8:32p - 8:42p David Lewis to honor John Hope Franklin

8:42p - 8:57p John Hope Franklin speech

8:57p - 8:59p Marilyn Levitt to introduce Maggie Williams

9:00p - 9:10p Maggie to honor Dorothy Height

9:10p - 9:25p Dorothy Height speech

**9:25p - 9:30p Marilyn Levitt will thank participants and guests
and remind everyone participating in the working
meetings on Saturdays that breakfast is on your own
and we'll be convene at 8:55a.**

Musical selection H.Q. Thompson

PN: SOLOIST NEEDS WIRELESS MIKE

PRE-PRODUCTION FOR SATURDAY

**BREAKDOWN OF EXTRA TABLES AND CHAIRS IN FOOD TENT. REMOVE DIRTY
LINENS (KIM TO CONFIRM #'S FOR SATURDAY SET UP)**

REMOVE CHOIR RISERS, TWO PRESS RISERS, EXTRA CHAIRS, AND PRESS TENT

MOVE PIANO FROM PROGRAM TENT TO FOOD TENT
ADD TWO RECTANGULAR TABLES ON EITHER SIDE OR TO THE SIDE OF PODIUM
IN PROGRAM TENT. (CONFIRM ARRANGEMENT WITH AGB)

EAV TO ADD 5 TABLE MIKES TO PROGRAM TENT

Copyright 1993 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

August 12, 1993

SECTION: EXTRA; Section N; Page 11

LENGTH: 357 words

HEADLINE: Reunion grew out founder's focus on race, women

BYLINE: By Charmagne Helton STAFF WRITER

BODY:

All her life, Dorothy Height has championed the rights of blacks and women in America.

In the late 1960s, she supported striking black female hospital workers in Charleston.

In the 1970s, along with Fannie Lou Hamer and Shirley Chisholm, she fought to mobilize the women's rights movement in Washington.

In the 1980s, she created the Black Family Reunion to combat negative media stereotypes of African Americans.

And the reunion, her legacy, convened for the seventh time in Atlanta last week as Dr. Height, now 81, continues her lifelong crusade.

For 36 years, Dr. Height has been president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), the organization she used to start the Black Family Reunion.

After watching a 1986 television documentary titled "The Vanishing Family - Crisis in Black America," she decided the NCNW had to do something to uplift the African-American family.

"It's not just what [the documentary] said to others, but what it said to us and our children," Dr. Height said last week. She was tired of seeing the negative portrayal of black Americans in media, she said.

With the help of Procter & Gamble, the NCNW conducted the first Black Family Reunion in Washington in 1986 to celebrate the culture and strength of African Americans. Since then the weekend-long event has spread to Chicago, Los Angeles, Cincinnati, Memphis, Philadelphia and Atlanta.

More than 50,000 people took part last weekend in the free health screenings, international marketplace, breakfast, church services and gospel concert at Atlanta's Seventh Annual Black Family Reunion.

Dr. Height began her career in 1934 as a caseworker in the New York City Welfare Department, where she encountered families and their problems firsthand.

She moved into the directorship of the Racial Justice Center of the Young Women's Christian Association in the 1950s and at the same time served on the

New York State Social Welfare Board and on the Advisory Committee on Women in the Services for the U.S. Department of Defense.

In 1957 she accepted the NCNW presidency, the post in which she first envisioned the Black Family Reunion.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE-MDC: August 21, 1993

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The Ethnic NewsWatch
Washington Afro-American

November 6, 1993

SECTION: Vol. 102; No. 13; Pg. A3

LENGTH: 554 words

HEADLINE: Dr. Height re-elected at NCNW convention

BYLINE: Wright, James

BODY:

Dr. Height re-elected at NCNW convention.

Dr. Dorothy Height, 81, was reelected to another two-year term as president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) at the 46th Annual National Convention held in Washington, D.C. last week. Dr. Height said she was elated by her reelection.

"We convene at a time of great challenge and unprecedented opportunity," said Dr. Height, who heads the organization of four million members. "Today, there is a renewed spirit and recognition of what we can accomplish when we work together. We gather with a determination to use our collective power to help create the kind of future that our families deserve."

The organization was founded in 1935 by the late Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder and long time president of Bethune Cookman College. Dr. Height, who ran unopposed, has served as president since the late 1950's.

The NCNW is a non profit voluntary service organization with 34 national affiliated constituency based groups and 250 community based sections.

Clinton administration officials such as Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown, presidential advisor Vernon Jordan, and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton were among the speakers.

Alexis Herman, Assistant to the President and director of the Office of Public Liaison, was honored at the closing banquet for her achievements while serving as chair of the 1992 Democratic convention and her tenure as an official with the Democratic party. Ms. Herman is a former officer with the NCNW.

D.C. Shadow Senator Jesse Jackson praised Ms. Herman along with Mr. Jordan and Mr. Brown.

Select members of the organization were invited to a White House briefing.

"Mary McLeod Bethune would have never dreamed of the day that this organization would have cabinet officials and presidential advisors come to us," said Dr. Height, who was a protege of Mrs. Bethune. "She would have been proud."

D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton moderated a panel of her colleagues. Billed as the "Town Meeting With the Women of Congress", the lawmakers told the overflow crowd that Black women can no longer be ignored.

"Let everyone know that the ten Black women in Congress wield power and you ain't seen nothing yet," said Cong. Carrie Meek (D-Fla.), who at 66 is the oldest freshman in Congress.

The other congresswomen who participated were Cardiss Collins of Illinois, who has the most seniority; Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Corrine Brown of Florida, and Barbara Rose Collins of Michigan.

"We've come from cleaning the White House to working in it."

The congresswomen told the gathering that they should get political active whether they run for office or not.

Mrs. Clinton told a plenary session that Black input into the health care reform was useful. She received questions ranging from whether children will be covered to the problems of mammograms and pap smears.

The Chi Eta Phi Sorority Inc. (Washington D.C. chapter) won first place and a check for \$1,000 for its community project, "Child Care Center, Our First Love". The center is a transitional home for abandoned babies born to drug addicted mothers.

The Alpha Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. won third place with its anti-substance abuse program. They received a \$250 check.

The awards were given at the final banquet.

ETHNIC-GROUP: African-American

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE-MDC: February 22, 1994

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class star. She was and is, as many of her admirers are fond of saying, "the hardest working woman in show business."

Miss Height then went to work for the YWCA, first directing a lodging home for black women. *In this position, she soon became*
~~home for accepted a position with the YWCA~~ *advocate for black women in domestic service jobs*

Tonight I have told you very little about Dorothy Irene Height. It is hard to consider all she has done, and all she will do, and still think of her as one of us mere mortals.

To those who thrive in her wake, Miss Height is a person of regal stature. To me, in the ancient sense, she is indeed a queen.

Even when the stakes are high
The Old Testament story of Esther has always been a kind of practical guide for me. A handbook of action, where praying and planning and developing a strategy actually pays off. Even when the mission is risky. Even when the critics are many.

When I read Esther's story I think of Miss Height's story
~~From the day I met Miss Height I can never read Esther without~~
thinking of her.

Made a queen by King Xerxes because her beauty and character had won his heart, Esther risks her life by revealing herself to be a Jew and going before the king to ask that he withdraw his order to kill all those of Jewish birth. She boldly saves her people,

(3)

but Esther's bravery is cool and calculated. She knows that courage ~~does not supplant careful planning.~~ *coupled with vision and an implementation strategy.*

Esther calculates the cost of action, and finds her life is at stake. She sets priorities, placing the lives of others above her own safety. She carefully sets a course of action then moves boldly forth.

Esther could have risked very little and saved her life and that of Mordecai, her stepfather. Instead, she and Mordecai saw that God had placed them where they were for a purpose--that it was within their reach to ~~do for others.~~ *save a people* God had placed Esther in her position "for such a time as this."

Esther travelled the road to the palace for a reason

seizes the opportunity
~~Miss Height does not ask God to fix things for her or her people.~~
moment
~~She gets in a position and she uses it. Like Esther, she knows how to use the positive.~~ *position*
~~Like Esther, Miss Height gathers her people together to talk and plan and pray. And like Esther, Miss Height moves when she knows she is ready. "If I perish, I perish...for who knoweth if thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this."~~ *brings*

And creates the moment exist
Of all her accomplishments, I like to think of one that may be lesser known as exemplifying Miss Height and her great resolve. She fought long and hard to gain approval for a statue of Mrs.

Bethune in Lincoln Park, in Washington--an image of great power,

Q

Imagine what it takes to have a statue

grace and joy, with the figure of Mrs. Bethune holding the hands of children. It was the first monument to an African American in our nation's capital. ~~But after its unveiling, Miss Height noticed that~~ across the park a statue of President Lincoln stood with his back to Mrs. Bethune. To Miss Height it was obvious--it had to be turned around. Now erecting a sculpture of a black woman was one thing, but uprooting Mr. Lincoln and reversing his field of view was quite another. But Miss Height gathered her people, set her network in action, prayed, explained, argued, cajoled and persevered with one fixed goal in mind. No matter how many ~~city fathers~~ ^{men of power} cited precedents or practicality, no matter how many city planners argued aesthetics, Miss Height patiently stood by what she knew was right, for public sculpture is a symbol and a message to our young. ~~And~~ today in Lincoln Park, its namesake gazes with respect at Mary McLeod Bethune.

Remembering her mentor, Miss Height once said, "Next to my own mother, Mrs. Bethune had the greatest impact on me. I learned from her that you have to do your homework. You just don't jump off on things."

not only erects statues but turns them around

Tonight we honor a woman who ~~turns~~ statues around.

Miss Height, in large part we are here tonight because you taught us to do our homework. To praise you, we will work with you on all that is left to do. To honor you, we will learn from your works and heed your voice, and use the positions we earn to help people. And ~~inspired by~~ ^{challenged} you, we each will ask, as Esther asked

by your example, we each should challenge ourselves to use position not for personal and future demands but to build, enrich and do for others

(5)

~~so long ago, "How can I endure to see the evil the shall come~~

~~unto my people, or how can I endure to see the destruction of my~~

~~kindred."~~

for who knoweth if thou art come to the Kingdome
for such a time as this.

Remarks in Tribute to Dorothy Height

by

Margaret A. Williams,

Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

to the First Lady,

The Haley Farm

September 23, 1994

I have searched and prayed for adequate words to say about Miss Height. And I must tell you that it is impossible to find words that convey all she has given us, that can size up her place in history or pay fair tribute to her spirit and accomplishment.

In fact, the best I've found are words that Dorothy Height herself used to describe the individual who most inspired her. Miss Height said, "I never met a person who used her own personal power for others like my mentor, Mary McLeod Bethune." In fact, however, our country has been blessed with two African American women who fit that description, and Miss Height is the second one.

She walks among us with such beauty and character and creative force--she possesses such a gift for seeing what is possible and teaching what is just--she takes such care to get things right, and once she is fully prepared ~~and then~~ ^{she just} risks her life for us--that it is hard to consider all she has done, and all she will do, and still think of Miss Height as one of us mere mortals. To those who thrive in her wake and wage our own struggle with the rights she has won for us, Miss Height is simply a person of regal stature. To me, in the ancient sense, she is a queen.

The Book of Esther always has been a guide for me, and I never read Esther's story without thinking of Miss Height. Made a queen by King Xerxes because her beauty and character had won his heart, Esther risks her life by revealing herself to be a Jew and going before the king to ask that he withdraw his order to kill all those of Jewish birth. She boldly saves her people, but Esther's bravery is never rash. She knows that courage does not supplant careful planning. She calculates the cost of action, and finds her life is at stake. She sets priorities, placing the lives of others above her own safety. She carefully sets a course of action then moves boldly forth. Esther could have risked very little and saved her life and that of Mordecai, her stepfather. Instead, she and Mordecai saw that God had placed them where they were for a purpose--that it was within their reach to save others. They didn't ask God to fix things. They asked Him for direction and they acted.

Miss Height does not ask God to fix things for her or her people. She gets in a position and she uses it. Like Esther, she knows how to use the positive. Like Esther, Miss Height gathers her people together to talk and plan and pray. And like Esther, Miss Height moves when she knows she is ready, saying, "If I perish, I perish...for who knoweth if thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Of all her accomplishments, there is one that may be lesser known

which I think exemplifies Miss Height and her ~~great~~ resolve. She fought long and hard to gain approval for a statue of Mrs. Bethune in Lincoln Park, in Washington--an image of great power, grace and joy, with the figure of Mrs. Bethune holding the hands of children. It was the first monument to an African American in our nation's capital. But after its unveiling, Miss Height noticed that across the park a statue of President Lincoln stood with his back to Mrs. Bethune. To Miss Height it was obvious--it had to be turned around. Now erecting a sculpture of a black woman was one thing, but uprooting Mr. Lincoln and reversing his field of view was quite another. But Miss Height gathered her people, set her network in action, prayed, explained, argued, cajoled and persevered with one fixed goal in mind. No matter how many city fathers cited precedents or practicality, no matter how many city planners argued aesthetics, Miss Height patiently stood by what she knew was right, for public sculpture is a symbol and a message to our young. And today in Lincoln Park, its namesake gazes with respect at Mary McLeod Bethune.

Remembering her mentor, Miss Height once said, "Next to my own mother, Mrs. Bethune had the greatest impact on me. I learned from her that you have to do your homework. You just don't jump off on things."

Miss Height, in large part we are here tonight because you taught us to do our homework. To praise you, we will work with you on all

that is left to do. To honor you, we will learn from your works and heed your voice, and use the positions we earn to help people. And inspired by you, we each will ask, as Esther asked so long ago, "How can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people, or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred."

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The Columbus Dispatch

July 31, 1994, SUNDAY

SECTION: NEWS LOCAL & NATIONAL, Pg. 7C

LENGTH: 367 words

HEADLINE: BLACK FAMILY REUNION IS GETTING BIGGER EACH YEAR

DATeline: CINCINNATI

BODY:

The founder of a 1986 event to promote the unity of black families has seen it grow into an annual observance in seven U.S. cities.

Dorothy Height, 82, is single and childless. But she used her influence as president of the National Council of Negro Women for 25 years to get the Black Family Reunion started in 1986.

A decade ago, while watching a television documentary on the ills plaguing poor black people, Height decided that she must do something to promote and bolster the family unit.

"We're not a problem people - we're just people with problems," she said. "No one else can retrieve our values and salvage our people better than we can."

The Cincinnati version of her event takes place Aug. 19-21 at Bicentennial Commons at Sawyer Point and at the Albert B. Sabin Cincinnati Convention Center. More than 300,000 participants were expected from Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois.

Although created as a cultural festival for blacks, the festival welcomes people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Height, who was just selected by President Clinton to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, plans to attend the Cincinnati reunion and speak during the breakfast Aug. 19.

The Black Family Reunion, which she launched in Washington, has grown each year. It has attracted more than 11 million people and major underwriting from Procter & Gamble, based in Cincinnati.

The Cincinnati event will combine everything from free medical testing to ethnic cuisine, inspirational speeches and big-name entertainment.

Recording artist Raven-Symone, of The Cosby Show and Hangin' With Mr. Cooper will perform, as will gospel star Dorothy Norwood.

Height's career as a civil-rights leader has won her more than 20 honorary degrees and human-rights honors.

She began working in the 1930s in the New York City welfare department. Then she moved to the Harlem branch of the YWCA, filling various executive positions.

She worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, A. Philip Randolph and others, participating in civil-rights events in the 1950s and 1960s.

She joined the National Council of Negro Women as its president in 1958.

LOAD-DATE-MDC: August 1, 1994

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The Boston Globe

September 13, 1992, Sunday, City Edition

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. 18

LENGTH: 641 words

HEADLINE: After some twists and turns, Clinton, Jackson paths meet; CAMPAIGN '92

BYLINE: By Michael K. Frisby, Globe Staff

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Gov. Bill Clinton hastily rearranged his schedule to appear at the Black Family Reunion on the Mall here yesterday, a possible sign of a thaw in his frosty relationship with Jesse Jackson.

The festival annually attracts more than a hundred thousand African-Americans for a taste of their heritage: food, music, culture and family tradition. Clinton was not originally scheduled to attend.

The tale of how he got to the stage with Jackson, Ronald Brown, the Democratic Party chairman, and Dorothy Height, the president of the National Council of Negro Women, delivers a revealing glimpse at the dynamics of his campaign.

But once on the stage, Clinton brought roses for Height, who was celebrating her 80th birthday. He lashed out at the Republicans, accusing them of using a "family values" theme to divide the nation. Clinton said that he wants to create "partnerships" instead, to bring the country together.

Later, Clinton introduced Jackson to the crowd, telling them Jackson would lead the party's voter registration drive. Jackson, in turn, gave Clinton a "Rebuild America" T-shirt.

In an interview, Jackson said it was important for Clinton to attend the event and that it could be a sign that the campaign may be changing its strategy of not always openly courting blacks, while wooing middle-class whites.

He said the campaign seems "to be moving towards a unified, big tent strategy. . . . It's a healthy sign. He is participating in the registering of voters, black and white. That is essential to the message of . . . rebuilding relationships. If that continues and

the anxiety and alienation that people feel will be overcome if this is the new strategy of the campaign."

But in Little Rock, Ark., last week, a Civil War of sorts was fought inside the Clinton campaign headquarters, with blacks and more liberal whites on one side and mostly conservative whites on the other. The problem for some, sources said, was that attending would put Clinton on stage with Jackson, whom the campaign has kept at a distance.

From accounts of organizers of the event in Washington and campaign sources in Little Rock, a routine meeting at Clinton headquarters turned heated when the event was proposed, and then supported, by the campaign's scheduling director, Susan Thomases.

Mickey Kantor, the campaign's chairman, is said to have opposed her view and made a decision that Clinton would not attend. According to accounts from those who were there, Kantor told the group that he went to the event last year and was not impressed with the crowd. He said the campaign would follow its planned course and go to the Mason District Crab Feast in the Washington suburb of Falls Church.

After Kantor's intervention, staff supporters of the event fought back, saying they felt Kantor had misrepresented the event. They were said to be appalled that thousands of blacks would be passed up in favor of an event that Falls Church officials said attracted 500 people last year.

But as late as Friday morning, the event was still off.

Inside headquarters, the supporters, led by Jeff Watson, a deputy field director, gathered clippings from articles around the nation describing the event in years past as attracting crowds up to 300,000. He took the material to Thomases.

Sources said Thomases mentioned the problem to her friend, Hillary Clinton. Hillary Clinton, who is a friend of Height, whose group sponsored the event, is said to have talked to her husband. And Friday night, Kantor was overruled.

Yesterday morning as reporters boarded the plane in Little Rock, Avis LaVelle, a campaign press secretary, said the campaign decided to attend "because it represents a focus we believe is important. It's on our message of reinforcing family and a strong sense of community. And we are very impressed with Dorothy Height."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, AP PHOTO / Gov. Bill Clinton fits in a morning jog in Little Rock, Ark., yesterday before leaving for a day of campaign engagements in Washington.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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SHOW: ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

May 7, 1993, Friday

LENGTH: 745 words

HEADLINE: 'The Black Family Reunion Cookbook' Discussed

BODY:

LINDA WERTHEIMER, Host: The Black Family Reunion Cookbook celebrates cooking, culture and the moments of sharing them. It was assembled by the National Council of Negro Women, an organization founded by educator Mary McLeod Bethune and it includes some of her favorite dishes. Dorothy Height is the president of the organization and in the introduction, she says that 'In gathering these recipes, contributors have embarked on something that goes beyond the preparation of food.'

DOROTHY HEIGHT, President, National Council of Negro Women: When people break bread together, there's a chance that they come to bonding and we think that if we could only realize the number of values in family life that get expressed, really, around a meal or if you think about it, there are more decisions made over food than around conference tables.

WERTHEIMER: Dr. Height, I noticed in this collection of recipes that roughly speaking there are a dozen different recipes for biscuits. There are crackling biscuits and sweet potato biscuits and coconut biscuits here and a story. In the margins of the book, there are accounts, 'food memories,' you call them. There's an account which you've provided for the book about Mary McLeod Bethune and her biscuits.

Dr. HEIGHT: Mrs. Bethune was really a very remarkable person and she told the story of once during the days of segregation and she was riding on a train. The conductor came to her and he said, 'Auntie, do you make good biscuits?' And she said to him, 'I'm an adviser to the president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I am the founder of a four-year accredited college, the Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida. I am the founder of the National Council of Negro Women and I make good biscuits.' And I think her sense of humor and her capacity for really showing that making good biscuits was as important as anything else.

WERTHEIMER: You also mention in the book that this collection of recipes acknowledges the African diaspora.

Dr. HEIGHT: Yes and historically, okra, collard greens, those are things that it is said

our ancestors brought to this country and some of the recipes that are in there that combine things like peanuts with either a vegetable or peanuts with chicken, those combinations are from our African heritage and this is a cookbook that relates the whole diaspora. It is not just those of us who are of African background who are in the United States but those in the Caribbean. I think you'll find some recipes there were drawn from the Caribbean.

WERTHEIMER: When you started putting together the book, could you look at those 800 recipes and tell something about the population that was contributing to it?

Dr. HEIGHT: Well, it showed something that I hadn't ever thought of before, it showed a kind of pride. One of the favorite stories is from a young man who told about how his mother used to make cookies and he thought he was stealing them, and when he would take one, his mother would see him and she'd say, 'Here, take another one, you may meet a friend along the way' - that people enjoyed telling their stories. 'This is what my mother said' or 'This is how we did it' or 'How we cooked our Sunday dinner.' And there was a kind of, what I would call, a dialogue that took place around these recipes and I think one of the other beautiful things about this book is that it has excerpts all the way through of Mary McLeod Bethune's last will and testament because we want to keep the sense that this is a black family reunion cookbook and that the sharing of some of the favorite recipes and things that many people, for the first time, wrote down, is what I think also makes it as valuable as the fact that we have the food memories.

WERTHEIMER: Thank you very much. Dr. Dorothy Height is president and chief executive officer of the National Council of Negro Women. The book is called The Black Family Reunion Cookbook: Recipes and Food Memories.

[The preceding text has been professionally transcribed. However, in order to meet rigid distribution and transmission deadlines, it has not been proofread against audio tape and cannot, for that reason, be guaranteed as to the accuracy of speakers' words or spelling.]

THE PRECEDING TEXT HAS BEEN PROFESSIONALLY TRANSCRIBED. IT HAS NOT YET, HOWEVER, BEEN PROOFREAD AGAINST AUDIOTAPE AND MAY CONTAIN ERRORS.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The Ethnic NewsWatch
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July 13, 1993

SECTION: Vol. XXXV; No. 31; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 477 words

HEADLINE: NAACP Names Dr. Dorothy Height The 1993 Spingarn Winner

BODY:

NAACP Names Dr. Dorothy Height The 1993 Spingarn Winner.

Dr. Dorothy I. Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and one of the most venerated figures in civil and human rights movements, has been selected as the 1993 recipient of the NAACP's most prestigious awards -- the Spingarn Medal.

The announcement was made by Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, the NAACP's Executive Director.

Instituted in 1914 by the late Mr. Joel E. Spingarn, then NAACP Chairman, the medal is presented annually to the man or woman of African descent an American citizenship who made the highest achievement during the preceding year or years in any honorable field of human endeavor.

The selection of Dr. Height was made by the Spingarn Award Committee from a list of nominees submitted by the public. The presentation will take place on Thursday, July 15th, at the Freedom Fund/Spingarn Awards Dinner that concludes the NAACP's Annual Convention in Indianapolis.

President of the NCNW since 1957, Dr. Height has played an extraordinarily important role in the struggle of African-Americans, and has been an especially active advocate for Black women and the Black family.

Working closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, A. Phillip Randolph and others. Dr. Height participated in virtually all major civil and human rights events in the 1960s.

For her tireless efforts on behalf of the less fortunate, President Ronald Reagan presented her the Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service in 1989, the year she also received the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom Medal by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

Her awards also include the Essence Award, 1987, Stellar Award, 1990, Camille Cosby World of Children Award, 1990; the Caring Award by the Caring Institute, 1989; the Olender Foundation's Generous Heart Award, 1990.

Dr. Height has received over 20 honorary degrees from such institutions as Spelman College, Lincoln University (Pennsylvania), Central State University, and Princeton.

Born in Richmond, Va., she earned the bachelor and master's degree from New York University and did further postgraduate work at Columbia University and the New York School of Social Research.

For many years, Dr. Height filled a dual role as a staff member of YWCA and a volunteer at the NCNW. At the YMCA, she rose through several leadership positions, to eventually become director of the Center for Racial Justice, a post she held until 1977 when she retired.

As the 78th recipient of the prestigious medal, Dr. Height joins a distinguished roster of African-Americans who have received the Award including last year's winner, Barbara Jordan. Other medalists include General Colin L. Powell, Virginia's Governor L. Douglas Wilder, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, Bill Cosby and singer Leontyne Price.

ETHNIC-GROUP: African-American

LANGUAGE: English

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August 28, 1993

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LENGTH: 1073 words

HEADLINE: Commitment to the Black Family: Dr. Dorothy Height

BYLINE: Spears, LaWanza

BODY:

Commitment to the Black Family: Dr. Dorothy Height.

DR. HEIGHT

The AFRO-AMERICAN Newspaper's celebration of the Black family would not be complete without recognizing the woman who has worked for so many years stressing the importance of the Black family structure for preserving our customs and alleviating the many social ills that plague the community.

Continuing in the tradition of history's powerful Black women, Dr. Dorothy Height has remained vocal on equality and human rights for all people.

For more than 50 years she has travelled across the United States and abroad teaching the importance of self-help and determination. Through her speeches and community involvement Dr. Height has restored pride and confidence in society's less fortunate.

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was born on March 12, 1912 in Richmond, Va. From the very beginning her parents taught her the importance of education and religion, two principles of life that have shaped her vision for a better world.

"She is a true visionary," said Michele R. Brown, former assistant to Dr. Height and current assistant to Lavonia Perryman, promotions director. "She has a vision that is clear and she can articulate it so others can see it."

Dr. Height earned her bachelor and master's degrees in four years from New York University. She did further postgraduate work at Columbia University and the New York School of Social Work.

Although Dr. Height has held many positions in different government and social services agencies, she is most noted for her leadership in the YWCA and the National

Council of Negro Women (NCNW). Dr. Height met Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune on Nov. 7, 1937 during an NCNW meeting. At the request of Dr. Bethune, Dr. Height joined the organization. Their friendship would later make history.

Dr. Height remained active at the YWCA while aiding Ms. Bethune and the NCNW. Neither responsibility went neglected because she continued to succeed in both capacities. She worked closely with Dr. Bethune and the NCNW in its quest to raise the community above the limitations of race and sex. And at the YWCA, Dr.

Height went from working at a local Harlem branch to becoming director of the National YWCA's Center for Racial Justice.

In 1947 Dr. Height assumed national presidency of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. And in 1957 she was appointed president of NCNW, a position she still holds today. Dr. Height's term as Delta Sigma Theta president ended in 1956, and in 1977 she retired from the Y.

In all her leadership roles Dr. Height has upheld the principles of her mentor. "Dr. Bethune's legacy is a message to us all. She once said, I leave you hope and love and faith and racial pride and the challenge of working together, a respect for the use of power, and the responsibility to our young people.' She spent her whole life opening doors and trying to see how she could prepare her people to go inside," Dr. Height said.

Dr. Height has picked up the torch and is continuing to open doors.

NCNW

The National Council of Negro Women was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, educator and political activist. Dr. Bethune saw the possibility of power within an all-woman, united organization. Through its many educational, social, cultural, economic and scientific projects NCNW works to eliminate prejudice and discrimination.

NCNW is a voluntary, non-profit membership organization helping women to improve the quality of life for themselves, their families and the community. Through its 33 national affiliated organizations and 250 community-based sections, NCNW has an outreach to 4 million women, all contributing to the peaceful solutions of problems of human welfare and rights. NCNW is involved in the Elder Care Institute, Women's Health Issues, and International Outreach.

NCNW has also published the Black Family Reunion Cookbook as documentation of African-American recipes and traditions. The sequel, the Black Family Dinner Quilt is now available.

Michele Brown, Dr. Height's former assistant, says NCNW's success is due to the

organization's commitment to meeting the needs of the people.

"They've done whatever the times have called for," she said.

BLACK FAMILY REUNION

No other project exemplifies the organization's commitment to the community than the Black Family Reunion. The Black Family Reunion was conceived to respond to a negative Bill Moyers/CBS special entitled, "The Vanishing Black Family."

In 1986 over 200,000 people gathered on the Mall of Washington, D.C. to participate in a weekend of workshops, exhibits, free health checks and live entertainment. The response was so positive that the event quickly spread to other major cities.

Many families throughout the country have used this event to hold their own family reunions. They come with their t-shirts and children, grandchildren and great grandchildren from all over the country.

"There are creative and compelling things that African-American families are doing in the face of so many challenges," Dr. Height said. "Collectively, these successful efforts represent simple tangible examples of families coping effectively with the problems they face. This year's Black Family Reunion Celebration will provide a venue for presenting these success stories, which we feel can be inspiring and life-enhancing for the millions of participants who come each year."

The Black Family Reunion Celebration has already travelled to Chicago, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Cincinnati. Currently, it is visiting Los Angeles.

Schedule for remaining states:

Sept. 10 to 12 on the National Monument Grounds in Washington, D.C.

Sept. 17 to 19 at Overton Park in Memphis, Tenn.

This year's theme is: "Families Working Wonders: Something to Celebrate!"

All activities and programs will center around how families work to solve problems and build stronger communities.

This year, like past years, promises to be educational and entertaining. Actor, Danny Glover is serving as honorary chairman.

The 1993 Black Family Reunion is sponsored by The Proctor & Gamble Company, Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Avon, Bell Atlantic, D.C. Chartered Health Plan, Coca-Cola U.S.A./Coca Cola Enterprise, Cover Girl, Delta Airlines, Ford Motor Company, Kraft

General Foods, Pleasant Company, Pro-Line, The Pillsbury Company, Sears Roebuck & Co., Shell Oil Company, Reebok/Foundation/Reebok International Ltd., and a host of media co-sponsors and contributors.

ETHNIC-GROUP: African-American

LANGUAGE: English

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Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the National Council of Negro Women, and United Church Women. In 1948, she was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by Hamline University, the first woman graduate of Hamline to be so honored. In 1983, she received a "pioneer woman" award from the New York State Conference on Midlife and Older Women. Hedgeman was also a board member of the National Council of Christians and Jews. In 1964, she published her autobiography and study of Black leadership, *The Trumpet Sounds*, following it with an assessment of the civil rights movement from 1953 to 1974, *The Gift of Chaos* (1977).

In later years, Hedgeman used a restaurant at 22 West 135th Street as her unofficial office and meeting place for friends during the breakfast and dinner hours. From there she continued her efforts to improve conditions for the people of Harlem. After fifty-four years of marriage, Merritt Hedgeman died in 1988; Anna Hedgeman died on January 17, 1990, at the age of ninety.

Despite her indisputable accomplishments, Hedgeman never received the recognition due her. Partly from her own desire to better her situation and partly forced by circumstances, she constantly changed jobs, never remaining in one long enough to achieve prominence as a leader. Still, her long career as a civil rights advocate deserves further attention.

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PAULA F. PFEFFER

HEIGHT, DOROTHY IRENE (1912-)

For nearly half a century, Dorothy Irene Height has given leadership to the struggle for equality and human rights for all people. Her life exemplifies her passionate commitment to a just society and her vision of a better world.

Born in Richmond, Virginia, March 24, 1912, and educated in the public schools in Rankin, Pennsylvania, a small town near Pittsburgh, where her family moved when she was four, Dorothy Irene Height established herself early as a dedicated stu-

dent with exceptional oratorical skills. With a \$1,000 scholarship for winning a national oratorical contest sponsored by the Elks and a record of scholastic excellence, she enrolled in New York University and earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in four years. She did further postgraduate work at Columbia University and the New York School of Social Work.

Employed in many capacities by both government and social service associations, she is known primarily for her leadership role with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). While working as a caseworker for the New York welfare department, she was the first Black American named to deal with the Harlem riots of 1935 and became one of the young leaders of the National Youth Movement of the New Deal era. It was during this period that Height's career as a civil rights advocate began to unfold, as she worked to prevent lynching, desegregate the armed forces, reform the criminal justice system, and guarantee free access to public accommodations. The turning point in the life of Dorothy Height came on November 7, 1937. That day, Mary McLeod Bethune, founder and president of the NCNW, noticed the assistant director of the Harlem YWCA, who was escorting Eleanor Roosevelt into an NCNW meeting. Height answered Bethune's call for help and joined Bethune in her quest for women's right to full and equal employment, pay, and education.

This was the beginning of her dual role as YWCA staff and NCNW volunteer, integrating her training as a social worker and her commitment to rise above the limitations of race and sex.

Height quickly rose through the ranks of the YWCA, from the Emma Ransom House in Harlem to the Phyllis Wheatley Branch in Washington, D.C. By 1944 and until 1977, Height was a staff member of the National Board of the YWCA of the USA, where she held several leadership positions and assumed responsibility for developing leadership training activities for volunteers and staff as well as programs to promote interracial and ecumenical education. In 1965, she inaugurated and became director of the Center for Racial Justice, a position she held until 1977 when she retired from the national YWCA.

Height was elected national president of Delta Sigma Theta sorority in 1947 and carried the sorority to a new level of organizational development throughout her term, which ended in 1956. Her leadership training skills, social work background, and knowledge of volunteerism benefited the sorority as it moved into a new era of activism on the national and interna-

tional scenes. From the presidency of Delta Sigma Theta, Height assumed the presidency of the NCNW in 1957, a position she holds today.

As the fourth president of the NCNW, Height has led a crusade for justice for Black women and since 1986 has worked to strengthen the Black family. Under the leadership of Height, NCNW achieved tax-exempt status; raised funds from thousands of women in support of erecting a statue of Bethune in a federal park; developed several model national and community-based programs (ranging from teenage parenting to swine "banks" that address hunger in rural areas) that were replicated by other groups; established the Bethune Museum and Archives for Black Women, the first institution devoted to Black women's history; and established the Bethune Council House as a national historic site. In the 1960s, Height placed the organization on an action course of issue-oriented politics, sponsoring "Wednesdays in Mississippi" when interracial groups of women would help out at Freedom Schools; promoting voter education drives in the North and voter registration drives in the South; and establishing communication between Black and white women.

Her international travels and studies throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America began as early as 1937. As vice-chair of the United Christian Youth Movement of North America, she was chosen as one of ten American youth delegates to the World Conference on Life and Work of the Churches in Oxford, England. Two years later Height was a YWCA representative to the World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam, Holland. These early international experiences and activities as a leader of the youth movement left her with heightened confidence and the conviction that her goals and vision should be broadened to encompass international perspectives.

By the early 1950s, her leadership and understanding of the need to move the woman's agenda beyond the boundaries of the United States were evident. While she served as a YWCA staff member, she represented the NCNW at a meeting of the Congress of Women in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in connection with Haiti's bicentennial exposition; while there, she arranged for the initiation of the first international chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. In 1952, Height arranged a four-month visiting professorship at the University of Delhi, India, in the Delhi School of Social Work, which was founded by the YWCA of India, Burma, and Ceylon to learn firsthand the needs of Indian women. Height became known for her internationalism and humanitarianism, and became the YWCA representative to conduct international



A leader in the struggle for equality and human rights, Dorothy Irene Height is best known for her work with the Young Women's Christian Association, especially as a staff member of the National Board of the YWCA of the USA, and for her work with the National Council of Negro Women. As president of the latter organization since 1957, she has worked for justice for Black women and has sought to strengthen the Black family. [National Council of Negro Women, Inc.]

studies and travel to expand the work of the YWCA. In 1958, she was one of a thirty-five-member Town Meeting of the World on a special people-to-people mission to five Latin American countries. Because of her expertise in training, she was sent to study the training needs of women's organizations in five West African countries.

These early international and human relations experiences helped prepare her for moving the NCNW agenda into one of cooperation and collaboration in response to the needs of the people, both domestically and internationally. But her experiences also caught the attention of the human rights community as well as the federal government. In 1966, Height served on the Council to the White House Conference "To Fulfill These Rights"; went to Israel to

participate in a twelve-day study mission sponsored by the Institute on Human Relations of the American Jewish Committee; and attended an Anglo-American Conference on Problems of Minority Integration held by the Ditchley Foundation. In 1974, she was a delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Conference on Woman and Her Rights held in Kingston, Jamaica; in 1975, she participated in the Tribunal at the International Women's Year Conference of the United Nations at Mexico City. As a result of this experience, under Height's leadership the NCNW was awarded a grant from the United States Agency for International Development to hold a conference for women from the United States, Africa, South America, and the Caribbean in Mexico City and to arrange a site visit with rural women in Mississippi. Under the auspices of the United States Information Agency, Height lectured in South Africa after addressing the National Convention of the Black Women's Federation of South Africa near Johannesburg in 1977.

Her distinguished service and contributions to making the world more just and humane have earned her over fifty awards and honors from local, state, and national organizations and the federal government. With Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey she received the John F. Kennedy Memorial Award of the National Council of Jewish Women in 1965; and in 1964, she was awarded the Myrtle Wreath of Achievement by Hadassah. For her contributions to the interfaith, interracial, and ecumenical movements for over thirty years, she was awarded the Ministerial Interfaith Association Award in 1969; she received the Lovejoy Award, the highest recognition by the Grand Lodge, I.B.P.O. Elks of the World for outstanding contribution to human relations in 1968. In 1974, *Ladies' Home Journal* named her "Woman of the Year" in human rights; and the Congressional Black Caucus presented Height the William L. Dawson Award for "Decades of public service to people of color and particularly women."

Working closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, A. Philip Randolph, and others, Height participated in virtually all the major civil and human rights events of the 1960s. For her tireless efforts on behalf of the less fortunate, President Ronald Reagan presented her with the Citizens Medal Award for distinguished service in 1989, the year she also received the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom Medal from the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. Her awards also include the Essence Award, 1987; the Stellar Award, 1990; the

Camille Cosby World of Children Award, 1990; the Caring Award by the Caring Institute, 1989; and the Olender Foundation's Generous Heart Award, 1990.

Dr. Height has received over twenty honorary degrees, from such institutions as Spelman College, Lincoln University (Pennsylvania), Central State University, and Princeton University.

As a result of her extraordinary leadership in advancing women's rights, her dedication to the liberation of Black America, and her selfless determination, Height has carried out the dream of her friend and mentor, Mary McLeod Bethune, to leave no one behind. As a self-help advocate, she has been instrumental in the initiation of NCNW-sponsored food drives, child care and housing projects, and career and educational programs that embody the principles of self-reliance. She is proud that the NCNW established and maintains the Fannie Lou Hamer Day Care Center in Ruleville, Mississippi. As a promoter of positive Black family life, Height conceived and organized the Black Family Reunion Celebration in 1986 to reinforce the historic strengths and traditional values of the African-American family. Now in its sixth year in seven cities, the Black Family Reunion Celebration has made a difference in the lives of four million participants. Dorothy Height, too, has made a difference during her six decades of public life as dream giver, earth shaker, and crusader for human rights.

[See also NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN.]

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CBWA; NBAW; WWBA.

ELEANOR HINTON HOYTT

HEMINGS, SALLY (1773-c. 1835)

It is believed by some that Sally Hemings, a Black American woman who lived and died as a slave, was the mistress of Thomas Jefferson and the mother of several children by him. Although not nearly enough is known about the specific facts of her life, what is known suggests a woman of considerable interest and character whether or not the legends that surround her are true.

Born in 1773, she was the daughter of Betty Hemings and John Wayles. Her mother was the daughter of "a full-blooded African" woman and an English ship captain; her father was both her mother's

sent women and all youth in one person. . . . She is a disciplined person . . . [and she] is in essence the consummation of the quality of the past of Negro woman and part of the hope of all of us for the future (*The Trumpet Sounds*, 179-80).

On the day of the march the problem was corrected, but Hedgeman and others were reminded by the initial plan that black women, as well as white women, were still treated as second-class citizens in American culture.

Hedgeman was involved in international as well as national activities. In 1953 she spent three months in India as an exchange leader for the Department of State. In 1956 she spent six weeks in the Middle East and Israel discussing current international problems with key governmental and nongovernmental officials. She participated in two international conferences on social work in Munich, Germany (1956), and Tokyo, Japan (1958), discussing reciprocity for seamen of the world. She was keynote speaker for the first Conference of the Women of Africa and of African Descent held at Accra, Ghana, in 1960, and in 1973 she participated in the International Conference of Social Work at The Hague, Netherlands.

Hedgeman has served as teacher, lecturer, and consultant to numerous educational centers, boards, and colleges and universities, particularly in the area of African-American studies. She has presented courses in African-American studies and held inservice training series for public school teachers. In later years she owned Hedgeman Consultant Services in New York City.

Hedgeman held memberships in numerous organizations, such as the Child Study Association, Community Council of the City of New York, National Urban League, NAACP, United Nations Association, Advisory Committee on Alcoholism, Advisory Committee on Drug Addiction, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews (where she served on the board of directors).

Hedgeman's alma mater, Hamline University, inducted her into Phi Beta Kappa in 1976. Honorary doctoral degrees have been received from Hamline University (1948), Upsala College (1970), Benedict College (1978), Dowling College (1977), and Macalaster College (1980). Her other recognitions include the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Meritorious Citation as a pioneer for human rights, 1953; Consumer Protective Committee Award, 1955; Outstanding Citizens' Award, Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York City, 1956; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Award, 1956; Manhattan Arts and Educational Guild Award Certificate, 1957; Rust College Shield Award, 1971; Tenth Anniversary Award, Delta Ministry of Mississippi, 1974; and the Frederick Douglass Award in recognition of distinguished leadership toward equal opportunity, 1974.

Hedgeman is author of *The Trumpet Sounds* (New York: Holt, Rinehart, 1964), *The Gift of Chaos* (New York: Oxford

University Press, 1977), and articles in numerous organizational publications, newspapers, and journals.

After nearly a lifetime of concern for justice in all aspects of national and world culture, Hedgeman, who had been a resident of the Greater Harlem Nursing Home, died on January 17, 1990, in Harlem Hospital.

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Jessie Carney Smith

Dorothy Height (1912-)

Organization leader, social servant, civil and women's rights activist

Dorothy Irene Height has served as president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) since 1957. Under her leadership the council has grown as a coalition of black women's organizations, focusing especially during her



Dorothy Height

tenure on global issues that affect the struggles of women. She also served as national president of Delta Sigma Theta sorority from 1947 until 1956, has served on numerous United States committees concerned with women's issues, won countless service awards, and has traveled extensively for the cause of women's issues worldwide. She spent the majority of her professional life as a staff member of the Young Women's Christian Association's (YWCA) National Board. Through her professional and voluntary responsibilities, Height has fought to improve the status of women and to empower women to speak in their own behalf.

Height was born on March 24, 1912, to James Edward Height and Fannie (Borroughs) Height. The family moved from Richmond, Virginia, to Rankin, Pennsylvania, a small mining town, in 1916. She has one sister, a half sister, and a half brother. Her father worked as a building contractor, and her mother was a private nurse to cancer patients. The family worshipped at a local, segregated Baptist church where James Height, a religious man, was choirmaster and Sunday school superintendent. Reminiscing about her earliest years, Height recalled that most of her life was spent in the church and related organizations, where she "sort of followed [her mother] around and got into the idea of organizing clubs" (*Current Biography Yearbook*, 216).

Height attended Rankin High School, where she was an exemplary student, both in academics and athletics. She won spelling, debate, and speech contests throughout high school while maintaining a straight "A" grade point average. After outgrowing childhood asthma and reaching a height of five-foot nine-and-a-half inches by age eleven, she played center on the basketball team. She also cowrote the school song and sang in a trio. Outside of school she became active in the

YWCA, where her leadership skills and her basketball prowess were developed. By the age of fourteen, Height was elected president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Girls Clubs.

Upon graduation from high school, Height applied to Barnard College in New York City. She was informed by the school, however, that they already had two black students and therefore she would have to wait a term or more. She chose instead to attend New York University, using a one-thousand-dollar scholarship she had won from an Elks Fraternal Society's national oratorical contest. While attending NYU, she lived with her sister and worked at odd jobs to support herself. Height finished her undergraduate course work in three years and in her fourth year worked to receive her master's degree in educational psychology. This course work was completed in 1933.

After completing her formal education, Height took a practice teaching position at Brownsville Community Center in Brooklyn. Also, following the founding of the United Christian Youth Movement in 1935, she became an active member and quickly became one of its leaders. This position enabled her to travel widely throughout the United States and to Europe. In 1937 she represented the organization at the International Church Youth Conference in Oxford, England, as well as serving as a youth delegate at the World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam, Holland. In 1938 Height, acting as a representative of the Harlem Youth Council, became one of ten American youths to help Eleanor Roosevelt plan the 1938 World Youth Congress that met at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

In 1935 Height became a case worker for the New York City Department of Welfare. To strengthen her background for this position, she began course work at the New York School of Social Work. Following the Harlem riots of 1935, she was promoted to an advisory position to examine the unrest.

Height accepted a position with the YWCA in 1938 after her return from Europe to the United States. By this time she had decided that she could use her skills more productively in an organization that was inclusive of the races and international in character. This new job took her from Brooklyn to Harlem where she became assistant director of the Emma Ransom House, a place of lodging for black women.

Plight of Domestic Workers Attacked

In her new capacity, Height was immediately confronted with the plight of large numbers of black American women in domestic service jobs working under deplorable conditions. She became their advocate, speaking up, for example, in 1938 when she testified before the New York City Council about the despicable practice occurring in Brooklyn and the Bronx daily. Here on the streets, in what she called a "slave market," young black girls would bargain with passing motorists for a day's housework at substandard wages (*Current Biography Yearbook*, 217). The battle for fair wages for

domestic workers is one that she maintains to this day, urging them to organize and form unions.

This period of her life set the course for much of her future work. In 1937 Height not only began working with the YWCA but she also met Mary McLeod Bethune, president and founder of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). This meeting was life-transforming, as she joined the organization that she was to lead for more than thirty years.

In 1939, Height relocated to Washington, D.C., to take a new position as executive secretary of the YWCA Phillis Wheatley Home. At this time she also became a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. She immediately made her presence and ideas known. At an executive committee meeting in June 1940, Height proposed that the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority adopt as a national project a job analysis program that would analyze the reasons that black women were excluded from so many of the jobs open to women, increase the number of positions for black women on jobs already accessible to other women, and improve conditions under which many unskilled workers were forced to work. The project was deemed of utmost importance because at that time many women over the age of fourteen were working, and most married black women held employment outside of their homes. Another major emphasis of the project was to achieve a substantial representation of leaders on labor policy boards and commissions. Height headed the project for the organization. During the same year she also directed the YWCA School for Professional Workers in Mt. Carroll, Illinois.

Height's professional career with the national board YWCA began full-time in 1944, when she became a staff member for leadership development at the board headquarters in New York City. In this capacity she was assigned to aid in the development of training programs for volunteers and staff of the YWCA. As a member of the staff, she played a key role in planning the organization's landmark convention in 1946, where the membership voted to support an interracial charter to mandate integration of facilities and activities to the limits of the law. At this convention, she became the national board's interracial education secretary.

During 1944 Height was also elected vice-president of Delta Sigma Theta. Three years later she became national president. During the nine years she held the position, according to Paula Giddings's history of the organization, "neither the direction nor the substance of the initiatives changed under [her] leadership, but the breadth and interest in them did" (Giddings, 219). She expanded the sorority into one more focused on the relationship between black women in America and in Third World countries. When she was invited by the World YWCA to teach for four months at the Delhi School of Social Work in India in 1952, for example, she relayed the similar conditions of women in India and convinced her sorority members to establish a scholarship for two Hindu women.

The creation of international Delta chapters can be directly attributed to Height. Following her participation in the bicentennial celebration of Haiti in Port-au-Prince in 1950, she organized the sorority's first international chapter. Further, the organization established a Haitian relief fund, which after only four years proved invaluable when the island was hit by the destructive Hurricane Hazel. Height also increased the board's international and political consciousness by taking them to meet members of the United Nations' Department of Information and the Political and Economic Committee on the Rights of Women.

Height also had plans for the Deltas on the home front. They started a bookmobile to serve the black people of Georgia and held a series of nationally broadcast town meetings. Height later recalled that she was "looking for ways in which we [could] make Delta stand out from day to day; to take a look at ourselves and see how we [could] have a stronger and better program; to see what to develop for Deltas; and to work together, play together, yet find a kind of unity which [could] make the organization live" (Giddings, 224). She was successful in just that. She made Delta run smoothly, stepping down from the presidency in 1956 after she felt she had accomplished her goals for the organization.

Height Heads National Council of Negro Women

After her term as sorority head ended, Height could not long remain outside of club politics. In 1957 she became president of the National Council of Negro Women. The council, created by Bethune, was conceived as a means of "uniting middle- and upper-class black women in humanitarian causes and social action programs . . . [through] policies and programs stressing inter-race and inter-class cooperation" (*Current Biography Yearbook*, 216). It is an umbrella group for local and national organizations engaged in "development and utilization and women in community, national and international life" (*Encyclopedia of Associations*, 1776). These goals are accomplished on economic, political, and social levels using the resources available to individual members and the unity of the groups.

Through the organization, Height became an integral part of the leadership of the civil rights movement in the United States and abroad. Beginning in 1948, when Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York appointed her to the state Social Welfare Board, she has held a variety of official and unofficial positions, representing black American women's issues.

In 1960, in the wake of major changes in the African political scene, the Committee on Correspondence sent Height to study women's organizations in five African countries. As a result of that travel she acted as a consultant to the secretary of state. In this capacity, Height is said to have "used her influence to help win American aid for the new black African nations and foster a consciousness of identity between the struggles of blacks here and there" (*Current Biography Yearbook*, 217).

As the civil rights struggle expanded in the United States,

Dorothy Height was there. The NCNW held voter education drives in the North and voter registration drives in the South. Working with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the NCNW raised funds and paid students who postponed their college education to rally for the civil rights struggle.

Height was instrumental in getting the YWCA involved with the struggle as well. In 1963, as newly appointed secretary of the Department of Racial Justice, she was asked to plan strategies to overcome internal segregation in the association. Although the membership had committed to integration thirteen years before, the YWCA had never really achieved this goal; rather, they had concentrated on strengthening so-called equal black branches. Height was given the task of helping member associations to desegregate all facilities, branches, and local staff and to design training programs for volunteers and staff. One example of her work was the involvement of the YWCA in setting up a stable line of communication between black and white citizens in Alabama, where they arranged workshops to enlighten congressmen who had previously ignored the concerns of their few black constituents. Another example was a telephone registration project that was initiated through the YWCA's radio station in New York City, WMCA.

During these controversial years in America, Height offered her leadership in many arenas. She was chairperson of the Committee on the Status of Women, Equal Employment, and Employment of the Handicapped. As well, the NCNW was represented on the Council for United Civil Rights Leadership. Height also served as a member of the American Red Cross Board of Governors from 1964 to 1970 and on the Ad Hoc Committee on Public Welfare of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. She was a consultant to the New York State Social Welfare Board from 1958 to 1968. The degree of Height's visibility was apparent when an advertisement for American Airlines featured her in the November 1963 *Ebony* magazine.

During the early years of the civil rights movement, Height was known to take a rather moderate stance on matters of integration and civil rights. She did not support the call for black power as a means to attain the rights promised to all citizens of the United States. However, by 1972 she altered her position, stating that:

White power in the system in which we live is a reality. . . . We have to see that we have been treating the symptoms instead of causes. I think this does call for the more direct approach to the societal conditions (*Current Biography Yearbook*, 218).

This change in attitude was evident in her activities in the council and the YWCA. The council was finally coming closer to "bringing all the fingers together in a mighty fist," which was the vision of Bethune at its inception (Noble, 140). According to author Jeanne Noble, Height was able to build a financial and administrative capability that positioned

the NCNW to become eligible for large foundation grants; a first in the history of black women's organizations.

The Ford Foundation granted the council three hundred thousand dollars to begin Operation Woman Power, a project to help women open their own businesses and to provide funds for vocational training. During the same period, the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare supplied the means for a job training program for teenagers. The council spent time in areas where community needs were not being met, calling them to the attention of those in power. It went to rural areas and bought seed and feed for poor farmers and communities and started food cooperatives.

With the new influx of philanthropic and government dollars, Height led the organization into an era of phenomenal growth. With at least ninety workers in their staff, the work of the NCNW was critical to programs ranging from pig banks in the rural South to leadership training for African women. The YWCA also felt the impact of Height's mild radicalism. In 1970 at its triennial convention, Height was one of the principal architects of the now famous YWCA One Imperative, which affirmed for the organization the primary importance of "elimination of racism" as a means to cure oppression in society. She was adamant in her conviction that the pressures of being black and a woman in America deserved their deepest consideration. Height felt "the Y must get middle-class black and white liberals into the ghettos working not for, but with, minority groups" (Noble, 140). The YWCA released a public affairs statement confirming her projection of the devastation that would be wrought upon America if racism is not eradicated. In 1978 Height was lauded by Simeon Booker, in *Ebony* magazine, for her activism. In his column, "Washington Notebook," he told readers of her fight to gain approval for the first monument to a black person in the nation's capital. The statue of Mary McLeod Bethune is now located in Lincoln Park. He also informed readers about an educational campaign in South Africa that the council was operating under Height's leadership. According to Booker, she achieved great success in the 1960s despite her position as "a black female token on the male-dominated Civil Rights front" (Noble, 140).

During the past three decades the council has remained diligent in its role as a catalyst for effecting change in the position of black women. Currently, their focus has been on the revival of black family life, with annual celebrations that they call Black Family Reunions. These events are intended to encourage and renew the concept and admiration of the extended black family. This once-powerful barrier against racism and its attendant ills, such as juvenile delinquency, drug use, and unwanted teen pregnancy, is seen by Height and the NCNW to be the key to restoring the community. For example, in 1988 the council, along with the more than ninety thousand in attendance, gathered to lobby policy makers who continue to ignore the relationship between social and economic progress and family structure. The agenda focused on distortions of black family life perpetuated in the media and "promoting marriage and advocating

the re-emphasis of traditional values in the black community," according to the *Wall Street Journal*. The *Journal* commended the council for the celebrations: "If its movement to reinforce black families gains momentum, it could be the best thing that ever happened to the black underclass" (*Current Biography Yearbook*, 218).

In addition, under Height's leadership the council publishes *Black Woman's Voice* and runs a Women's Center for Education and Career Advancement for minority women in nontraditional careers, an Information Center for and about black women, and the Bethune Museum and Archives for black women's history. It has offices in West and South Africa, working to improve the conditions of women in Third World countries. Height has spoken extensively on the responsibilities of the United States, United Nations, and local organizations in pursuit of these improvements.

Height has been central in the success of three influential women's organizations and they have been substantially affected by her leadership. As president and executive board member of Delta Sigma Theta, Height left the sorority more efficient and globally focused, with a centralized headquarters. Height's work with the Young Women's Christian Association led to integration and sincere and productive participation in the civil rights movement. The National Council of Negro Women is now a competent umbrella for 240 local groups and thirty-one national organizations. In different ways each organization has been striving toward the unified goal of equal rights for black women all over the world. Through diligence, excellent managerial skills, good use of contacts, and use of authority, she has left an undeniable mark in each endeavor she has undertaken. Height is the recipient of a multitude of awards and holds honorary degrees from Tuskegee University, Coppin State College in Maryland, Harvard University, and Pace College in New York.

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The papers of Dorothy Irene Height are in the office of the National Council of Negro Women, Washington, D.C.

Jenifer Lyn Grady and Maalik Edwards,
with Adrienne Lash Jones

Sally Hemings

(1773-1836)

Slave companion

During the period of American slavery, the lives of millions of people of African descent were lost forever in irrecoverable silence; we will never know the stories of the vast majority of enslaved people because the dominant culture deprived slaves of their voices as well as their homelands, their languages, their labor, their bodies, and their children. Sally Hemings was more fortunate than most in the sense that at least legends about her have survived. However, the Sally Hemings legends are so entwined with political lies, secrets, and silences that it is very difficult for the modern scholar to ascertain much about her.

Whatever the agonies, joys, ideas, and experiences of the historical Sally Hemings may have been, her body has figuratively become the territory over which American racial and sexual battles have been waged for nearly two hundred years. Although we will never find the "true" Sally Hemings, the history of controversy surrounding her is deeply revealing of the American oppression of race and sex. In fact, very little has been written by scholars about Hemings herself; most of the controversy has centered on Thomas Jefferson. The historical evidence establishes convincingly that Jefferson owned a slave named Sally Hemings, and that she bore

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SECTION: CONTEMPORARY LIVING; Black History Month; Remembering; Pg. 102

LENGTH: 698 words

HEADLINE: MARY McLEOD BETHUNE

BYLINE: BY DOROTHY I. HEIGHT WITH JACQUELINE TRESCOTT; Dr. Dorothy I. Height is the president and CEO of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Jacqueline Trescott is a style writer for the Washington Post.

HIGHLIGHT:

Dorothy Height, the president of the National Council of Negro Women, remembers the woman who founded the organization, built a college and became a formidable force in American politics

BODY:

I had never met a person who used her own personal power for others like my mentor, Mary McLeod Bethune. She was deeply religious, having once even thought of being a missionary. Whenever there was a difficulty, she would say, "Let's now have prayer." Even in the office she would pray out loud, and everyone would get on their knees or bow their heads. I can hear her repeating one of the hymns, "Oh what a fellowship, leaning on the everlasting arms." She had an abiding faith that gave her confidence and direction.

The day I met Mrs. Bethune was November 7, 1937. I was working for the Phillis Wheatley YWCA in New York, and Mrs. Bethune was having a meeting of the members of the National Council of Negro Women. I had seen her and had heard her speak but never had direct contact with her. She was a formidable presence. Mrs. Bethune, the daughter of slaves, had founded a college and the National Council of Negro Women. At this time she was the director of the Division of Negro Affairs in the National Youth Administration, the titular head of the Federal Council on Negro Affairs commonly referred to as the "Black Cabinet" of advisers to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and a close friend of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

Mrs. Roosevelt was scheduled to speak at the meeting. I was assigned to meet the First Lady at the door. She came through the service entrance, and I ran around to get her. She made her speech, and all the women sang one of Mrs. Bethune's favorite songs, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." As I was about to leave, Mrs. Bethune stopped me and asked me my name and said, "Come back, we need you." I knew Mrs. Bethune the rest of her life.

Yes, she had a strong sense of herself that was related to her faith and her recognition that she had within her "The Power." Not power over, but the power to do. It is true when she spoke she would talk about herself. It is true that she had a strong sense of self-esteem, but she could also laugh at herself.

Once an associate was meeting her at the train station. As she walked up she saw Mrs. Bethune's drawers on the ground down around her feet. So she went up

and said, "Mrs. Bethune, your panties are down." Mrs. Bethune said, "Don't you think I know that?" And she stepped out of them and kept on going. There she was in a Persian lamb coat, and she wasn't going to stoop down and pull up her drawers. She had presence.

That dignity and humor allowed her to deal with the racial insults of the times. She was at the White House for tea once, and one of the White women said, "Mrs. Bethune, it is wonderful of Mrs. Roosevelt to have you here." And Mrs. Bethune said, "It is great of her to have all of us here." Another time she was leaving the White House and a southern politician said, "Auntie, what are you doing here?" and she replied, "Which one of my sister's children are you?"

Next to my own mother, Mrs. Bethune had the greatest impact on me. I learned from her that you have to do your homework. You just don't jump off on things. She was instrumental in getting African-American women in the Wacs (Army). Another time we were getting ready for a meeting with government officials about getting Black women into the Waves (Navy). Everyone had an assignment, and she said, "You know about residences and housing people of different backgrounds. You come prepared to talk about the fact that people of different races can live together." She laid out the issue. After it was over, and we had had two and a half hours of discussion, one of the admirals said, "If I have to meet with Mrs. Bethune and her ladies again, give me more notice so I can bring my lawyers." Less than 30 days later some African-American women were sworn in. Of course, she had also identified women who would be interested in the job and met the qualifications.

What comes to mind so often is how Mrs. Bethune pressed her point without being confrontational. She helped me understand a key approach: Always have more power and authority than you have used. It doesn't mean that you don't ever have to pound the table when it's time to use it, but you don't start with it.

GRAPHIC: Picture, no caption, BETTMANN ARCHIVES

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

I need to state the obvious. Language falls short when it is tasked to convey all that Miss Height has given us. Who can size up her place in history or pay fair tribute to her spirit and accomplishment.

She walks among us with such grace and character and creative force--she possesses such a gift for seeing what is possible. She takes such care to get things right, and once she is fully prepared, she acts.

Dorothy Height grew up in the small mining town of Rankin, Pennsylvania. She was smart, beautiful and tall -- she played center on her high school basket ball team. Worked in the YWCA. Led the Pennsylvania State Federation of Girls Clubs as its president when she was fourteen. From the very beginning this woman was busy organizing.

And people began to notice her. She was a world class star. As a young woman she went to Oxford England representing the United Christian Youth Movement at the International church Conference. Then it was on to Amsterdam and the World Conference of Christian Youth. Later as a member of the Harlem youth Council she helped Eleanor Roosevelt plan the 1938 World Youth Congress.

And people began to notice her. She was a world class star. She was and is, as many of her admirers are fond of saying, "the hardest working woman in show business."

Miss Height then went to work for the YWCA , first directing a lodging home for black womenhome for accepted a position with the YWCA

Tonight I have told you very little about Dorothy Iren Height. It is hard to consider all she has done, and all she will do, and still think of her as one of us mere mortals.

To those who thrive in her wake, Miss Height is a person of regal stature. To me, in the ancient sense, she is indeed a queen.

The Old Testament story of Esther has always been a kind of practical guide for me. A handbook of action, where praying and planning and developing a strategy actually pays off. Even when the mission is risky. Even when the critics are many.

From the day I met Miss Height I can never read Esther without thinking of her.

Made a queen by King Xerxes because her beauty and character had won his heart, Esther risks her life by revealing herself to be a Jew and going before the king to ask that he withdraw his order to kill all those of Jewish birth. She boldly saves her people, but Esther's bravery is cool and calculated. She knows that courage does not supplant careful planning.

Esther calculates the cost of action, and finds her life is at stake. She sets priorities, placing the lives of others above her own safety. She carefully sets a course of action then moves boldly forth.

Esther could have risked very little and saved her life and that of Mordecai, her stepfather. Instead, she and Mordecai saw that God had placed them where they were for a purpose--that it was within their reach to do for others. God had placed Esther in her position "for such a time as this."

Miss Height does not ask God to fix things for her or her people. She gets in a position and she uses it. Like Esther, she knows how to use the positive. Like Esther, Miss Height gathers her people together to talk and plan and pray. And like Esther, Miss Height moves when she knows she is ready. "If I perish, I perish...for who knoweth if thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Of all her accomplishments, I like to think of one that may be lesser known as exemplifying Miss Height and her great resolve. She fought long and hard to gain approval for a statue of Mrs.

Bethune in Lincoln Park, in Washington--an image of great power, grace and joy, with the figure of Mrs. Bethune holding the hands of children. It was the first monument to an African American in our nation's capital. But after its unveiling, Miss Height noticed that across the park a statue of President Lincoln stood with his back to Mrs. Bethune. To Miss Height it was obvious--it had to be turned around. Now erecting a sculpture of a black woman was one thing, but uprooting Mr. Lincoln and reversing his field of view was quite another. But Miss Height gathered her people, set her network in action, prayed, explained, argued, cajoled and persevered with one fixed goal in mind. No matter how many city fathers cited precedents or practicality, no matter how many city planners argued aesthetics, Miss Height patiently stood by what she knew was right, for public sculpture is a symbol and a message to our young. and today in Lincoln Park, its namesake gazes with respect at Mary McLeod Bethune.

Remembering her mentor, Miss Height once said, "Next to my own mother, Mrs. Bethune had the greatest impact on me. I learned

from her that you have to your homework. You just don't jump off on things."

-4-

tonight we honor a woman who turns statues around.

Miss Height, in large part we are here tonight because you taught us to do our homework. To praise you, we will work with you on all that is left to do. To honor you, we will learn from your works and heed your voice, and use the positions we earn to help people. And inspired by you, we each will ask, as Esther asked so long ago, "How can I endure to see the evil the shall come unto my people, or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred."