

State University of New York College at Buffalo - Buffalo State University

Digital Commons at Buffalo State

Bethel A.M.E. Church

Church Collections

6-17-1988

Newspaper; 1988-06-17; Carl Bland

Bethel A.M.E. Church

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/bethel-ame>



Part of the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

"Newspaper; 1988-06-17; Carl Bland." Bethel A.M.E. Church. Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State.
<https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/bethel-ame/135>

This Papers is brought to you for free and open access by the Church Collections at Digital Commons at Buffalo State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bethel A.M.E. Church by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Buffalo State. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu.

J. Carl Bland Speaks To State Judicial Panel



A special state Judicial Commission on Minorities was formed to study the treatment of minorities in the state's court system. These series of hearings are being held across the state.

Common Council President, George K. Arthur branded the local court system as racist. Blacks and Hispanics make up 35% of the Buffalo population, but few have court-related jobs. Donald Lee, a key aide to George Arthur, who could not be present, speaking in Arthur's behalf said that out of 12 Buffalo City Court judges, only 3 are black and one is Hispanic. And that in Western New York only 1 out of 9 appellate judges is black. There are no black state trial court judges; there

are only 6 minority lawyers on the Erie County district attorney's 85 lawyer staff and only one of the 13 City Court stenographers is black and none are Hispanic, Lee said. Every trial shown on television is a black trial or involves minorities.

J. Carl Bland, Chairman of the Buffalo NAACP Life Membership Committee, and a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church for 24 years, spoke on the issue. He stated that he noticed only one black juror perhaps will be serving on the jury of a court case, but seldom if it is a criminal case involving a black defendant. Jobs are sometimes not widely advertised and are most often filled under the ruse of "passing" or "failing" some test that has no relevance to the job to be performed, but has been an excuse for hiring an almost all white staff.

Mr. Bland stated that the unbelievable ousting of Buffalo's highly respected first and only black woman Judge, Barbra M. Sims for no reason was horrifying. "She turned to the court, but I doubt that there is an unbiased, fair unprejudiced court to which she can turn where a white judge will do justice," Mr. Bland said. "I have seen the harassment of Judge Bruce Wright in New York City who has not been reappointed to the Criminal Court. Other black women such as Police Captain, Marian Bass harassed in their jobs without any fair court for them to turn to."

"That New York State should have to resort to a special prosecutor only points out the deteriorating racial climate which I believe is fostered by the racist court system, wherein whites have come to believe that we, as African Americans, have no rights which they must respect," stated Mr. Bland. "Two cases come to mind where two of the so called 'Ladies of the Evening,' were picked up and one policeman testified that the other policeman took one of the ladies in to the back of the station where no male policeman was to carry any female without the presence of a female police officer, where the lady testified that she was forced to have sex with the officer. The court ruled insufficient evidence. The other case a white male robs a bank and is allowed to repay for said bank robbery. A white female secretary embezzled money

NAACP Observes 73rd Anniversary

Bethel Receives Golden Heritage



E. Paul, Jr., and Elizabeth Smith

The annual dinner of the Buffalo Chapter of the NAACP was held on Sunday, June 12, 1988 at 6:30 p.m. at the Buffalo Convention Center and was very well attended indeed.

Jr. Life Memberships were awarded to E. Paul, Jr. and Elizabeth. Elizabeth is a Jr. usher of Bethel and Paul, Jr. is an Acolyte. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. E. Paul Smith, Sr. Mr. Smith is a Trustee and a Mortician by profession. Connie is a teacher in the Buffalo school system.

Bethel A.M.E. Church also received its GOLDEN HERITAGE Award. Rev. Eugene E. McAshan was on hand to receive it.

Other awards given were: to Cozette Lyons who received the Youth Award; Raul Russi, and Robert L. Palmer, who received the Human Relations Award;

the Buffalo Chapter Links, Inc. and the Women For Human Rights & Dignity received the Community Service Award; Lydia T. Wright, MD, and Frank G. Evans, MD, received the Medgars Ever Award; The Rev. Paul Thompson received the Life Membership Presentations and made the appeal.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. William Pickard, Chairman of Regal Plastics of Detroit, Michigan. He stated that blacks are 7th place in income and that our purchasing power in 1987 was over \$200,000,000,000. That we have power but do not use it. We have over 5000 elected black officials in the country. Blacks make up 12% of the population. But in 1986, Shoes that cost \$125 a pair were bought by us — 60% of shoes bought were bought by blacks. WE are the profit margin for most Corporations.

He also stated that we as a people are hung up on CAN'T DO and SHOULD DO. We need to build our self worth. We cannot be independent with dependent thinking. We must not keep asking people to do for us; they'll do it TO us. We do not produce much of anything, but buy everything. We must ban together to recycle our monies in our neighborhoods.

He left an impact on all as he stated, "We have come from the cottonfield to the football field; from the outhouse to the white house; as you run this race, you may stumble, you may fall, but don't stop — don't give up.

We all stood and sang a song full of the faith that the dark has taught us; a song full of the hope that the present has brought us — facing the rising sun of our new day begun. We will march on 'till victory is won.