

Campbell Pledges Blacks In Building Trades Soon

Frank Campbell, executive director of the Tri-County Urban League, pledged here last night that black people in Peoria will enter the building trades this year.

"We're going to see blacks in the building trades here in large numbers," Campbell declared in remarks to the League's third annual meeting last night at Manual High School.

"We're together in this as we've never been together on anything before. We'll enter the building trades this year. We'd like to see the trade unions use as much imagination to get us in as they've used to keep us out."

CAMPBELL added that "this

Area Boy, 6, Killed As 2 Cars Collide

MACOMB — A two-car collision on snow-covered Rt. 94 one mile north and three miles east of Terre Haute, Ill., was fatal to Jeffrey Cole, 6, of 323 S. 7th St., Monmouth, and resulted in serious injury to two other persons about 10:45 a.m. yesterday.

The driver of the car in which the boy was riding, Connie Vental, 17, of Biggsville, was taken to Burlington (Iowa) Hospital and later transferred to the Iowa City Hospital in critical condition. The driver of the second auto, Krystyna Barclay, 34, of Riverside, was taken to Burlington Hospital with undetermined injuries.

According to state police, the eastbound Vental auto skidded sideways across the center line into the path of the Barclay car.

There were no arrests.

U.S. May Ease Travel Bans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington policymakers are debating whether to ease restrictions on travel by Americans to Communist countries such as Cuba and China.

One recommendation that has been made by government experts is that the State Department drop entirely its off-limits designation which now applies to mainland China, North Vietnam, North Korea

is still one of the things in this community that's keeping us apart."

Touching briefly on some of the areas on which the League will focus attention in the coming year, Campbell called on realtors here to "aggressively seek out black people who are interested in buying houses and don't just sit back and say, 'We don't discriminate.'"

Urban renewal, he said, is just a small part of the over-all housing problem here, adding that "financing is the big hangup." He urged blacks to apply and seek out more financial assistance from local lending institutions and forget about what was past practice of such institutions.

The Urban League, Campbell said, "still supports the utility tax to finance the urban renewal program. Out of all the discussion and criticizing of this tax I haven't yet seen any alternatives proposed."

"Don't think the federal government is gonna give us the money for it because they're not. Somewhere along the line we'd have to tax ourselves and come up with local money. And I haven't heard any of the City Council candidates coming up with a good alternative to the utility tax to finance renewal."

The league's 1968 annual report was issued last night, reviewing activities of the year and listing the following objectives to pursue the League's goal of an open society for Peoria in the coming year:

—EXPANSION of the highly successful task force employment project to include task forces in apprenticeships, insurance and the hotel and motel industry.

—THE DEMAND that employers upgrade black workers already on their payroll who have supervisory and managerial potential.

—A CALL on the community to organize its financial and managerial resources to undertake a massive housing program to provide adequate housing for low and moderate-income families.

—CONTINUED work for quality integrated education for all Peorians; quality integrated education is a prerequisite of the open society.

—A CALL on the white community to reject its old value system based on white racism—the assumption of the superiority of white over black.

—A CALL on the black community to reject the oversimplified generalization that all white people are racists.

—DEVELOPMENT of incentive programs to assist black youth to reach their maximum potential.

Guest speaker at last night's meeting, Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) called for increased efforts in home ownership, employment and business ownership and management to make blacks full partners in American society.

"Now," he told the audience of about 1,500 persons, "blacks are not a partner, they don't feel as a partner and they can't be a partner. We must implement our Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence."

"We have to do some nation-building here at home," he asserted, "before we try to remake the world, including

Vietnam. In our own American image."

He said the U.S. can never be the world leader it wants to be when Europe every summer can watch on their color TV set American cities burning.

Percy said he went to Washington with a dream, which many told him was impossible to carry out. Now, he said, it is law in the form of a National Home Ownership Bill, whereby low-income families can get financial assistance to buy a home at as low an interest rate as 1 per cent.

He got loud applause when he said, "If we can afford to jam people in high-rise public housing and supplement their payments, we can afford to do the same thing and give them their own homes."

He pledged he would help the AFRAM Development Corp. here to get FHA approval to rehabilitate five homes so they can be sold to low-income families.

TURNING TO jobs, Percy declared that "people don't want to be on the welfare rolls; they want to work. We should set a national objective of providing work for everyone able to work."

And he lauded day care centers where mothers can leave their children while they get training so they can get a job.

On black entrepreneurship, the senator said, "If we can give millions of dollars to our friends and enemies abroad to develop business skills, we can do the same here."

"We can work together to create a new dawn for this country and for Peoria, to give everyone the opportunity to be a whole person, a real person."

"There are two kinds of people in this world: those who detract and downgrade and those who are involved, who work to build a better America. I think we can show Europe the true hope of America as represented in this auditorium tonight, rather than our cities burning on their color TV sets."

Mrs. Kathryn Timmes was elected new secretary of the League last night, replacing Mrs. Helen D. Leatherwood, who had resigned. Edward E. Bauer was re-elected vice president and Steven R. Koch treasurer. League President James E. Peeples is in the second year of a two-year term.

Seven new directors were elected last night. They are: Mrs. Annie Evans, Q. W. Wellington, Kenneth Williams, Grant St. Julian, Harry Goldstein, Eugene Petty and L. W. Heese.

Re-elected to three-year terms were William H. Day, the Rev. Calvin Hightower, Chauncey O. Kendall, Mrs. John Timmes and James E. Peeples.

The membership last night adopted a resolution of appreciation to Roger Kelley, former Caterpillar Tractor Co. vice president, for his years of service to the League. He was instrumental in establishing a League office here.

The resolution will be sent to Kelley in Washington, D.C., where he has assumed his new job as assistant secretary of defense, assigned to manpower. Mrs. Kelley was introduced in the audience and a telegram from Kelley was read.