

Feb. 11

A SALUTE TO BLACK HISTORY WEEK

Feb. 15



Shirley Chisholm



William L. Clay



George W. Collins



John Conyers, Jr.



Ronald V. Dellums



Charles C. Diggs, Jr.



Walter E. Fauntroy



Augustus Hawkins



Ralph H. Metcalfe



Parren J. Mitchell



Robert N. C. Nix



Charles B. Rangel



Louis Stokes

A new power bloc, the Black caucus, has housed itself within the Congress of the United States. The Black caucus, comprised of thirteen of the fourteen Congressional members, was organized for the purpose of opening some line of communication between the Nixon administration and the Black people of this country.

The chairman of the caucus is Charles C. Diggs, Jr., United States Congressman from Detroit since 1954. Congressman Diggs is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa.

Robert N. C. Nix has been a United States Congressman from Pennsylvania's 2nd district since 1958. Nix serves as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Postal Operations. He startled many of his constituents when he introduced a "back-to-Africa" resolution.

Augustus Hawkins has been United States Congressman from the 21st district of California since 1963. His majorities in the elections of 1962 and 1964 were among the largest ever won by a Congressional candidate. Hawkins had been a California assemblyman since 1934 and has recently circulated a budget in excess of \$100,000 for an organization serving state and local Black officials as well as congressmen.

When Representative John Conyers, Jr., was elected in 1964, Michigan became the first state to send two Blacks to Congress at the same time (the other is Congressman Diggs). Conyers presented the joint testimony of the Black caucus members in opposition to the Supreme Court nominations of Judges Clement Haynsworth and G. Harold Carswell. He is also sponsor of a "full-opportunity act" which would designate \$30 billion annually over the next decade to the areas of jobs, housing and education. Sections of the bill are presently before various Congressional committees.

One of the newest Black members of Congress is Representative George W. Collins from the 6th district of Illinois. Collins served as temporary speaker of the House in December 1970 by invitation of House Speaker John W. McCormack.

Representative Ralph H. Metcalfe from Illinois was, in 1969, the first Black alderman to be elected president tempore of the Chicago city council—a position second to the mayor's in presiding over council meetings. Metcalfe succeeds the late William Dawson.

Special Thanks

It is with extreme pleasure that THE FACTS takes this opportunity to celebrate Black History Week, February 11th through 14th. For many years Blacks have played a vital role in the history of the United States. In our struggle for survival and in our determination to succeed, we must press on in the pursuit of equality, justice, understanding and full participation until the promise of America is realized by all its people.

A special thanks to THE FACTS staff:

Earlene Welky
Judith Williams
Norma Collins

Brian Jaybush
Donald Coleman
Jerry Dawson

for their extra efforts on this special issue. Both the staff and our sponsors hope the following pages will enlighten many of our readers. I know all Americans will proudly join us in a well-deserved "Salute to Black History."

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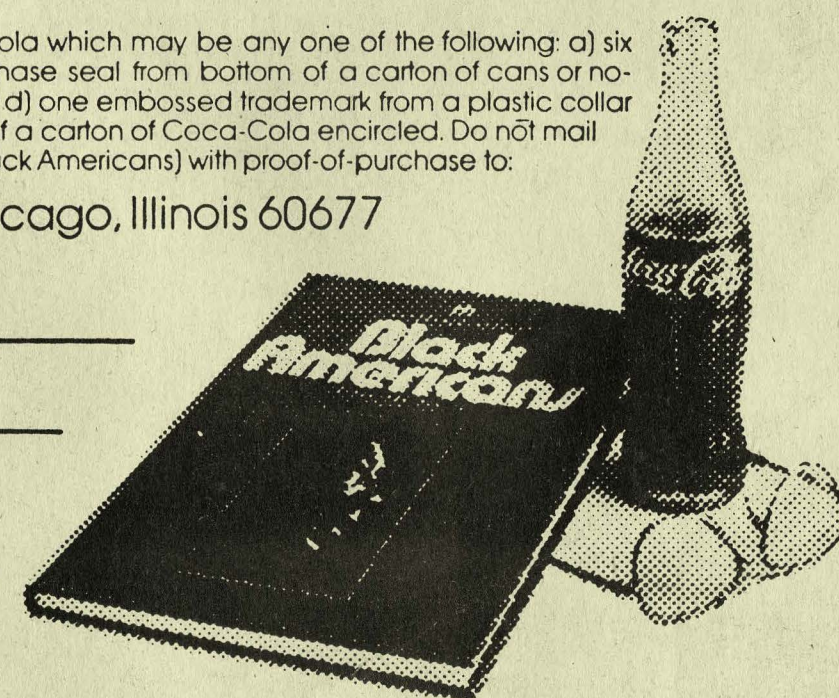
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