

Reverend Johnnie Lonnie Raven, Jr., Presiding Elder.

Reverend Eugene Foster, Chairperson.

Reverend Hayward White.

Reverend W. F. Griffin.

Reverend Jaunita Parker.

Reverend Charlie Byrd.

Sister Constance Hamilton.

Brother Ralph Taylor.

Brother Stonewall Pertilla.

Dr. Evelyn G. Perry, Compiler.

THE RESOLUTIONS

We, the members of the State of the Country Committee at the 83rd Session of the South Georgia Annual Conference held at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (Albany, Georgia) on March 22-26, 1995 do set forth these following resolutions, which were unanimously received and adopted by the attending delegation, to be prayerfully submitted to our nation's leaders:

RESOLUTION 1

We resolve that this conference go on record to endorse our support for affirmative action as a tool to continue to align the "American Dream" and the founding fathers' principle that "we hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." We, therefore, resolve that affirmative action is necessary to assure that the minority workforce is not given a "handout" but an "opportunity!" We, therefore, resolve that with these given opportunities minority America will be able to escalate over the barriers of economical, social and cultural horizons which have beset us in the past. Let it be clearly stated that we must procure the keys to these opportunities through affirmative action which is our "Contract with America," that if given the opportunity, we will respond educationally trained, responsibly employed, and culturally advanced. Let it be known that Black America suffers from the acute case of insufficient checking only because America refuses to deposit into her account.

RESOLUTION 2

We resolve that there is a need for welfare reformation; however, we resolve that there should be gradual steps to assure that "poor America" will be able to receive adequate housing, income and health care to sustain a minimal lifestyle of dignity. We, therefore, resolve that the process of ratification should take the following steps:

1. Five-year ratification period.
2. Gradual modification for those presently on welfare.
3. Reformation including parental training, vocational training and social skills' training.
4. Reformation that gradually restricts and deters teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and sales and a lack of self-esteem.

RESOLUTION 3

We resolve that adequate funding should be allocated so that a massive voter registration and voter education program is enacted in every Congressional District where the majority of the inhabitants are non-participatory voters.

RESOLUTION 4

We resolve RESOUNDINGLY that Congress would approve and support the appointment of Doctor Foster, M.D., as Surgeon General of the United States of America based upon his impeccable credentials in the medical profession. We must not allow misappropriate behavior of the past, when corrected, to be the portal for non-qualification. We must be reminded that in the gospel according to John 8:7 Jesus implies, "ye without sin, cast the first stone."

Finally, we, therefore, resolve that these resolutions be permanently engraved in the archives of the "American Dream."

Mr. Speaker, I commend the A.M.E. Church in Georgia for taking a stand on these critical issues. All of us in Congress can benefit from paying close attention to the views and positions taken by our religious institutions.

MCKINNEY EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 1995

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, this worthwhile program, modest yet dramatically effective, has drawn quite a bit of fire in recent days. I would like to take this opportunity to clear up some misconceptions about the program, voiced by my colleague from Arizona, [Mr. KOLBE].

My colleague objects strongly to this program for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, because of concerns that the program is overly bureaucratic. This is simply not the case at all. The McKinney program directly funds just one Homeless Education coordinator in each State; and over half of those coordinators only work part-time on the program. More than 80 percent of all funding goes straight to the local school districts. At last count, about 500 local school districts were running homeless education programs with McKinney funding.

My colleagues also quotes from a Department of Education document which states that the McKinney program "provides formula grants to States to operate an Office of Coordinator of Education for Homeless Children and Youth." The implication is that the program exists only to support bureaucrats. However, my colleague failed to read further in the program description, in which it is stated that the program also has responsibility "to develop and carry out a State plan for the education of homeless children. States also make subgrants to local educational agencies for tutoring, transportation and other services intended to enable homeless children to enroll in, attend and succeed in school." (Department of Education Fiscal Year 1996 Budget Summary and Background Information)

And that is what this program does so well—it gets funding to local school districts, who have designed special projects tailored to their local needs. Local school districts submit applications as part of a competitive process; only the best proposals win. The States make the final decisions; the localities design their own programs; and the Federal Government lets them do what they do best. No other Federal program targets these vulnerable homeless children in this way. We must oppose any attempt to eliminate the Education for Homeless Children and Youth program; because without this program, literally hundreds of thousands of homeless children will never get to school.

I am submitting a Project Description from the Amphitheater Public Schools Education for Homeless Youth Program in Tucson and Pima County Arizona. Amphitheater's program, called "Youth on Their Own," works with high school homeless youth, and is one of two

McKinney-funded homeless education programs in my colleague's district. The other program, run by the Tucson Unified School District, reaches out to elementary school-age homeless children. The Amphitheater Project Description explains better than I can how the program works, how they are using their McKinney funding, and why this McKinney funding is so valuable to local school districts all across the country.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION—ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1. District: Amphitheater Public Schools.
2. Contact person: Ann Young; Telephone (602) 297-4555.
3. Number of homeless children in school district (from attached survey): 317+; Number to be served by this project: 317+.
4. Project period (Maximum 15 months): From August 1993 to September 1994.
5. Describe services to be provided:

Educational assistance targeted for the homeless will be supplemental to the school program and will include a course in independent living set up to assist the students in learning the skills needed to survive on their own. A full time teacher will be hired to teach the course to an integrated student body so the homeless youths will not be isolated and stigmatized. He/she will also be responsible for assisting the students with course, college and career choices, helping in the identification and screening of homeless youth, coordinating with parents, teachers, school personnel, and private and public agencies, acting as a liaison to help the homeless enroll and succeed in school, and making home visits.

Tutorial services will be provided to assist students in reaching their academic goals.

Outreach effort to identify and assist homeless students in entering and becoming integrated into our schools, in obtaining residency status and the documentation necessary for government and social services. Assistance will be given in finding lodging with volunteer parents or on their own, medical and dental services, obtaining free breakfast and lunch, food stamps, AHCCS, SOBRA, DES, AFDC, clothing and household goods, emergency food from the food bank, part-time employment, a monthly stipend dependent upon good attendance, counseling, and mentoring.

6. Describe how the project is coordinated with the regular district educational program and integrates homeless children with non-homeless children:

Our program will advocate for children and youth to ensure their acceptance as students in the Amphitheater School District. A hotline for students who have difficulty meeting the criteria of the school district because of homelessness will be available at each school to assist the school personnel in determining homelessness status. Ongoing education of school personnel will be addressed.

The course in independent living which will address housing, nutrition, health, economic, and other basic needs will be available to all students so the homeless student will not be stigmatized. The Youth on Their Own support program also includes children who are not considered homeless under the McKinney guidelines—those living with friends and relatives on a comparatively stable basis. Every effort is made to mainstream the homeless youth so they are not isolated as a group from the school body.

7. Describe current districtwide efforts to remove barriers to the education of homeless children, pursuant to the McKinney Act (i.e.

documentation and residency policies, expedited assessments, outreach, etc.). Do not include activities funded by a McKinney Homeless Assistance grant.

Amphitheater School District is making efforts to remove barriers to the education of homeless children, but the documentation

and residency policies must still be evaluated on a case by case basis. It is not known how many children are helped or hampered by the present policies. Schools are to be asked to gather data as a basis for improvement efforts. An attempt will be made to enlarge the schools' influence on the out-of-

school environment. The high school hired a social worker this year who has helped to expedite assessments and outreach efforts. We have volunteers working with the homeless students on a one to one basis.