

1 FEB 1973

Black Caucus: 'Nixon's budget spits on poor'

CW

By TIM WHEELER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31 — President Nixon's proposed budget cuts in health, education and welfare programs and his billions in handouts to the rich are policies that "spit on the poor and the working class," the Congressional Black Caucus charged today.

Reporters jammed a hearing room in the Longworth House Office Building this morning to hear 13 members of the 15-member Black Caucus deliver a 162-page "True State of the Union" message denouncing Nixon's favoritism to big business and his attacks on workers and Black people.

Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), chairman of the Caucus assailed Nixon's demagoguery about the poor "pulling themselves up by their bootstraps." Stokes declared, "No one told Lockheed and Penn-Central to pull themselves up by their bootstraps."

"The Congressional Black Caucus does not intend to sit idly on the sidelines while corporate invested interests take bread from the mouths of the poor."

Stokes vowed to join the battle to slash the Pentagon \$31.5-billion budget and transfer the funds for housing, jobs, education and health.

Hits colonialism, imperialism

"We are unalterably opposed to this country's dual practice of colonialism and imperialism," he added. "We have seen the disastrous effects of those policies in Indochina. We will participate in Congressional action to make future Victorians — future unauthorized and unconstitutional wars — impossible."

It was the angriest and sharpest anti-monopoly statement yet made by the Black Caucus. Fury at Nixon's pandering to the corporations pervades the message, a compilation of 18 separate reports by individual Caucus members on subjects ranging from poverty, housing education, narcotics addiction and crime to foreign affairs and the economy.

The Black lawmakers scheduled presentation of the message on the House floor for this afternoon.

Nixon 'takes care of the rich'

Rep. Andrew Young (D-Ga), first Black Congressman from the deep South since Reconstruction,

in a report on the economy, declared, "What can the poor and blue-collar workers do for themselves when for nearly 18 months a cruel, callous and repressive economic squeeze has been so tightly clamped about their lifelines."

Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Cal), accused the Administration of concealing 20,000,000 jobless workers and added, "Taken together, they reach a true picture of not 4.3 million but over 20 million uncounted unemployed."

Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), accused the administration of subsidizing "with tax dollars" the Air America Company, a CIA front which has been reportedly used to ferry heroin in Southeast Asia.

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich), said the justice system in the U.S. is itself criminal."

Rep. Ralph R. Metcalfe (D-Ill), lashed Nixon's proposed budget cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and other health programs, and said the Black Caucus will fight to restore all these funds.

Rep. Parren Mitchell (D-Md) called Nixon's proposal to end all housing subsidies for the poor "a scheme to fatten profits for the real estate interests and loan sharks."

Rep. Charles Diggs, (D-Mich) said Nixon's "posture toward Southern Africa has been nothing short of criminal."

Rep. Ronald Dellums, (D-Calif) in a foreign policy message declared, "The Nixon Administration still ties national prestige and power to dictatorial regimes that have to rely on American support to maintain themselves against their own people."

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: 29-Oct-2009