

Remarks of Frances Dancy Hooks  
National Coordinator, WIN  
Region III Leadership Training  
Conference

Flint, Michigan

April 7, 1990

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It is a great pleasure to join you, the WIN members and friends of Region III -- our great American heartland Region -- today.

I bring you the warm greetings and best wishes of the National Office of your Association, especially my husband, Benjamin Hooks, our Executive Director.

Today, I am proud and happy to be able to tell you, "WIN is on the move!"

All over the nation, WIN units are coming into being. At the end of 1989, we had organized 120 units of Women in NAACP.

Nineteen eighty-nine was an active year.

As you know, our major campaign in 1989 was to do what we could to relieve the terrible devastation and desolation wrought by Hurricane Hugo, which battered South Carolina.

WIN swiftly swung into action. As National Coordinator, I made an early visit to South Carolina for an on-site assessment of the damage. Once back in Baltimore, I began to seek help from others. My heart has been warmed by the marvelous manner in which the women of WIN responded. Sylvia Williams and the women of Region VII performed outstandingly in the collection and distribution of donated items.

Johnnie McMillian and the women of Region V gave us the benefit of their special

knowledge of the situation and worked enthusiastically and cooperatively in this effort.

And you, the women of WIN throughout the nation, responded with your gifts and prayers.

Thanks to your support, we were able to make eight trips to South Carolina to deliver food, clothes, baby supplies, toilet items and other necessities. In addition, we conducted workshops for Hurricane Hugo victims on coping with the crisis.

We delivered 600 turkeys to Hugo-stricken families for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner.

Thank you all for what you did.

Bring your hands together. Give yourselves a round of applause.

But I hasten to add that the challenge remains. There is

still work to be done to  
relieve the tragedies caused by  
Hugo. We will continue with  
that effort, especially with  
our adopt-a-community program.

In recent months, both  
Mrs. Dan Quayle, the wife of  
the Vice President of the  
United States, and Mrs. Carroll  
Campbell, the First Lady of  
South Carolina, have praised  
and encouraged our  
"adopt-a-community" efforts in  
South Carolina. I again ask you  
to support this worthwhile  
cause. We want to do as much as  
we can to brighten the  
approaching Easter season for  
Hugo's victims. Please help us.

We will continue to "be  
there" for the victims of Hugo,  
just as we are still on the  
case for the victims of  
Hurricane Gilbert, which struck  
Jamaica earlier.

WIN's purpose -- WIN's  
reason for being -- is to

serve. We hope to serve the Association at every level -- from local branch to national office -- in fund-raising. And we hope to serve as a form of outreach to women, who, otherwise, might not involve themselves with the NAACP.

The involvement of women in the NAACP is nothing new. Women have been involved from the very beginning. As you know, a distinguished woman, Mary White Ovington, was a main player -- possibly the guiding spirit -- in the founding of the Association in 1909. Miss Ovington read William English Walling's article on the Springfield race riot of 1908, with its burning description of the plight of black Americans and its challenging question, "Yet who really understands the seriousness of the situation and what large and powerful body of citizens is ready to

come to their aid?"

Well, Mary White Ovington was ready. She convened the core group of the founders and was among the signers of the famed Lincoln Day Call. She was the first Chairman of the NAACP Board of Directors.

But she was not alone. Among the other founders were great women, such as Jane Addams, the great Chicagoan, and a fellow Memphian, Ida B. Wells Barnett. As a Memphian, I take a special pride in her. And there is another reason, She was a close friend of the marvelous Julia Ann Amanda Britton Hooks, who was a founder of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP -- and the grandmother of Benjamin Hooks.

Today, the success of WIN depends on how we see the work of WIN fitting into the great heritage and history of the Association, how we carry

forward the tradition of  
caring.

We have a place. We have a  
role.

You believe that too, as  
witnessed to by your presence  
here today.

We have much work to do.

But we can do it.

After all, we have only to  
say to ourselves, "I am woman.  
I am invincible."