

Black Women Air Problems

By JESSIE MAE BROWN

The First National Conference on the Concerns of Black Women was held Aug. 28-30 at the University Hilton.

Seven states were

represented by a dynamic group of women, who addressed themselves to the many problems that black women face.

The call for this initial meeting was made by a committee of 108 women, representing many walks of life, under the leadership of Mrs. Caffie Greene.

Program participants included judges, attorneys, doctors, welfare recipients, nurses, housewives and women of many professions. Therefore, the titles were omitted, and the delegates and participants attended the conference simply as black women.

The tone of the conference was set by the discussion of problems that affect black families. Plan of action revolved around three survival needs as human rights: Housing Programs, Education, and Health Service.

Mrs. Caffie Greene stated: "Our goal is to develop a network communication system among black women working in the public and private health and social planning agencies nationally."

At the opening session Aug. 28, greetings were brought to the conference by federal, county and city elected officials. There was a report on the Women's International Conference in Mexico City.

A health panel, following lunch, featured Margaret Smith, as moderator, and panellists Myrtle Caton, Rosalind King, Theresa Matthew, Clarissa Thompson, and Faye O. Wilson.

Mary Henry presented guest speaker, Margaret Smith, who chose as her topic, "How the New Legislation Affects Black Women."

The Rev. Willie Barrow of PUSH, was provocateur for discussion groups which followed.

During the evening session, actress Beah Richards pre-
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SWEARING-IN — Caffie Green (right) is sworn in by Judge Vaino Spencer as a commission member of the Task Force on Designation of L.A. County as a health service area. The ceremony took place at last week's three-day First National Conference of Concerned Black Women, of which Mrs. Greene also was elected president of the national organization. Seven states were represented at the conference held at the University Hilton. — HARRY ADAMS PHOTO

Black Women . . .

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sented "A Black Woman Speaks."

At Friday's session, Paul Ward gave an analysis of the National Health Planning and Resources Act of 1974, PL 93-641. Four discussion groups which dominated the morning sessions were: Substance Abuse; Community Organization; The Black Family, and Black Women in Politics.

Highlighting the luncheon, Judge Vaino Spencer officially gave Caffie Greene her charge as commissioner and member of the Task force on Designation of Los Angeles County as a Health Service Area Under Public Law 93-641.

She then addressed the delegation on "Black Women in the Criminal Justice System." During the afternoon session, Helen Harris was moderator of the panel, "Women, Black Women Organize."

At Saturday's closing session, Gwen Moore was mistress of ceremonies; Diane Watson brought opening remarks, and reports were made from the following discussion group leaders:

Rebecca Goodloe, Marion Grindell, Lois Hale, Florence Jackson, Johnnie Tillmon, and Maxine Waters.

Following a very convincing conference summary by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, the recommendation was adopted to make the First National Conference on the Concerns of Black Women a national organization, and through a unanimous vote, Mrs. Caffie Greene was elected national president.

Commissioners for the northern, eastern, southern and western regions of the country are being appointed by Mrs. Greene, and plans are in the making for a rally to be held in mid-September at Second Baptist Church.