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### **Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Statement Urging Congress not to Balance the Budget on the Backs of the Poor, Brooklyn, New York**

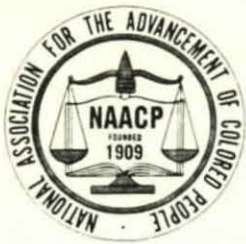
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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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1909 — 1984

BENJAMIN L. HOOKS  
Executive Director

Statement by Benjamin L. Hooks,  
NAACP executive director, on  
December 8, 1984, urging Congress  
not to balance the budget on  
the backs of the poor.

The NAACP calls on Congress to ensure that the poor and lower income Americans do not bear the brunt of the Administration's budget cuts. No one who understands the dangerous implications of the current horrendous budget deficit can doubt the need for strong steps to end this crisis. But, in the first place, the poor were not responsible for this crisis, neither did they benefit from earlier tax cuts that have worsened the deficit.

Simple fairness dictates also, that Americans with more wealth and income bear more of the burden in federal budget cuts and tax reform efforts.

There are federal programs, furthermore, that deserve to be preserved in viable form. These include Medicare, Medicaid, college student aid, legal aid, transit support programs and Job Corps.

In fact, most of the programs the Administration has targeted for cancellation were created because the need for them was obvious and they were socially beneficial.

In economics, as in law, justice and morality should be guiding principles. America cannot long survive if class divisions are made socially acceptable and our national government makes only a minimal effort to ease the economic burdens on the most vulnerable segments of the nation.

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