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New Black Journalists Group Backs Reporter

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JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., June 28—A national organization of black journalists was founded today at Lincoln University here and adopted a program to support a colleague who has been cited for contempt of court.

The group, consisting of 50 journalists representing newspaper, magazine, radio and television personnel throughout the country, called their organization the National Association of Black Media Workers.

The association decided that its first task would be a campaign of support for Earl Caldwell, a correspondent with the San Francisco bureau of The New York Times. On June 5, Mr. Caldwell was found guilty of civil contempt by a Federal judge after he refused to testify before a grand jury investigating the Black Panthers.

Mr. Caldwell, who attended

the conference of black journalists, here, is free pending an appeal of his conviction.

Among other steps, the organization plans to raise funds for an information campaign in connection with the Caldwell case and to solicit support from black and liberal white groups for protests against the charges that the reporter faces.

The national journalist group grew out of several local organizations, the first of which was founded in the fall of 1967.

Lincoln University was chosen as the site for this first national conference of black journalists in recent times because this institution was, for a long time, the only predom-

inantly black college with a journalism department.

Four major local black journalist groups will coordinate the activities of the national organization. They are Black Journalists of the San Francisco Bay area, United Black Journalists of Chicago, Black Perspective of New York City and a group in Nashville.