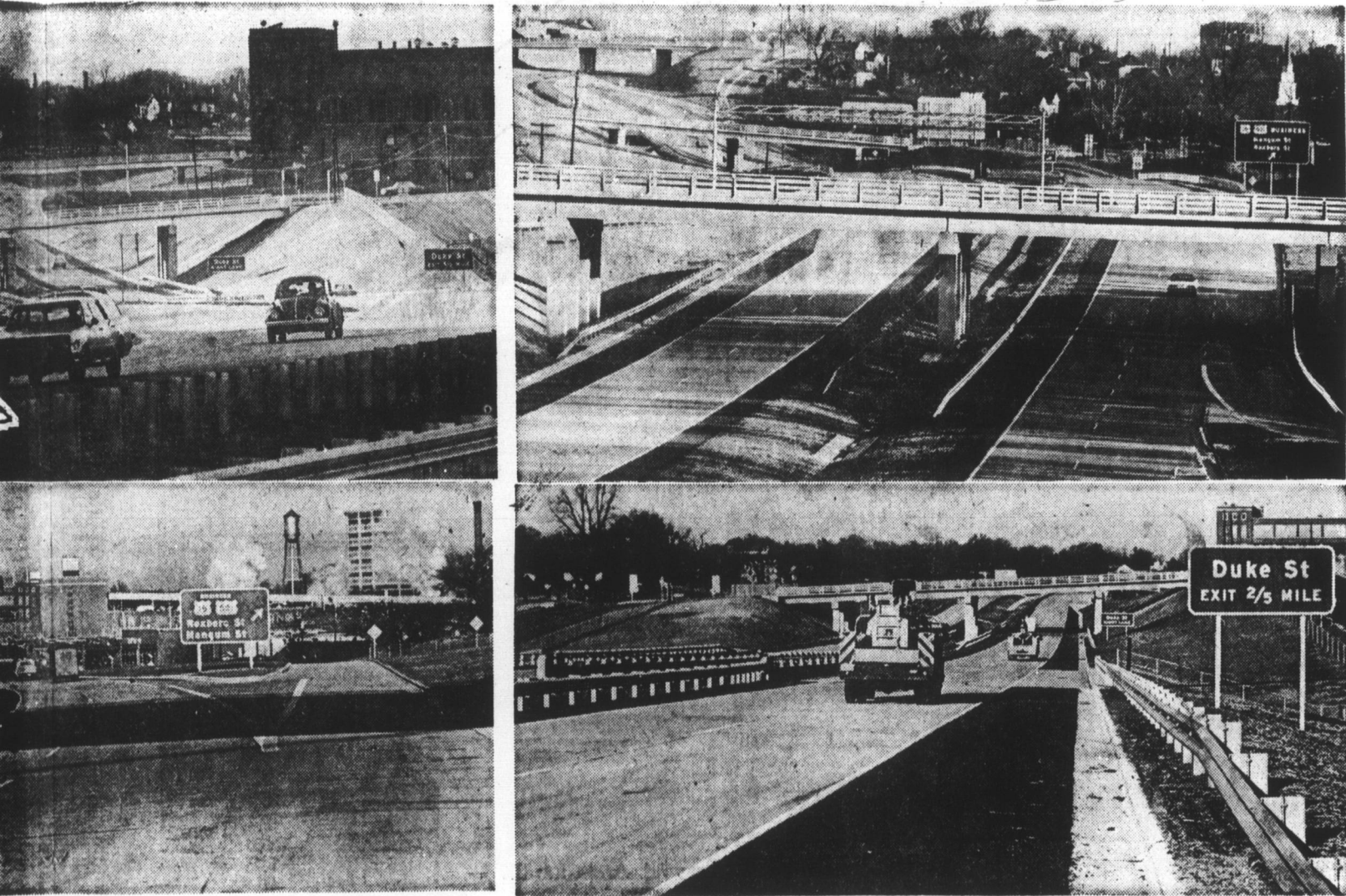


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Ex-Mayor Urges Southside Plan

Raleigh Mayor Seby B. Jones and the city council were urged Monday by former Mayor Travis H. Tomlinson to decide soon on an urban renewal plan for Southside and to conduct a vigorous campaign for approval of the bond issues to pay for the city's share of the cost of it.

In a two-page letter addressed to the mayor and members of the council, Tomlinson said: "The time for decision-making is at hand. I wish to encourage you to be positive, firm and active."

Tomlinson wrote that since he has been out of office (January 1969) he has purposely avoided becoming involved in city affairs. "But today," he stated, "I find myself with a desire to express myself."

"I don't wish to tell you how to do your job, but I do wish to encourage you to come to a point of decision on Southside as soon as possible, so all of Raleigh may be able to follow your leadership."

Promotion Asked

"I hope the council, the Raleigh Redevelopment Commission, and the Raleigh Housing Authority will take all the information and experience that is available and come up with a positive plan that all of you can support and that you will actively promote. The voting public needs this now more than ever."

Since voters here defeated bond issues last November for the city's share of the cost of renewing 118.5 acres of the predominately black slum area south of the central business district, the council has held three public hearings

on plans for the project. A referendum on \$3,655,000 in bonds for the city's share of the cost of a project is set for March 17. Mayor Jones said Monday the council will meet sometime this week in a closed session to discuss a Southside plan. "A date for the meeting hasn't been set yet," he said.

In reference to the hearings, Tomlinson wrote, "You have done a good job listening and considering the desires of all who have taken the time to express themselves. The time for listening has been well spent, but it has left many voters confused. The time for decision making is at hand."

He continued, "Many have been heard, but most have not been heard. You represent those too. Various segments of our society are confident they, and only they, have the right answer, but their answers differ, and in being different, conflict. Everyone is expressing views, the meek, the mild, the vociferous, the press and all of us, but the decision is yours."

The former mayor said, "For years we have talked about and worked for the needed redevelopment of this area. It has to be done — there is no other way."

"Raleigh cannot afford to lose over \$5 million (the federal share of the cost of the project) that is so desperately needed to improve the lives of so many people. Arguments and disagreements cannot replace firm decision and positive action," Tomlinson wrote.

"As you know, there is not much time for a good campaign, but now is the time to get started," he added.

Americans Take Close Look At Themselves

Every 10 years Americans take a good look at themselves to reinforce the platform of facts on which to base plans for the future course of the Nation.

The occasion is the census of population and housing conducted once each decade as required by the Constitution. The 19th in a series stretching back without interruption to 1790 will be taken on April 1.

Responsible for the census is the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce. The count will be conducted from 395 temporary Bureau District Offices throughout United States, each of which will cover an area containing approximately 500,000 persons. District offices began opening on January 19, with the entire group scheduled to be in operation by February 9.

The census tells us what we are as a Nation and is a necessary stocktaking. History has shown us to be a practical people, busy in the pursuit of our concerns, and we need a careful look at ourselves at regular intervals. The census will throw light on all the changes that have taken place in recent years.

For the average American, the census will be a simple exercise. The Government asks that he devote a few minutes to answer questions about himself and his housing. The questions will be on printed forms that will be sent by mail to each household.

For 80 percent of the households there will be about 23 questions that require perhaps 15 minutes to answer. Fifteen minutes every 10 years is not a heavy burden. For the other 20 percent of the households, questions that will require about 45 minutes.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of taking these few minutes to put the facts on record. Crucial decisions affecting every person in the Nation depend upon the accuracy and completeness of the census. To begin with, political power hinges on the census count. To hinges on the census count: Official population figures are used to determine the fair apportionment of seats in the Congress as well as in State and local legislative bodies. Further, Federal funds are distributed locally on the basis of census population figures.

non-government leaders responsible for the stewardship of our many enterprises.

President Nixon has said of the census: "Even as our population has grown in size over the decades, so the functions of the regular census also have expanded. Today, we are interested not only in an accurate counting of heads but also in a better description of our social condition. We know that unless a people can be adequately informed about their present, they cannot make intelligent judgments about their future."

For the individual, the census is secret. No individual need fear that he is exposing himself to public view. The answers he gives about himself and his housing are held in strictest confidence. Census employees are forbidden by law from disclosing any fact about a person and would be subject the heavy fine or imprisonment for a violation of the law. In processing, facts about individuals are added in various ways resulting in statistical totals that depict the state of the Nation.

Change has even affected the mode of taking the 1970 census. This year, the 65 million U.S. households can be their own census takers. Each household will receive a census questionnaire by mail on or about March 28 and will be asked to fill it out as of April 1 according to enclosed instructions. The number of questions asked will be on the average the fewest of any census in the past century.

In most of the large metropolitan areas, people will be asked to mail completed questionnaires back to their census district offices in a brown post-paid envelope provided for the purpose. The envelope and form with all questions answered should be mailed on April 1. These people need not see a census taker unless they return the form incomplete, neglect to return it at all, or ask for assistance.

In the remainder of the Nation people will be asked to fill out the form on April 1 and hold it until it is picked up by a census taker.

About 185,000 temporary workers will be hired by the Bureau to take the census.

Don't Deduct Grocery Money

Sorry, fellows, the grocery money you hand over to the wife each week can't be deducted from your income taxes as a gift, even if she doesn't spend it for meat and potatoes.

The U.S. Tax Court conceded in a ruling that this was an ingenious idea — the brainchild of a Maryland tax consultant and used by at least three taxpayers on their income tax reports.

But Judge Samuel B. Sterrett ruled it illegal. "While one can certainly sympathize with the philosophy that is apparent in the claiming of such as deduction for gifts to a spouse, unfortunately, the claim must be denied," he said.

"Gifts to spouses are commendable but nondeductible," said the judge.