

UDI CLOSES SUPERMARKET

The Board of Directors of United Durham, Incorporated, meeting in regular monthly session on January 26th, voted to close the Corporation's Supermarket operations in order to preserve the Corporation's solvency and assets. This decision was reached over a period of months during which the Board had closely monitored the increasing drain of the operation on the Corporation's resources. Although the closing of the four and one-half (4½) year old retail grocery operation will be a disappointment to the Durham community, and especially the low income and Black residents, the Corporation's Board of Directors acted in a timely manner in order to ensure its ability to honor all outstanding liabilities in an orderly fashion and without resort to court proceeding. The supermarket is scheduled to go into a one to two week closing sale period starting Monday February 2. Plans now are for substantial discounts to be offered.

Financial statements presented at the January 26th meeting indicated that in spite of heavy losses over the 4½ years of its Supermarket's operations, the Corporation has sufficient liquid assets to pay all of its short term creditors. The Corporation has three active plans for alternative uses of its property, including the 6,336 square foot UDI Supermarket building at 602 North Mangum Street, and successful execution of any one of those alternative will enable the Corporation to continue to meet its long term mortgage obligations on which it has never made a late payment.

Ed Stewart, President of United Durham, Incorporated, stated "we recommended this action to rid the Corporate body of a cancerous limb which threatened the life of the institution. It was our decision to act early enough to protect the credibility of the Corporation with those who have worked with us over the years. Drastic Corporate surgery is seldom a pleasant undertaking. We have deferred this decision as long as we could in good conscience, with good sense and in exercising good business

judgement...any further postponement could have jeopardized the fundamental survival of the institution." Stewart is also Executive Director of UDI Community Development Corporation, a non-profit Corporation which is legally and financially unrelated to United Durham, Incorporated. Stewart stated "the inordinate amount of time our supporters in this community have put into this venture in an effort to reverse its deteriorating trend can now be redirected to possibly more fruitful avenues."

Although the Corporation cut its losses at the Supermarket by more than 50% in 1975, it projected continuing losses through 1976. The only possible solutions appeared to be either an extraordinary increase in gross sales volume, or an increase in retail prices. The rather disappointing level of buying by actual stockholders of the Corporation over its 4½ life suggested that relying upon a dramatic increase in sales was unrealistic. Furthermore, an increase in prices at the cash register would have been counter to the very slogan of United Durham Incorporated, "People Before Profit". Stewart stated, "we decided that if we were unable to compete in quality of product, friendliness of service, price and location, we should close the store. It would have been counter productive to urge poor people to pay more for their food at the UDI Supermarket, especially with the current spiralling cost of food. At some point, pride and community loyalty become too expensive for those on limited budgets. We felt that point had been reached."

The Board of Directors acknowledged that the closing of the Corporation's Supermarket marked the death of an important symbol of the collective effort of diverse segments of the Durham community. However, the demise of the symbol may yet enable United Durham Incorporated, and related community development activities to substitute greater substance in addressing the needs and wishes of Durham's

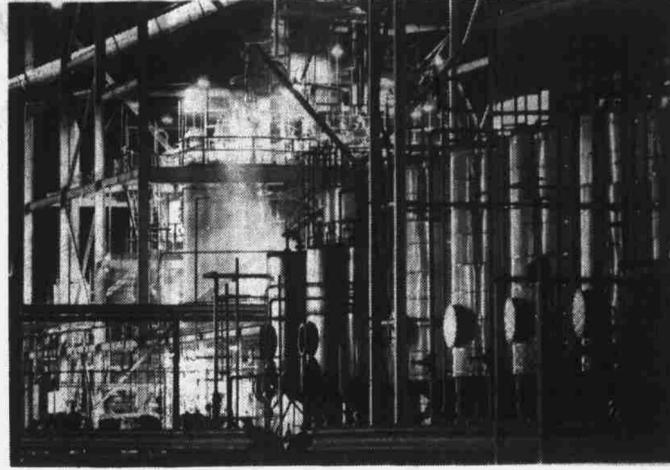
less blessed citizenry. "The quality of product and service, and the location, were elements over which this Board could exercise substantial influence in order to make the UDI Supermarket truly competitive. Price, however, was more difficult to control. We had to convince ourselves, by intense examination of the facts and the performers, that we could continue to provide food at a competitive price. We made that examination, and decided that we could not."

The Board of Directors stated that the community economic development goals advanced by low-income residents will continue to be the major objective of the Corporation. The thrust of the Corporation's new efforts will reflect the experiences gained from operating the Supermarket. An affiliated non-profit Corporation, UDI Community Development Corporation, is actively pursuing the development of a mini-industrial park and a neighborhood shopping center in the heart of Durham's southeast quadrant.

The Board of Directors expressed strong appreciation to those customers and stockholders who have remained loyal supporters of the Supermarket. The future direction of the Corporation will be outlined in greater detail at the Annual Stockholders' meeting which will be held on February 19, at 7:30 p.m., in the basement of the Stanford L. Warren Library on Fayetteville Street.

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Downpayment "Mother," pleaded the broke teenager, "since you say I'm worth a million dollars to you, can I have a dollar of it now?"



A night view of the processing facilities of the Avoca farm division of the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. At this facility, clary sage and other suitable plant crops are refined into essential oils for the cosmetics and food trades. The farm is near Edenton, N. C.

New Law Gives Low-Income Families A Tax Break This Year

If your taxable income was less than \$8,000 in 1975, Uncle Sam may owe you up to \$400. In most cases, family assistance such as welfare doesn't count as income.

Working men and women with low incomes should find out if they qualify for a new tax break called the Earned Income Credit, urges H&R Block, the nation's largest tax preparation service. The company has launched an information program, as has the government, to alert those whom the new law is designed to benefit.

To claim the special payment as a refund or credit, eligible persons must file a 1975 Federal income tax return - even if not otherwise required to do so. It doesn't matter whether or not employers took out Federal withholding taxes since the credit can create a refund.

Individuals who can answer yes to two key questions probably qualify. They are:

1. Was your adjusted gross income (including earned income) less than \$8,000?
2. Did you maintain a household the whole year in the U.S. for yourself and one or more children whom you can claim as dependents and who were under 19 years of age of full-time students?

For purposes of this credit, earned income includes salaries, wages, tips, and other employee compensation after the sick pay exclusion, and any net earnings from self-employment income.

A widowed, separated, or divorced mother who took a job as domestic help to maintain a home for her children may qualify. Married couples required to file a joint return to get the new tax break.

However, if for any reason a joint return can't be filed when you are married and living apart, you are considered single for tax purposes and may qualify for the credit if you meet the following requirements: you file a separate return; you paid more than half the cost to keep up your home in 1975; your spouse did not live in your home at any time during 1975; and over six months of 1975 your home was the main home of one or more children you can claim as a dependent.

The Earned Income Credit gives those who qualify a 10 percent refund or credit against taxes owed based on a maximum of \$4,000 of earned income. If income exceeds \$4,000, any credit determined thus far is reduced by 10 per cent of the excess over \$4,000. If

you have income of more than \$8,000, there can be no credit. For example:

A qualifying individual has adjusted gross income totaling \$6,000 of which \$5,000 represents earned income already explained. His Earned Income Credit is \$200 determined as follows: 10 percent of the first \$4,000 of earned income equals \$400; 10 percent of the excess over \$4,000 equals \$200; \$400 minus \$200 equals \$200.

Those who believe they may qualify should read the 1975 Federal tax instructions for further information. Free consultation is available from local Internal Revenue Service tax information centers and H&R Block offices.

Last tax season H&R Block prepared eight million returns for taxpayers and eight out of ten were for customers who returned from the previous year.

THE POINT:

BY RAY JENKINS



"EATING LEATHER"

I really can't tell you at this time who is ahead in the presidential election this year. It's simply too early to tell and I do not have enough info to make an educated guess. Nor am I qualified to say, at this early date whether it is Gerald Ford or Patrick Moynihan who leads in the "shoe in the mouth campaign." Patrick Moynihan? He's the ambassador to the United Nations who speaks on behalf of the official position of the American government. Gerald Ford? He's the appointed president of the United States with very questionable credentials. Ford said that because we don't pay a dollar for a gallon of gasoline that the recession is all over (depression to most of us). Such irresponsible oversights kept him slightly ahead in the competition over his closest rival, Moynihan.

But Moynihan, not a man to be outdone, seized the opportunity at the United Nation's Security Council meeting on Monday. The proposal was made to acknowledge nationhood to Palestine and a resolution calling for Israel to withdraw from all occupied territory in that country. The measures were killed when the United States was the only member country to vote against it thus resulting in a veto. This was not enough. By now, most of the rest of the world is on to the U. S. diplomatic policy and they know that there is only one kind coming from Washington: economics. So Moynihan followed the veto up with another of his paramount deceitful statements when he said in essence that the United States, "concerned" as they always are about the well-being of the rest of the world's people (keep your laughing to yourself), don't feel that such a move would be in the best interest of the Palestinian people. Ahh, there we have it, the "big brother" image, however, that image is fading in the eyes of the rest of the world including the American people who see the fallacy of it all. Moynihan had successfully stuffed another shoe in his mouth and pulled up neck-and-neck with his boss in the White House (all that leather!). I can't really say whether Moynihan needs his head examined or if it's a simple case of his being so busy that he doesn't have time to read the newspapers, but people are not buying that mess as they used to so easily, because they know where the White House is coming from. They know that it is not concerned with the people of the world any more than they are concerned with the man in the moon. How could they be when the first priority is money? Furthermore, since when has the United States government become so concerned about Palestinians in the first place? Perhaps it's the same kind of concern as that shown for the Vietnamese, or the Indians, or the Phillipinos, or the Chileans, or the Japanese or even the people of this country. That type of concern nobody needs and could live without.

So Moynihan can now take a bow for joining the same club as that of the antique Model T in Washington. It looks nice and is invaluable as a show piece and even for a ride through Central Park, however, in this age of superhighways, it is rendered unusable for modern use.

Coleman

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fine techniques of finance. After two years there she spent another year at New York University studying management.

York University studying management. "Banking is a wide open field for women, especially for black women," she says. "I find the industry full of opportunities for them"

The New York Bank for Savings, with assets of over \$3 billions, has 18 offices serving Manhattan and Northern Westchester.

Unemployed

Continued from front page
veterans, the unemployment rate for 20-34 year-old blacks in the fourth quarter, at 16.9 per cent, not seasonally adjusted, was well above the 11.9 per cent rate of a year earlier. The rate for white veterans was also up over the year, with the increase being proportionally similar to that for Black veterans.

Among other highlights of the Nation's employment situation in the fourth quarter of 1975, reported in BLS' "Labor Force Developments: Fourth Quarter 1975" were these:

- Employment rose slightly and unemployment was unchanged from the third quarter. The overall unemployment rate remained at 8.4 per cent.

- The jobless rate for male family heads declined, but the rate for female family heads rose.

- Unemployment among all worker groups, including persons of Spanish origin, veterans, and residents of poverty and nonpoverty areas was higher in the fourth quarter of 1975 than a year earlier.

- The number of discouraged workers dropped below the million mark for the first time since the fourth quarter of 1974.

- The quarterly report provides an analysis of overall trends in the Nation's labor force - seasonally adjusted, except where specified - and includes data for some worker groups not published on a monthly basis.

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