

The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBIDDEN

Words of Wisdom

Choose a career you love, give it the best there is in you, seize your opportunities, and be a member of the team. —E. F. Fairless

**The Black Press—
Our Freedom Depends
On It!**

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BLACK CAUCUS MEETS WITH GOVERNOR HUNT

RALEIGH (CCNS) — Five blacks representing the N. C. Black Caucus met with Governor James Hunt to discuss key policy making appointments and jobs throughout state government for blacks.

Emerging from the meeting, spokespersons for the group said that no commitments were made by the governor but that he had listened to the delegation's request for appointments and implementation of affirmative action. They promised to submit a list of specific blacks for jobs and a revised affirmative action plan for state government within a week, to the governor.

The meeting was the second for the Black Caucus with Hunt since December. At the first meeting the group presented Governor Hunt with a list of 34 positions ranging from the Secretary of Department of Human Resources to several administrative posts.

The Caucus recommended for Secretary of Human Resources, Howard Lee, but Governor Hunt appointed Lee to the Secretary of Natural and Economic Resources post.

Clarence Lightner, former Mayor of Raleigh, said Caucus members were pleased with the Governor's appointments to date.

"The Governor has just been inaugurated and we think we have gotten some real significant appointments so far. We are stressing the fact that we expect to participate with the governor and his staff people to enable them to make more appointments as time passes by and as positions become open and available."

Asked why it was necessary for the group to meet with the Governor, Lightner said, "We wanted to inform the governor as to what jobs we thought would be very important that our people participate in because historically we have been left out of certain types of jobs."

Of the thirty-four positions requested, Durham County Representative H. M. Michaux, said four had already been filled, including the appointment of Howard Lee, Harold Webb to Director of State Personnel, John Edwards to Director of the State Office of Economic Opportunity, and Dr. John Larkins as Special Assistant for Minority Affairs.

The group also inquired about the hiring of blacks throughout state government in non-policy making areas. Michaux said that would be done by enforcement of affirmative action policies. Four and one half years ago a non-discrimination policy was adopted by the Holshouser administration. That policy was to have been implemented by an Affirmative Action Task Force which was chaired by Assistant for Minority Affairs Lonnie Horton. According to sources, that policy was never implemented and the task force only met once.

Agencies and departments under the Holshouser administration were somewhat on their 'honor' with no follow-up to actually determine if they developed affirmative action plans in accordance with the administrative policy.

Michaux said that the group asked Hunt to accept another affirmative action plan to be developed by Webb in a week. Webb is expected to put enforcement of the affirmative action plan under the state personnel board which he chairs. Webb was out of town and could not be reached for comment.

Caucus members attending the meeting were Chairman Clarence Lightner, Vice Chairman Lavonia Allison, Mayor E. V. Wilkins of Roper, Representative H. M. Michaux, and attending the meeting were Dr. John R. Larkins, Harold Webb and John Edwards.

One black from Henderson showed up at the Governor's office for the meeting but was not allowed by the Caucus chairman to attend the meeting. Leo Hatten of Henderson was told that the group had an agreement that only five of its members would meet with the Governor.



SNOW SCULPTURED SNOOPY—Residents of Colonial Apartments who were idled by the heaviest snowfall to hit Durham in recent years used the flakes as their medium to create a replica of the famed "Snoopy". See other pictures on page 14.

N.C. Association of Black Lawyers Support Boycott

(CCNS) — The North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers passed a resolution at its January 22 meeting at the Ramada Inn in Durham pledging support for "The J. P. Stevens' employees' endeavor to achieve economic justice and humane and safe working conditions through collective bargaining."

The resolution also endorses the national boycott of the J. P. Stevens products initiated by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTU) last September. The Stevens firm has failed to negotiate a contract with the union since it was voted in more than two years ago at Stevens' Roanoke Rapid facilities.

While the boycott of Stevens' products has been endorsed by several organizations, nationally Diana Wilson, staff member of the Southerners for Economic

Justice (SEJ) said the Black Lawyers Association was the first endorsement from a North Carolina organization not directly affiliated with organized labor.

The struggle to organize Stevens' workers around the country and the textile industry in general is the major drive of the AFL-CIO. Stevens is the second largest textile manufacturer in the United States.

"Over the past 13 years," the resolution read, "the J. P. Stevens Company has been found guilty 15 times by the National Labor Relations Board of unfair labor practices, more than any other American company, and that these convictions have been upheld on appeal eight times by the Circuit Court, and three times by the U. S. Supreme Court. We conclude, therefore,

that the J. P. Stevens Company has refused to recognize the legal right of its employees to organize and bargain."

The lawyers' resolution also points out a series of discriminatory employment practices, "including hiring on the basis of race; reserving almost exclusively for whites supervisory, weavers' and fixers jobs; reserving for black employees the low-paying job of warehouseman; and discrimination against black males in job assignments."

Federal Judge Franklin T. Dupree sitting in the Eastern District of North Carolina ordered in August 1976 that Stevens' seven Roanoke Rapids plants begin to affirmatively hire blacks and cease discriminatory practices. That decision has been appealed by Stevens to the U. S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.



INFORMAL DISCUSSION—Some of the principles of the Black Caucus-Jim Hunt meeting review issues on the day they met with the Governor. Seen above (l-r) are H.M. Mickey Michaux, Clarence Lightner and Dr. John Larkins.

Sorority Observes Founder's Day

By Elva P. DeJarmon

The sixty-ninth anniversary celebration of Alpha Kappa Alpha, the oldest predominantly black sorority of college trained women was observed Saturday, January 22 at 2 p.m. by also honoring the three founders in Durham of Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., was founded in 1908 on the campus of Howard University, Washington, D. C. Sorors Frances Eagleson, Beatrice Burnett and Marjorie Shepard were presented beautiful plaques inscribed with their date and as founders of Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter. These 50 year plus members

and other Sorors established Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter which was the first black Greek letter sorority in Durham in 1954.

Sharing and participating in the celebration as well were members of Theta Pi, UNC undergraduate chapter and Iota Mu, Duke University undergraduate chapter.

With the "Theme-Honoring Alpha Kappa Alpha Women Past, Present and Future," a dramatic dialogue including all members of the three chapters was presented. Insights into the life of an active member as well as songs by the undergraduates were featured in the presentations. Their streamers also listed the other founding members of Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority pioneered into the health field by its support of the Mississippi Delta project under the direction of the well known physician, Dr. and Soror Dorothy Boulding Ferber in the early 1930's, when health care among the poor was not shared by the state. Their scholarship program provides funds for three four year students at colleges of their choice. Currently students are enrolled at UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro and NCCU,

with funds provided by Alpha Zeta Omega Chapter. The Job Corps program, located in Cleveland, Ohio, is well known for providing job skills and developmental programs for less advantaged men and women of all races.

Their most recent program target was the contribution of over 1/2 million dollars to the United Negro College Fund and the \$500,000 contributions to the NAACP. Local chapters have given generously of their time and efforts to improve the quality of life for all persons and work diligently with civic, social and governmental agencies to make their input known.

Of great interest also are the domestic travel grants allocated each year to deserving high school seniors through competitive writing in each region. The high school seniors are given the VIP treatment as they visit historic sites across the nation, all at the expense of the sorority. Foreign travel grants permits outstanding undergraduate seniors to pursue studies abroad in their chosen fields.

Chairman of the Founders Day observance was Mrs. Vonnie Carrington. Other members were Mesdames Geraldine Alston, Patricia Armstrong, Vivian Crump, Judy Stevenson, Ida Alexander and Helen Edwards.

Mrs. DeLois Washington serves as president of the local chapter.



TRAGEDY — City firefighters remove the body of Russell Hyson, 4 months, from the remains of a West Baltimore rowhouse after a 2 alarm fire swept through the house killing Russell, his mother, Veronica Hyson, 22, and her two other children, Sharnell, 5 and Gregory, 6. A total of 14 people were living in the house at the time of the fire. Five others, including two firefighters were injured. (UPI).

Deltas' Roots Get Bared

By Warren D. Blackshear

Delta women had their "roots" bared twice last weekend, first when their national president, Thelma T. Daley, keynoted the Durham Alumnae Chapter's Founder's Day Celebration and later from the ABC special of Alex

Haley's best selling novel.

The Deltas who assembled from all parts of the state and as far away as New York City for the conference were told by their leader to "remember their roots." Ms. Daley also encouraged them to continue to "be involved in community

service... live a balanced life... and strive for excellence."

Laying the groundwork for her discussion on the sorority's commitment to support black colleges, Ms. Daley said that in the beginnings of our nation, while the 13 colonies were expressing their support

for justice, they were denying it to black men and women.

Also, she said, there was a time when "it was a crime for blacks to read and write. It is from these merger beginnings from whence we came."

DELTA'S ROOTS

Speaking on the roots of Delta Sigma Theta, she said the sorority was birthed in the walls of a black university, some 64 years ago at Howard. In addition, she reminded her sorors that "most of us have sprung from black colleges and we must give something back" to these institutions. This was the commitment made by Deltas at their national convention in Atlanta, she declared.

The stately woman who leads the 90,000 member organization showed her sorors she was well aware of the problems faced by black Americans. She said that currently blacks are being ravished by the twin forces of inflation and recession. "Unemployment has stripped workers of their pride and substance."

Scuffing at national unemployment reports of eight or nine per cent, Ms. Daley said "why don't they say that the rates are 38% for young black men and 44% for young black women?"

THE AGING BLACK

Another problem we have to face is "the whole aspect of the aging black person," she pointed out. A new minority group, Ms. Daley said "the ag-

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SMITH SAYS FOOD LEVY

'Our Most Regressive Tax'

RALEIGH (CCNS) — Calling North Carolina's tax on food, "our most regressive tax," Senator McNeil Smith, (D) Guilford County, outlined a tax reform program that he will press during the current session of the legislature. Senator Smith's remarks were made before an audience of approximately 100 people attending a one day conference on taxation sponsored by the North Carolinians for Tax Reform.

The North Carolinians for Tax Reform, is a coalition group that includes Common Cause, the NAACP, the N. C. State AFL-CIO, the N. C. Council of Churches, the Peoples Alliance, and a number of other state-wide organizations.

Emphasizing that North Carolina's tax system as a whole is regressive - it taxes the poor more heavily than the rich - Smith said, "we need to make changes to increase taxes on the high end and relieve the burden on the low end" of the

income scale.

According to the Report of the Special Senate Commission on North Carolina Revenue Laws taxpayers making less than \$1150 were paying out twenty per cent of their income in state and local taxes, while those earning over \$28,500 were paying only 9%. Citizens in the lowest income bracket paid fifty times more in food taxes than those in the highest income category.

North Carolina's Director of Tax Research H. C. Stansburg who spoke on the state's history of taxation, projected that state and local government stood to lose over \$100 million in revenue if the sales tax on food is repealed.

But Smith said that the lost revenue can be raised by increasing personal income on earnings over \$25,000 and by repeal of the "doubly regressive" \$80 and \$120 limits to sales tax on a single item. Smith, who has announced his intention to challenge Jesse

Helms in the 1978 Senatorial campaign, also proposed that corporations should be taxed on a "pay as you go basis."

At present, corporations may file their tax return late and then delay payment for up to a year with a penalty of only 6% on the money they owe. Smith said, "That's a better interest rate than most of them can get on money borrowed from your friendly local banker."

Also speaking at the tax reform conference was Fred Harris, former U. S. Senator from Oklahoma and one time presidential candidate. Harris pointed to the same inequality in taxation at the federal level that exists in North Carolina and other states.

Repeating the slogan, "take the rich off welfare," Harris said, "Taxes on income from work are twice as high as those on income from money. The loopholes are graduated in reverse: the more you make the better deal you get."



FIRST FEMALE — Mrs. Lucille Rose holds congratulatory telegrams in her office on January 14 after New York Mayor Abraham Beame named her his Deputy Mayor for Manpower and Planning, the first female deputy mayor in the city's history. She succeeds Paul Gibson, the city's first black deputy mayor, who announced his resignation January 13 to return to American Airlines. (UPI).

Dick Gregory Announces Fast

Dick Gregory, renowned black comedian and civil rights fighter, is fasting again. This time to put pressure on President Jimmy Carter to use his influence to get the Kennedy-King investigations funded by Congress.

Gregory appeared before a packed B. N. Duke auditorium in Durham Friday, January 21 vowing "not to eat no more solid foods since Carter was elected to the presidency... until the Carter Administration uses the type of power of clout it needs to open up the Martin Luther King, JFK (John Fitzgerald Kennedy) assassinations."

"We thought we had it open for a while and now it looks like they are having some problems," Gregory said to the attentive student group.

Representative Walter Fauntroy, co-chairperson of the Kennedy-King Assassination Committee recently requested six million dollars to hire independent researchers to continue the investigation. The committee identified hundreds of variables connected with both murders which until this time government sponsored CIA-FBI investigations have not researched. Both maintained the assassinations were the work of lone gunmen.

Gregory continued saying "that's why I decided as I did once during the Viet Nam War that I wouldn't eat any more solid foods until the war was over, and that lasted 2 1/2 years." Gregory said he wants "a thorough investigation. I don't mean a trick Rockefeller Commission investigation of the Kennedy-King assassination."