

NAACP Says N. Y. Banks Plot To Defeat Affirmative Action

NEW YORK — Charging that a number of local banks were using the city's fiscal crisis to intrude into the areas of social policy, a group of civil rights and women's organizations announced last week the filing of a federal suit against the New York Clearing House Association to bar its members from interfering with affirmative action plans for hiring minorities.

At a news conference held at the NAACP National Office, Herbert Hill charged that "it is evident" that the 11-member banks of the New York Clearing House are using the city's fiscal crisis "as a leverage to prevent any further gains by black and Spanish-surname people and women."

Last month, Hill revealed that the Clearing House, which represents the city's major banks, had demanded as a condition for doing business with New York that the local affirmative action requirements be ended.

In a letter dated December 30 to Osborn Elliott, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, an official of the Clearing House said that the city's affirmative action program is "duplicative and unnecessary." This program, he said, "would place an intolerable burden upon the firms doing business with the city."

The letter was written by John F. Lee, executive vice president of the clearing house. It also said that the association's position represented "the thinking of a broad segment of the New York City business and industrial community."

Hill at the news conference also said that the coalition would be appealing to the Federal Government to bar the 11 banks as Federal Depositories.

Mrs. Barbara Morris, project director, said the suit essentially is asking the courts to enjoin the banks from telling the city to get out of the affirmative action business.

Hill explained that one manner in which the banks are attempting to coerce the city can be seen in the position they have taken regarding the handling of welfare checks. The banks, he said, have told the city that they are not going to enter into an agreement to receive those checks for distribution to recipients "as long as you make affirmative action a part of the contract."

Such a project would help the city in cutting down losses from mail boxes and other forms of thefts. But it would also help the banks by providing them with more business.

Participating in the coalition that held the news conference were, in addition to the NAACP, the National Organization of Women, its New York affiliate, and Harlem Fight-Back.

Meanwhile, just hours after the coalition filed their suit in the U. S. District Court, Mayor Beam approved a set of new rules and regulations that

are aimed at broadening job opportunities for minority groups and women in non-construction work areas. The regulations will require that concerns doing business with the city make written commitments to provide an equitable share of jobs for minorities.



MACHINE SHORTHAND — The Secretarial Science Department at Durham College is Court Reporting and Machine Shorthand. prepares persons interested in taking dictation of 150-300 words per minute in Machine Shorthand. Instituted in September, 1976, Mesdames Lizzie Cofer, Naomi Daniels and Margaret Rollins are presently enrolled in the course. Durham College hopes to give the students the opportunity to pursue a challenging and rewarding career.

release is excessively punitive. He went on to say, "The Coalition is not united at that point." Kilburn said he and Ms. Quin were supporting the Helms' bill cause. "Mr. Helms' bill represents the only realistic alternative to the death penalty in this general assembly." N. C. Alliance coordinator Anne Mitchell said Alliance does not support Helms bill. "The death penalty is intrinsically racist, biased by class in this country. It is not incumbent upon opponents of capital punishment to draw up other, less restrictive legislation, but to demand our legislators not re-enact a death penalty statute."

To Press at Home

generation of respectively. Albert Tibbs, George Merritt and Gail Madden, young black community activists who face death or life imprisonment on sex murder charges.

The open letter calls the President's attention to the large numbers of men, women and children, who, because of privation, poverty, and racism now compose "the best prison population of any country on earth" and call on the President "to speak their condition... the next time you address the question of justice and human rights."

Further violations of man rights spelled out for further include the refusal of police agencies to protect victims of racial bombings by the Ku Klux Klan and other racist groups; the killing and maiming of thousands of young people by local police; the creation of SWAT squads and Red Squads and their training, supply and coordination by a score of national police agencies, thereby providing "the foundation for a garrison state."



NCCJ HONORS HOOKS — Dr. David Hyatt (left) president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, presents the organization's National Human Relations Award to Benjamin and Frances Hooks. Hooks, former Federal Communications Commissioner and executive director-designate of the NAACP, and Mrs. Hooks, were honored for their "exemplary records in championing human rights and in promoting good will and brotherhood in the community." The presentation took place in Memphis. (RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO).

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Poverty Program May Run Out of Funds

CHARLOTTE (CCNS) — The Charlotte Area Fund, a federally funded poverty program that services the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Area, may go out of business this year, unless \$57,000 in local contributions is raised by September of this year.

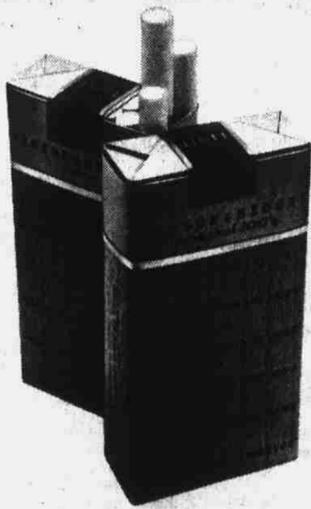
Sam Kornegay, director of the agency which has been in operation since 1964, informed the board of directors that the budget for 1977 is nearly \$120,000 less than the 1976 budget and that on top of that the percentage of local money that must be raised for matching federal money is higher because of changes in policy.

The agency's problem has been complicated by the fact that it did not spend all of the money allocated for it last year. The budget was cut from \$559,000 last year to \$475,000 this year — however, \$382,000 of that money was

carried over from last year's budget. The surplus seems all the more puzzling when one considers that the area fund was recently involved in a controversy involving money for emergency allocation of funds to poor people during the arctic freeze of December and January in North Carolina. Kornegay had said that funds were not available for the poor.

The operations of the agency include a Headstart program for children, a feeding program for elderly people in Hoakins (a poor black and white community) a free income tax service and a consumer education program.

Kornegay could not explain the surplus of funds, stating that he would need to consult the records in his office. Only \$14,000 has been raised in local contributions at this writing.



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