

# LETTERS

## DISPLEASED BY GRIFFIN BELL'S PROGRESS

The National Wilmington 10 Defense Committee wishes to state our displeasure at the statements released [March 23] by the Justice Department with regard to their investigation into the Wilmington 10 case.

Although the Justice Department announced that they will release to both the defense counsel and the State Attorney General transcripts of the federal grand jury investigation and the FBI reports on request, this essentially implies that the Justice Department itself is not willing to make any moves against Jay Stroud and the other public officials who have committed federal crimes in North Carolina by railroading our defendants to jail. We will have access to the federal reports but that only means that both sides will use the material in addition to existing material in the slow moving appeals process. We must also point out that presently we simply do not know exactly what the reports say and whether or not they will help or hinder the defense.

I can speculate, however, that the federal report can't be tremendously supportive for us because sources close to this investigation have said that the mere willingness of the Justice Department to release the entire report would tend to indicate that no criminal action is forthcoming against the North Carolina officials. If criminal proceedings were being considered it is unlikely that the department would disclose all their reports and evidence.

That same source seemed to feel that the Justice Department does not feel that it can prove beyond a reasonable doubt the guilt of the conspiracy led by Jay Stroud.

We find this statement quite unbelievable. Given that the public has now heard from two of the state's former witnesses that they were coerced by Mr. Stroud to lie at the 1972 trial and has also heard from a third witness that he was bribed for his testimony, it seems to us that there is more than enough evidence to prove beyond a doubt that Stroud used illegal tactics to gain a conviction of the Wilmington 10.

Most everyone across this country can recall cases where individuals have been convicted for various crimes on a lot less evidence than that. In our opinion this sounds like a very weak excuse. Although they say that they are continuing the investigation, they have failed to make a final decision on where they'll go from there.

I personally feel that the public should be outraged that the Justice Department after several weeks of intensive investigation and such obvious public knowledge of the facts cannot announce strongly its intentions to launch an indictment against the guilty North Carolina officials.

Just how long will this investigation drag out? When will they make a decision? It appears to us that Mr. Bell has done as the federal courts have done already to us and that is to make the defense continue to fight this case out in the lengthy appeals process through the maze of state and federal courts. This process could take five or six years to complete. Meanwhile, innocent people are in jail.

We are disappointed at this lack of positive action on the part of Mr. Bell at this point. We were hoping that he and Mr. Carter would be concerned about clearing this case up quickly in light of the growing criticism in world circles about the presence of political prisoners here in this country.

Perhaps there is information that Mr. Bell is not telling us right now; I hope he does have some positive surprises in store for us soon. Or, perhaps his earlier critiques were correct.

In light of this hazy announcement and position by the Justice Department, we are urging all citizens of conscience to write or visit Mr. Bell to take a more positive stand and communicate to North Carolina's Governor James Hunt to take some immediate executive action and stop this ridiculous waste of the taxpayer's money. As far as we are concerned, the constitution of this country is a farce as long as the Wilmington 10 remain in jail.

For further information contact: Ms. Imani Kazana, National Coordinator, National Wilmington 10 Defense Committee.

# NCM Reports Gains At 78th Policyholders Meeting

North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company's assets increased \$6.5 million during 1976; insurance in force figure increased by \$486 million; and its gain from operations (after Federal Income Taxes) amounted to \$1.7 million.

These were some indications of the progress the company made in 1976, W. J. Kennedy, III, NCM president and chief executive officer told policyholders Wednesday at the company's 78th annual policyholders meeting.

"At the end of 1976, the economy of the country was pulling out of the deepest recession since World War II, although problems of inflation and unemployment have not been solved satisfactorily," Kennedy told the policyholders.

"Energy problems dampened the robust recovery anticipated by many during the latter part of 1976 and present real problems for the new national administration. In spite of these circumstances, North Carolina Mutual has continued to make progress in all areas of its operations during 1976," he said.

The NCM president cited the success of the company's group reinsurance program, which added an additional \$438 million of insurance to the company's books during 1976. He said that additional group reinsurance contracts

made in 1976, but which will not be put in force until this year would amount to an additional \$450 million, thus placing the company's total insurance in force to more than \$3.2 billion.

"NCM will then become the nation's first predominantly black-managed life insurance company to exceed the \$3 billion mark," Kennedy said. Insurance in force is one of the means by which an insurance company is measured on an industry-wide basis.

At the end of 1976, NCM had assets of \$152.2 million, compared to \$145.6 million at the end of 1975; premium income was \$44.4 million, compared to \$41.3 million during



FOLLOWING NORTH CAROLINA MUTUAL'S 78th annual policyholders meeting, NCM president and chief executive officer, W. J. Kennedy, III, discusses the company's corporate group reinsurance program with executive vice presidents M. A. Sloan (center) and W. A. Clement. NCM acquired \$38 million of group life insurance in 1976 and with contractual commitments that become effective in early 1977, NCM will exceed the \$3 billion mark in insurance in force.

## NCAE Convention Meets In Asheville

More than 3,000 educators will meet in Asheville next week to determine next year's policy for the 50,000 member North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), according to Dr. A. C. Dawson, NCAE executive secretary.

The delegates will begin attending special interest meetings on Thursday, March 31. They will convene to conduct NCAE business at 9 a.m. Friday, April 1, and complete their debate on Saturday, April 2.

Miss Alma Teeple, a junior high school teacher from Durham County and NCAE president, will preside over the Seventh Annual Convention of the merged association. Delegates will include teachers, principals, supervisors, superintendents and others from school systems, technical institutes, community colleges, and universities all across North Carolina.

Eight divisions of NCAE will hold annual meetings during the day on Thursday at various locations around Asheville. A number of them will follow their business sessions with dinners Thursday evening.

Roberta Flack and Freddy Cole Trio will perform a benefit concert Thursday evening for the largest NCAE division, the Association of Classroom Teachers (ACT). Miss Flack is a native of Asheville and a former teacher. Any proceeds from the concert will go to ACT. The concert will be at 8:30 p.m. in the Asheville Civic Center.

Thirty-three new resolutions and 24 constitutional amendments are set for debate on Friday and Saturday.

1975; insurance in force was \$2.742 billion, compared to \$2.256 billion at the end of 1975; and the surplus at the end of the year was \$18.5 million, or 12.2 per cent of the company's total assets.

In addition, Kennedy said the company during 1976, paid

more than \$25 million to policyholders and their beneficiaries, bringing the total cash payments since the company's organization to \$289.5 million.

Kennedy told the policyholders that the company's new planning system,

developed with the guidance of McKinsey & Company, the management consulting firm should result in the greatest controlled growth in the company's history. The entire company is now operating under plans developed for each home office and field unit.

# Benson & Hedges 100's



## Grand Jury Indicts S.C. Officer

An Horry County, South Carolina, police officer was indicted by a federal grand jury Thursday, March 17 on a charge of beating a man arrested for failure to pay child support.

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell said the indictment was returned in U. S. District Court in Columbia, South Carolina, against Aubrey L. Winburn.

The indictment said Winburn beat Robert J. Grimm on April 30, 1976, violating his

constitutional right not to be deprived of liberty without due process of law.

The incident occurred when Winburn served an arrest warrant on Grimm at a food store in Conway, South Carolina. Grimm required several stitches to close a cut above his right eye.

The maximum penalty upon conviction of deprivation of rights (Title 18 U. S. Code Section 242) is one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

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