

The Black Press—
Our Freedom Depends
On It!

VOLUME 55 — NUMBER 20

"READ BY OVER 30,000 DURHAMITES"

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA — SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1977

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PRICE: 20 CENTS

WHO ARE THE REAL
OPPOSITION FORCES?

Durham City government's reluctance to come up with an effective and meaningful affirmative action plan can mean but one thing — some powerful political forces are determined that Durham make no pretensions of trying to right wrongs long in existence here.

It appears that a deaf ear has been turned toward the petitioning of numerous citizen groups including the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, Carolina Action, the Durham Ministerial Alliance, the Durham Chapter of the NAACP, the National Council of Senior Citizens and the AFL-CIO as well as that of some members of the City Council.

Opponents of affirmative action contend that affirmative action leads to "reverse discrimination" against the majority. This position is just a lot of "hog wash". Let's be realistic!

All matters dealing with hiring OUGHT to be of a "color-blind" nature, but simply outlawing discrimination is NOT enough. Why? Blacks - historically being the recipients of racism - start off with a disadvantage. The only way in which victims of racism can be protected, until they catch up to the years of lead-time the majority has had, is through the use of affirmative action.

The time has not come when blacks seeking employment in Durham can be rightly accused of causing "reverse discrimination" because the time has not come in Durham that racism no longer exists.

Opponents of affirmative action know that discrimination exists in the hiring practices of the public sector of city government. They know that discrimination is wrong, immoral, unethical, dishonest and illegal. Hide-bound racists will not change their stripes and miraculously begin obeying a law because a law is on the books.

In our editorial of June 26, 1976 entitled "Durham Joking On Minority Hiring", we exposed a trick used by the city in counting white female employees to make a 49.3% minority representation look good. We said then — and now eleven months later —

"Durham needs to hire some knowledgeable blacks in upper administrative, decision making positions, stop playing games such as is evidenced in the report and get on with the business of living up to at least the real intent of some of those bittersweet merit position statements written in the new Personnel Handbook which the report cites as 'further affirmation of the City's intention to apply equal employment considerations for all people'"

Maybe it is time that the true opponents to affirmative action in Durham be known.

Food Stamp Allotments, Eligibility
Levels Increase For Most Households

WASHINGTON — Food stamp allotments and income eligibility levels, reflecting an August 1 rise in food costs for low-income families will increase for most households on July 1, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced recently.

In the continental states and District of Columbia, monthly food stamp allotments for all household sizes, except one-person households will increase by at least two dollars. The monthly stamp

BURGAW — Allen R. Hall, who recanted his 1972 Wilmington 10 trial testimony at the hearing here last week, repeatedly telephoned (collect) New Hanover County prosecutor, James T. (Jay) Stroud and admitted he had lied in an effort to free the defendants.

State's attorneys played a tape recording of one of the conversations a man identified as Hall had with Stroud in which he (Hall) said "I'll go back to court. I'll take it back."

Hall suggested, in rambling, barely audible taped conversation that his recantation was inspired by supporters of the Rev. Ben Chavis, Jr., who is serving a 34-year sentence in prison for his alleged role in the racial violence which included the burning of Mike's Grocery in Wilmington.

Defense Committee spokesman Damu Smith immediately denied the allegations that pressure had been put on Hall and charged that Stroud had attempted to manipulate Hall in the telephone conversations.

During one of the calls, which Stroud had reportedly led Hall to believe were not being taped, Stroud asked, "Was your testimony at the trial and in the interviews I had with you true?" Hall replied, "Yes, it was." Stroud asked, "Was any part of it false?" Hall answered, "No."

Loud murmurs rose in the Pender County courtroom from spectators when Stroud commented on one of the tapes that the Wilmington 10 are "too dangerous to be released from prison."

When Hall called Stroud from the Onslow County prison unit in Jacksonville,

Stroud told Hall he was not taping the 45-minute call to his Wrightsville Beach motel last Thursday. But when Hall telephone Stroud again Saturday at his home in Gastonia, Stroud admitted, toward the end of the conversation, that he had been recording Hall's remarks. "Oh, no!" could be clearly heard on Hall's end of the line.

Contrary to protest from defense attorney James Ferguson, against the admission of the tapes, Judge George M. Fountain ordered transcripts of the recording be made.

Monday was the first time that Stroud had been on the stand to explain his side of how the Wilmington 10 prosecution was put together. He told the court that there were no deals and no improper coaching sessions with witnesses.

In one of the calls, Stroud asked Hall, "You told me false story after another, didn't you?" "Right," said Hall.

In the last telephone call Stroud asked Hall, "Is there anything personally I can do for you?" "Yes," Hall said in a trembling voice. He asked Stroud to visit his sick mother.

The notes (in Stroud's handwriting) which Hall and Jerome Mitchell said last week were provided them by Stroud, detailing what they were to say, were actually a copy of notes the prosecutor had made summarizing testimony at the end of the five-week trial in 1972. Stroud testified, "Mitchell never saw this" before he testified, Stroud said.

In one of the telephone conversations, Stroud asked Hall, "You and I never had a

deal, isn't that right?" Hall answered, "Right." The three recanting witnesses Hall, Mitchell and Eric Junious had testified last week that Stroud had offered attractive inducements to each of them. Stroud testified that there was never "a promise or implication of a promise" that the prosecution witnesses would get gifts or lighter prison sentences in return for their cooperation in the case.

Stroud said the Christians present of a minibike to Junious was "an instinctive, spontaneous" gift weeks after the trial had concluded. Stroud explained his viewpoint in varied other points which had been raised last week by the witnesses:

He said that there was no alcohol at the beach cottage where Hall and Mitchell were held during the original trial. He said the detective Hall had said supplied him with marijuana, was not working the security detail at that time; Hall's girlfriend, Ms. Deborah Simpson, was transported from Asheville because Hall had become totally distracted thinking about her before he was scheduled to testify.

The favored prisoners status granted Hall a couple of weeks following his testimony was to make him (Hall) eligible for protective custody at the Western Correction Center for youthful offenders.

Helms Opposes Trade
With Cuba Until All
Americans Are Freed

Massachusetts; Claudio Rodriguez Morales of Puerto Rico; John Tur of Florida; Rafael Del Pino of Cuba; Antonio Garcia Crews of Cuba; and Carmen Ruiz of Cuba.

Assailing a proposal approved in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Tuesday to initiate sales to Cuba, Helms said, "this is the worst possible time to make such overtures."

Noting that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee proposal included the sale of medicines to Cuba, Helms said, "Both food and medicine are strategic items of conflict. The fact that Castro has 3,000 wounded troops in Angola right now in need of medicine speaks for itself."

The State Department spokesman, Assistant Secretary of State Douglas J. Bennett, Jr., also said in the letter that, "Cuba has consistently refused to permit inspection of its jails by the OAS Human Rights Commission or other international bodies."

The political prisoners who are U. S. citizens were identified as: Frank Emmick of Ohio; Everett D. Jackson of Illinois; Lawrence Lunt of



REV. HOSEA WILLIAMS

SCLC's People's Festival
Set For June In Atlanta

The Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) under the leadership of Rev. Hosea L. Williams, is holding its first annual "People's Achievement Festival" June 3-6 in Atlanta.

The theme of the Festival is "Eliminate Poverty Through Mind Power." The Festival is designed to be as large as Black Expo in Chicago, but will have a much

more year-round positive effect on the problems that are destroying our cities.

The four-day Festival, which is being held at a number of Atlanta locations, will feature activities for the entire family.

The main event of the Festival is the Poor Man/Rich Man Banquet on June 3. Rev. Ike is the honored guest and will deliver the main address from the topic "Be What You Want To Be."

WHAT'S BEHIND THE LIGGETT AND MYERS' HARD LINE?

By William Minter
Staff Writer, Africa News Service

The strike is over. The first since 1939, it broke a pattern of almost forty years of relatively amicable labor relations, and ended in a victory for Liggett & Myers' hard line. The company refused to accept union proposals for an uncapped cost-of-living adjustment, already common in the industry, and waged an all-out campaign to break the strike.

Long-term employees, many loyal to the company, wondered resentfully at the company's stance. They knew that Liggett's cigarette sales were in trouble, and that the Liggett Group was extending its diversification program to yet more non-tobacco products. Would management really carry out its implied threat to close down the Durham plant, the location of the bulk of Liggett's tobacco operations? Why was it out of step with the rest of the industry?

Not many would have caught the wisp of a clue in a Durham Morning Herald (April 10) profile of Liggett President Raymond Mulligan, referring to his mid-March lightning business trip to South Africa "to check on developments in the broadly diversified Liggett family". Nor did the Herald mention that this year's contract negotiations were the first since the Liggett Group came under the financial control of South African multimillionaire Anton Rupert and his Rembrandt Group of companies. Rupert told Business

Week in 1974, talking of Mulligan, who had no tobacco industry experience before 1973, "We complement each other. I know the cigarette business, and he follows my advice."

Rupert's take-over in late 1974 blocked an attempt by Western Pacific Industries for an interest in the troubled Liggett company, by purchasing Western Pacific's 415,300 shares for \$17 million. With other shares acquired previously, the Rupert holding company, Rothmans of London, Inc., then held 8.5% of the stock, a controlling interest according to Business Week. At the end of 1976, the industry's Tobacco Reporter, in its chart of "Interconnecting Interests of Major Tobacco Manufacturers", still showed Liggett as subsidiary to Rothmans, with the same 8.5% interest.

At the time of the take-over, Liggett's percentage of the domestic cigarette market was continuing its long-term decline, totally only 4.7% that year, as compared to next-ranked Lorillard at 8.2%, American Brands at 15.7% and industry leader R. J. Reynolds at 31.4%. Liggett's strategy since 1965 had clearly been to concentrate on non-tobacco products. By 1974 its revenues from Allen Products (Alpo Dog Food), Paddington Corporation (J & B Scotch) and other recently acquired non-tobacco operations made up over half of the total revenues.

If its decline in tobacco was to be reversed, it was clear that drastic steps would have to be taken.

Liggett's Durham plant was out-of-date, a multi-story installation inherently inefficient as compared with new plants on one level with overhead conveyor systems as in Philip Morris' new plant in Richmond. Not even new faster machines or new brands and marketing techniques could compensate for this competitive disadvantage.

The Rothmans' connection could have brought in the capital and the expertise for Liggett to launch a counter-attack on its competitors in the domestic cigarette market. On world scale, Rupert's tobacco empire was already the fifth largest tobacco manufacturer. Rupert is the most successful of South Africa's Afrikaans-speaking businessmen, and joins diamond and gold magnate Harry Oppenheimer in having extended his financial empire far beyond the borders of that white-minority-ruled nation. In 1954 Rupert gained control of Rothmans of Pall Mall, an established British firm, and in a complicated merger in 1972 brought together Rothmans with his other European interests in the multinational Rothmans International.

But evidently Anton Rupert's plans did not include major new capital investment in Liggett's tobacco operations. Indeed, the Rupert financial empire itself was on the verge of more extensive diversification. Rupert already controls Canadian Breweries, with its Carling's Black Label beer, and Liggett's liquor operations may have interested him as much as

its tobacco. In 1973, an international meeting of Food and Allied Workers' Associations singled out the Rupert/Rembrandt group's diversification as a particular threat to tobacco workers.

In 1976, Dr. Anton Rupert reported to stockholders that the Rembrandt Group was not only the fourth largest cigarette manufacturer in the world, but also among the ten largest brewery groups and one of the ten largest distillers. Large sums were being spent on development projects, he said, especially in the liquor industry. And in conjunction with American businessman Karl Ludwig (National Bulk Carriers), Rembrandt had also acquired a 25% interest in Federale Mybou, one of South Africa's largest mining companies.

What are Rupert's plans for the Durham plant, a small part of his world-wide empire? He keeps a low profile, and few Durham residents are even aware that the decisions vital to the future of their community may be taken in far-away Cape Town. Yet Business Week noted after the take-over that "all major decisions at L & M are now cleared with Rupert". The company's victory against the union in holding cost-of-living adjustments down will not provide the capital for major expansion, nor is it likely that energetic marketing alone will turn around Liggett's decline. If a full-scale effort to keep Liggett in tobacco is not forthcoming from the Rupert Group, the consequences in several years for Liggett's workers in Durham and for the whole community may be serious indeed.