

Robert Williams Keynotes Annual Press Celebration

The Black Press; Then and Now provided the topical framework in which former editor and publisher Robert Williams keynoted the 152nd annual celebration of the Black Press sponsored by the Southeastern Black Press Institute on Saturday, March 23, at the Governor's Inn.

Williams, the former editor and publisher of the *Crusader*, was exiled in 1961 for his radical activities in Monroe.

Comparing today's black press with that of earlier years, Williams asserted that the "Negro" press was exactly what its name implied. "It was a medium of expression through which Afro-Americans could air grievances, educate and inform the race." He added that the black press was "owned by, supported by, and served the cause of the black masses."

With the exception of a handful of crusading journals, Williams saw the black press today as being compromised and its publishers content to "hibernate in the desolate world of tip-toe journalism." As opposed to older black journalists who felt the need to write and interpret their own news, the black press today depends heavily on news wires and make no attempt to rewrite and clarify news, according to Williams.

Williams contended that blacks have been deluded and disillusioned by the advent of a democratic and integrated society. "Our hard won and much too inadequate civil rights gains are being swept away, ...reversing blacks to post Civil War days". Referring to Bakke and the subsequent challenges to affirmative action, Williams views them as not isolated cases but as a movement. "It is a clear call for the forces of reaction to rally an outright assault on the black man's survival."

"They are laying seeds to uproot our one essential stronghold." The stronghold Williams alluded to was the latest affirmative

BY PERITA BRYANT

action challenge in the case of Weber vs. Kaiser in which reverse discrimination in employment is the issue.

Concluding that the black man's plight in America is perilous at best, Williams challenged the black press to be courageous and move to the vanguard. "It is the responsibility of the black press to re-educate and unbrainwash our people, spelling out for them what is wrong and what must be done." He implied that there must be a collective effort by black journals all over the country, supported by the black community, to face today's challenges.

As one of the essential goals of the black press is to address the critical issues facing the black community, a panel of experts discussed the residual effects of Bakke in a forum entitled, *Can the Black Press Defeat the S.O.B.* (sons of Bakke). The development of the recent Sears' attack on affirmative action and the Weber-Kaiser case, both spin-offs of Bakke, are seen as potentially more dangerous than the much analyzed parent.

Robert Hill, special assistant to the Chancellor for affirmative action at Syracuse University, views the Weber-Kaiser case as a serious threat to black people because it brings into focus "a fundamental right and need of virtually all people". The case challenges the constitutionality of the use of quotas to correct past discrimination in employment.

The Sears case is a clear-out question of the very existence of affirmative action programs. Hill believes that the battle against these repressive moves must be fought on several fronts. The role of the black press should be to acquaint black America with strategies with which to confront the challenges, and to protect the ever-weaning rights of black people.

Panelist Ralph Smith,

A University of Pennsylvania law professor, admonished blacks and the black press for its "after the fact" attack on issues such as was the case in the Bakke incident. "Several issues were not put into the record that could have been used". Meaning that most pressure from the black community comes after the process has been put into motion, and therefore cannot be heard as evidence in a case. Smith sees the role of the black press as that of critic and analyst to delineate and define the issues for the black community.

Working with the organization that has been at the forefront of the battle against discrimination, information director for the NAACP Paul Brock, sees the reemergence of groups such as Klu Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party as indicative of the new viciousness in America. Brock agreed that the black press must alert the community to the existence of these forces and plan attacks against them. Brock also indicated that the NAACP was monitoring the progress of the Sears issue and had also filed a friend of the court brief in the Weber vs. Kaiser case.

Very close to the heart of the black press, Mrs. Vivian Edmonds, editor and publisher of *The Carolina Times*, maintained that the black press may be able to defeat the sons of Bakke but not alone. Mrs. Edmonds challenged black people to wake up because it is "a political ballgame and we must play". The need for black folk to excel and to be competitive should be utmost in meeting the challenges of reverse discrimination. "Affirmative action should not be a crutch to lean on".

Two afternoon workshops were held on the bread and butter issues of the black press. Reporting and Editing from a Black perspective was conducted by Milton Jordan, publisher and editor of *View South*.



ROBERT WILLIAMS

Donald Roberts, Vice President of Amalgamated Publishers, Incorporated and William Torry of the *Atlanta Daily World*, directed the workshop on Strategies for Expanding the Advertising Base of the Black Press.

The Southeastern Black Press Institute, the sponsor of the workshop, is a demonstration project of the African and Afro American Studies Curriculum of the University of N.C. at Chapel Hill.

Kenneth Spaulding Appointed V. C. on Governmental Ethics

State Representative Kenneth B. Spaulding of Durham has been appointed one of the vice chairmen of a select committee on governmental ethics by Speaker of the House Carl J. Stewart, Jr., to consider the feasibility of comprehensive governmental ethics legislation. Appointed chairman of the select committee was Rep. Bertha Merrill Holt of Burlington. Spaulding and Rep. Richard Wright of Columbus County were named to serve as vice chairman and Representatives Adams, Barker, Brennan, Brubaker, Doug Clark, Jamie Clarke, Diamont, Ezzell, F. Harris,



SPAULDING

Hobgood, Huskins, Jernigan, Keese, and Lancaster were appointed members.

As part of its responsibilities, the committee will propose a comprehensive ethics plan to cover public officials in the executive and legislative branches and senior employees in all three branches of State government.

Current State statutes apply only to the members of the General Assembly, prohibiting conflicts of interest and regulating campaign contributions. A limited ethics plan applying only to specific public officials in the executive branch of State government was implemented by executive order in 1977.

Gibson Intern'l Names Britton, Sr. Consultant

Former U.S. Ambassador Theodore R. Britton, Jr., has been named senior consultant of D. Parke Gibson International, Inc., New York-based management consulting firm, it was announced by D. Parke Gibson, president.

Britton was the United States Ambassador to Barbados and Grenada, and U.S. Special Representative to the Associated States in the Caribbean. A graduate of New York University, he has served an insurance company president; Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; president, the American Baptist management Corporation; in other banking and insurance posts. Britton is director of Freedom National Bank and the International Federation for Housing and Planning.

D. Parke Gibson International, Inc., founded in 1960, provides marketing and public affairs counsel to domestic and international clients.

Lennox Hinds to Speak at UNC on 'Human Rights Violations'

CHAPEL HILL
Lennox Hinds, past national director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, will speak on "Human Rights Violations in the United States" at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Friday, March 30.

Hinds, associate professor of criminal justice at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., is permanent representative to the United Nations on behalf of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, based in Brussels.

His free, public lecture will be at noon at the UNC-CH Institute of Government auditorium. Hinds is sponsored by the Speaker's Forum of the UNC-CH Law School, the N.C. chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and the Minority Law Students Association of UNC-CH.

Hinds, born in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, has been associated with such noted prison rights cases as the Attica Brothers and the inmates at the N.C. Women's Prison.

Hinds is the attorney for three groups, the National

Conferece of Black Lawyers, the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, which have jointly presented a petition to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

In the petition the groups note "the continuing racist and political oppression and exploitation visited upon Blacks and other minorities within the United States solely on the basis of their race, color, descent or national or ethnic origin and political views..."

PLANS FOR STATE DEMO MEETING SET

Russel Walker, Chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, has announced plans for the annual precinct meetings and county conventions.

The Democratic precinct meetings are scheduled for April 19, at 8 p.m. at the polling place for each precinct. The purpose of the meetings

is to elect delegates to the county conventions and to fill any vacancies that may exist in the precinct committees. In the event a quorum is not present, a make-up meeting will be held on April 26.

The Democratic county conventions will be held on May 19, at 12 noon at a site to be chosen by the Democratic county chairman. The purpose of the conventions is to elect county officers for the next biennium and to select representatives from the county to the State Democratic Executive Committee.

Other business which will be discussed at both the precinct meetings and county conventions includes the Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plans for the 1980 Democratic National Convention, revisions in the Party Plan of Organization, voter registration and precinct training teams.

Walker urged all Democrats to attend these meetings and to participate in the workings of the party.

The Black Beat

BY MILTON JORDAN



Well, the prodigal writer returns home. It's been more than ten years since I wrote a column for THE CAROLINA TIMES. Then I was a whippersnapper of a newspaperman, 26 years old, with a yen for greatness.

Under the title "The View From Here," I wrote about politics, economics, social life, personal relationships, and about anything else that struck my fancy. I ruffled feathers, stepped on toes, soothed feelings and championed causes.

Now I'm back, ten years older, and hopefully a little wiser. I haven't changed much in my approach to writing for you. Under this new title, selected because I don't want anyone to think I have any problem being called "a black reporter," I will ruffle feathers, step on toes, soothe feelings and champion causes as the mood strikes and the editor allows.

But what about the ten year hiatus? My forays have been far and wide, though I haven't ventured out of North Carolina to live.

When I left Durham in early 1970, I stopped in Raleigh for a brief stint with the *Carolinian*, another black weekly newspaper. Then I moved to Wilmington, and worked more than two years with the *Wilmington Star-News*, a white daily newspaper.

Thus was I in the Port City in early 1971 when violence erupted into the riot that produced the infamous Wilmington 10 case. From the *Star-News*, I went into radio and television, managing a Wilmington FM radio station, and hosting a talk show on Channel 6 there.

In early 1973, I moved to Fayetteville, sold advertising and did news for a radio station there, launched my own small weekly newspaper, lost my shirt, started a sales company, and broke into magazine free-lance writing.

From Fayetteville, I moved to Charlotte, and a stint with *The Charlotte Observer* where I stayed from August 1974 until last month.

During the period from 1973 until now I've gotten a taste of what this business of writing is really about. I've traveled a lot, met a lot of people, interviewed everyone from President Gerald Ford and Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller to a former member of the Rights of White People organization that had plotted the destruction of hundreds of black youngsters barricaded in a Wilmington church.

Now, among other things, I publish a magazine called *View South*, billed as "A Black View of Today's New South," and operate a communications and research consultant firm in Charlotte.

But writing is my first love, and therefore, it's exciting to be back in Durham, at least in spirit, writing for the readers of THE CAROLINA TIMES.

I'll be here week after week, hopefully exciting you, enlightening you, entertaining you, and sometimes angering you. Let me know whatever you feel. If there's a subject you'd like for me to write about, drop me a line at the paper.

So sit back, relax and keep reading THE CAROLINA TIMES as together we cover "THE BLACK BEAT".

Next week I'll take a look at the paradox of black poverty and plenty, and the cost of freedom as the hands of the clock begin moving slowly backwards. See you then.

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SEMINARS WILL BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING SATURDAYS

April 7, 14, 21, and 28
May 5 and 12 Time- 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Each Session

Required Attendance- 3 of 4 meetings to receive certificate of participation

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