

Several Groups Attend SCLC Mass Meeting

BY PERITA BRYANT
Representatives of several of Durham's black organizations pledge their support for the growing struggle for freedom and justice and added their concerns to the expanding list of issues facing the black community at the Southern Christian

Leadership Conference mass meeting at Mount Zion Baptist Church on Tuesday night April 3.
The special concerns of different organizations should not preclude the solidarity and unity needed to bring about change in the black community. These

were the sentiments of J.J. Henderson chairman of the powerful Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. Henderson, in his remarks said, "what we as a race do or fail to do from here on out is most important."
The Durham Committee

on the Affairs of Black People has recently adopted the resolution asking for the immediate pardon of the Wilmington Ten and the Charlotte Three.

Rev. Bernard Morrison of the Coalition Against Police Brutality echoed the call for solidarity and asked for action from the organization to wake black people from their "comatose" state.

The Coalition has been actively working on and alleviating the unnecessary harassment of the black community by police.

Several issues are facing the South Durham Committee for Action, according to its representative, James Smith, one of the many concerns is the plan by the city of Durham to widen Roxboro street, creating the problem for school children who must cross a busy street in order to get to school. Believing this to be detrimental to the welfare of black people, Smith asked that efforts be made to join them in the battle against the city.

Michael Howell, President of the Student Government Association at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) considers April a very important month for black people, especially for black colleges and their student population. Blacks students have an increased responsi-

bility to move to the forefront as a result of the recent threat to black schools by the non-compliance with HEW desegregation guidelines of the University of N.C. system. Howell sees the potential for much more intensive struggle. "The struggle goes further than college students. It goes back to high schools and elementary schools where our children are indoctrinated and made to believe that they cannot achieve... We must deal with this."

Several protests and demonstrations have been planned by the NCCU students.

The NCCU community is fighting a two-headed dragon, contended Richard Sligh of NCCU Alumni and Friends.

Golden Frinks, National Field Director of SCLC recapped the comments of the various organizations and made an appeal for those present to use the old style "grapevine" to inform other blacks about the movement.

The Rev. Percy Chase of the Community Baptist Church in Durham was the speaker for the mass meeting.

Rev. Chase, in eloquent oratory, reminded black people that the prosperity being experienced now is not freedom. "Freedom is determining the factors of our own destiny... Freedom is not sitting down compromising".

Rev. Yvonne Beasley presided over the meeting.

Law Students Urged to Support Human Rights Petition at UN

BY PAT BRYANT
CHAPEL HILL - Beginning a speaking tour of the Triangle area last weekend, Attorney Lennox Hinds urged lawyers and students at the University of North Carolina to ask President James E. Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to waive confidentiality of hearings in Geneva on U.S. violations of human rights.

The Geneva hearings are subject to a 900 page petition and supporting documentation filed with the United Nations December 11, 1978 that political prisoners exist in the United States. Under the United Nations regulations, the hearings can be closed if the

country against which the charges are filed wishes them to be secret.

The charges of political imprisonment were filed against the United States government by a coalition of civil rights organizations, the Commission For Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ, the National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, and the National Conference of Black Lawyers. So far, the U.S. has not answered the charges.

Hinds told the Chapel Hill audience and others he spoke to later, that the petition identifies two classes of political prisoners. First are persons whose "overt and expressed opposition resistance placed them in violent confrontation with society".

Examples he cited were the many victims of the U.S. Justice Department's COINTELPRO program such as Rev. Ben Chavis and the Wilmington 10, the Charlotte Three and the Black Liberation Army.

A second class included incarcerated people who "get extended sentences for their efforts to change the conditions and treatment of prisoners in prisons. Examples, Hinds said, were George Jackson, the Attica Brothers, and Imani "Johnny" Harris. "The brief names 55 prisoners who represent thousands", said Hinds.

Hinds supported the contention of U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young that several thousands of political prisoners exist in the U.S. Explaining the avalanche of criticism and an impeachment move in the House of Representatives, Hinds said "it is fundamental to U.S. foreign policy to deny the existence of political prisoners in the U.S., while collectively accusing other nations of violations of fundamental human rights. The reluctance of the U.S. to admit

political prisoners exist in the U.S. is "intimately related to the U.S. refusal to condemn racism domestically or internationally." The U.S., he continued, is one of the few countries that has not ratified the international covenant to eliminate all forms of racism.

"Racism, poverty, and oppression are intrinsically intertwined in the law" said Hinds. He noted that the preamble of the U.S. Constitution was not written for more than 700,000 African slaves then existing in the U.S.

"It was the law that made black people capital goods, it was the law that denied black people their humanity, and it was the law that divested Native Americans of their land their culture and their future," said Hinds.

"It is the law that continues to operate to preserve the present system of social, political, and economic relations."

Critical of press accounts depicting former New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller as a friend of the common man, Hinds attacked Rockefeller, his heirs, and Standard Oil for killing workers, and paying low wages, all in the protection of the law.

"When blacks protested in Watts, Newark, and Harlem, against oppressive conditions, police used weapons against them rather than their exploiters," he added. "Racism and sexism are not crimes in America."

The criminal law of the United States is aimed at subverting resistance, Hinds continued, making the case that thousands are unjustifiably held in the nation's prisons. "Criminal law is used to politically control and suppress a segment of the population. Afro-Americans, he noted, constitute the largest segment of the prison population."

Cross Burning

Continued from front
partment has reported no clues, Mrs. Bagley told THE CAROLINA TIMES that she believes some one knows something about the cross-burning.

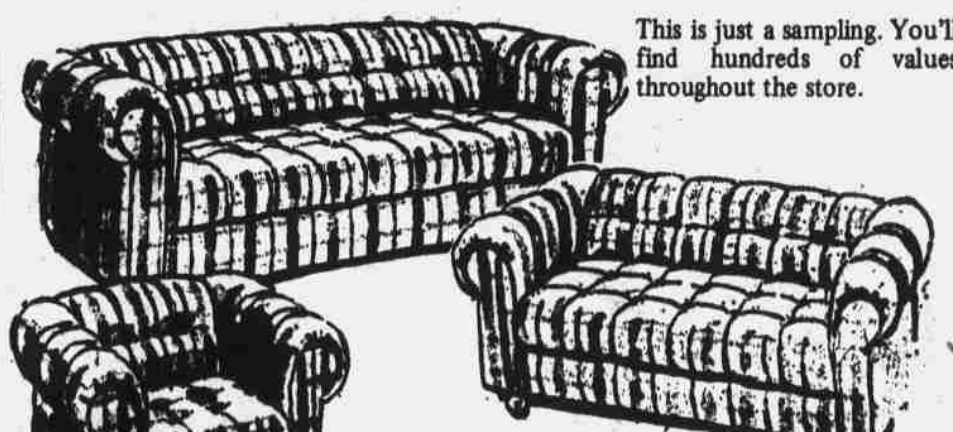
So far it could not be determined if the cross-burning was the work of Ku Klux Klan elements that have been on the rise in other parts of the state and nation.

Cross-burning is against the law, according to U.S. Attorney H.M. Michaux, and Durham County District Attorney Dan Edwards, Jr.

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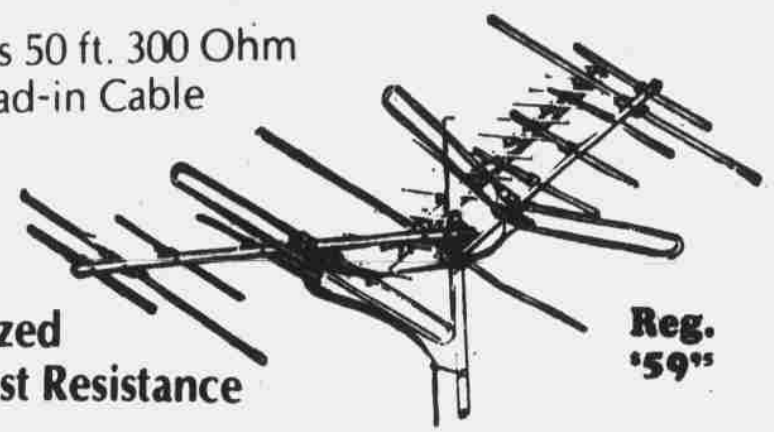
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