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Words of Wisdom

An object in possession seldom retains the same charm that it had in pursuit.

—Pliny the Younger

Black Mayors Resolution Calls For

GOV'T FUNDED TRANSPORTATION CENTERS

Elderly, Minorities And Poor Stand to Benefit

The National Conference of Black Mayors, Inc., which represents more than 160 black mayors throughout the United States, has issued a resolution calling for government-funded construction of proposed group Transportation Centers in major urban cities. The Centers, notes the resolution, would enhance "inner city revitalization and American mobility," particularly as regards the transportation service needs of minorities, the elderly and the poor.

Signed by Gary, Indiana Mayor Richard G. Hatcher, President of NCBM, and Prairie View, Texas Mayor Eristus Sams, Secretary, the resolution explains that the proposed Transportation

Centers "would be terminals for mass transit buses and intercity bus companies' operations, such as passenger services, package express service, tours, and charters, including headquarters for a city transit information bureau, regional airport shuttle service, suburban commuter service, sightseeing and taxicabs."

"Minorities, the elderly and the poor comprise the majority of persons who annually travel by bus," the resolution points out. These travelers, it says, "frequent inner city bus terminals that are plagued by crime, congestion and dilapidation."

The concept of the urban
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EASTER Greetings

There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

—Cecil Frances Alexander

Throughout our earthly history,
The Easter message, you'll agree,
Has given to humanity
A lesson in humility,
And joy evolved from tragedy.
Upon that day of infamy
When Christ, for all the world to see,
Was crucified on Calvary,
And then, with magnanimity,
For their forgiveness made his plea;
Thus Jesus died to set us free
From sin and all iniquity.
So let His resurrection be
Our proof of immortality,
And go to hear your Church decree
This lesson for eternity.

—Gloria Nowak

Spaulding Sponsors Tenant Protective Legislation

State Representative Kenneth B. Spaulding of Durham, has sponsored legislation in the North Carolina House of Representative which will give tenants a defense against unfair and retaliatory eviction by a landlord.

The Bill will protect those who makes a good faith complaint about indecent, unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions.

Spaulding said the tenant should not be evicted by a landlord just because the tenant complained about unsafe and unsanitary conditions of the leased property. Complaints about unsafe, unhealthy and defects of leased premises should not be discouraged by threats or actions of eviction.

Students to Lobby For Black Colleges

RALEIGH — Student body presidents of the state's five black state supported schools are scheduled to lobby en masse at the state legislature April 12 and demonstrate at the UNC Board of Governors meeting April 18, says Mike Howell, student government president at North Carolina Central University (NCCU).

Howell said he requested and received promises of assistance from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and many other activist civil rights and political organizations.

The campus student leadership became concerned when it became apparent that the continuation of the predominantly black schools was being threatened.

The state legislature has severely under funded the black colleges historically, but now there is some talk among legislators of

escalating steps to phase out some of the black campuses.

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano recently rejected a court ordered desegregation plan which included enhancing the predominantly black colleges. The question of enhancement precipitated the impasse, primarily over the amount of money the legislative and UNC officials would commit to upgrade the black colleges.

Southern Christian Leadership (SCLC) National Program Director Golden Frinks said his organization has committed its resources to rally and lobby with the students.

Early in the week, Howell and Frinks said meeting with SGA presidents were in progress.

Students upset by news of faculty cut-backs and possible end of the school's nursing program confronted Chancellor Albert N. Whiting on March 30. Whiting told the students that possible cut-backs were the result of loss of enrollment and lack of state funding by the legislature.

Questioned by the students as to what action they could take, he replied that they could lobby at the state legislature, and particularly could contact the Durham County delegation.

Preliminary Injunction Strikes Down Medicaid Rule

RALEIGH, N.C. — John Foard and Lila Carter, along with hundreds of other North Carolinians can breathe a little easier since a U.S. Federal Court Judge said last week that at least for the time being they do not have to pay out a large portion of their limited monthly incomes to cover the costs of keeping their spouses in nursing homes.

In his preliminary injunction, Judge James B. McMillan stated that the state's "deeming" regulation requiring a spouse of a person in a nursing home to relinquish income to qualify the patient for Medicaid, most probably violates the federal Medicaid statute and the due process clause of the constitution.

The injunction came in response to a class action lawsuit filed last fall by attorneys with Legal Services of Southern

Piedmont (Charlotte) and Wake-Harriet-Johnston Legal Services (Raleigh) on behalf of two couples, John Alma Foard of Huntersville, and Eddie and Lila Carter of Clayton.

To qualify for Medicaid benefits under existing North Carolina regulations, the non-institutionalized spouse was forced to contribute all but \$162 of his or her monthly income towards payment of the institutionalized spouse's medical costs.

"We were very pleased with Judge McMillan's preliminary ruling," said Lark Hayes of Charlotte who was one of the attorneys in the case. "In addition to being violative of the federal statute and unconstitutional, we feel the state's regulation imposes a very real hardship on families of nursing home patients."

Mrs. Lila Carter testified in court that she could not live on the \$162 a month

she had left after paying \$167 from her and her husband's combined income to help defer his medical costs. Both plaintiffs said they refused to divorce or separate from their spouse and thereby free themselves of any legal obligation for their spouse's medical costs. "I'll eat grits and drink only water if I have to," said Mrs. Carter. "But I won't leave my husband of 44 years."

In the preliminary injunction which was signed on March 27, Judge McMillan ordered state Medicaid officials to stop enforcing the regulations. Under the injunction, Mrs. Carter will be allowed to keep the \$241 a month she receives, though the \$565 a month her husband receives in Social Security and retirement benefits will continue to

U.S. Group Reveals Crisis In Philippines

A nine-member investigating team returned from the Philippines recently with first-hand reports of a fast-spreading revolutionary ferment currently stirring the rural areas of the archipelago.

One member, Lyn Neuman, will visit North Carolina for a conference "Update: Philippines" to be held on April 14th, 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House in Chapel Hill.

The U.S.-based team also came back with reports of hunger, homelessness and destitution existing among the refugees created by the government's military campaigns, "economic development programs" and "beautification drives."

Composed of five women and four men, the investigating team entered the Philippines unannounced. Sent by the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (AMLC), the team looked directly into the conditions of people driven from their homes and lands by the policies and practices of the martial law government. The trip was spurred by the AMLC's initial research findings that up to four million Filipinos are already living the lives of refugees. With the help of private donors at AMLC's supporters from U.S. church groups, the team was sent to "help expose a refugee



NCCU AWARDS DAY NOTABLES—George T. Thorne (left) vice-chancellor for financial affairs, who received the University Relations Achievement Award and J. Rupert Picott (center), executive director of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, the Awards Day Speaker, pause, pause with NCCU Chancellor Albert N. Whiting during the proceedings.

Mich. U. Scientist Calls Idi Amin A Cruel But Clever Ruler

ANN ARBOR — Idi Amin is a "very cruel but clever ruler" who "surrounds himself increasingly with terrified flatterers and no longer with adequate advisors," a University of Michigan political scientist declares.

"Hopefully he will not last. We don't know. He has an enormous instinct for survival," observes Prof. Ali A. Mazrui. He was interviewed for an article in the winter issue of LSA Magazine the Alumni Publication of the U-M College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

One of Africa's leading scholars and political commentators, Mazrui left Uganda not long after Amin rose to power and since 1973 has been a U-M faculty member. He also is director of the U-M Center for Afro-American and African Studies.

"I had become extra conspicuous in Uganda over the years because of the love-hate relationship between me and the previous president, Milton Obote," Mazrui explains. "We had engaged in public and private debates. When Amin overthrew Obote, he concluded that I was sympathetic to the new regime because I

had been critical of the old one.

That inference was useful for a short time, Mazrui says, but "it soon became evident that Amin was not a man of very stable loyalties. Sooner or later, he sacrificed his friends or turned against them."

Mazrui escaped an uncomfortable offer to be special political advisor to

Amin by accepting an invitation for a lecture tour in England. "The government position would have been difficult to reconcile with my role as a public lecturer and writer," he says, "and necessitated a longish period of silence."

The American image of the Ugandan ruler is not entirely accurate, Mazrui believes. "The picture that he

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Pressure Prompts Reversal In Administration Trade Pact

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Responding to intense pressures from small and minority trade associations, the Carter Administration has reversed its trade pact policy and restored the business preference clause affecting small and minority firms. Dr. Berkeley G. Burrell, President of the National Business League welcomed the Administration's reversal in policy, but indicated that there still exists a critical need for close consultation between government officials and the minority private sector on the actual provisions of the trade agreement. Earlier this week, Burrell voiced unequivocal opposition to the

reported trade pact in testimony before the House Small Business Committee's Subcommittee on General Oversight and Minority Enterprise. At that time, he called the agreement "bad policy and bad business as well."

Joining in the strong opposition to the trade pact were representatives of the Council for Small and Independent Business Associations, COSIBA, including the National Small Business Association, the National Federation of Independent Business and the Small Business Association of New England, all predominantly white business groups. COSIBA is a coalition of four national and

four regional trade associations formed to promote the common interest of small business. NBL, the only minority organization in COSIBA, joined in the founding of this coalition three years ago. The fact that four of the eight COSIBA members testified in opposition to the trade pact underscores the threat to the entire small business community posed by this agreement. Responding to the Administration's reversal today, Burrell said: "The Administration's action today is sensible and wise. Yet, the controversy which developed could have been avoided had the trade groups been

brought into the consultation process before this ill-conceived position was made public. While we are pleased that the President changed his position, it is very clear that this reversal in policy was the result of massive and unified pressure, exerted by small and minority trade associations, who joined forces with Congressional representatives, notably Subcommittee Chairman LaFalce and Minority Enterprise Task Force Chairman Rep. Parren Mitchell, to prevent an agreement that would have devastated the minority private sector and inflicted untold harm on the entire small business community."

"It is critically important now that we intensify our efforts to determine the exact provisions of the re-negotiated procurement code. It is still too early to gauge the real impact of the revised agreement on the minority private sector, primarily because we were never advised of the specific provisions in the original agreement. Ambassador Robert Strauss, chief Trade Negotiator, was quoted today as saying that the issue still was 'a terribly difficult one in the minority community'. Just how difficult remains to be seen; but we are determined to find out."

"Ambassador Strauss has

previously agreed to meet with the minority trade groups to discuss the trade pact."

Today's announcement by the Administration underscores the critical need for ongoing, systematic consultation with the trade associations, and makes the upcoming meeting with Ambassador even more important."

Burrell fell short of declaring today's announcement a complete victory for the minority private sector. The NBL chief said that further information was needed before the small, and particularly the minority business community, could determine the

benefits of the new agreement. Since the minority private sector didn't know what was in the original agreement, it can make no assumptions about the benefits of the revised pact, according to Burrell. Opposition to the proposed relaxation in the preference clause was attacked, in part, because reductions in procurement contracts for minority firms would severely restrict their capacity to generate employment opportunities in their communities.

The National Business League was founded in 1900 by Dr. Booker T. Washington. It is dedicated to the build-

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