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# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRAIDED

**Words of Wisdom**  
It's good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy.  
—G.H., Lorimer

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## How Many More Trials, How Many More Years?

The National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression announced today an urgent public march and rally, Saturday, September 29 in Newark, N.J., for the freedom of Alliance Executive Board member George Merritt and his co-defendant Gail Madden, incarcerated for over nine years in New Jersey prisons. Speaking on behalf of the National Alliance will be the organization's co-chair Angela Davis.

NAARPR Executive Secretary Charlene Mitchell, in announcing the march, stated, "eleven years after the incident in Plainfield, the racism and lack of equality which characterized the entire trial is still evident. Two innocent people remain in prison, still suffering as victims of crimes actually committed by society. George Merritt, despite three trials in which convictions were overturned twice, is now appealing to the Federal District Court. He and his co-defendant, Gail Madden face life terms because of the continued racism in the court system of the inflammatory and deadly attitude of the N.J. Policemen's Benevolent Association, which continually harassed Merritt when he was briefly out on bail. We must demand, after all these years, an end to this racism, the restoration of human rights in the State of New Jersey and the freedom of political prisoners George Merritt and Gail Madden."

An international team of jurists visited Merritt and Madden to discuss their case in early August of this year. Sponsored by the National Alliance, National Conference of Black Lawyers and United Church of Christ-Commission for Racial Justice, the jurists were investigating charges set forth by the above-named organizations in a Petition to the United Nations charging human rights violations in the U.S. In a report on their findings, the jurist stated: "In our view, having discussed the matters alleged in detail with Mr. Merritt and his highly experienced trial attorney (Morton Stavis, Esq.) there are substantial grounds for believing that he and Gail Madden were arbitrarily selected for prosecution because of their racial and economic status."

The persecution of Merritt and Madden grew out of events in Plainfield in 1967. After brutally attacking Black youths, the police cordoned off the Black community of that city. A white policeman entered the area, shot and critically wounded an unarmed Black youth and was beaten to death by community residents. Dozens of people were indicted; George Merritt and Gail Madden were convicted of the offense. An appellate judge, in overturning the conviction, stated the defendants were tried in an "atmosphere to convict"; the court also held the only "eyewitness" against Merritt was "unreliable" and his testimony "flimsy and questionable."

## Durham City School Board Lists Six Black Candidates



Luncheon For Nominee

NEW YORK — Donald McHenry (R) shakes hands with U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim as outgoing ambassador Andrew Young (C) looks on at luncheon in McHenry's honor at the U.S. Mission hosted by Young after President Carter announced he had nominated McHenry to replace Young as ambassador to the United Nations. Career diplomat McHenry has been Young's top assistant at the U.N. UPI Photo post.

### Three of the Six Are Incumbents

Six black candidates have filed for seats on the Durham City School Board. Three of the six are incumbents, in a race which will surely focus on the current racial make-up of the 4-1 majority black board, a declining enrollment, and a high drop out rate. Only one incumbent, Dr. Theodore Speigner, did not file for re-election. The *Carolina Times* has substantiated the report that the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People has endorsed the candidacies of Mrs. Josephine Clement, John Lennon, Dr. Thomas Bass, incumbents, and Mrs. Trelle Jeffers. William Lawrence and Mrs. Betty Massenberg are also black. White candidates are Martin Pierston, James Roger Lumley and incumbent board member, Dr. Robert Ghirardelli. Mrs. Josephine Clement indicated she had filed "because of my love for children, my dedication to quality education, and my loyalty to the City of Durham." She has served

two terms (appointed to serve one unfulfilled term) on the board. Mrs. Trelle Jeffers is a former North Carolina Central University instructor, with thirteen years of teaching experience. She has been a community worker for six years. Mrs. Betty Massenberg, a retired school administrator, boasts 23 years in service before she retired in 1978. She is now a teacher at Durham Technical Institute. Mrs. Massenberg says "my thirty years coupled with the fact that I presently teach dropouts of Durham City and County schools, as well as other school systems, gives me a unique advantage in recognizing problems, offering solutions and contributing to the continuing improvement of the Durham City School System." William Lawrence is a counseling psychologist at the Environmental Protection Agency in the Research Triangle Park. He has been very critical of the present board saying they are too involved in administrative decisions.



Volunteer Workers Tag Students

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Volunteer workers tag students with their bus number for the return trip home as they arrive at Alpine Elementary School for the start of school and court-ordered busing. UPI Photo

## Ben Chavis Personally Presented The Letelier-Moffitt Award

By Pat Bryant  
Reverend Benjamin Chavis was personally presented the Letelier-Moffitt Award by the widow/widower, respectively, of Orlando Letelier and Ronni Moffitt Sunday at Russell Memorial CME Church in Durham. The imprisoned Wilmington Ten defendant was also presented a textile patchwork of a church with different races attending, a present from Chilean women, many of whom have husbands, brothers and parents kidnapped by the Pinochet regime. "I will not rest, I will not sleep, I will not bow down until the people of Chile are free," Chavis responded after receiving the award. Chavis is a prisoner at the Orange County Prison Unit in Hillsborough. He spoke before the award as a part of his study program at Duke Divinity School, where he studies daily. He returns to prison every evening. The same award was presented to his mother in Washington, D.C., last year. Prison authorities refused to let him travel to Washington to receive it. Orlando Letelier was a former Chilean ambassador to the United States and an outspoken leader of Chilean exiles opposing the military dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who overthrew Chile's democratically-elected government in

1973. Letelier and Ronni Moffitt, in whose names the award was established, were coworkers at the Institute for Policy Studies, an independent research institute. They were riding to work when a bomb planted in Letelier's car exploded. A U.S. Senate report prepared this summer concluded the CIA knew Letelier was on the Chilean secret police "hit

### Tex. Sheriff Indicted For Assault

A Texas sheriff was indicted by a federal grand jury recently on a charge of striking a man who was visiting his brother in the Starr County jail. Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said the indictment was returned in U.S. District Court in Brownsville, Texas, against Deputy Sheriff Leonel R. Alvarez. Alvarez was charged with striking Rolando Vela on November 26, 1977, violating his constitutional right not to be deprived of liberty without due process of law. The maximum penalty upon conviction of deprivation of rights (18 U.S. Code 242) is one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

list" and did not prevent his death. Before presenting the award, both Michael Moffitt and Mrs. Isabel Letelier told of current conditions in Chile. Each told of how thousands of Chileans who have opposed the Pinochet regime have been kidnapped, imprisoned, or murdered. Thirty thousand people, said Mrs. Letelier, have disappeared since 1973. To bring attention to the missing relatives, a hunger strike is in progress in Santiago, she says, and was in its sixth day. "There are many parishes in Santiago and several other provinces of the country that have hunger strikers and they are in their sixth day of hunger strikes," Mrs. Letelier said. "They are very weak but extremely determined not to leave those churches until the whereabouts of the prisoners are known." On September 4, she said, 400 people were arrested at a march commemorating the election of Salvador Allende's government in 1970. Since the overthrow of the Allende government, it is no secret that repression is terrible and ideas are persecuted in Chile. "Ideas like freedom, peace, dignity, human rights, are very bad words there, and you can be killed for defending those words," said Mrs. Letelier [Continued on Page 13]

## Economic Leaders Unite To Protect P.L. 99-507

WASHINGTON, D.C. — For the first time in the history of the civil and economic rights the leaders of National minority trade and professional associations have united to attack the evils hindering minority economic development. The National Association of Black Manufacturers, with other minority organizations, has formed an official body entitled the "Economic Rights Coalition." The first task of the Coalition has been to request a meeting with President Carter and his top White House administrators in an effort to resolve the inability and unwillingness of Federal Agencies to implement Public Law 95-507. P.L. 95-507 is the first minority enterprise legislation signed into law by President Carter last October. Main points of the law include: reorganization of the SBA 8(a) program; filing of a subcontracting plan for prime contractor indicating percentage utilization of minority firms on non-construction procurements of \$500,000 and above; and conferral

of bond waiving authority to the SBA under terms of a two-year pilot program. The Coalition is seeking, with the assistance of Congress, meaningful solutions to the gross number of problems concerning federal programs designed to foster the development and viability of minority business. In a letter to the President, Congressman Parren Mitchell (D.MD), Joseph Adabbo (D.NY) strongly support the need of such a body of organizations to trigger needed results as a means of implementing the law. Suggestions have been made that, if needed, the White House should consider removal of certain federal administrators and/or their top aides. "We join with NABM in this request that you and your senior staff meet with representatives from the Economic Rights Coalition. The difficulties of the last ten months indicate that direction must now come from the highest levels of government," said the Congressmembers. Eugene Baker, President of NABM, expressed his grave concern to the President over the open [Continued On Page 14]

## Carter Picks Two Blacks For District Judgeships

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Jimmy Carter has announced he will nominate Alcee L. Hastings of Lauderdale, Florida, to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Florida. This is a new judgeship. Hastings is a judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court in Broward County, Florida. He received a B.A. from Fisk University in 1958 and an LL.B. from Florida A&M University in 1963. From 1964 to 1967 Hastings was with the firm of Allen & Hastings, and from 1967 to 1977 he was in private practice in Fort Lauderdale. He has been a judge of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court since 1977. The President also announced he will nominate Nathaniel R. Jones, of Youngstown, Ohio, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Sixth Circuit. He would replace John W. Peck, who has retired. Jones is general counsel of the NAACP. He was born May 13, 1926, in Youngstown, Ohio. He received a B.A. (1951) and LL.B. (1956)

from Youngstown University. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1945 to 1946. From 1957 to 1960 Jones was editor and publisher of *The Buckeye Review*. He was in private practice from 1960 to 1962, and was assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio from 1962 to 1967. Jones as with the Kener Commission in 1967 and 1968. He practiced with the firm of Goldberg & Jones in 1968 and 1969. He has been general counsel of the NAACP since 1969, and has been "of counsel" in the firm Breckenridge & Haynes since 1969.

**Join The NAACP It's The Thing To Do!**

## New Durham Supt. To Be Honored

Sunday, September 16 will be a special day for Dr. Cleveland Hammonds, newly appointed Superintendent of Durham City Schools. A Program and Reception is being planned to honor Dr. Hammonds at Rogers-Herr Junior High School, 911 W. Cornwallis Road in Durham at 6 p.m. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Jerome Melton, Deputy Superintendent of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. His subject will be: "The Challenge Facing Public Education in North Carolina in the 80's". Leaders in education, government, business, civil, social, and religious organizations from throughout the State will be present to welcome Dr. Hammonds and his family to Durham. The Reception will follow the program in the cafeteria of the school. The public is urged to attend and participate in another "Durham First".