

## Hobby's Attorneys Plan Appeal

By Donald Alderman — RALEIGH — Attorneys representing one-time labor leader Wilbur Hobby said they will appeal his fraud and conspiracy conviction. Mort Levi, Hobby's business associate, will also have his conviction appealed, attorneys said.

Hobby and Levi were found guilty Saturday of defrauding Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) program funds through contracts negotiated with state government. A six-man, six-woman jury deliberated almost fifteen hours.

The two business partners will spend Christmas at home because U.S. District Judge W. Earl Britt delayed sentencing until December 29 at 1 p.m., and the two were allowed to remain free on a \$10,000 bond.

A maximum fine of eleven years imprisonment and \$40,000 faces Hobby for the four counts against him. A maximum fine of seven years imprisonment and \$20,000 faces Levi for the two counts against him.

CETA funds awarded to Hobby's company, Precision Graphics, Inc., were said to be illegally obtained and misap-

plied, beginning in February, 1979 and continuing through May, 1980. Hobby and Levi were indicted February 10, 1981.

Levi, at the time of the alleged criminal acts, was program director for Precision Graphics.

Among the indictments the men were found guilty on were: Hobby's company illegally profited from CETA funds; Levi hired CETA ineligible; and, Hobby defrauded the government by purchasing computers with CETA money.

The guilty verdict dismayed labor leaders and others who said Hobby's training program was one of the most successful in the state.

Hobby was president of the North Carolina AFL-CIO for twelve years until he was defeated in elections earlier this year.

Contracts awarded to Hobby's company were used to train women and blacks as computer key punch operators and offset printers, according to a piece which appeared in *The Carolina Times* November 7, written by Pat Bryant, a Durham writer.

Bryant wrote that the charges against Hobby

started when a Raleigh newspaper published 96 articles "questioning Hobby's propriety and insinuating his guilt."

"Hobby then became the target of the N.C. Congressional Club, Senator Jesse Helms' political action group. During the last general election, the Congressional Club whipped Hobby through attacks from unsuccessful gubernatorial candidate I.

Beverly Lake, Jr., and successful senatorial candidate John East. The Congressional Club also financed television commercials across the state which charged Wilbur Hobby with pocketing the taxpayers' CETA funds", Bryant wrote. In his piece, Bryant asked several political leaders in the state, "Why is Wilbur Hobby on trial?" One respondent answered: "Wilbur

Hobby is really on trial because he made it possible for minorities, especially women, to become more a part of the economic clout in our state. . . ."

Another responded: "He is on trial, fundamentally, because he is a liberal white in the racist South, in racist America. Wilbur has identified with poor people, oppressed people, exploited people, those who are the most against the wall. He's tried to help them. That is his fundamental sin. . . ."

## Myers Appointed

Governor Jim Hunt and Secretary of Commerce Lauch Faircloth recently announced the appointment of Lewis H. Myers as Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Myers, 35, has been Chief of the State Office of Minority Business Enterprises in the department since July 1, 1980.

Governor Hunt said, "Lewis Myers brings to this new position an invaluable background in marketing and economic development. In particular, he has broad experience in minority

business development, state's support of those and we will be looking to him to strengthen the business efforts." (Continued On Page 6)



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## City of Durham Community Development

The Durham Housing Authority and the City of Durham Planning and Community Development Department invite rental property owners participation in the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program. Proposals are requested from property owners for rent subsidies under the Moderate Rehabilitation program for rental property in all areas of the City of Durham. Special priority and financial incentives are available for properties in certain areas of the City. Proposals will be received between 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 11, 1982, and 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 1982.

The Moderate Rehabilitation program is designed to encourage the rehabilitation of rental units which are now substandard or which have major building components which will soon need repair or replacement. Such improvements shall cost at least \$1,000 or more. When rented to a lower-income family, the program will help provide rental income to an owner that will repay rehabilitation costs, meet monthly operating expenses, and allow a reasonable profit on the owners investment in the property. The owner, with the assistance of the Housing Authority and the City, will secure his own rehabilitation financing. HUD, through the Housing Authority, guarantees the owner Fair Market Rents through rental subsidies to the tenant and will refer tenants to the property owner under contract for fifteen (15) years. Permanent displacement of tenants will not be permitted. Please call the Planning and Community Development Department for more information and to obtain application forms. Contact:

Nazeeh Abdul-Hakeem  
Planning & Community Development Dept.  
101 City Hall Plaza  
Durham, N.C. 27701  
Phone: 683-4137

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# Blessings to All



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