

Rollout Garbage: Easier But Fewer Jobs

(Continued From Front) because the premium rates are pegged to salaries.

"These projections, however, do not take into account any savings as a result of improved insurance experience," she continued. "because these things are very difficult to predict. But we can expect to save something."

According to Ms. Laura Henderson, the city's risk manager, it is difficult to determine just what impact garbage collectors have on either insurance or workman's compensation claims because historically, the data are not reported to the city on a department-by-department basis. She also says that the city insurance and workman's compensation claims experience has been significantly improved over the past several years.

Referring specifically to the sanitation department, Ms. Henderson said various work improvements in the division have contributed to improved rate experiences.

However, a spokesman for the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance Company, the city's insurance carrier, said that working conditions are recognized in municipal insurance contracts as having a significant impact on insurance rates. The spokesman also said that the company is developing a system that will allow it to more accurately pinpoint the different effects that various job categories have on rate experiences. Changes in working conditions will not have an immediate effect on insurance premiums, the spokesman explained, but over the long run could have a positive impact because certain changes could reduce the number of claims.

For example, in the garbage collection division, if there are a lot of claims now because of wrenched backs, for in-

stance, then that will affect insurance premiums. But if the rollout program, for example, reduced these claims, the positive effect would be felt in the long term.

Another potential impact of the rollout program, one that is not necessarily a major objective, is that the city might move forward in its affirmative action program. In 1979, following the adoption of the city's affirmative action program in 1978, there were 53 garbage collectors, and 42 of them were black. In 1980, 52 of the 56 collection workers were black men, three were black women, and there was one white man. Currently, there are 49 black men, four black women and two white men collecting the city's refuse, according to figures in the city affirmative action office.

"In general, what we are trying to do in this type of laborer positions is to get more whites and women in the jobs," said Ms. Cora McFadden, Durham's affirmative action administrator. Mitchell believes that the rollout program will accomplish this objective because the proposed program removes the job's stigma.

But according to both Mitchell and Ms. Goldman, the major objectives of the proposed program are to save money and increase productivity.

Here is what city officials project.

- * Rollout collection will allow the city to reduce its work crews from 22 to 17.

- * Rollout garbage collection will also reduce the time it takes to collect garbage from each residence, shortening the time from 37 seconds to about 21 seconds.

Further, according to Mitchell, the proposed rollout program is merely a continuation of efforts to improve the work and the productivity in the collection divi-

sion. Prior steps go back about five years when the city switched from a "tote barrel" system to the current roll cart system. Under the old method, garbage workers lugged heavy garbage cans from backyards to garbage trucks, dumping them by hand, and walking an estimated ten miles a day. Now, however, the workers dump the resident's garbage can at the back of the house into a rolling cart, and push it to the garbage truck, where it is dumped by a hydraulic lift on the side of the truck. The rollout system, according to Mitchell, simply carries the concept of deemphasizing the labor intensive aspect of this job even further.

In Fayetteville, where the city government went to a rollout collection method about three years ago, Harold Hubbard, sanitation superintendent sings the program's praises. "It makes for a more attractive job, has reduced our turnover almost to nothing, and has already paid for itself," Hubbard said. "We have also reduced our workforce by 59 persons,

handling it, of course, through attrition. We haven't laid anyone off, or fired anyone because of the program."

In Durham, the question of to rollout or not to rollout appears to hinge more on the political question than on the administrative

situation. Mitchell shies away from discussing the political considerations.

"All I can say is that we try to provide the best service in the most cost effective manner," Mitchell said. "But it's up to the council to face the political question."

Anti-Nuke Speeches Set In Chapel Hill

By Donald Alderman
Bringing attention to the escalating nuclear arms race is the aim of a program dubbed "Non-violence and Defense" slated to be held in Chapel Hill Wednesday, March 24.

Sponsored by The Fellowship to Reverse the Arms Race, a group that grew out of the Chapel Hill Ministerial Alliance, the program will feature Professor Mulford Sibley of the University of Minnesota as guest speaker.

Sibley, author of *The Quiet Battle*, will speak on Nonviolence and Defense in 104 Howell Hall (UNC-Chapel Hill, 3:30 p.m.), and on Non-

violent National Defense at the Community Church, 106 Purefoy Road (off Mason Farm Road, 7:30 p.m.).

The Fellowship to Reverse the Arms Race — according to the Rev. Bob Phillips, the group's coordinator and UNC Baptist Campus minister — works from a religious perspective and is made up of persons from all denominations.

The group, Rev. Phillips said, has a mailing list of about 300 persons. After forming about two years ago, the group has brought attention to the nuclear arms race, showing films in schools and churches, displaying posters and mailing brochures to members and others who may affect defense decisions.

"It (the arms race) is not just humming along," said Rev. Sibley. "It is now taking big, new leaps."

Give What You Can To The Hillside Band

Federal Health Costs Equal for Rich, Poor

Reprinted From American Medical News

When all factors are taken into account, the government spends as much on health care for the upper and middle classes as it does for the poor, a new study has shown.

Per capita expenditures are larger for the poor, who are a smaller part of the population, but "overall, the government spends about the same on the poor as it does on the middle-income and high income population," the study said.

Tax deduction for health insurance premiums and medical payments were taken into account in the study.

The report by Gail Wilensky of the National Center for Health Services Research said that the government lost \$7.9 billion in 1977 because employer-paid health insurance premiums are tax-free, and \$2.4 billion because of medical deductions on individuals' income tax forms.

That figure probably has more than doubled since 1977, Wilensky said. She estimated that the government lost at least \$17.5 billion and possibly as much as \$24 billion in 1981 in potential taxes on health insurance premiums and \$3.4 billion in individual deductions.

The federal study reported that tax expenditures are an indirect subsidy to the upper and middle class that is rising faster than the cost of Medicare and Medicaid. Medicare costs rose an average 17% a year between 1975 and 1979, according to the study.

In the same period, Medicaid costs rose 13% a year and so-called "tax expenditures" went up an average 19% annually, the study said.

"These results suggest that attempts to curb government expenditures on health must focus on tax expenditures as well as Medicare and Medicaid," the study pointed out.

Hayti: (Continued From Front)

But now where does all this leave the black community here, and concerns about resurrecting Hayti as a mecca of black economics? Frankly, the Durham black community finds itself in a "David and Goliath" confrontation, without much of a slingshot.

The issue appears to be money. NCNB Community Development Corporation has access to chunks of it, and the black community can't seem to put much together. So what happens finally in Hayti will apparently not be determined by rhetoric, political punch or a concern for history. The big developmental stick in Hayti, as elsewhere, will be tons of money.



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