

Can Change the Course of Black History for at Least The Next TEN Years

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Many On NAACP Executive Committee

Contradict Prexy's Mandate

By Donald Alderman

George Frazier, president of the Durham Branch of the NAACP, says he has a mandate from the organization's executive committee to support the coming \$10.5 million bond referendum for a proposed downtown civic center and predicts the issue will pass with significant black support.

But about half of the organization's executive committee contradicts that view, with at least one saying that the president's position is a "sabotage of efforts by Durham's four major black organizations to present a united front on the civic center issue." It seems that only a small handful of the NAACP's executive committee voted to endorse the civic center vote. The *Carolina Times* telephone poll found only six members of the committee who agreed with the decision. Four of those members were present at the meeting last week and voted to endorse the civic center. Two others were not at the meeting, but said they agreed with the decision.

T.R. Speight, a Durham businessman, a member of the NAACP executive committee as well as other prominent black organizations, said he felt that there was a tacit agreement between the four major black organizations that they would "work together to

Executive Committee Poll

1. Nathaniel White, Sr.: didn't attend the meeting and disagreed with the vote.
2. Dr. James A. Williams: didn't attend, but would have voted with the majority.
3. T.R. Speight: didn't attend, would have voted 'no'.
4. Ms. Louise Weeks: present and voted 'yes'.
5. Attorney Shirley Fulton: present but left before vote and would not have voted.
6. George White: present but outside of meeting room at time of vote, would not have voted.
7. Ms. Bertie Bates: wasn't present, probably would have voted for it.
8. Redditt Alexander: wasn't present, would have abstained.
9. Ms. Sarah Jones: wasn't present, would have abstained.
10. Ms. Doris Carr: wasn't present, would have abstained.
11. Ms. Florine Roberson: present, voted 'yes'.
12. J.A. Tucker: present, voted 'yes'.
13. Ms. Ricki Lyons: wasn't present, would have voted 'no'.
14. John Mason: wasn't present, don't know how I'd have voted.
15. Ms. Ethelene Prayloe: wasn't present, would have voted 'no'.
16. Ms. Christine Strudwick: wasn't present, would have voted 'no'.
17. Ms. Addie Barbee: present, voted 'yes'.
18. Ms. Mable Powell: wasn't present, refused to say how she would have voted.
19. George Frazier: present, didn't vote.
20. Linwood Blount: present, refused to say how he voted.
21. Thomas Steele: couldn't be reached.
22. Ms. Alice Wilson: reported as present, but couldn't be reached.
23. Richard Peacock: couldn't be reached.

Grimes Case Goes To Grand Jury — NAACP Joins Effort

By Isaiah Singletary
District Attorney Dan K. Edwards said Monday he will present the Robert Grimes case to the Durham County Grand Jury for indictment, but he refused to say what charges he will seek against the man currently charged with involuntary manslaughter and hit and run. The Grand Jury will consider the case during its July session, according to Edwards.
Meanwhile, a private prosecutor, state NAACP General Counsel Angus Thompson, a Lumberton attorney, is now working on the case, assisting Edwards with the coming

prosecution. Thompson was accepted as a private prosecutor in the case, according to Edwards, "because of the community interest generated by the case."
"I was happy," Edwards said, "to have Mr. Thompson assist us in this case because of the community interest shown in this case."
Edwards also noted that it is not unusual for a private attorney to be allowed to assist the prosecution. "If families or organizations have a special interest in a case," he said, "they can request a private prosecutor and usually that request is honored."

The request for the private prosecutor was made by the Durham Branch of the NAACP. Grimes, 19, who gave his address as 2901 Carver St., is charged in the traffic death of Chester Reams who was struck and killed by a car on the night of May 3 as he walked along Guess Road with a white woman. The car sped away with its lights off after crashing into Reams.
Originally, police treated the fatality as an accident, and Grimes, who was arrested three days after the incident, was charged with involuntary manslaughter.
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Two Black Nurses Charge County With Discrimination

Black nurses who have worked for the Durham County Health Department for as many as fifteen years have consistently been denied promotions while white nurses who have worked only two years have been promoted, according to a nurse who has filed a Civil Rights suit against the county.
Nurse Delores H. Vaughn, who has worked as a nurse for the health department since 1967, said she has been denied repeatedly that she would be promoted to higher level jobs because available.
They promoted a white woman who had been in the department for only six months. Another black nurse, who had been in the department for nearly

twenty years was also passed over, Ms. Vaughn said.
Ms. Vaughn and Ms. Ruth Amey, a twenty year county employee, are scheduled to appear in federal court in Durham later this month. They are charging racial discrimination and are asking for back pay.
All of this comes in the wake of statements made by high level county officials that the county does not need an affirmative action program and that hiring decisions and promotions are based on merit. Nurses Vaughn and Amey disagree.
County Attorney Lester Owen said that the suit, that has been pending since 1974 has cost the county "exorbi-

tant" amounts of money.
Two weeks ago, County Commissioner Dillard Teer told *The Carolina Times* that affirmative action was not needed and that the county has a problem finding qualified blacks for employment. Both Nurse Vaughn and Nurse Amey are licensed by the state of North Carolina.
Ms. Vaughn said that she once applied for a promotion when a nursing supervisor retired.
"They promoted a white woman who had been there only two years. I had much more seniority than she did. I think that I am not being promoted because of race. It is just that simple. I have suffered and I am tired of it."

support the civic center bond referendum.

However, a poll of the executive committee by *The Carolina Times* shows that at least twelve members were not at the meeting. The poll also shows that ten of these twelve do not agree with the decision to support the civic center.

"My vote would have been 'no,'" said Ms. Christine Strudwick, a member of the executive committee. "I don't wheel and deal in buying and selling votes."

Frazier said Monday that he considers the vote a mandate from the executive committee. However, Frazier refused to say how many members attended the meeting and voted, and he also refused to explain the number of the executive committee required to constitute a quorum. He said he did not vote on the issue.
"The committee met in executive session," Frazier said, "and the details of the vote is the organization's private business."

But the impact of the vote, putting the NAACP in favor of the bond referendum to build the civic center re-sounds throughout the black community.

For the past five months, Durham's black community and city officials have been locked in a fierce political struggle over the issues of the civic center and the redevelopment of Hayti.

Hayti was a predominantly black commercial and residential neighborhood, razed about twenty years ago by the city's urban renewal plan. It has yet to be redeveloped.

In recent months, at least four proposals have been advanced for the development of Hayti, none of which has been approved. Back in February, when the question of a civic center became public, and a bond referendum appeared imminent, many black leaders said: If there are no assurances on Hayti, the black community will not vote for the civic center.

Since that challenge, however, several black leaders have broken ranks. First, one major elected official, Ralph Hunt, a member of the Durham City Council, said that Hayti and the civic center are not
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Bonnie Fights Back
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Mrs. Annie Futrell Celebrates 109 Years Tuesday
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Durham Striders Keep Torch Burning
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Charged With Embezzling \$21 Million
Former boxing promoter Harold Rossfields Smith (r), arrives at U.S. District Court with two of his attorneys. Smith could be on the receiving end of a long sentence when he appears before a federal judge for sentencing. Smith and Sammie Marshal were convicted of embezzling \$21 million from Wells Fargo Bank following a seven-week trial.

Three Black Professional Groups to Hold First Confab

By Donald Alderman
There's more to medicine, dentistry or law than the practice.

Ailments other than hay fever, a bad tooth or a law suit seriously affect the professional's patient or client. Ailments such as a low economic base or a lack of political representation, also need treatment.

To begin dealing with these other ailments, three of North Carolina's largest black professional organizations will meet June 18-20 in Winston-Salem.

This will be the first time that black lawyers, doctors and dentists will hold a joint convention. "We're trying to create a working relationship in the professional community," said Dr. Stanley Fleming, a Durham dentist and president of the Old North State Dental Society, "to do more for blacks and the poor to better serve them in these difficult economic times."

Joining members of the 63-year-old dental society will be members of the Old North State Medical Society and the N.C. Association of Black Lawyers.
According to Attorney G.K. Butterfield, Jr., of Wilson, president of the lawyers association, one of the top priorities for discussion will be the establishment of a full-time lobbying office to

lobby all branches and levels of government on concerns critical to blacks, and to monitor local state and federal legislation. If approved, the office will be financed by the professionals. Butterfield cautioned, however, that the plan is still on the drawing board.
But political activity is only part of the plan.

According to Fleming, the professionals are concerned about the lack of economic activity in the black community, mainly the reduction of the number of black businesses in the state over the past ten years.
"We expect this to be the beginning of a long relationship of planning,

work and initiation, Fleming said, "to propel the masses in the mainstream and to better negotiate the system."

Fleming said the groups will propose solutions different than some already sought by blacks. "We're trying not to be reactionary but rather we'll be trying to initiate programs for the long term betterment of the community."

Officials of the three groups said the convention will consist mainly of discussions, and committees would be formed to implement definite decisions.

According to Dr. Sidney Barnwell of New Bern, president of the medical society, the groups will also discuss the impact of the state Block Grant program on the medical field. The concern there is that Medicaid has been lumped in the Block Grant program and a large percentage of the patients served by black dentists and doctors pay their bills with Medicaid.

Also to be discussed, Barnwell said, is the need for more blacks in the medical profession. Currently, there are about 222 black doctors in the state, which is about three per cent of the state's doctors. Getting blacks into medical school, retaining them and recruiting them to the state will be main topics.

Georgia State Senator Julian Bond will address the groups Saturday night on how to impact the legislative process. Ben Ruffin, assistant to Governor Jim Hunt, and State Senator Henry Frye will also address the groups.
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Some Believe Hayti and Downtown Civic Center Are Related

By Isaiah Singletary

Many black businessmen here contend that the black community's vote on the proposed \$13.5 million downtown civic center should be tied directly to assurances on the revitalization of Hayti.
"The only mechanism we have is the ballot and it has been our most effective weapon," said Eric Michaux, a local attorney who also directs Union Insurance and Realty Company, "we well as several other family businesses. I agree that the black community should have assurances on Hayti before we vote to approve the downtown plan."

This position is not unanimous, however, because at least three well-known black businessmen disagree. They are Asa T. Spaulding, Sr., former N.C. Mutual president; W.J. Kennedy, III, Mutual's current president and board chairman; and Maceo K. Sloan, attorney, city councilman and Mutual official.
Kennedy, for example does not believe Hayti will ever return to its former prominence. "I see Hayti in a different perspective than other blacks," he said. "Old Hayti will never again be a center for black business. To believe that it will is

simply nostalgic attachment. And I also would not tie the development of Hayti to the civic center.

Hayti was a thriving black business district, ringed and dotted by residential areas that ranged from ramshackled to upper middle class. Then a 1962 bond referendum paved the way for Hayti to be dismantled under the urban renewal program. More than 100 businesses and about 600 families were moved from about 54 acres of inner city land, fondly called Hayti. Today, some twenty years later, Hayti remains a barren wasteland.
Most of the

businessmen interviewed prefaced their comments by saying they feel the black community was mistreated by the urban renewal program. They all agreed that assurances on Hayti's revitalization should precede the black community's support of the proposed civic center.
F.V. "Pete" Allison, president of Mutual Savings and Loan and a member of the Durham Center steering committee, for example, believes the area should be developed as a racially mixed business district with blacks having significant input in the redevelopment process.
"I also feel," Allison