

Letters to the Editor:

Coping

The Important Element

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Hayti Contract

Your July 3rd Editorial entitled "It Does Make One Wonder", seems to indicate that the full impact of the events leading up to the awarding of a \$65,000 contract to the Hayti Development Corporation (HDC) may be missed by the public.

The HDC provided the City with a 50-page plan which was developed independent of any capital outlay by the City. The plan features a commercial focus for Hayti, complemented by residential, hotel/conference center complex, and industrial components. It focuses on the inclusion of the relocatees and former relocatees in the resulting development, and the maximal involvement by the local community. A compromise plan had been agreed to by the City and HDC in the middle of March, 1982, and presented to the City Council by the City Administration. This plan consisted of land use, and zoning, with marketing strategies and bid procedures to be negotiated after adoption of the plan by the Council.

At a May meeting of the Finance Committee, the compromise plan ran into its first obstacle. It passed by a margin of only 4-3 after two opponents, including the Ward III councilman, left early. This led to a virtual impasse. By the middle of May, the Downtown Development Task Force of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People (DCABP) submitted a proposal to the City Administration which included (1) adoption of the compromise plan, (2) \$5.3 million request for funds for site improvements, revolving loan fund and more (to be expended over a 3-year period) to support Hayti Development, (3) a recommendation that HDC become the trustee of the land, and (4) percentage goals for Black participation in all aspects of the Civic Center/Hotel Complex. A request was made for some action to be taken on these items before June 29, 1982 Bond Referendum. Negotiations with four key city councilmen and city administration staff came to a virtual stand-still and no action had been taken by the City Council. Moreover, in a subsequent meeting on June 7, 1982, the City Council failed to even approve the compromise plan for NCR-54 in concept.???

A June 21, 1982 special session of the City Council initiated by Chester Jenkins, and designed to address the issues raised by the DCABP and HDC, could not get a quorum. At the regular session which followed, however, the Council approved a motion which adopted the NCR-54 compromise plan in concept, subject to feasibility studies, targeted \$3.0-\$3.6 million to Hayti, which included the \$1.5 million already appropriated. And finally, in a special session on Friday June 25, 1982, called by Councilman Ralph Hunt, the Council approved the concept of minority participation in the Civic Center/Hotel Complex with a written guarantee for 30% by the developer, Dobson and Johnson, in all aspects of the construction and employment in the hotel and office building. It also approved a contract with HDC for one year for \$65,000 to help spur development.

It behooves us to be fair when we describe a situation to the public. The HDC can play role that many non-profit corporation in other cities play (e.g., Motion, Inc. in Charlotte, Vesdine in Los Angeles, Pennsylvania Development Corporation in Washington, D.C., etc.), where partnerships with community organizations and municipalities have made areas grow and prosper. HDC demonstrated its work product long before this funding came to pass, and will continue. The rhetoric of the type "the City paid, the City is the boss" ignores the fact that Black People pay taxes and should get a return. Did *The Carolina Times* suggest that the Downtown Development Corporation was begging when city and county funds were used to support studies of a private hotel/civic center complex?

To focus on the \$65,000 and to ignore the other factors which influenced the DCABP's support of the Civic Center suggests that the *Times* may only be trying to defend its editorial decision against the Civic Center, made before all of the facts outlined above occurred; or maybe as the devil's advocate, it is its role to always give the worst interpretation of events. In this case that interpretation ignores a basic truism...We are in the best position we have been in years to push for quality development in Hayti, with the maximum input from local residents. We agree that much of what will happen will depend, as it has already, on our own initiative. This in no way should minimize the obligation of the City to support efforts to bring progress. A partnership of the city and community may be the only way to heal old wounds and bring this City back to its place of prominence. **Together Durham Will Soar!!!**

Nathaniel B. White, Jr.
President, HDC
Durham

Edgemont Contest

We take this opportunity to extend a sincere expression of gratitude for the excellent support and coverage which *The Carolina Times* gave to our Minister's Popularity Contest. The interest you took in this effort really gave it a new spirit and momentum. We are deeply grateful for this. Our contest was indeed a success as we topped our goal of \$1,500 by \$300. . . . Please know that though our contest has ended we will continue to promote *The Carolina Times* for it is truly an immeasurable asset.

E. Thorpe, Chairman
Joan Burton, Director
Edgemont Community Center
Durham

U.S. 'No Talks' Policy

In his article "Policy Of No Talks With SWAPO and PLO by U.S. Short Sighted", I interpret some of what Mr. Curtis T. Perkins was telling us. That is without changes, there can be no growth to any country. We must learn to accept changes. Your newspaper and Mr. Perkins are to be complimented on his point well taken.

Thomas B. Smalls
Dodd, Mead & Company, Inc.
New York, New York

Several writers, black and white, have become wealthy from the profits that they have received from the sales of their books espousing the problems that are peculiar to black male/female relationships. Seminars are held weekly that show blacks how to handle the "unusual" difficulties that blacks encounter when males and females try to relate to each other.

Are these supposed "unique" problems significant or more a creation of sociologists in search of an issue? Are these problems real or a figment of the imagination? Do these problems deserve the enormous amount of attention that they receive or

does the emphasis on them serve the purpose of distracting attention from the more important issues that blacks must confront in order to obtain equal footing in society? Finally, does the focus on "peculiar" interpersonal problems of blacks fulfill a deep-seated emotional need of blacks to have someone show personal concern (which is absent in a racist, heartless society), exploit this emotional need, and strengthen the view that blacks are culturally deficient?

The damage may have already been done in that many blacks have for such a long period of time felt that their social needs were so "different" that it

may be impossible to dislodge themselves from this view. The view may, indeed, satisfy an emotional need created by public relations people, confirmed by pseudo-psychologists and concretized by young blacks in search of acceptance.

The average American spends four hours each day watching television. Television is our window to the world. It tells us how everyone else across the country and around the world behaves. It tells us what our needs are and what we should do to satisfy them. It introduces us to ourselves. Without television most of us would not "know" what kind of people we are and how we do (and should) relate to each other. Television is our psychological physician-pharmacist, prescribing and fulfilling the cure for our problems. It also creates the problems.

If the interpersonal problems of black people were as bad as we are told, the black family would be non-existent. It would have been destroyed decades ago. Yet, it remains strong and vitalized. Dr. Billingsley, president of Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, is a widely recognized

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