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# The Carolina Times

[THE TRUTH Unveiled]

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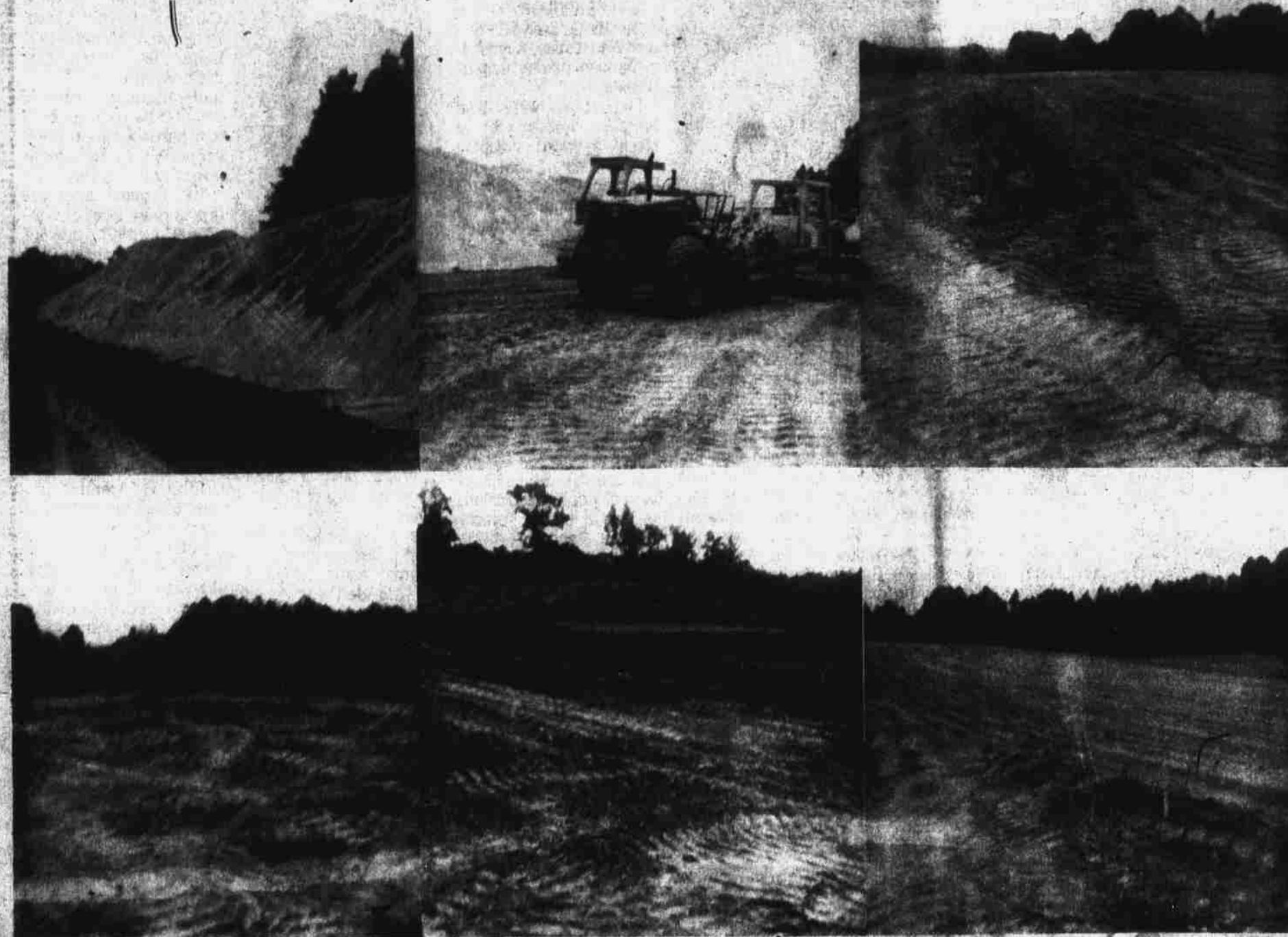
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## Republicans Wooing Blacks; Some Listening



VIEWS OF WARREN COUNTY DUMP SITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## Blacks In Warren County Fighting Dumping Of PCB

By Milton Jordan

Executive Editor

In explaining why he's totally opposed to state plans to dump toxic PCB-laden soil in a proposed landfill about a half-mile from his home, Edward Sumerville reduces the equation to its simplest terms.

"They are going to cost me about \$50,000 and ruin my health," he said in a recent telephone interview from his home. "And the only reason they chose this county, and this particular area of the county is because mostly black people live here. It's clearly a racial issue."

Sumerville, a lifelong resident of Warren County, whose great grandmother walked from Tennessee more than a century ago and settled in what is now called the Shocco township, owns a home and a 50-acre farm that he values at about \$100,000 and grows tobacco. He also works for an industrial plant in Henderson. He and his wife of 32 years, Mrs. Florence Sumerville, say the PCB landfill will probably cut their property value in half. They are just two of the more than 10,000 blacks who live in Warren County, many of whom believe the PCB landfill is being built there because mostly blacks live there.

"When white folks in Chatham and Wake counties complained about the dump being near their homes, the state backed off," said Rev. Luther G. Brown, pastor of Warren County's Coley Springs Baptist Church. "But the state apparently believes that they can come in here with all that toxic waste and dump it on top of these black folks and nothing will be said or done about it."

Brown and several other blacks are plaintiffs in a federal court suit that is the center-

piece of their effort to halt state plans to build the PCB-dump in Warren County.

But the court has dealt them repeated setbacks, and on Tuesday a federal judge, Earl Britt, denied them a temporary injunction that would have halted construction of the landfill.

Now state plans are to begin dumping the PCB-laden soil in the Warren County landfill by the end of the month.

According to Rev. Brown, the residents tentatively plan to appeal the decision.

Thus the issue appears to revolve around a traditional axis: the consistent inconsistency of government officials when it comes to applying the laws to blacks.

The central question in this issue is: can tons of soil along some 200 miles of roadway in North Carolina be scooped up and deposited safely in a landfill somewhere in the state? For the most part, the safety factor is based upon being able to dump the chemicals without polluting the ground water.

Black residents in Warren County, a crew of experts, and even some of the state's own officials note that the water table in the Shocco township area of Warren County is too high for the chemicals to be dumped safely.

For example, Charles Gardner, a section chief in the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, said in an April 14, 1981 memo: "I have some concern that seasonally high groundwater levels could be at or above the proposed pit bottom. According to data presented on the plans, the measured groundwater levels are roughly 10 feet below the proposed pit bottom... The normal range in seasonal variation for upland pied-

mont groundwater levels is 5 to 10 feet, and variations as much as 25 feet have been observed...."

What this means is that there's a better than average chance that the chemical-laden soil will contaminate the ground water around the landfill site. In the application to dump the PCBs in Warren County, state officials conceded that the site does not qualify on this point.

The proposed disposal site does not meet the separation requirements of 50 feet between the site and the groundwater table," wrote state officials in a 1978 proposal. But they went on to say: "The State of North Carolina has requested in the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) permit application a waiver of this requirement."

Consider:

• Several other sites investigated by state officials had physical requirement.

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## Hooks: 'Moving To Get Our Share'

JACKSON, MISS. —

Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the NAACP, said "determined to announce to America that no matter how large or small the economic pie is in America, we are moving to get our share."

Hooks' remarks were made at an NAACP press conference during the celebration of the Supreme Court decision of July 2, which freed the organization from a \$1.25 million lawsuit filed in 1969 by Port Gibson, Miss., merchants.

The NAACP's new focus would be in "closing the gap" between median black and white family incomes and decreasing the "alarming" percentage of black unemployment, Hooks said.

Shaw is president of Shaw Food Services and a member of the state's Small Business Ad-

the utilities industries.

Leading the effort to obtain future agreements would be Fred Rasheed whom Hooks introduced as the new director of the NAACP Fair Share Program, which is an affirmative action program. Assisting Rasheed will be L.R. Byrd, who was named as the program field director for the

vocacy Council. He replaces Ms. Judy M. Stephenson of Raleigh. His term expires June 30, 1983.

The nine-member Authority includes two persons named by the Governor, one person by the Speaker of the House, one by the Lieutenant Governor, and five ex-officio members.

Southeast Region.

In addressing the political implications of the Supreme Court decision, Mrs. Margaret Bush Wilson, NAACP board chairman, said that "Clairborne County is the best example of how effective a selective buying campaign can be in changing the nature of the county." She noted that prior to the boycotts there were no black elected or appointed officials in the county. Furthermore, there were only seven black registered voters with a 76 percent black population. Today, blacks hold a majority of these positions, she said.

"With this prototype of what can be done, the NAACP is expanding its goals to increase political participation of blacks not only in Clairborne County, but in all of Mississippi and the nation," she said.

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## Larry Shaw Appointed To State Authority By Hunt

Governor Jim Hunt named Larry Shaw of Fayetteville as the first black person to serve on the state's Capital Building Authority. The Authority awards contracts for capital improvements to state property.

Shaw is president of Shaw Food Services and a member of the state's Small Business Ad-

vocacy Council. He replaces Ms. Judy M. Stephenson of Raleigh. His term expires June 30, 1983.

The nine-member Authority includes two persons named by the Governor, one person by the Speaker of the House, one by the Lieutenant Governor, and five ex-officio members.

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### Words Of Wisdom

Too many ruin what could be a happy today by dwelling on a lost yesterday, thus jeopardizing tomorrow.

— Ursula Bloom

God listens not your words save when He Himself utters them through your lips.

— Khalil Gibran

### By Joseph E. Green

Nationally and locally, the Republican Party wants to get blacks involved in its political organization which blacks abandoned en masse when Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected and offered blacks a slice of the "new deal."

Well, the Republicans are saying that they have a new "new deal" of their own for blacks and that the Democrats have been playing with blacks with bad dice.

Richard Richards, the Republican national chairman, told a recent conference of the National Urban League in Los Angeles that his party offers blacks a greater opportunity than do the Democrats. He said that blacks should not only be workers for the party, but should be candidates as well.

Locally, Bill Cobey, a Republican candidate for Congress in the 4th district, which includes Orange County, said, "I agree with Richards and I think that he is right."

Cobey said that he had been meeting with black Republican leaders throughout his district and that he plans to participate in a September fund raiser sponsored by the Greensboro Republican Party.

Cobey, a former

athletic director at the University of North Carolina and a former candidate for Lt. Governor, said "politics is a two-way street. The Republican Party has something to offer blacks and blacks have something to offer the Republican Party."

Cobey said that there is black participation in his campaign. His press secretary, Claude Allen, is a black graduate of the University of North Carolina.

"We are looking for ways to reach out to the black community," Cobey said. "I want to hire more blacks for my staff. I want blacks to be involved in my effort."

Like Cobey, Jack Marin, the Republican hopeful for Congress from the 2nd district, which includes Durham, thinks that the blacks would get more from the Republican Party than they are receiving from the Democrats.

"The economic program that the Republican Party is advocating holds more promise for blacks and everyone else in the country than what the Democrats are pushing," said Mike Harrell, a Marin spokesman.

Harrell called U.S.

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Dr. Wachovia, College BBB Warns Frank Weaver Foundation Offering North Carolinians To Retire Student Loans

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## Durham Citizens Get Nothing From Police On Complaints Against Officers

Isaiah Singletary

On a cold December night about a year ago, a Durham public safety officer stopped a driver on suspicion of drunken driving. Seconds later, an argument started, blows were exchanged and the driver was arrested.

Later, the driver who asked not to be identified for fear of reprisals, filed a complaint with the police internal affairs division. But because he moved forward with plans for that site.

Consider:

• Several other sites investigated by state officials had physical requirement.

(Continued on page 4)

resisting arrest, according to a well-placed source, the police did not investigate his complaint against the officer.

In another incident, this on a mild spring day, a local police officer arrested an attractive young woman, and, according to her, the officer hinted during a conversation in an interrogation room that everything would be all right "if you're nice to me."

The woman complain-

ed to the internal affairs division, and as far as she knows, that was the end of that.

Many Durhamites who feel they have been mistreated or disrespected by Durham police also feel that the internal affairs division is a giant, silent chasm that simply swallows complaints.

Once in internal affairs, a citizen's complaint is relegated to the murky depths of an official investigation, never to be heard from again.

The Cynthia Bynum case is an excellent example.

Ms. Bynum says she filed a complaint with internal affairs earlier this year following what she called "remarks of impropriety" an officer made to her after he had arrested her for disturbing the peace and obstructing an officer.

She didn't get a copy of her complaint, and numerous calls to the internal affairs division have yielded no information, she said. "I just don't know what happened, if anything."

Police say citizen complaints against officers can't be released because the N.C. Personnel Act makes the personnel records of public officials private.

"Since the complaint was generated by the citizen," Domalewski said, "it wouldn't violate the privacy act to give him a copy of it or any other document made in connection with it. In Florida, for example, the Sunshine Act makes it possible for citizens to get at least a portion of any record that exists in the state."

But with charges of police brutality and other improprieties on the rise around the country, the question takes on explosive implications.

Historically, citizens around the country have tried to establish review boards as a check and balance against excesses by the police, but with a notable lack of success.

For the most part, cops hate the idea. They contend that non-

police recently decided to do just that, this minor policy change still does not address the basic issue.

That issue is simply should citizens have a right to know the disposition of their complaints against police officers.

In Durham, and elsewhere around the country, police officials chorus a loud "No."

But Robert Domalewski of the Southern Police Institute in Louisville disagrees. He says that copies of the complaint and any other information should be released under provision of the federal Freedom of Information Act.

"Since the complaint was generated by the citizen," Domalewski said, "it wouldn't violate the privacy act to give him a copy of it or any other document made in connection with it. In Florida, for example, the Sunshine Act makes it possible for citizens to get at least a portion of any record that exists in the state."

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