

# Subsidized Housing Residents To Stage Rally

By Isaiah Singletary  
 Convinced that the Reagan administration plans to force thousands of subsidized housing residents from their homes and into the streets, the Durham Tenant Steering Committee has scheduled a parade-caravan and rally for September 16 to save public housing.

The action is part of a national "Save Public Housing Day", called by the National Tenant Organization (NTO), a Washington-based tenants rights organization. It is expected that there will be actions similar to the one scheduled in Durham in some 175 cities around the country.

"According to information that I received from NTO President

Jesse Gray," said Durham Tenant Steering Committee executive director Ms. Pat Rogers, "there has been talk across the country that some public housing should be torn down and the rest sold to private developers."

"They have said," she continued, "that it's just not feasible for the federal government to continue maintaining public housing. But tenants feel it's their right to stay in public housing. Many were forced to live in public housing because of urban renewal and other things. We are taxpayers and we have the same rights as people who live in Forest Hills, Emory Woods, or any place else."

Supporters of sub-

sidized housing say that it will take at least \$1.6 billion to operate housing authorities at their current levels.

But even these leave deplorable conditions in some communities around the country. Now the Reagan administration and the Congress may give them only 37% of that amount. The result is that thousands of tenants will be forced to pay as much as 80% of their incomes for rent and utilities.

In Durham, there are 2,444 units of public housing occupied by more than 10,000 families. If the proposed cutbacks are implemented, it is estimated that 2,000 of those families, or 20%, will not be able to pay

their rent. And if subsidized housing is indeed sold to private landlords, thousands more, faced with increased rent, utility and maintenance costs, will be forced into the streets.

"If public housing is sold to private developers," asserted Ms. Rogers, "people on fixed incomes will be the last ones able to get in. And people with large families will not be able to get in. Private landlords think that they will tear up the property."

The action planned by the tenant organization in Durham has been called an example for the rest of the country and the organization has been said to have one of the strongest tenant movements in the South.

The predominantly black tenant group's struggle around tenant rights is said to be supported by a broad range of groups. The most active support has come from Durham's predominantly white anti-war groups, who see the cutback in support of tenants' rights as part of the present administration's plan to decrease or end all programs of "social uplift" in order to further increase "an already bloated military budget." The coalition of groups supporting the public housing day gives many whites in the area their first opportunity to work under black leadership.

The Durham Tenant Steering Committee was formed in 1968 by its current director, Ms. Pat

Rogers, Owusu Sadauka (Howard Fuller), Ben Ruffin, now a special assistant to Gov. Jim Hunt, and other organizers. And for years, the organization has led various campaigns in support of the rights of tenants.

"In the late 60's," asserted Ms. Rogers, "we took to the streets and we struggled. And because of that effort, we helped to make life somewhat better for tenants. But since 1976, we've been losing those hard-won gains. Now they want to take away our rights in order to be able to spend billion of dollars on missiles, tanks, and other weapons of war."

The September 16 caravan and rally, according to Ms. Rogers, is

designed to urge elected officials, as well as candidates for public office, to support the right of affordable housing for all people. Those in attendance will be asked to help ensure the nation's commitment to housing the poor and elderly be maintained and expanded to provide for an increasing number of people affected by skyrocketing increases in the cost of living.

The caravan is scheduled to leave from the parking lot of the Durham Housing Authority on Main Street. Following a prayer, the caravan will proceed down Main Street to Alston Avenue, head south on Alston Ave., make a brief stop at the Few Gardens housing development,

and then on to Burton School Park at the corner of Ridgeway Avenue and Sima Street, where the rally will be held.

At the rally, local and national organizers are expected to address the gathering on the need for public housing and the role the government should play in seeing that the right to affordable and decent housing is available to all. There will be literature tables where participants can get additional information and learn how they can support the public housing issue.

Rally organizers have also scheduled a tour of all of the public housing developments in Durham, in order that those interested can gain a first-hand view of the conditions existing in public housing and the

## Howard Convocation To Mark Opening Of 115th Year

Rev. Leon Sullivan, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia, and founder of the internationally known Opportunities Industrialization Center, will be featured speaker at the Howard University Opening Convocation, September 24, at 11 a.m. in Cramton Auditorium, 2465 6th Street, N.W.

The convocation is the university's traditional ceremony to open the academic year. Founded by an act of the U.S. Congress on March 2, 1867, Howard University is now in its 115th year of existence. Rev. Sullivan will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters at the ceremony.

Immediately following the convocation, there will be a procession to the site of the new undergraduate library for a cornerstone-laying. The new library is being built adjacent to Founders Library.

Since 1950, Rev. Sullivan has been pastor of Zion Baptist Church. During his tenure, membership has grown from 600 to 6000. The activities of the church encompass a day-care center, a credit union, a community center for youths and adults, an employment agency, reading classes, athletics, choral groups and counseling services.

In 1964, Rev. Sullivan founded the Opportunities Industrialization Center, a program which sponsors job training and retraining with programs in more than 140 cities and eight foreign countries. Since its beginning, the OIC has trained more than 600,000 men and women, and has placed more than 400,000 in employment.

Rev. Sullivan founded Progress Investment Associates in conjunction with the membership of the Zion Baptist Church. Progress Invest-

ment Associates has built several developments in the Philadelphia area, including a \$1 million garden-apartment complex called Zion Gardens; a \$2 million shopping center named Progress Plaza; a second inner-city community shopping center, Progress Plaza; a second inner-city community shopping center, Progress Haddington Shopping Plaza; and Progress Human Service Center, a multi-million dollar facility in the inner city.

Other projects initiated by Rev. Sullivan are the Progress Industrial Park, Progress Non-Profit Charitable Trust, Opportunities Tower and the National Progress Association for

Economic Development (NPAED).

The industrial park is being developed in the Philadelphia area. The trust is a broad-based community development corporation engaged in developing housing and a new shopping center, as well as providing tutorial assistance to young people. Opportunities Tower is a housing complex for senior citizens. NPAED does economic development planning and shopping center development, provides technical assistance to minority businesses and establishes entrepreneurial development centers in some 40 cities throughout the country.

Howard is a private, predominantly black institution located in Northwest Washington, D.C. Its enrollment for the new academic year is expected to be 12,000.

### Williams Family Meets

The Williams Family Circle held its regular monthly meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Williams on Sept. 2. Following the spiritual opening, a discussion ensued on the completion of the gazebo in Chatham County. Out of town guests visited.

Thirty-one members were present: Mmes. Marion Alston, Stella Alston, Janet Kennell, Madge Turner, Mable Allen, Julia Dowdy, Eathel Perry, Rader Prince, B.V. Allen, Bill Bailey, Cloyce Lassiter, Rae Bennett, Grace Williams, Bertha Jordan, Faydean Richardson, Lucy Bennett, Juanita Mitchell; Messrs. Mildrew Crosby, L. Walker, Mitchell Ross, Shelley Bailey, Matthew Mitchell, Ellis Allen, Sr., Robert Mitchell, Raymond Williams, Roland Alston, Jr., Lee Horton, Sr., Walter Atwater, James Lillie III, Katrina Boykin, Thomas Bailey.



**White House Meeting**  
 Melvin Bradley, Special Assistant to President Reagan, (center) poses with Lonis Ballard, President and Founder of National Association of Blacks Within Government (NABWG) (left) and Louis Barksdale, NABWG Vice President, at the White House after meeting with several of NABWG officers. They discussed the plight of black government employees.

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## Residential Lots For Sale In Soul City

By Joseph E. Green  
 If you want to build a home, but cannot afford a lot, you might want to move to Soul City. Why? Well, lots there are going for about \$1800 below the going rate and there are about 127 of them available for purchase.

When the federal government foreclosed on Soul City, the pioneering integrated Henderson County development, it turned the development over to NCNB. That bank has contracted with Charles Worth, a Henderson County real estate developer, to get rid of the lots.

According to Worth, the lots are already cleared, have water and sewer connections and are "ideal" for a family that is looking for a place to put up a dwelling.

"This area is really growing," said Worth. "There is a lot of potential for growth here."

Worth said that one lot — about one-third acre — is selling for \$2700 and that two can be purchased for \$5000. He said that a comparable lot in the area would cost about \$4500.

"There are quite a few people moving here from the north who are purchasing lots," said Worth, who is also a resident of Soul City. "Many of them are retirees and some are young people."

NCNB decided to sell the lots at reduced costs after it had put the two developments in which the lots are located up for bids and no one decided to buy.

"We hope that we are successful with this effort," Worth said. "All

people have to do is come and take a look at the property and they will decide to make a purchase." Worth said that all sales of the property are on a straight cash basis. The bank is not financing any of the sales.

Soul City, the brain child of former civil rights activist Floyd McKissick, was foreclosed on by the federal government in 1979. Of the 3800 acres in the project, about 3200 were taken by the federal government, Worth said.

Black critics of the government action against Soul City have contended throughout the years that the foreclosure was racially motivated.

They say that North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms placed pressure on the federal govern-

## USDA Moves To Update Food Program Management

DALLAS—The "credit card" may one day replace the food stamp in the nation's largest food assistance program, Mary C. Jarratt, assistant secretary of agriculture, said recently.

Jarratt, who heads all U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) food assistance efforts, said USDA is studying several means of streamlining food program management with the goal of eliminating fraud, waste and abuse.

She told food editors at the National Broiler Council meeting that the department is considering a "credit card transfer system" that could track food stamp

purchases at grocery store and deduct the amount of those purchases from the participant "account" in a central computer.

This would eliminate the need for recipients to carry coupons, for which there is a sizable black market, and help to ensure that food assistance funding is spent for eligible items, she said.

Jarratt cited the use of new computer technology as an example of the Reagan Administration's "business approach" in the administration of all food programs.

Other elements of this philosophy include tighter reporting and accounting requirements, stricter verification standards, sanctions against states that fail to reduce administrative errors, and tougher retailer

### Thrifty Service Club Meets

Mrs. Mary Vanhook and Mrs. Mattie Pugh served as co-hostesses to the Thrifty Service Club August 28 in observance of their birthdates. The president, Mrs. Aline Davis presided. Devotion was led by Mrs. Genevieve Rogers. The Murdock Picnic group scheduled a meeting with Mrs. Beatrice Holman. A program on the fall project will be presented at the next club meeting by the program committee.

Mrs. Vanhook and Mrs. Pugh received lovely gifts and cards and their birthday money. Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards presented the gifts to the honorees. After dinner, Mrs. Minnie Cromartie thanked the hostesses.

Guest was Mrs. Muser Jones. Members attending were Mesdames Laura Thorpe, Elnora Ransom, Luna J. Holman, Aline Davis, Pearl M. Walker, Beatrice Holman, Elizabeth Edwards, Irene Hall, Elizabeth Jones, Minnie H. Cromartie, Lula M. Hester, Virginia N. Thomas, S. Louise Thompson, Pauline R. Boxley, Rozetta Cobb, Marie McMillan, Christine Sales, Bessie Pratt, Vergie Mangum, Millie L. Williams, Queen Cooper, Mary Vanhook and Mattie Pugh.

The next meeting will be held September 11 on Drew Street at 4 p.m.

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compliance activities, Jarrett said.

Hard-nosed management procedures will ensure that the "truly needy" receive benefits even after substantial budget cuts, she said.

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