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VISIT CAPITOL -- This group of students from Lowrance Intermediate School in Winston-Salem visited the U.S. Capitol recently and was greeted by Fifth District Rep. Steve Neal, who presented the students a flag which had been flown over the Capitol. The youngsters, in return, delivered to Neal their bicentennial project, "Pages Out of History," being held, right, by the two students standing next to Neal and Ms. Vivian Burke.

Mayor Hatcher Warns Plot Against Blacks

by James Smith
Staff Writer

"There is a conspiracy against blacks who are in public office and they're being investigated up one side and down the other," charged Richard Hatcher, mayor of Gary, Ind.

Hatcher was the keynote speaker last Thursday night at a banquet honoring alderman Carl H. Russell, Sr., for his leadership in the black community.

Hatcher spoke to a capacity crowd of more than 850 people in the lower level of Benton Convention Center.

He told the crowd that the only two black lieutenant governors in the U.S. had even been harrassed and charged with various things.

"But, even after they were found innocent, the damage had already been done by all

the public harrassment," he stated.

"Our system cannot allow blacks to move into influential power. If we get on the inside, they're afraid that we'll find out all about political power.

They're also afraid that we'll find out what's due us, and that it will come to us," he charged.

The crowd, mostly black and from the grass root section of the city, came to honor a man whom they respect and admire. Originally, the banquet had been scheduled for 500 persons, but as the enthusiasm caught on, facilities had to be made for more.

Hatcher told the crowd that there were some blacks in politics who were caught up and were obligated to someone else and that they didn't even show up for the dinner.

He was referring to the other two black aldermen, C.C. Ross and Richard Davis, who were reportedly out of town.

"Every black person in this city should have attended this banquet," Hatcher said.

Also missing from the banquet were Mayor Franklin R. Shirley, the city manager Orville Powell and assistant city manager John P. Bond, III.

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Alderman Carl H. Russell accepts portrait from local black artist, Lewis Cornell, during recent banquet held at the convention center. Pictured are Russell, Larry Little, Lewis Cornell, Jim Warren and Rodney Sumler.

Homosexuality Among Clergy

With extreme concern about homosexuality among clergymen throughout the nation, members of the A.M.E. Zion Church will discuss this and other matters during their 40th quadrennial meeting of

the general conference.

Bishop C.H. Foggie, secretary of the board of bishops said the meeting will be held from May 5 through 15 at Chicago's McCormick Inn.

Bishop Foggie said that the

prelate was of the opinion that the recent concern about homosexuality among the clergy in the nation makes it necessary for the A.M.E. Zion Church to take a stand.

He also stated that the program committee had arranged for a thorough review of crime and feels that the leaders of the denomination have an obligation to society to make the streets safer, homes more secure and children safeguarded against drugs.

He also alluded to a new posture in ecumenical endeavors. He said that three black Methodist bodies, A.M.E., A.M.E. Zion and C.M.E., had discussed organizing a union long enough and the time had come for the marriage or the courtship terminated. He also said that the A.M.E. Zion denomination should make its position clear as to its position toward bringing into being the

Russell Warns Party At Honors Banquet

"The democratic party hasn't treated me right and I want to say it tonight. I want the word to pass it on. They owe me something," warned alderman Carl H. Russell, Sr.

Russell made those remarks following a speech given by Richard Hatcher, mayor of Gary, Ind., who spoke at a banquet being given in honor of Russell.

Members of the honor day banquet wanted to proclaim April 29th as Carl Russell Day.

However, mayor Franklin R. Shirley felt he could not proclaim a day to any alderman without showing favoritism.

"I thought it would be very embarrassing. It would seem like a person proclaiming a

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Poor Advertising Blamed

Rock Concert Fails

Poor or misleading advertising might be the reason for the flop of Sunday's Rock Concert, according to local city officials.

The show, which was promoted by Ajax Productions, Inc., was held at Bowman Gray Stadium and out of a projected 25,000 persons to attend, only about 600 showed up for the concert.

However, there were just as many or more outside the fence trying to watch and listen as the ones who had

paid \$7 or \$8 for tickets.

And, several of those outside said they would have liked to have been on the inside, but the tickets were too expensive and people weren't exactly sure who was to appear on the concert.

Of the local radio stations, only two had done any advance publicity about the show. There were no posters, newspaper or television advertisement about the concert.

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