

Files Disappear In Case

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The Wilmington 10, nine black men and a white woman, were convicted in 1972 of arson and conspiracy charges connected with the burning of Mike's Grocery, a white owned grocery in Wilmington's Black ghetto.

The only testimony which directly accused the 10 young defendants of criminal activity was that of Allan Hall, a young Black man who pleaded guilty to burning the grocery. Hall recently recanted his original testimony that he saw the defendants burn the grocery.

He said that his initial testimony was coerced by Prosecutor Jay Stroud for

leniency on Hall. U.S. Magistrate Logan Howell is now considering amending an original petition in behalf of the Wilmington 10 with Hall recanted statement.

Rev. White said that he wants the suppression of the testimony of the Good Neighbor Council investigated and the role the Attorney General's Special Prosecutor played in the case. Johnson said the Good Neighbor Council resisted testifying even after being subpoenaed because the Council wanted to keep a low profile and funding from the North Carolina General Assembly.

Johnson was quoted in the Greensboro Daily News saying

"We were on our way (to the trial) when we heard the defense had rested. We had no communications with the Wilmington 10 defense. So far as I know they never knew we had received the subpoenas and never knew we were on our way with the records."

Rev. Ben Chavis interviewed at McCain Prison after the revelation of the missing files said that "it was no accident or coincidence that they (the N.C. Good Neighbor Council) were late for the trial. I think it was a very controlled situation from the top of state government to further us away."

Chavis said of the involvement of the Good Neighbor Council in Wilmington and its latter refusal to testify was "a major set-up."

Speaking for the Attorney General, Carmichael said the current investigation would cover how the files were removed from the office, who moved the files and for what reason the files were moved. Carmichael said that the investigation would not be an investigation of the happenings in Wilmington during the turmoil but of the removal of the files.

NAACP Leadership

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and members of the executive committee. In addition to Hairston's nomination, a relative unknown, James Graham was also nominated.

McMillan said he had long ago made it clear to his constituents that he no longer wanted to serve as president.

However, Hairston offered another reason for McMillan's wish not to continue to serve.

Hairston said that last month McMillan called him over to his house for an informal conference. "The purpose," he said, "was to ask him not to run against him and not to support anyone who did choose to run against him." He said McMillan told him the chapter had a banner year under his leadership and that he should serve another two years. Hairston said he told McMillan that he would give him an answer at another date.

Hairston said that when he found out that McMillan wanted to jam tighter control on the organization he decided to run in spite of what he added "the many attempts to stop and silence

his dissention."

Hairston said his aim was to make sure the local chapter did not continue to be a one man operation.

Hairston has not been held in favor by members of the NAACP hierarchy, for his repeated attacks on the organization image. In defense of his actions Hairston said "I'm not on any public payroll and have not taken any bribes, and I'm not against black professional people as McMillan has said that I am."

He said further, "I'm unbought and unbossed and can therefore attack any segment of wrong where it may exist."

Hairston said McMillan chose not to run against him for fear of losing. He said McMillan instead chose to pick his own people for office and then run the organization from the outside.

McMillan could not later be reached for further comment.

For the office of Vice President the nominating committee chose Mr. Tony J. Lassiter and Rev. Jay Ray Butler of Shiloh Baptist Church.

For thoughtful commentary ...

Read the W-S CHRONICLE

Editorial Page.

Fraternity Presents Community Awards

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Patterson, "Manhood" is the condition of being a human being shown by courage, physical and mental strength and the ability face triumph with honor and adversity with dignity."

Mr. Edward F. Lewis, discussing "Scholarship", made the point that the doors to scholarship are open to all who seek it ... that is not some treasure, so hidden that it cannot be found."

"Perseverance", in the eyes of Omega Brother W. Richardson, was summed up as "failing nineteen times and succeeding the twentieth."

Bro. J.O. Lowery, another proud Omega of 40 years cited the many instances in which uplift can be recognized through the many programs fostered by the fraternity. According to Mr. Lowery, "We are living in a time that is frustrating and confusing, thrilling and exciting, yet challenging and worthwhile ...

and we are confronted with assessing our facts and values so that they are functional and capable of leading to the attaining of a "durable satisfaction" of life."

A melodious piano rendition of "Misty" by Ms. Sharon Boone was quite fitting for Mr. R.E. Harrison appeared at the podium to present the annual awards.

Two Citizens of the Year Awards were presented to Mrs. Mazie S. Woodruff (County Commissioner-Elect) and Attorney Richard C. Ervin who was not present.

Dr. Frederick Douglas, to his surprise and amazement was awarded the coveted "Omega Man of the Year Award" for having exhibited loyal, and devoted as well as unselfish service to the fraternity. Dr. Douglas, a local pharmacist, was cited for many outstanding deeds to Omega Psi Phi.

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