



MEMBER NORTH CAROLINA
BLACK PUBLISHERS' ASSOCIATION

A Positive Step

Congressional candidates Hamilton Horton and Rep. Steven Neal, D-N.C. have taken a positive step towards making their campaigns relevant to the concerns of the black community by agreeing to participate in an issues forum sponsored by the Chronicle on August 28.

For too long, candidates in political races, particularly between two whites, have tended to take the black vote for granted. It is usually assumed that blacks will vote Democratic, so Democrats figure they have black votes in their pockets and Republicans tend to write them off.

Although there is a strong Democratic tradition and organization, in the black community of the 5th District, we believe such a view as that expressed above is quite patronizing. Black voters have shown that they will vote for the candidate who makes the greatest strides towards addressing the needs of the black community.

However, all too often, neither candidate, Democrat or Republican, has even made the effort to make such strides.

We commend both Mr. Horton and Mr. Neal for participating in an event which should allow each to them to

make their case to the black voters of the 5th District.

Given this effort on the part of the candidates to address themselves to the black community, we call upon all interested citizens to attend this historic forum, which will tentatively be held on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

The importance of this seat in Congress is exceedingly clear. Many of the programs which have a direct impact in our communities come from the federal government. Citizens in the black community should take an active role in deciding who their representative is when such programs are begun, changed or ended.

The example of South Carolina's Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., a conservative of the old school who has, in an election year, embraced such black concerns as home rule for the District of Columbia and aid to historically-black colleges because of the importance of the black vote, is illuminating.

Black participating, in a visible way, in the campaign for the 5th District seat will insure that both candidates take further steps to meet the concerns of the black community.



Matter of Priority

The heat is on for County Manager Pete Jenkins to begin working on the problems at Reynolds Health Center, before it is too late.

When the advisory board of the health center met last week, they were not pleased with the way the Manager had been neglecting them and his failure to attend the meeting may have been the straw to break the camels back.

C. P. Booker the chairman of the advisory board openly displayed his annoyance with the county manager as well as other members present. Although the Manager stated that he would give Reynolds Health Center top priority, at the time of this writing he had not communicated with the center's administrator Dennis Magovern or Booker.

The conflict between the Health Center and the manager almost reached crisis proportions when a replacement wasn't found for a doctor who had resigned. The authorization to replace him was not signed by the

County Manager and the clinic had to be closed for three days.

It is unfortunate that Reynolds Health Center almost had to come to a complete stand still before the county manager would take notice. The manager stated that the Health Center is a high priority but from his actions it does not seem to be.

Whether it's a lack of concern, neglect or "unfixed priority," Reynolds Health Center is an important part of the black community. We would hate to see it closed or shut down because of neglect on the part of the county manager.

Members of the advisory committee stated at their last meeting that they would take the matter directly to the county commissioners if things can't be worked out between them and the manager. We hope that the manager will do as he says and put Reynolds Health Center on the top of his priority list. Nine months is long enough time for waiting; now is the time for action.

Speaking Out

with Tracy Singletary

The community owes a debt of gratitude to the young men and women who have been working so diligently this summer on the clean up/beautification program at Winston Lake and Blum Park. Now you can fish without worrying about a snake creeping up on you through the tall grass, this makes the lake more accessible to ladies and small children.

It is disappointing that the recreating department didn't go a step and implement a program that included job training designed to developed the mind as well as muscles. One of the fastest growing services in the nation is that of horticulture and landscaping. Forsyth Technical Institute offer a full curriculum and the city employ at least one expert full time in horticulture and landscaping.

It is time that we coordinate the efforts of all government agencies to maximize our resources in enriching the lives of our citizens. Most of these young people come from low to moderate income families and receive minimum wages and no benefits including vacation and

sick leave and are working on a job that is scheduled to last only a year with no plans for continued employment after the federal funds run out in April.

What more depressing condition could you subject young people to in their most formative years.

If the recreation department had used more thought and imagination they could have designed a program in which, for example, they would acquaint them with the problems the recreation department planned solution and encouraged them to design sections under supervision to compliment the plan.

Then with three or four people working in teams they could have chored and grabbed their respective areas and beautified it to fit into the master plan, with an award offered to the best looking area. This type of program is self motivating and would provide valuable training that could be used in the future.

It is not too late to start a program for the remaining seven months of the program. Perhaps the city's horticulturist could assist in designing an innovative program. These young men and women deserve more than they are receiving.

We can not afford to prostitute the mind of our youth. We must insure that when funds are spent under the disguise of providing jobs for our youth that job training is the major thrust. I hope that this nearsightedness is corrected in the future.

Candidates Accept Invitation

Ham Horton

Steve Neal

Dear Sir:

Bless you! I've been trying to get Mr. Neal to debate the issues of this campaign since March but, as you know, he's found one reason or another to be unable to even begin planning for a meaningful debate.

Your invitation comes at just the right time. You may want to consider having the debate over at Winston-Salem State: we've been told by the officials there that if Steve will agree to debate, they would make a suitable auditorium available. When you get some sort of response from him, we'd be glad to sit down with you and work out a suitable topic for the debate, so that both Mr. Neal and I would be addressing ourselves to the same questions and those who are listening could form a real opinion.

With best wishes, I look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,
Hamilton C. Horton, Jr.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter inviting me to attend a forum "on the issues affecting the black people of the Fifth District."

As I have indicated in an earlier letter to Ernest Pitt, I am agreeable to the proposal. The specifics you outline in your letter are entirely acceptable to me. I would be available during the period August 21-31, when I will be in the district. If the August date cannot be worked out, I would be able to participate anytime I'm back in the district. The House of Representatives will be in session beginning Tuesday, September 5. In the absence of an agreement from Mr. Horton, I would be pleased to meet with the people by myself to discuss issues of concern to them.

Please keep me informed of your plans and let me know at the earliest possible time the date and details you finally settle on. That would help me with my scheduling.

Best wishes,

STEPHEN L. NEAL
U.S. Congressman

Letters to the Editor

KKK Leter to Merchants

Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of our letter we have sent to all store managers, concerning the NAACP's discrimination charge, in hiring and promoting blacks. A letter was also sent to Patrick Hairston, informing him of our action.

A boycott by the WHITE MAJORITY may become necessary.

Sincerely
R.C. Wright
Information Officer
Authorized by
Den Commander

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan is greatly concerned about the tactics being used against you by the NAACP. You have every right to hire and promote only qualified personnel. Scare techniques should not be tolerated.

After talking to some of your WHITE employees, it is very obvious that qualified people are being bypassed, in favor of incompetent blacks. Affirmative Action is just another name for reverse discrimination. This must be stopped.

We will be observing your store and others in the

future. If we deem it necessary, appropriate action will be taken. Legal representation is available. The Knights of the Ku

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