

NAACP plans to meet in Charlotte

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ly 10 of Food Lion's more than 200 store managers are black, including one working in the East Winston Shopping Center. In Fair Share negotiations, the NAACP asked that, by 1986, 15 percent of Food Lion's employees be black.

During the weekend of Aug. 5, the NAACP picketed Food Lion stores in 13 communities across the Southeast in an effort to show regional support for a boycott that is beginning to appear ineffective.

The local NAACP chapter picketed the Food Lion grocery store in Wauhtown in July, but Shinhoster called off the pickets after threats of violence were made to the group's members.

Although the pickets are gone, Pat Hairston, president of the local chapter, said the boycott is continuing.

"We are still boycotting," said Hairston. "(But) I don't know how we can judge if we are successful. I really don't know."

But, said Shinhoster, "The boycott is developing and is picking up steam."

Meanwhile, Food Lion officials say the boycott has had little or no effect on sales.

"The boycott has had no discernible effect on sales," said Alan Ulman, a Food Lion spokesman.

Sales volume dropped slightly during picketing, but increased after the picket lines stopped, he added.

Food Lion already complies with the NAACP's Fair Share goals, Ulman said. But company officials will not sign an agreement with the NAACP. Instead, they will continue to hire and promote qualified workers regardless of race or sex, he said.

"The NAACP closed the door on any negotiations -- not Food Lion," said Ulman.

According to Food Lion's latest employment figures, it employs 10,785 people in 240 stores in the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia and Tennessee. Of that total, 1,359, or 12.6 percent, are black.

Ulman said Food Lion will continue "to make a reasonable effort to provide full and equal

opportunity to minority-owned or -operated businesses."

Last year, the company spent more than \$650,000 with black firms, said Ulman. Black radio stations received 13.5 percent of the corporation's advertising, and 9.4 percent of the newspapers the company does business with are black, he said.

Of the company's discretionary contributions, 10.7 percent went to black institutions such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said Ulman.

According to Shinhoster, the boycott is effective despite the low visibility of pickets. "I think we have to be realistic about our goals," he said. "Visibility is no indication of how successful the boycott is going."

Shinhoster said the organization expected the boycott to be a long campaign.

"We viewed the boycott from the outset as being a long-range project," he said. "We are confident that, over the long run, shoppers will re-evaluate their shopping patterns and will not

patronize Food Lion."

According to Shinhoster, the NAACP has sufficient funds to continue producing fliers and materials on the boycott, although he declined to reveal the budget for the campaign. So far, the organization has produced more than 100,000 fliers.

"We have more than adequate resources for carrying out the boycott," he said.

Despite Shinhoster's statements, there has been some disagreement locally about the boycott. Some ministers and local political leaders are angry, saying the boycott could hurt the black community. They say that the boycott may force Food Lion to close the East Winston Store, which primarily serves the black community.

Shinhoster said talk of closing the store is a tactic used to divide the black community. He said the company will not close the East Winston store because of its high sales volume.

Shinhoster said the NAACP has other plans to dramatize the boycott but declined to release the details.

Hunt: He's proud of his record

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newspapers -- and to point with pride to his record concerning issues that particularly affect black people. Hunt also listed education, cuts in wasteful spending and the appointment of blacks to his staff as goals he plans to accomplish if he unseats Helms in the most expensive senatorial race in history.

Hunt started the hour-and-a-half session with an opening statement that emphasized improvements he said he has made in education during his tenure as North Carolina's first two-term governor. They included this year's \$281 million school improvement package that he pushed through the General Assembly. Hunt said he plans to "become America's leading education senator" if he defeats Helms in November.

Proud Of His Record

Hunt also noted, before he could be questioned, his record on appointing minorities to positions within state government.

"I'm proud of the fact that we have 2,000 more blacks employed in this administration than in previous administrations," said Hunt, adding that the number of total employees has not increased at the same time.

When he took office, Hunt said, there were only five black judges. Now there are 22, he said, counting the recent appointments of Winston-Salem attorney Roland Hayes and Fayetteville attorney Patricia Ann Timmons last week as District Court judges. Hunt also noted his appointment of two blacks to the

state Board of Elections are black.

Though he has no black cabinet secretary at this time, Hunt said, he has appointed blacks to positions that will give them "opportunities and experiences that will enable them to be cabinet secretaries in the future."

Hunt also said he has created a

"minority business advocate" in state government whose job it will be to make sure minorities get a fair share of the state's contracts and purchases. And he said he has implemented other plans and programs to assure minority vendors an opportunity to do business with the state.

Political Skeletons

But Hunt's record as many black voters see it is far from spotless.

He has been sharply criticized for locating a PCB toxic waste dump in mostly rural and black Warren County. He was attacked for not pardoning the Wilmington 10 (nine black men and one white woman, including the Rev. Ben Chavis, who many feel were unjustly sentenced to a total of 282 years in prison for a 1972 firebombing during racial turmoil in Wilmington). Hunt eventually commuted the sentences.

He has been assailed for not appointing blacks to his cabinet since the resignation of former Secretary of Natural Resources and Human Development Howard Lee. And there has been sentiment among the state's black citizens that Hunt has shied away from them and the presidential campaign of the Rev. Jesse Jackson to avoid alienating conservative white voters.

After all, they say, Hunt knows that black voters are more likely to choose him over arch-conservative Helms.

When questioned about many of those issues Friday, Hunt denied that they may be stumbling blocks.

Hunt said he was not driven away from black people and has actively sought their involvement in his campaign.

"I have sought help and assistance (from blacks) in serving as the governor of this state and I have received it," Hunt said, when asked if he is aggressively seeking black support. "I am very much seeking black support in my campaign for the United States Senate as I seek the

support of all people."

Hunt Gives Jackson Kudos

Hunt also said the Jackson campaign has stirred interest among the state's voters, black and white, and that he hopes that many of those first-time voters will continue to vote and vote for him.

But he has not always been so supportive of Jackson. When asked about the effects of Jackson's voter registration drives by the *Chronicle* in March, Hunt said, "I would doubt if very many more blacks have registered today in North Carolina because he is running."

Although the Wilmington 10 and Warren County landfill issues involved black people, Hunt said, his decisions in both cases were not racially motivated.

He didn't pardon the Wilmington 10, Hunt said, because he believes they were guilty. He shortened their sentences, he added, because he felt the sentences were "excessive."

As for Warren County, Hunt said: "The Warren County site was not chosen because Warren County is a predominantly black county. The state looked for the proper soil conditions over probably 10 to 20 counties. It was almost impossible ... to find the right kind of soil and geological

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