



Clap Your Hands!

Photo by Mike Cunningham

Participants in the recent Mount Calvary Youth Convention attend choir rehearsal. From left are Tasha Harris, Kim Menfee and Racquelle N. Proctor, all of Washington.

Marshall investigated

From Page A1

few," because Mr. Marshall conducts the organization's business behind closed doors. The complainants also accused him of unauthorized spending of NAACP funds, not turning in receipts for checks written to him, inability to conduct a meeting in accordance with parliamentary procedures and frequently using profanity and threats in such meetings.

An Article 10 complaint required the complainants to call for some type of specific action to be taken by the national office. The letter called for the immediate expulsion of Mr. Marshall as head officer of the local branch.

The national office is required to respond to the complaint, but before doing so they gave Mr. Marshall an opportunity to do so in writing, said Mr. Tucker. The president of the local branch had 15 days to respond. After reviewing Mr. Marshall's response, national officials had to decide whether to accept it and notify the complainants that they saw no need for further action to be taken, or they could order a hearing - the option they chose. A person cannot be removed from office unless a hear-

ing takes place, according to NAACP by-laws, and a hearing can only be ordered by the person whose behavior is in question or by national officials.

Mr. Tucker declined to divulge his findings or his recommendations to the national Board of Directors. However, he said, the board did make a ruling during its national convention last week in Detroit, Mich.

William Penn, national director of branches, was out of town and unavailable for comment, but Dr. Emmett Burns, his assistant, said the board's ruling has not yet been sent to the involved parties.

"The parties will be informed of the disposition but we haven't had time to get that out yet," said Dr. Burns.

However, Mr. Marshall said Tuesday that Mr. Penn told him the committee on branches' ruling during last week's convention.

"The case was handled by the committee on branches and the case and charges were thrown out," Mr. Marshall said. "The final say is not out yet."

Mr. Marshall's use of NAACP

funds and equipment has long been criticized by the local membership. In addition, when he was reelected to office in December members said the election meeting was not properly advertised to insure Mr. Marshall of a small turnout of voters which would make it easier for the president to be reelected.

Most recently, Mr. Marshall has been blasted for taking a stand opposite the one taken by his executive board during the county commissioner election plan controversy.

The Hunt case From Page A1

members of the Hunt defense team prior to Mr. Sparrow's election as district attorney.

Mr. Sparrow said the ruling left him with but one choice, to bring in a special prosecutor. Surry County district attorney Dean Bowman and his assistant, James C. Yeates III, have taken over the case.

By not having to make a decision Mr. Sparrow's political status apparently shifts from no-win to no-lose.

However, the Rev. Carlton Eversley, pastor of Dellabrook Presbyterian Church and public information officer for the Darryl Hunt Defense Fund Committee, said he is not buying the ethics ruling and the ruling does not get Mr. Sparrow off the hook.

He said any conflict of interest and the perception of conflict of interest can be eliminated by Mr. Sparrow without his surrendering the case to outside prosecutors.

"The black community and people of goodwill will hold Mr. Sparrow accountable morally, politically and in every other way for the way the outside prosecutors handle the case," he said last week.

Some community members, including the Rev. Eversley, express grave concern that Mr. Bowman is the type of prosecutor who is interested more in getting a conviction

than in justice.

The case is highly controversial because Mr. Hunt was convicted following an investigation that was so questionable that at one point (Oct. 19, 1984) then district attorney Donald K. Tisdale wrote J.E. Masten, acting chief of the Winston-Salem Police Department, a scathing 5 1/2 page letter criticizing the WSPD for "a series (17) of mistakes made that might well be insurmountable."

Mr. Tisdale wrote to Mr. Masten again on Feb. 6, 1985, expressing concern that he had received no response to his Oct. 19 letter. He also said, "As far as I can tell there has been no further investigation, and it is abundantly clear to me there is a person (or persons) at large who are responsible for the crime in question."

Mr. Hunt was in custody at the time.

In the same letter, Mr. Tisdale told Mr. Masten, "I believe that our interests are consistent in this matter and that we would like a solid case against whomever is charged. Contrary to what has been expressed publicly, we do not have a solid prosecution of any kind."

When Mr. Hunt was convicted Mr. Tisdale asked for the death penalty.

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