President Reagan Entertains Rev. Battle

Rev. George E. Battle Jr., pastor of Gethsemane AME Zion Church, was among 76 black clergy entertained by President Ronald Reagan at the White House March 26th.

Reagan and his top aides discussed their concern about accusations that his

administration was antipoor. The clergy, said Rev. Battle, told why by pointing out the devastating affect of his economics program on hard working people.

"It's not that people are out of work because they are lazy and shiftless," said Rev. Battle, recalling a point made during the luncheon. "They don't have jobs, they've been closed out. And they don't have any skills to get electrical engineering jobs. We were saying that there is no work and we've got people who don't want handouts."

Reagan stressed during the luncheon speech that the country faces an economic crisis and that he felt his efforts to solve it was not negatively affecting the poor.

Job training programs have been cut from \$3.2 refer to a cut in the rate of



PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

.....Addressing black clergy

billion to \$1.8 billion. But increase in programs Reagan said that of the \$3.2 already top-heavy with billion, only \$592 million bureaucracy

was actually spent on job Some well-meaning training. In his \$1.8 billion programs robbed recibudget, he said, \$1.33 pients of their dignity." he billion will actually be said, "trapped them into a dependency that left them 'Complaints about budwith idle time, less in selfget cuts," he said, "really respect and little prospect of a better future.

Budget Cuts Separate Black

spent on job training.

Continued from Page 1 the present Social Security system that penalizes blacks for earning lower salaries and provides minimal benefits for survivors.

Education is closely related to the concern for continuing poverty among blacks. The black community must mount a strong campaign for improving basic public elementary and secondary education in the face of decreased federal and state appropriations for educational programs, such a campaign, to be successful, must include supportive services to public schools in the forms of parental and community involvement in fundraising activities, the celebration of achievement and creativity, and strong efforts to prepare children to function well in an orderly classroom climate.

Both prospective and

students in institutions of higher education are facing a terrible crisis. Ninety percent of this segment of the population receive some form of federallysponsored financial aid. Cuts in student aid and loans threaten to reduce the college-attending black group by 25 to 50 percent.

Thus the ranks of 1.1 million blacks enrolled in post-secondary educational programs (50 percent in community colleges and technical programs) could be decimated by the withdrawal of federal supports.

Historically black colleges, still granting 35 to 50 percent of all degrees awarded to blacks in the U.S., are tottering on the

brink of being closed. Dr. Hugh Closter, president of Morehouse College, estimates the loss of one-third of his school's enrollment

currently, enrolled black in the fall of 1983 if the cuts in student aid are put into effect

> Student bodies at Morehouse and its member institutions depend heavily upon three federallysponsored student aid programs(Basic Educational Opportunity Grants, College Work Study, and Guaranteed Student Loans While other colleges enrolling students of families with higher income levels (average family income for blacks in predominantly black colleges is \$12,000 per year) will cut programs, many black colleges may close.

The priority for blacks in the U.S. in 1982 must be to develop plans and actions for reducing and eliminating dependency upon government subsidies for survival and growth. Good education and secure employment are the basic

"Now, this is not a white or black issue. it's the basic human issue of how a free government should treat its eitizens of all races.

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"It's time to try something new," Reagan explained, "like his new program to establish enterprise zones that would encourage job-producing businesses to locate in economically blighted areas. There are plans for 25 of these zones across the country.

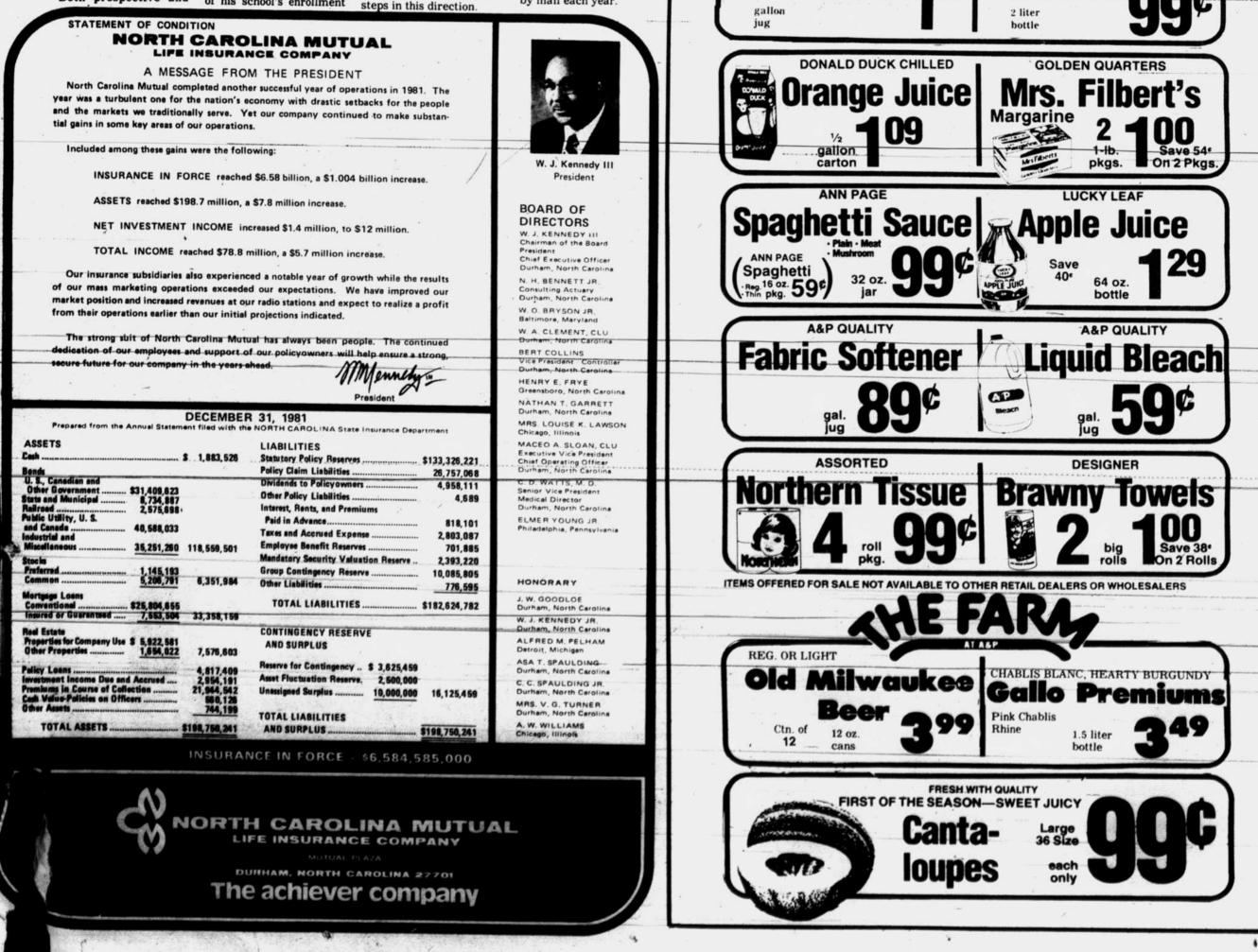
Reagan praised the "noble heritage" of the black clergy in ministering to the disadvantages and suggested that they can "lead the way" in demonstrating how people should bec concerned for

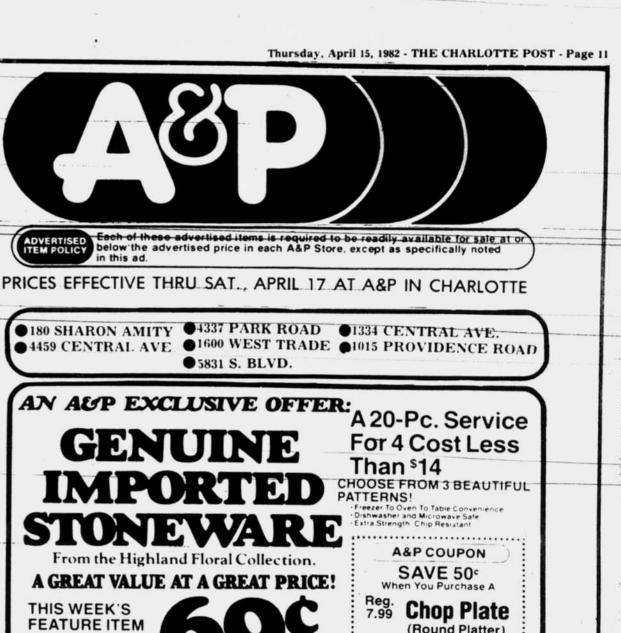
Wouldn't it be better for the human spirit for the soul of this nation to encourage people to accept responsibility to care for one another rather than leaving those tasks to paid bureaucrats?", he asked to applause

Rev. Battle said the President and his staff were very courteous and he felt honored to have the opportunity to voice his concerns. "Whether or not he heard us." he concluded, "remains to be seen."

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