



Alex McMillan  
...Voted against 1096

### McMillan Says: "Get Serious On Budget Control"

WASHINGTON — Congressman Alex McMillan today voted against House Resolution, which combined H.R. 1096, the original famine relief bill and H.R. 1035, a bill to increase federal support for agriculture programs. Congressman McMillan supported 1096, but opposed 1035.

Congressman McMillan said the resolution would add \$7.6 billion to the 1984 federal budget deficit. "Those who say they want to reduce the budget deficit and then vote to increase spending this year are simply not being realistic — we have to get serious on budget control by cutting spending, not adding to it."

The famine relief provision included \$175 million for Africa, an amount the Congressman supported. But, the resolution also called for an additional \$7.4 billion for agriculture support programs, much of which would go to private and cooperative lenders and not directly to farmers. Congress last year appropriated \$30.3 billion for agriculture and the \$7.4 billion would be above that amount. The President indicated he would veto the bill if passed.

Congressman McMillan said "the farm emergency provision of the resolution could add over \$7.4 billion to the 1985 deficit. Federal spending programs already in place are sufficient to meet the needs of credit-worthy farmers, in the judgment of the Department of Agriculture."

The Congressman also noted that the budget hiking provisions in the resolution are equivalent to a one percent across the board increase in federal taxes.

### Private Sector Job Development Program Begins

The City Employment and Training Department has begun operation of a Private Sector Job Development/Placement Program. Endorsed by the Charlotte City Council and the Private Industry Council, the program's focus will be to provide a job development and placement service to economically disadvantaged and marginally disadvantaged adults and youths.

The project has two components, a year-round program for adults and a summer youth program for out-of-school and in-school youths between the ages of 17 and 21. Jobs for this project will be provided through private industry. Recruitment, certification, assessment, job readiness training, job referrals, job development, job placement and follow-up services will be provided to all program participants by the City Employment and Training Department.

Currently, recruitment for the adult year-round program is underway. Adults who wish to be considered for jobs may contact the City Employment and Training Department at 339-3101, visit them at 600 East Trade Street or contact the Charlotte Area Fund, Goodwill Industries, (Urban League), Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council, the Community Relations Committee or the Women's Commission. Certification will determine the applicant's eligibility for the program. Except for income guidelines, eligibility will be the same as with the Job Training Partnership Act (JPTA).

After a qualified applicant has completed job readiness training, he/she will be "matched" to available jobs from the job vacancy file maintained by the Employment and Training Department. Following a screening process, suitable applicants will be referred to a private sector employer for a job interview. Follow-up will determine if the applicant was placed.

Job developers will work with the private sector throughout Charlotte to develop jobs for this program. A separate job developer will be assigned to the Arrowood Industrial Park. To assist in the development of jobs in the Arrowood area, Charlotte Transit System will initiate bus service to and from Arrowood beginning Monday, March 4.

The goal of the Private Sector Job Development/Placement Project is to provide private sector job placements to approximately 85 adults between now and June 1, 1985.

# Street People Don't Seem To Mind Slipping Back Into Obscurity

By JALYNE STRONG  
Post Staff Writer  
First In Series

On a clear day in downtown Charlotte, you can see street people everywhere. Such as a day last Sunday. Bright, warm and sunny, the streets beckoned everyone to enjoy them. But those who appeared in largest numbers are the people who make the streets their home.

They're easy to recognize. They wear many layers of drab, ill-fitting clothes. Their hair is dirty and in disarray. The women are drawn, tired looking, the men have stubble or uncombed knotty beards. They all seem to have a gray tinge to their skin and clothes. Almost all of them carry bags or they push carts full of their only possessions.

A few weeks to a month ago, when

temperatures dipped to the twenties and teens, these street people were paraded on the front pages of newspapers and made the evening news consistently. Stories of people barely surviving the elements makes good copy. But now that the first warm breezes of fast approaching Spring is upon us, the general public no longer cares about the plight of those who sleep in storefronts, abandoned buildings, make-shift shelters, or on park benches and sidewalks.

The street people don't seem to mind slipping back into obscurity. The fleeting public attention hasn't changed their lives any.

This particular Sunday, a group of the homeless have gathered at the First United Methodist Church at the corner of Eighth St. and North

Tryon. The church offers them coffee, biscuits and pastries. They venture in, get what they want, sit down to eat and maybe converse with someone, or read a newspaper, or simply stare. After a few minutes they amble out again. They are in no hurry to go nowhere.

"Some people like this lifestyle," explains a young black man, who doesn't wish to be identified. "There are no worries, no responsibilities, no bills. You just take what is given to you."

This young man, "I'm not thirty yet," he tells, is at the church to help dispense the coffee and pastries. He regularly helps out at this program. Casually dressed, he has a neat appearance. He's also articulate and intelligent. Wearing round, wire-rimmed eyeglasses, flashing a smile

of fine white teeth, he's handsome, except for a large, jagged scar which mars the right side of his neck up to his cheek.

"I've been there," he states, indicating the street people. He knows these people, many by name. He knows their different backgrounds and their stories. He knows their habits: who's on alcohol, who's on cocaine or heroin. He knows where each person usually hangs out. He has become a sort of street person philosopher and as he explains their lives you realize he's introducing you into an entirely different culture.

"They've gotten to the point when they don't care anymore," he begins. "Many people expect things to stay the same forever. They don't like change. But life isn't like that.

So when things happen to upset their routines many resort to the bottle and live on the streets or they just drop out and live on the streets."

Nothing changes on the streets. The lives of the people there are for the most part uneventful. They eat at soup lines, the Salvation Army, or at various church programs. In between time they walk the blocks downtown, or sit in the main library. They certainly appreciate the new benches that were placed on Tryon St. For spending money they beg, or sell blood or plasma, or collect aluminum and cardboard for recycling. Those who drink later gather with other alcoholic buddies and consume cheap wine. Those who take drugs can get a dime bag from pusher in the surrounding low-

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