

D.C. mayor calls for more 'business-like' government

By Janelle Carter
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The District of Columbia government of the 21st century is envisioned as more business-like, with privatized services that will reduce the work force by 2,199 employees, under a draft plan of Mayor Marion Barry's administration.

In the draft obtained by The Associated Press, city government is transformed into a new structure that "streamlines government, takes out excessive layers of management, concentrates on the

maximum utilization of technology and consolidates functions."

City agencies would be turned into "core businesses" under the proposal that would make contracting activities an "effective user-friendly tool and service."

It pledges to make government operations more efficient by reducing processing time, increasing quality and decreasing costs for delivering services.

Barry is to release the official copy on Thursday. Spokesman Johnny Allem would not comment on the

proposal.

The draft would privatize a number of city functions, including building and grounds maintenance at public libraries and parks, bridge maintenance, street cleaning, garbage collection and snow removal.

Privatization of those services would allow the city to eliminate 872 positions by fiscal year 1997, which begins this Oct. 1. By the year 2000, 2,199 total positions would be eliminated, the draft said.

Also privatized would be medical and food service func-

tions at the D.C. Jail. The operation of the jail would remain under city control.

Steven Kreisberg, a labor economist with the American Federation of State and Municipal Employees, said while he had not seen the draft, his organization was "opposed to any plans to privatize jobs."

Such efforts, he said, would be particularly troubling because of the city's past problems with contracts.

"Privatization doesn't solve any problems," Kreisberg said. "It will lead to less account-

ability in the way services are provided."

Kreisberg said a plan by city leaders to privatize is "an indication that they don't believe in their own ability to manage the affairs of their jurisdiction."

The plan would keep intact public safety efforts of the police and fire departments. A centralized 911 system would be created, combining fire, emergency medical services, police and the office of emer-

gency preparedness.

A Medicaid Administration would be formed within the Health Department. Also a Public Benefit Cooperation would be created "to serve as the vehicle for the delivery of primary, acute and long term services."

The proposal also creates a Business Services and Economic Development Department which would be responsible for drawing commercial businesses and revitalizing neighborhoods.

Negro Business Women's club inducts four members



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

The Charlotte Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs Inc. recently inducted four new members. Pictured (left to right) are Dr. Dorothy S. Ruiz, Sarah Stevenson, club president; Doretha E. Threath, Sandra L. Frazier and Carolyn W. Recard (left to right). The Charlotte Club is a service organization composed of a diverse group of women serving Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The Anna Hood Scholarship, named for the organization's co-founder, has awarded more than \$50,000 to deserving students.

A global dilemma: Work less, play more, but remain very competitive

By William J. Kole
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS - All work and no play makes Jacques a dull boy.

To French workers who waged a crippling strike late last year, working less and playing more has become a battle cry for a better life. In France, the push is on for a 35-hour workweek and a sixth week of guaranteed vacation.

But to the Japanese, struggling to remain on top, that route looks more like the road to ruin. In Japan, companies are reaffirming their commitment to a 44-hour workweek, the longest among leading industrialized nations, and many workers aren't even taking all of their three weeks' holiday.

Nations and corporations are dealing in vastly different

ways with a common dilemma: How to improve the quality of life, yet stay competitive?

Workers around the world are redefining the bottom line - some by lingering on the job, others by punching out early.

Some of their leaders, frustrated by mounting unemployment, are peddling a shorter workweek as a way to create new jobs by spreading the work around. Employers are split over how long the week should be.

And labor analysts, forever hunting for trends, are scratching their heads.

"The world is not going in the same direction," said Dr. Ray Richardson, an industrial relations expert at the London School of Economics. "Workers in general want to spend some of their increased wealth in more leisure. But these things are simply not constant throughout the world."

In the United States, the traditional workweek has remained unchanged at 40 hours since the end of World War II, and vacation usually is a minimum of two weeks, among the world's shortest. Forty-hour workweeks also are the standard in Austria, India, Italy, Ivory Coast, Russia and Venezuela.

By contrast, in Chile workers are on the job for 48 hours a week and vacation three weeks a year. Kenyans work 44 hours a week and have at least 21 days of vacation.

In Japan, where just a decade ago the standard workweek was six days, companies are lobbying the government to maintain its 44-hour workweek, which by far leads the industrialized world.

Four of Japan's major business groups are pressing the

See LABOR page 8A

Faith in everyday financial affairs

Continued from page 6A

finances is a constant theme in the Bible and a closer examination will reveal principles that you can apply to your financial life.

Insurance

Insurance deals with restitution, which literally means "to restore." In the area of finances this normally refers

to replacing a material possession. In the books of Exodus, Leviticus and Deuteronomy there are verses that deal with things as diverse as payment for theft to your responsibility for borrowed goods.

There also is the subject of leaving an inheritance for your children. This is dealt with in the book of Proverbs. Not only is the biblical advice that we should leave money to

our children, but it goes further to imply that some of the inheritance should be given while the parent is still alive in order to teach the children how to manage it.

CHARLES ROSS is Host of the nationally syndicated radio program, "Your Personal Finance," and author of *Your Commonsense Guide to Personal Financial Planning*

Let's Do Business....

Call one of our professional representatives to help market your business, profession or event in the publication that produces results and keeps you in touch.

- *StrictlyBusiness*, Designed to Profile Minorities in Business and Minorities Successful Within Majority Corporations.
- *Healthy Body/Healthy Mind*, Designed to Keep You Abreast of Current Health Issues, Concerns and Preventions.
- *The Post*, Designed and Dedicated to the concerns of the Black Community.

~~~~~ Call: (704) 376-0496 or Fax: (704) 342-2160 ~~~~~



JERI  
Assistant Sales Manager  
& Automotive Specialist

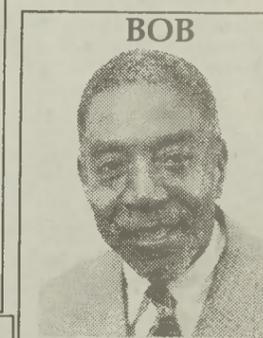


PAT  
Healthy Body/Healthy Mind  
Specialist



FRAN FARRER

Advertising & Marketing Director & General Sales



BOB  
General Manager  
& Account Executive



CARLOS  
StrictlyBusiness Specialist  
& Rock Hill Account Executive

Prime Spots Still  
Available  
In The  
1996  
BLACK GUIDE  
CALL TODAY!

Celebrate  
Black History  
Month  
...ADVERTISE  
Your Business!



Gwen & Larry Mackins  
Owners

## G & L MACKINS

BONDING COMPANY

• FAST 24 HOUR SERVICE

• LOCAL-STATE-FEDERAL

• VISA & MASTERCARD ACCEPTED

205 N. Myers Street  
Charlotte, NC  
(704) 334-9600  
Fax (704)334-3781

heritage house

SPECIALIZING IN UNIQUE GIFTS, ART, BOOKS AND HOME ACCESSORIES WITH AN ETHNIC FLAIR

Meet

Phylcia Rashad  
starring in:

ONCE UPON A TIME...

WHEN WE WERE COLORED

and author,

Clifton Taulbert.

Thurs. Feb. 1, 1996

5:30p.m.

at The Afro American Cultural Center

FREE RECEPTION & BOOK SIGNING

Kings Court At 901 South Kings Drive • Charlotte • 344-9695  
(By The Melting Pot & Mama Ricotta's Restaurants)  
NEW 1996 Hours Mon. - Sat. 10 - 6