

STATE AND NATIONAL

# Panel evaluates problems of urban poverty, racial division

By Jerry McElreath  
Staff Writer

A six-member panel of policy makers and academics evaluated possible solutions to the problems of poverty and racial divisiveness in American cities during a Saturday discussion at UNC's Kenan Center.

The panel attempted to answer the question: "Can political support be developed for a national urban policy that addresses racial and ethnic needs?"

The panel was moderated by UNC journalism Professor Chuck Stone.

The discussion was part of a two-day conference called "Race and the American City — The Kerner Commission Report Revisited."

U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., outlined some changes he said needed to occur before urban poverty could be addressed. He said that although the task would be difficult, efforts should be made to improve the country's urban areas.

"I don't think we should shirk from

identifying our cities as areas of need," Price said.

He began by discussing current government programs that he said could help improve the plight of American cities.

One area in which Price said government action could be expected was improving immunization rates in the nation's inner cities. He said current rates were sometimes as low as 15 percent in inner cities, a rate he said was bettered by some Third World countries.

"Surely we can capture the country's moral outrage," Price said.

He said existing programs that could be improved included HeadStart preschool learning programs, job training programs and planned investment incentives to encourage growth in inner cities. Price said that for such programs to be effective, efforts had to be targeted at areas where they were most needed.

Moses Carey, chairman of the Orange County Board of Commissioners,

said one hindrance to any national policy's effectiveness was racism at local levels, where the policies actually were implemented.

"You have to assume that we still live in a racist nation," Carey said.

He said many people did not care whether urban programs were successful because they saw such programs as improvements for "blacks and browns." He said anti-poverty programs that affected rural areas suffered from the same prejudices.

The success of future policies would have to take such perceptions into consideration, Carey said.

"Many people at the local level believe such programs will only benefit black people," Carey said. "They're simply not going to do it."

Stone said he agreed with Carey's sentiments, calling the United States a "totally polarized nation."

During a question-and-answer session that was held after the discussion, a member of the audience asked the

panelists if they could offer any solutions for the racial problems inherent in anti-poverty programs. The panel said that they knew of no clear-cut solutions to the problems.

Another topic Price discussed was partnerships between local and federal government, as well as between the government and private citizens.

Price said that many such partnerships had evolved during the past 12 years, often intended to fill the gap left by failing federal involvement.

"I think we ought to look at these kinds of partnerships that have grown up. We're looking to encourage such partnerships," Price said.

Price said the federal government should give flexible grants and allow local governments to tailor programs for individual communities. He also said he thought there always would be a need for more local funding.

"(Flexible programming) does give us a lot more bang for the federal buck," Price said.

He also called for more grass-roots organization, saying that national blanket programs could not solve every community's problems.

Price also stressed the need for mutual responsibility on the part of local and national authorities. He said local governments had to bear their share of the load, rather than looking to the federal government to bail them out.

"I think we have to realize that these solutions are not going to come from federal sources alone," he said. "If the local governments and states don't take action on their own, then federal efforts are going to fail."

Price said moral leadership on the part of government officials was necessary. He said the kind of rhetoric and symbolism that the U.S. government used was important, pointing out President Bush's 1988 campaign tactics.

"It didn't help us to have presidential campaigns that featured Willie Horton," Price said.

Price said there was an obligation for

those in the public life to set a higher standard. He added that it was important not to drive wedges between government and the public.

Peter Dreier, a professor of politics at Occidental College in Los Angeles, said polls had shown that people were willing to support programs benefiting urban areas and poor people as long as they believed their money was being spent wisely.

Dreier said that in recent years, people thought their money had gone to waste. "Their expectations over the last 10 to 20 years is that they're not getting much for their money," Dreier said.

Dreier said that for any poverty-fighting policy to have an effect, serious reforms of the political process had to take place. He said city dwellers and the under-represented poor had to have a voice in the government for changes to occur.

"We have to change the balance of political power in this country," Dreier said.

## Controversy increases interest in tax rules for hired help

By Ben Parker  
Staff Writer

In the wake of controversy involving several federal officials and one of President Clinton's nominees for U.S. attorney general, many people are taking a closer look at laws regarding Social Security taxes for household employees.

The controversy arose because of public outcry concerning attorney general nominee Zoe Baird's admission that she had broken the law by knowingly failing to pay Social Security taxes for two of her household employees.

Public furor was so great that Baird withdrew her name from consideration.

Melissa Johnson, an employee at the Internal Revenue Service, said many people had not been paying taxes on their household employees.

"According to statistics from the Department of Treasury, in 1992 an estimated 2 million people nationwide should have filed (household employee

taxes), but only 500,000 did," she said. Barbara Albright, a public affairs specialist for the IRS, said she thought people should realize that all employers had to pay Social Security taxes.

"I would like to think that oversight is the reason why people are not filing these taxes," she said. Adding, "Anytime you hire someone, a bell should go off that you have to pay attention to these taxes."

Norman Ture, president of the Institute for Research on the Economics of Taxation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan tax and fiscal policy research organization, said politicians and the general public remained unsure of the mechanics of tax laws governing household employees.

"There is an enormous amount of ignorance surrounding these laws," Ture said.

Ture said that politicians' ignorance stemmed from the fact that state and federal employees were exempt from household employee taxes until the

1930s. He added that during the years, tax laws had been changed to include more groups who had been exempt.

Ture said that in some cases taxpayers were aware of the tax but were reluctant to pay it because they did not want to draw the attention of the IRS.

"Filing this tax is a signal to the IRS to look at one's income tax as well," he said. "People may not want them looking at their income tax."

"The IRS needs to do a better job of educating the populace. I personally do not care for the Social Security system."

Evelyn Morton, a lobbyist for the American Association of Retired People, said filing the household employee tax was necessary for the employee to receive retirement benefits.

"Employees must understand the impact of not filing these taxes," Morton said. Adding, "It will result in the facing of serious hardships for the employee when they file for benefits and find that there is no money there for them."

Lloyd Duxbury, director of legislative affairs for The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, said his group had successfully sued the IRS and the Social Security Administration in May 1992.

"The suit was designed to keep people from falling through the cracks," Duxbury said.

Duxbury also said the suit had simplified the process of notifying the public about its financial status.

"The IRS and SSA have agreed to keep better records," he said. "This suit has made it easier for the employee to get a record of his earnings and Social Security status. When an employee requests his records, the IRS and SSA must respond."

Duxbury attributed the problem of the uncollected tax to an underground economy. "In some cases, employees may ask the employer not to pay the taxes, and in other cases, the employers don't want to pay the taxes," he said. "It goes both ways."

Albright said the IRS currently was using a toll-free question-and-answer service in an attempt to inform the public about the importance of filing their taxes.

Employers must file Form 942 four times per year if a household employee received cash wages of \$50 or more in a calendar quarter. Generally, household employees include cooks, maids, baby-sitters, housekeepers and caretakers, Albright said.

Morton said there had been a flood of proposals in the U.S. Congress in recent years to change the household employer's tax.

U.S. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., has sponsored a new bill that would require an employer to file Form 942 only once a year if an employee was paid \$300 or more during that period. The proposal would cut down on paperwork and time, Morton said.

The bill will be heard in the U.S. House of Representatives in the early spring.

from page 3

## Break

from page 3

mer fellowship to work in Guatemala.

Spring Break is still up in the air for Laura Critchen, a freshman from Williamston. "Maybe I'll go to the beach or take a road trip," she said. "It would be great to just get in the car and go somewhere new."

Other students will vacation with campus organizations. New Generation Campus Ministries will hold a national conference in Charlotte during the break.

Jeff Burden, a freshman from Salem, will join 15 other members of the University's New Generation chapter for the five-day gathering.

About 30 students involved in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship will spend their break in Washington, D.C., participating in an inner-city missions project. They will pay \$175 each in expenses to work in food kitchens and

do various service projects around the city.

Ten student members of Habitat for Humanity will vacation and labor in sunny Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said Habitat Co-chairwoman Sarah McKee.

The cost is still uncertain, but a comparable trip last year to work in New Orleans totaled about \$100 per student, McKee said.

The group will work from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and have evenings free.

"I would recommend this sort of alternate break to anyone," McKee said. "This is a really constructive way to spend a vacation."

"A lot of people will be going to Florida to go to the beach. We'll go to the beach too, but the rest of our time will be spent working for other people."

from page 1

port, according to the report.

The salary of one full-time faculty member equals the salaries of 12 teaching assistants.

If faced with a 2-percent reduction, the report states that the Division of Academic Affairs could eliminate the equivalent of 12 full-time faculty positions.

In addition to previous staff reductions, five full-time staff positions and two part-time staff positions could be cut.

The Division of Health Affairs, which encompasses the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health, could cut 21 full-time and 19

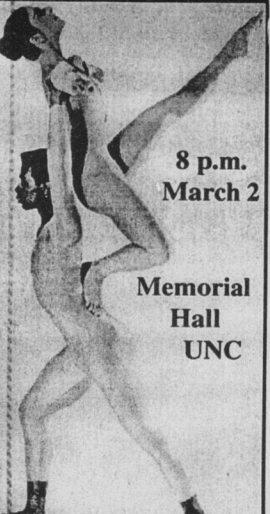
part-time staff positions if faced with a 1-percent reduction, the report states. No faculty positions could be cut.

A 2-percent reduction could mean the elimination of the equivalent of 10 faculty positions, according to the report.

AHEC, charged with improving health care in rural areas of North Carolina, could eliminate a part-time faculty position and three grants for medical residents under a 1-percent reduction, according to the report.

AHEC could cut a full-time faculty member and six grants for residents if faced with a 2-percent cut, the report stated.

Carolina Union  
Performing Arts Series  
presents  
**MARTHA GRAHAM II**  
Yuriko Artistic Director



8 p.m.  
March 2

Memorial Hall  
UNC


Tickets: \$12 General Public  
\$11 Senior Citizens  
\$7 UNC Students  
Carolina Union Box Office  
962-1449

COUNSELOR/TEACHERS  
Spring Graduates

**THERE ARE REWARDS...**

If you enjoy the outdoors, are adept at camping, hiking and sports activities, and can positively influence people, we invite you to pursue a rewarding future as one of our Counselor/Teachers. As a leader in quality programs for youth-at-risk, we have immediate LIVE-IN positions available in our year-round wilderness camps in FL, NC, TN, RI, VT and NH. You'll be a role model for troubled kids, ages 10 to 17, which requires a positive attitude and strong communication skills. Child care experience/college degree are preferred.

We offer a starting salary of \$15,300 and comprehensive benefits, including room and board, life/medical insurance, and paid vacations and holidays. We are interviewing primarily for Florida locations. For consideration, please call our Staff Recruiter, Amanda Bryant at (919) 726-0457. Or send your resume to: ECKERD FAMILY YOUTH ALTERNATIVES, INC., Camp E-Ma-Henwu, Attn: Staff Recruiter, 388 Nine Mile Road, Newport, NC 28570. An EOE, M/F, Drug-free workplace.




...AND THEN THERE ARE REWARDS.  
BREAK THE CYCLE: CHANGE YOUNG LIVES.

Reason #25

We're music to your mouth.

A fresh-from-the-oven overture: Bruegger's 10 varieties of authentic NY style bagels. With Supreme Cheese, for a tasteful duet. We get rave reviews daily!



...for a hole lot of reasons

Raleigh: 2302 Hillsborough St., North Hills Mall and Pleasant Valley Promenade  
Cary: 122 S.W. Maynard Rd. Durham: 626 Ninth St.  
Chapel Hill: 104 W. Franklin St. and Eastgate Shopping Center  
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

University of Miami with an AIDS quilt and condom art contest.

For students who placed orders for condomgrams in the Pit last week, CHEC counselors delivered condoms in sealed envelopes for Valentine's Day.

The Daily Tar Heel's Omnibus entertainment magazine also joined forces with CHEC in a contest to determine the dumbest excuse for not wearing a condom. The contest winner will be announced in this week's Omnibus and will receive dinner out from CHEC.

The Carolina Union Forum Committee will sponsor "Sexually Speaking" with Dr. Ruth at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in Memorial Hall. Admission is \$3 for UNC students and \$5 for the public.

CHEC also will sell T-shirts and distribute information throughout the week in the Pit and at the condom-a-thon.

## Cuts

Hardin said. "We had to put something together very fast," Hardin said.

"We were assured that if there were any real cuts, we would have more time to consider them."

Division of Academic Affairs officials said in the report that if faced with a 1-percent budget cut, they would try

to conserve faculty positions at the expense of support staff.

Hypothetically, the UNC could cut one faculty position or 12 teaching assistantships.

The University also could cut 29 full-time and 20 part-time secretaries, typists, administrative assistants and workers in maintenance and in technical sup-

HAVE YOU HAD  
**MONO**  
IN THE LAST 30 DAYS?  
Then there is **\$50** waiting for you!  
If you have had mononucleosis in the last 30 days, you could receive \$50 each time you donate plasma!

**SERA-TEC BIOLOGICALS**  
109 1/2 E. Franklin St. 942-0251

**GUMBYS PIZZA**

208 W. Franklin St. • 968-FAST

SMALL POKEY STIX \$5.17	SNACK FOR TWO \$8.16
12" 2-Item Pizza & 2 Sodas	
PARTY SPECIAL \$10.42	TARHEEL SPECIAL \$8.92
20" 1-Item Pizza	16" 1-Item Pizza & 2 Sodas

**BOYD INCOME TAX SERVICE, INC.**  
SPECIALISTS IN TAXES FOR FACULTY & STUDENTS

- PRIVATE, CONFIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS
- FREE ESTIMATES - AFFORDABLE RATES


100 EUROPA DR, SUITE 411 932-9112  
HOURS: 9-5 M-F; 9-12 SAT EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT

CAROLINA UNION PRESENTS  
**George Winston**  
A SOLO PIANO CONCERT • THE WINTER SHOW

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18 & 19 • 8 PM  
Memorial Hall • UNC Chapel Hill

\$12 UNC Students, \$16 Non-students Reserved at Carolina Union Box Office. Charge By Phone 919-962-1449.

Look for George's latest album, SUMMER, at your favorite music store.



A DANCING CAT PRODUCTION