

# Carrboro officials claim community, councils are unresponsive to blacks

By KATHERINE FARLEY  
Staff Writer

Mayor Bob Drakeford and Alderman Hilliard Caldwell of Carrboro say that blacks are inadequately represented on the town's boards and committees and that the community is generally unresponsive to the black businessman.

"The boards ought to represent the population," Caldwell said. "They ought to represent more than the population." Caldwell said he wants the constituency of blacks on the town boards to reach 30 percent.



R.D. Smith

Of the 87 appointed positions on Carrboro boards and committees, only eight are held by blacks. This 9 percent representation level is below the 17 percent overall black population of the town.

Caldwell, whose term on the Board of Aldermen expires in 1985, said his goal is to see a 30 percent ratio achieved before his term ends. Caldwell said his efforts to increase black representation would be made through his personal contacts and action with black churches. If a position becomes vacant, Caldwell said he will make sure it is publicized in church bulletins.

There are two or three black churches within the town, and Caldwell said he hopes to reach people through this media and encourage residents to become involved with the community.

Caldwell said the requirement of a resume for appointment has deterred many blacks from applying for positions. "Any citizen who makes the effort and prepares a written statement should be considered in the appointment process," he said.

Drakeford also said he was disturbed by the proportion of blacks serving on town board. "People who live in the town should be on the boards," he said. "We all would like to see more blacks on the boards."

Drakeford said the real problem is that the town needs to be more responsive to black businessmen and that responsiveness to black businessmen would have the most meaningful impact on the community.

"Not enough money is being recycled back into the black community," he said.

"Of the \$2 million the town spends, only \$2,000 of that is on the black community. The real disagreement is how do we get more black businesses into the public trust, he said.

The town of Carrboro deals with approximately 300 different vendors annually, and of these, Carrboro deals with approximately eight firms in an ongoing basis, Carolina Stuck, finance director of Carrboro, said.

Recently, Garret and Sullivan, a minority firm from Raleigh, did not get a bid from both the Chapel Hill Housing Authority, and, earlier this year, from the town of Carrboro. Last year it was also denied even though it was the lowest bidder. This year it was close to the low bid, had a negotiable contract, and was rated as "excellent" and still was denied, Drakeford said.

"You have to ask, 'What's the deal?' We all know the real reason why," he said.

Chapel Hill's boards and committees are also underrepresented, according to R.D. Smith, a member of the Chapel Hill Town Council. Smith said there are only six or eight blacks on boards in Chapel Hill. This translates into a 9 percent black representation in a town that is approximately 15 percent black.

"I feel that blacks are underrepresented and would like to see more on the boards," he said. Smith said a major problem has been getting adequate numbers of people interested in public service.

"Many blacks feel if they are the only one on a board, it's tokenism, but it's not



Bob Drakeford

really. We encourage people to serve," he said.

Ron Secrist, a member of the Chapel Hill Housing Authority, said most contracting with minority firms represents renovation-rehabilitation programs on the North Side area. Secrist said that over the last three years there have been 52 contracts for small renovation projects, and 36 of these went to minority firms. There have been only two large construction contracts, and none of these went to a minority firm. Of five audit contracts in the last three years, one went to a minority firm, Secrist said.

Chapel Hill town officials said they were unable to come up with exact figures on business interactions with minority firms without in-depth research.

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro area has about 28 minority firms listed with the Minority Business Development Agency, said Fred Williams, a representative for the agency.

# BRIEFLY

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan urged the nation and a skeptical Congress on Wednesday night to embrace his arms and economic program for Central America because the United States has "a vital interest, a moral duty and a solemn responsibility" to protect the region from leftist revolution.

In a rare address to a joint session of Congress, Reagan said, "I say to you that tonight there can be no question: The national security of all the Americas is at stake in Central America."

"If we cannot defend ourselves there," said Reagan, "we cannot expect to prevail elsewhere. Our credibility would collapse, our alliances would crumble, and the safety of our homeland would be put at jeopardy."

Reagan's nationally broadcast address was primarily an attempt to salvage a proposed \$110 million in U.S. aid for the besieged regime in El Salvador. Congress so far has balked over all but \$30 million of that.

WASHINGTON — The Senate's majority Republicans tried privately on Wednesday to patch their divisions over a 1984 budget but still found "absolutely no consensus" on the principal issues of defense, domestic spending and possible tax increases.

"We've actually got 55 proposals and there are only 54 Republicans," added Sen. Dan Quayle, R-Ind., after a

closed-door caucus. "They're all over the place," agreed Sen. Mark Andrews, R-N.D.

The Senate is expected to begin work on Monday on a tax and spending plan, approved by the Budget Committee, that calls for a \$30 billion tax increase, a 5 percent defense boost and about \$11 billion more for domestic programs than President Reagan wants.

JERUSALEM — Secretary of State George P. Shultz embarked on his first attempt at shuttle diplomacy Wednesday and heard Israel explain why it is not ready to withdraw all its troops from Lebanon.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin told him Israel's security interests must be protected in any agreement on the withdrawal of foreign troops from southern Lebanon, Begin's spokesman Uri Porat told reporters.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir told Shultz the Lebanese army can't do the job, Israel wants no foreign peace-keeping troops on its borders, and that it demands some Israeli troops remain in southern Lebanon on joint patrol with Lebanese soldiers, a senior Israeli official said.

The official said Shamir also discussed Israel's insistence on putting security in southern Lebanon in the hands of Maj. Saad Haddad, who quit the Lebanese army and commands a militia in southern Lebanon that was armed and trained by Israel.

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