

The Black Press—  
Our Freedom Depends  
On It

# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIEDED

Words of Wisdom

The nearer you come into relation with a person, the more necessary do tact and courtesy become.—Oliver Wendell Holmes

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## CHURCHES JOIN FIGHT AGAINST J. P. STEVENS

### Effort Underway to Move Death Penalty Trial From Johnston Co.

#### Two Blacks Charged With Murder of Two Whites

SMITHFIELD—Efforts are underway to move the state's first death penalty trial from Johnston County, according to defense attorneys and the 14th District district attorney. On trial are two black men David Ezra Stewart, 29, and Henry Smith, 25, both of Benson. The two are charged with the June 2 murder of two white men, Dennis Wilbert Allen, a rookie Four Oaks policeman, and Linwood "Big Boy" Johnson, a long distance truck driver from Benson.

Defense attorneys Charles Becton, representing Henry Smith and Jerry Paul, representing David Stewart, have filed motions to remove the trial from Johnston County because pre-trial publicity, they assert, would not allow their clients to get a fair trial.

Arguments by both attorneys and state's attorney

#### Russell May Be Winston-Salem's First Black Mayor

WINSTON-SALEM (CCNS)—Black Alderman Carl Russell placed first in the city's Democratic primary and may become Winston-Salem's first black mayor. In results tallied last Tuesday night, Russell emerged as the front runner in a four-way contest for the Democratic nomination, 62 votes ahead of Wayne Corpening, a senior vice-president of Wachovia Bank. Those two will meet in a runoff October 18 to determine which one will challenge Republican Henry Lauerman in the November general election. November's winner will succeed Winston-Salem's present mayor Franklin R. Shirley, who chose

[Continued On Page 11]

John Twisdale on the removal petition are to be heard by Judge Maurice Braswell when Jerry Paul is finished with a manslaughter case in Williamston. Paul did not appear in the hearing on Monday.

On Monday, Twisdale reluctantly submitted evidence of the state's case against the two men which included an unsigned and disputed confession which State Bureau of Investigation agents contend was made on June 10, the day the two men were charged with the murder. Twisdale argued, to no avail, for Judge Braswell to "seal" the evidence, or withhold it from the press, until the trial begins. All papers filed in court trials are public record, and available to the news media, but District Attorney Twisdale contended that the release of the evidence to the press would provide basis for a new trial.

Referring to the 100 pages of documents which detail, with the exception of names, addresses, and statements of state's witnesses, the case against the two men, Twisdale contended "if this document was to be published, there would be a great deal of evidence that would come out in the press before the trial."

Becton, not taking a position on making the evidence part of the public record and thus available to the press, countered that if the information would prejudice prospective jurors to the extent that his client, Smith, could not get a fair trial, "there is a basis for change of venue."

Before the hearing motions were filed in the court by both defense teams requesting that the trial be moved to another county. The jury system in the county is under attack for the systematic exclusion of blacks from the jury. The

[Continued On Page 12]



THE HONORABLE W. G. PEARSON, II, is sworn into office as District Court Judge for the Durham County District Court, in a special session Friday morning, September 30, before a standing room only crowd of well-wishers and dignitaries. Mrs. Pearson, standing beside her husband, participated in the ceremony.

### Task Force To Visit Central

A large task force of some one hundred fifty representatives from business, industry, government, and educational institutions, are scheduled to visit North Carolina Central University October 12-14 to participate in the Career Counseling and Placement Bureau's Annual Youth Motivation Program.

The program is being sponsored in conjunction with the National Alliance of Businessmen, and will afford NCCU students an opportunity to engage in direct contact with successful minority role models and other employer representa-

tives during informal classroom visitations, and discussion periods. Two Task Force Team Co-leaders, representing diverse occupations and geographical locations, will address other team members and students during a special session scheduled for Wednesday evening in the Fine Arts Building auditorium on the NCCU Campus.

The co-leaders for the 1977 program are Floyd Benjamin, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs/Quality Assurance, McGraw Laboratories, Santa Ana, California; and Attorney Patricia A.

Russell, Deputy Chief, Industrial Equal Employment Opportunity Unit, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C. Benjamin a 1965 biology graduate of NCCU, received his Masters in Microbiology in 1966. Ms. Russell is a graduate of Kentucky State College and the Howard University School of Law. Ms. Barbara Hudson, Supervisor of recruiting and field compliance in Corporate Personnel, Connecticut General Insurance Co., Hartford, Conn. is the 1977 Youth Director of the NAB office.



BARBARA A. HUDSON



ATTORNEY RUSSELL



FLOYD BENJAMIN

### Gov. Hunt Denies Plan To Close Black Colleges

WINSTON-SALEM (CCNS)—Governor James Hunt told an audience at the N. C. Alumni and Friends Coalition Banquet that he was opposed to the closing of any black university. "I was asked that question by a radio announcer on my way in here tonight," said Hunt, "and I looked him straight in the eye and said: 'That tells me how your mind works, because no one has proposed the closing of any white universities.'" Speculation about the closing of one of the black

state universities, specifically Elizabeth City State, became widespread after the Greater University of North Carolina released the results of a study of the state's teacher education programs, and recommended that a number of them be eliminated. The announcement that schools should de-emphasize teaching programs because of a teacher surplus, led many observers to conclude that Elizabeth City State University, primarily a teachers' college, was bound for extinction. That is not the intention

of the study at all, says Dr. Lafayette Parker, academic dean of Winston-Salem State University. WSSU has agreed to cancel its teacher education major in biology, but Dr. Parker pointed out that UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro and N. C. State have also eliminated one teaching major. "We're in good company," says Parker. Governor Hunt was the guest speaker at the N.C. Alumni and Friends Coalition Banquet, held Friday night at Benton Convention

[Continued On Page 4]

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE  
JORDANS ATTACK ON CARTER MAY HAVE PAID OFF PAGE 13  
DISCRIMINATION NOT WHY WOMEN IN LOW LEVEL JOBS PAGE 2

### 85 Leaders Gather At Enfield

ENFIELD (CCNS) — Eighty-five church leaders from across the eastern United States gathered for a two-day conference outside Enfield at Brick Community Center last weekend resolving to join the fourteen year-old campaign of workers at J. P. Stevens plants around the nation to unionize and negotiate contracts.

The church leaders, representatives of five groups: the United Church of Christ; the Quakers, the United Disciples for Christ, Catholics and Baptists resolved to engage in various consciousness-raising activities intended to gain support for the Stevens workers. All endorsed a one year old boycott of more than 100 products manufactured by the Company, the nation's second largest manufacturer of textiles.

The conference included a film "Testimony" which was presented Friday evening. The film documented unsafe work conditions, unfair labor practices and discrimination within the plant. Several workers were interviewed who described how they had lost fingers in unsafe machines, had contracted "brown lung" disease from cotton dust which fills the air in some plants and the insensitivity of the company to these conditions and their effect on the workers. The film is being shown to groups around the antion, upon request, by the Amal- [Continued On Page 12]



### President Carter To Enforce All Civil Rights Laws

President Carter issued a statement on September 20 reiterating his Administration's strong determination to enforce all Federal civil rights laws. The President said, "I am determined that my Administration will remain committed, in both spirit and action, to the enforcement of the civil rights acts that defend the individual freedoms of all our citizens."

In his message, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Civil Rights Commission in 1957, President Carter affirmed his commitment to expanding equal opportunity for all Americans and ending all discrimination in American life.

Clarence Mitchell, Washington Director of the NAACP, read the President's message today in Washington, D. C., at a news conference sponsored by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. Also present for the news conference were the organization membership of the Leadership Conference and the members of the Civil Rights Commission.

### Hart Appeal Set For October 14

ROCKY MOUNT (CCNS) Bronchi Hart's appeal of his June 27 conviction in Nash County District Court in Rocky Mount for engaging in an affray will be heard October 17 in Nash County Superior Court.

Hart was convicted and sentenced to one year in prison for a fight in which his landlord is said to have hit him first. His landlord was Charlie Harris, a partner in the Rocky Mount real estate firm of Simmons and Harris.

Evidence presented at the District Court showed that Hart had rented a trailer managed by Simmons and Harris for which Hart and his wife, Susie, were charged a \$100 security deposit.

Charlie Harris's son, Chris Harris, had told Mrs. Hart earlier in the day, that she couldn't get the \$100 back because "the house was in a mess."

Returning later that day with her husband, Bronchie Hart and Charlie Harris allegedly got into a dispute, during which Harris took out of his pocket "a fist full of twenty's", Mrs. Hart said. Mrs. Hart testified that she saw Harris, a much larger man, strike her husband. Her husband returned two blows to Harris, knocking the landlord to the floor where he lay unconscious.

Harris denies striking Hart first and said he was assaulted. But Hart applied for a warrant against Harris which was refused, but later a warrant was signed against Hart by Harris.

Harris was represented by Attorney Rosser from Rocky Mount in the first trial, but has retained Att'y Cressie Thigpen of Raleigh to defend him in Nash Superior Court.

[Continued On Page 4]

### Full Program Scheduled For N.C. NAACP Confab

CHARLOTTE — Delegates to the 34th annual Convention of the North Carolina NAACP will come to Kinston from more than ninety branches across the state and will begin arriving on Thursday, October 13 at The Holiday Inn of Kinston, which is the Convention Headquarters.

Milton Dove, president of the Lenoir County Branch of the NAACP which is hosting the convention said, "The area NAACP Branches will have an opportunity to meet, see and hear the largest number of NAACP National leaders ever to visit the Lenoir County area." He said, "every effort is being made to welcome and entertain the delegates who will be in Kinston through Saturday, October 16."

The theme of the convention is: "The Status of Civil and Human Rights in a Changing Social Order." Keynoting the convention will be Dr. William Montague Cobb, President of the National NAACP, of Washington, D. C. He will speak on Friday evening, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Augustus A. M. E. Zion

Church, 316-318 East North Street.

The Thursday, October 13, activities will focus attention on the part ministerial and lay religious leaders are playing in the continuing struggle for equality and justice.

The featured participants on the "Ministers and Church Emphasis Day" program will be the Honorable Joy Johnson, veteran member of the North Carolina General Assembly, and the Rev. Dr. J. Ray Butler, Pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, Winston-Salem. The panels for the day will have as participants; Rev. H. H. Dawson, pastor, St. Luke AME Church, Wilson; Rev. William L. Burton, pastor, St. John AME Zion Church, Rocky Mount; Rev. R. B. Sykes, pastor, Greater Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Kinston; Dr. R. Irving Boone, pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, Kinston; Rev. Arthaniel E. Harris, pastor, St. Augustus, AME Zion Church, Kinston; and Rev. G. Erdmond, pastor, St. James AME Church, Kinston.

[Continued On Page 12]

### Black Woman Fights For Land In Chatham County

PITTSBORO (CCNS) — In the rural Chatham County community of Pittsboro, Mrs. Mildred Payton has been waging an almost unnoticed battle against a campaign of harassment which she believes is designed to prevent her from occupying the home she purchased more than eighteen years ago.

Mrs. Payton, a well known civic leader who has been involved in numerous educational and cultural activities of particular interest to black people, says that the trouble began when she returned to Chatham County in 1974, after serving in the Peace Corps, to begin remodeling a milking barn for her own occupation on her property. A neighbor, Floyd Teague, who owns an adjacent lot, claimed that Mrs. Payton's preparation for a garden, was extending onto his property.

In an attempt to settle the boundary dispute, Mrs. Payton hired a registered surveyor to stake off her land. These stakes were removed by Teague, who, according to Mrs. Payton, admitted to this act before

witnesses. She then hired a second surveyor at considerable cost to survey the entire 23 acre tract, and stakes were again set out delineating property boundaries. Teague, apparently refusing to accept the surveyor's findings, barricaded Mrs. Payton's driveway preventing her entry onto her property.

Magistrate Earl Parker, of Pittsboro, refused to issue a trespassing warrant against Teague, even though Mrs. Payton, who is herself an attorney, cited the applicable statute to him. During her attempt to obtain a warrant against Teague's continued removal of surveyor's stakes and the barricading of her driveway, she was also yelled at by a deputy in the sheriff's office. She obtained the warrant only after appealing to a magistrate in neighboring Siler City.

Mrs. Payton filed a civil complaint against Teague on July 22, 1974 because proceedings of the charge on which the warrant was issued remained unresolved. In January 1975, she was subjected to break-ins on two