



Words Of Wisdom

The future always holds something for the man who keeps his faith in it.

He who falls in love with himself will find no rival.

HOOKS URGES

More Money For ORS, LEEA Civil Rights Efforts

Calls On Carter To Allocate Additional Funds

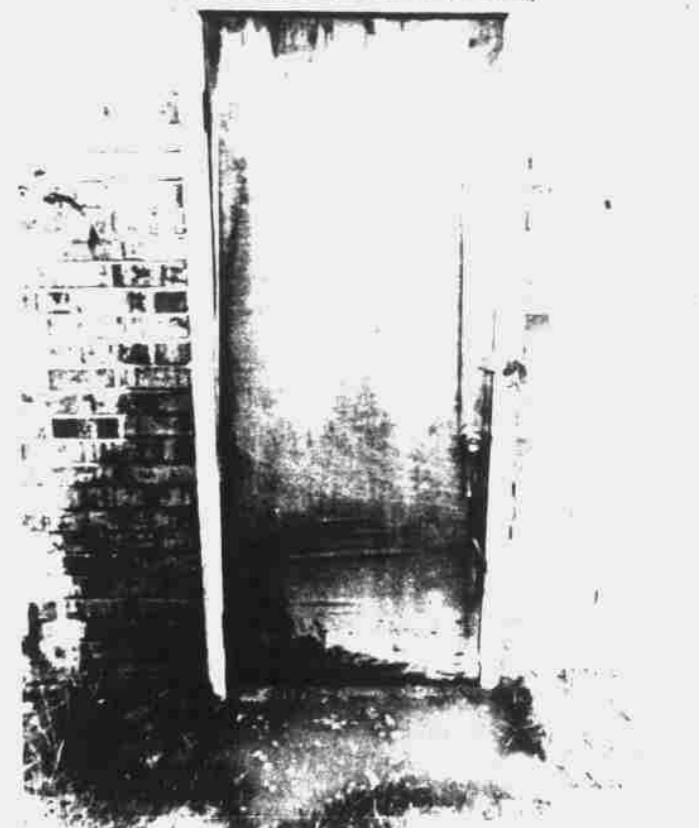
Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has called on President Jimmy Carter to allocate additional operating funds to the Office of Revenue Sharing (ORS) and to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), so that these two agencies can rule on a reported backlog of almost 1,500 cases against state and local municipalities where racial discrimination has been documented. Without these additional funds Hooks charged, "this shameful state of affairs at the Office of Revenue Sharing on September 30 would be automatically dropped, and LEAA would simply remain in its present state of being officially tied down by bureaucratic red tape."

James Hargrove, chairman of the National Black Police Association (NBPA), said that LEAA could not solve their problems simply by employing additional staff: "They also have to change the manner in which they accept discrimination cases — since they now restrict individual allegations to the aggrieved individual." In addition Hargrove charged that there was a general "lack of competency" in LEAA, and in the direction given by top LEAA officials.

suited to investigating charges of discrimination since they are the only federal agencies governed by mandatory civil rights enforcement status that require a cut-off of funds on a finding of probable cause."

State and local governments, according to the NAACP source, "have always opted to eliminate the probable discrimination when faced with a threatened loss of their federal funding."

Hooks concluded by stating, "Justice delayed is as explosive a situation today as its complete denial was to Miami just recently. We cannot afford to allow this backlog of cases to trigger other urban unrest."



The concern, according to NAACP officials, grew out of information from the National Black Police Association that the Office of Revenue Sharing had a backlog of over 900 current complaints, with another 300 being monitored.

"In spite of the extremely heavy caseload," Hooks said, "the Office of Revenue Sharing's Office for Civil Rights has only 31 investigators. This means that the vast majority of the complaints, most of which have been submitted by members of the minority community, will probably never be resolved."

Cuban Refugees Displacing Sick And Disabled Vets At VA

WASHINGTON D.C.—A White House directive which authorizes Cuban refugees to occupy beds at the Veterans Administration (VA) medical center in Tampa, Florida, while sick and disabled ex-GI's are being denied treatment, has drawn outraged criticism from the 670,000-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Dismissal Of Becton and Jackson Feared In Move By Council

The Finance Committee of the Durham City Council, which has been dominated by conservative white males since the last municipal election, has proposed eliminating the staff of the Durham Human Relations Commission.

Final action on the proposal is scheduled at the City Council meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 16, in the City Council Chamber at City Hall.

The move is viewed as an attempt to get rid of J. William (Joe) Becton, executive director of the Human Relations Commission since November, 1970, and a staunch, outspoken defender of the rights of minorities and other oppressed people.

The current efforts to unseat Becton appear to be strong recent moves by the commission staff to establish more clearly the

problems of discrimination faced by black people and others in Durham, and to move against this discrimination.

The wrath of the conservative group became focused on Becton in early April of this year, after a plan by the Human Relations Commission to conduct a housing market practice survey in Durham became public.

The plan, which had been approved by a previous City Council, was a simple one, which has been used effectively in a number of other communities. Simply stated, black and white investigators would be sent out to make inquiries regarding the sale or rental of certain housing units in the city, in an attempt to determine whether or not housing discrimination exists in the community and

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Fisher Heights Resident Charges Power Cables Turning Yard Into Swamp

By Tanya LeGette

"The Duke Power Company has caused extensive damage to my home, and ruined my backyard into a swamp full of insects." These were the words of Mrs. Mildred Carlton, a resident of the Fisher Heights community, as she complained about underground cables placed by Duke Power.

According to Mrs. Carlton, she was not aware of any underground cables when she bought her house in 1973, and now Duke Power refuses to relocate the cables in

her back yard so that the land can be graded down to one even level. "Because the yard is uneven, all water accumulates under my house and this causes mildew, mold and insects such as millipedes, centipedes, along with snails, worms and many others to come into my house," Mrs. Carlton explained.

"I have confronted Duke Power about my problems for seven years, and trenches have been added for the water to drain, but when they [trenches] close up, water still runs under my house

and nothing more has been done," Mrs. Carlton said.

James Murphey, director of the Engineering Department at Duke Power, said, "we have offered to relocate, or even to de-energize the underground cables while a contractor is working, and bury the cable to the depth required for the grading, but Mrs. Carlton would not agree." Murphey added, "it is the customer's option to have underground cables and when the lines are installed, it is left up to the owner to say whether the land is to its final grade. Many times the builder or developer decides on this before the house is sold, and the owner may not be aware."

According to a letter dated March 16, 1979, ad-

ressed to Mrs. Carlton, signed by James Murphey, "an easement is duly recorded in Deed Book 383, Page 371 in the office of the Durham County Register of Deeds." When this reporter checked Deed Book 383, Page 371, it revealed the property of one Ely and Mrs. Peggy S. Holloway on the eastside of Olive Branch Road, and there is no mention of Mrs. Carlton's property even though the letter refers to it.

Mrs. Carlton also complained about the primary cable for approximately fifty families extending into her yard, as well as a telephone drop wire that was left hanging from a pine tree over her back yard. "This primary cable is the reason my yard can't be graded down, and if Duke Power had used the property

lines, I would be able to have it graded," she said. Mrs. Carlton went on to say that Duke Power had accidentally cut her underground telephone cable while digging, and it was not placed back underground.

According to Mrs. Carlton's deed dated February 21, 1973, "This property is conveyed subject to the Buffer Area," which Mrs. Carlton originally understood to be the area in which the cables were located.

Darrell Jones, an employee of the Engineering Department at Duke Power said, "because of the war Fisher Heights is arranged, a primary cable extends into everyone's yard at one point. Everything is kept a close to the property lines as possible and every

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DELTAS HELP STUDENTS 'ACE' COMPETENCY TEST

By Trelle L. Jeffers

Mrs. Nancy Rowland, counselor at Durham High School, speaking Saturday, June 7 at St. Joseph's AME Church as the Delta Sigma Theta reception to honor community people who helped the organization accomplish its 1979-80 goals, said that when the test results from the 1978-79 N.C. Competency Test returned, some of the members of the Delta Sorority first sat down and cried, and afterwards began planning successful strategy to enable the failing students to pass the test. (Thirty-five percent of Durham High and fifteen percent of Hillside students initially failed the test.)

Although the N.C. General Assembly had appropriated money for additional teachers and equipment to help students prepare themselves to pass the test, the Deltas organized tutorial sessions for failing students at their Life Development Center on Saturdays and at both Durham and Hillside high schools during lunch periods and on afternoons after school.

Tutors for these sessions included Delta sorors and any interested persons from the Durham community — both professional educators and non-professionals.

As late as April, 1980, approximately ten per cent of the students at Durham High School had received a failing test score, according to Mrs. Rowland.

"We were determined, even though people were telling us that if they had not learned it in eleven years that it could not be done," said Mrs. Rowland.

She said that the students were tutored by rich and poor, black and white, old and young, educated and non-educated.

"There were retired teachers who opened their homes to tutor students or who went to the students' homes. If we could have the same cooperative effort, if we could unite Durham in a common goal as it (Durham) did to insure that the students would pass the N.C. Competency Test, Durham would be a progressive community," said Mrs. Rowland.

On Thursday, June 5, only two Durham City School students: one from Durham High and one from Hillside, were unable to graduate because of a failing test score.

Mrs. Betty Blackmon, president of the Durham Alumnae Chapter of the sorority, accepted an award presented to the group for outstanding service by Herbert Tatum, principal of Shepard Junior High School. In presenting the award, Prof. Tatum said, "at least 85% of Durham City pupils are very bright, and therefore, our students can do anything that they make up their minds to do."

Several other persons were presented awards or received recognition for outstanding service at Saturday's reception.

Monsanto Taking Steps To Utilize Minority-Owned Firms

ST. LOUIS—Monsanto Company, the fourth largest U.S. chemical company, awarded \$27.3 million in purchasing contracts to minority-owned businesses last year—making it a leader among companies supporting economic parity for minority-owned firms.

Reco Gibson, Monsanto field purchasing manager, said the company's formal commitment to minority enterprise began in 1973 after an award of \$15,000 to minority firms at Monsanto's Mound Research Laboratory in Miamisburg, Ohio.

The program was expanded in 1977 to include all company locations and a new goal—to spend \$15 million in purchases by the end of 1980. Since then the company goal has changed four times, from \$15 million to the present goal of \$32 million in purchases by the end of 1980.

Monsanto's minority purchasing program affects all the company's U.S. locations, including its 63 plants, 23 laboratories and technical centers, and various sales

offices. It contracts minority firms for such jobs as construction, transportation, advertising, food service, accounting and legal services.

"We must take part in the system of providing these opportunities," said Gibson, "or else, it could be mandated by the government to private industry as it is with companies that do business with the government."

Although company-wide participation in minority purchasing is relatively new at Monsanto, the company has

already been praised for its foresight and leadership in the area. Last month, the company received the 1980 Private Corporation of the Year award from the Missouri-Kansas region of the Minority Contractor's Association.

In 1976, Monsanto sponsored the first chemical-petrochemical industry-wide conference on minority purchasing at its world headquarters in St. Louis. The company has assisted seventeen U.S. companies in designing its own minority purchasing-contract program.

\$300,000 Grant Awarded Howard Youth Program

The Rockefeller Foundation has awarded Howard University a \$300,000 grant to expose approximately 200 high school students to careers in the life sciences.

Howard is coordinating a "Summer Program in Life Sciences Careers for High School Minority Students" at thirty universities around the nation,

For eight to ten weeks, students have an opportunity to work on research projects, attend seminars, and get a taste of college life at such schools as Harvard, the University of Minnesota, Florida A&M, as well as at Howard.

Each participating institution receives \$2,000 an "apprentice" and is

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