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The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBLENDED

Words Of Wisdom
I do not believe in a fate that falls on men
however they act; but I do believe in a fate that
falls on them unless they act.
—G.K. Chesterton

Hell is truth seen too late.
—ADAM

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Tenants And Housing Authority Standoff

A News Analysis
By Barbara Taylor

President-Elect Ronald Reagan's promise to cut federal spending was recently echoed by the Secretary-Designate of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Samuel Pierce, during his January 13 Senate confirmation hearing. Pierce's promise to cut HUD's spending by ten per cent could greatly affect the Durham Housing Authority which is already suffering from past cutbacks and inflation.

Within the past few weeks, serious problems affecting public housing have been voiced by angry and frustrated tenants. Scores of residents have stood up in meetings between the Authority and tenants told of how their apartments were literally falling apart; how cold their families were from lack of heat; how they have suffered from ineffective maintenance services; how confused and angry they are over the new maintenance price list; how they are unable to keep up with soaring rent and utility bills; and, how they have had to live with the threat of eviction.

Many have witnessed the highly emotional meetings and have heard tenants and the Authority blame each other for problems which plague them both. From all indications, both groups seem so caught up in bickering with each other that they have failed to cast criticism at the real culprits in Washington, D.C.

Housing spending has been being cut since 1973. At this point, public housing in Durham is feeling the brunt of not having had enough funds for the upkeep of the units. The present administrator has to now come up with means to subsidize what he is not getting from the government by taxing residents of public housing through whatever programs he can create.

James Taborn, director of Durham Housing Authority, says he went into the office last year with a clear focus in terms of the problems to be addressed and how he was going to address them. During a recent telephone interview, Taborn related to this reporter that he had the occasion to review information concerning the state of the Authority during the period when the Authority's board of commissioners and residents were interviewing him for the job of administrator.

Taborn said he believed that the board and the residents had been quite honest with him and shared enough information which allowed him to

formulate a program he hoped would meet the desires of HUD, the board of commissioners and the tenants.

Taborn related that his main priority had been to first address the operational concerns of the major funding source and his main priority was to address those problems cited by the Department.

Many tenants express feelings of having been betrayed and believe that Taborn has left them out of the decision-making process which, they say, affects them. Tenants say they think some kind of structure should be established in order to allow them to provide input into many of the decisions they have to live with.

In order to meet ever-increasing housing demands and to offset Authority. He said he felt that his administration had been able to address all of the concerns. He said all but twelve of the problems cited by HUD had been responded to by the sponsoring agency. Taborn said further that the Department of Housing and Urban Development was the Authority's budget cutbacks in housing, public housing administrators have to be able to organize tenants, city officials, and commissioners to ban together to bring pressure on

Washington to make public housing a priority. However, administrators have to make their position clear to those in the community and organize the community to meet the results of taking such a position.

Last year, the Authority, under the direction of James Kerr, publicly denounced HUD for not giving the Authority enough money for operating expenses. Shortly thereafter, HUD accused the Authority of mismanagement of funds.

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SAMUEL R. PIERCE
HUD Secretary

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Spaulding Introduces MLK Resolution

State Representative Kenneth B. Spaulding (D) introduced a joint House resolution on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the floor of the House of the General Assembly, Wednesday, January 14. The resolution, which pays tribute to the slain civil rights leader, was read and then Spaulding moved to have the rules suspended for the purpose of having the bill passed on Thursday, January 15, Dr. King's birthday.

If the resolution passes the State House, Rep. Spaulding said he will then make a motion that the Speaker of the House then direct the resolution to be carried by special messenger for immediate action by the Senate. This procedure would make it possible, if the Senate suspends its rules, for the resolution to be passed by both the Senate and the House by Thursday, Jan. 15.

The resolution reads in part:

"Whereas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. received national recognition in 1955 when he worked to end racial segregation in Montgomery, Alabama; and

to show compassion, fairness, understanding, and even love to those who opposed the civil rights movement; and

Whereas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1964, became the youngest man in history to win the Nobel Peace Prize; and

Whereas, while preparing to lead a peaceful demonstration in Memphis, Tennessee, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was shot and killed on April 4, 1968; and

Whereas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., lived and died for the principles of equality, humanity, and harmony among the people of America;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina expresses its high regard for the life and services of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and honors his memory on his birthday.

Section 2. This resolution is effective upon its ratification."

The first 1981 session of the General Assembly met at noon Wednesday.

Rep. Spaulding was also one of the six escorts for the Speaker of the House when he resumed his official duties on Wednesday.

Beginning This Week!
Basketball
In The
Black Colleges
A Historical Chronology
1891 - 1980
By John B. "Johnny Mc" McLendon
Converse Basketball Specialist
Also
See Howie Evans' Story
of John B. McLendon,
The Coach Who Invented
The Four-Corner Offense
Sports Section

Jan. 20 Filing Deadline For Vacant Council Seat

By Trelle L. Jeffers
After six days of accepting applications for a replacement for Councilman Bill Smith, who officially resigned his seat January 5, to accept a ministerial post in Greensboro, the committee appointed by Mayor Harry Rodenhizer to review and select a replacement will halt the process and begin interviewing candidates after Jan. 20.

Mrs. Margaret Rollins, the City Clerk, said Tuesday evening that the time period for applicants is short because the committee was directed by the Council at its meeting Jan. 5 to recommend a replacement for Smith at the Feb. 2 regular council meeting. Mrs. Rollins also said that in the event the Council rejects the committee's recommendation, the committee will then have time to make another recommendation before the appointment deadline.

stipulate that the vacancy must be filled within sixty days, otherwise a special election must be held to fill the vacancy. Mayor Rodenhizer has indicated that he did not wish to burden the city with the expense of a special election.

Many blacks, however, are concerned about equity on the council especially since Rev. Smith represented a sensitivity different from that of the majority of the council members, and they are cautiously watching to see what kind of replacement will interest this council. Moreover, the feeling is that the council now has the opportunity to demonstrate its desire to improve its image.

The underrepresentation of blacks on the council has remained a disturbing factor to blacks since the 1979 election, and thus the appointment of a black to fill Rev. Smith's seat would be considered a gesture toward fair and equal representation.

The members of the committee appointed by Mayor Rodenhizer to search for Rev. Smith's replacement are Councilmen Kim Griffin, Barney West, Stewart Pickett, James Brown and Harward Smith.

Cabletronics Taxes Investigated

By Barbara Taylor
Cabletronics Inc., a New York based electronics manufacturing company, located in UDI Industrial Park, has been found not to have paid county taxes for several years. County Tax supervisor, Karl Allen, told this

reporter the company is under investigation by the tax office.

Tax woes are just a few problems to plague the company in recent weeks. Disgruntled employees, mostly black, complaining of racial discrimination, unhealthy work condi-

tions, worker intimidation, and unfair labor practices have tried to organize.

Possible evasion of county taxes by Cabletronics may have occurred for 1978, 1979 and 1980, tax supervisor Allen said. The only tax return filed by the company was in 1980. An employee of the tax supervisor's office said that the return was filed only after Allen discovered the company was doing business in the county. Cabletronics has been operating in Durham County since 1977, according to plant manager Stan Bachman. No returns were filed for 1978 and 1979, and Allen has raised several questions relating to the 1980 return.

listed as secretary and treasurer on the company charter which is filed with the Secretary of State, was contacted by phone at his New York office. Halik said that he has no knowledge of Cabletronics' tax situation.

Allen, when asked by this reporter, said Cabletronics did not receive any special tax breaks from Durham County.

Whereas, throughout his life, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. advocated nonviolent action to obtain equal rights for minorities and counseled his followers

Black Leadership Caucus To Meet Saturday In Raleigh

By Trelle L. Jeffers
New officers for the North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus will be sworn in Saturday, January 17, in the Press Room of the Administration Building, Jones Street, Raleigh. After the swearing in, the Caucus will then engage in a day of meetings which will include meetings with key legislators from both the N.C. Senate and House, a tour of the Legislative Building and a business session at St. Augustine's College.

New officers elected at the meeting last November in Goldsboro are: Dr. E. Lavonia Allison, Durham, chairman; Floyd B. McKissick, Warren County, vice chairman; Pat Gills, Vance County, secretary; and Willie Riddick, Bertie County, treasurer.

The N.C. Black Leadership Caucus was organized in 1976. Since that time it has concerned itself with negotiating and maneuvering in both state politics and in decisions to appoint blacks to key state government positions. It has organized groups in all eleven Congressional Districts in the state.

The objectives of the Caucus are to:

- bring together minority political leaders

at all levels;

- increase minority voter education and registration;
- provide a forum for the exploration and analysis of issues and perspectives on minority electoral politics;
- develop and foster communication among leaders across the state; and
- train minority political activists in the latest techniques of effective community organization and long-range political development.

The Caucus is urging people to attend the meeting, according to Dr. Allison, the new chairman. She said that there are a number of issues that will be coming up this year in the General Assembly and that people should come to the meeting in order to discuss them.

"We need to open communication and broaden participation; we need to become informed about governmental process and how people can participate in this process," said Dr. Allison. She cited reapportionment and redistricting as two of the issues that will be discussed in the next General Assembly.

The meeting is free and the public is invited to attend.

The 1980 tax return inspected by this reporter listed 2704 Chapel Hill Blvd., as address for the company, and did not list the company's UDI industrial site.

Listed on the return, the company claimed \$1000.00 as the cost of furniture, fixtures, office equipment, and all other forms of equipment. Raw materials accounted for the 85.7% of the \$34,350 total property listed. That figure does not include machinery used in production of harnesses and electronic print heads, seen by this reporter at a visit to the plant.

Listed in the tax return were terminating machines whose total monthly rent was listed as \$53.00. This reporter found, on a visit to the company, at least one dozen terminating machines; all appeared to be very sophisticated and expensive.

Tax supervisor Karl Allen said his investigation could possibly take him into the plant. The investigation, he says, may involve state tax returns filed by the company.

John D. Halik, who is

Governor's School Seminar Set

The Youth and Education Committees of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People will sponsor a seminar on the Governor's School, East and West, Sunday, January 25, at 4 p.m., at St. Joseph's A.M.E. Church, 2521 Fayetteville Street.

The seminar is being held for parents, students, teachers and other school personnel, and interested persons in order to give the Durham community information on admissions criteria and procedures and important features of the Governor's School program.

The Governor's School was established in 1963 by Gov. Terry Sanford, now

president of Duke University, as a non-traditional approach to education in academics and the performing arts for gifted and talented children. The school's funding was secured through a grant from the Carnegie Foundation along with gifts from businesses and foundations in Winston-Salem.

The areas of concentration are natural science, social science, English, French, art, drama, modern dance, choral music, instrumental music and mathematics. All students who are selected must meet the N.C. state criteria for gifted and talented students.

may help younger pupils to develop greater incen-

tives to excel academically; and parents of high school students will receive specific information on how they may now process application for the 1981 summer program.

The seminar will be conducted by Dr. Vernon Clark, director of Governor's School-East, and professor of biology and physiology at North Carolina Central University.

Governor's School-East is operated on the campus of Saint Andrews College in Laurinburg; Governor's School-West is operated on the campus of Salem College in Winston-Salem. Both schools offer summer enrichment programs.

The Youth Committee and the Education Committee believe that parents of students of all ages can benefit from such a seminar.

Stanford
Warren
Library:
Historic
Landmark
Page 2



MRS. A.M. ALLEN (left), proprietor of the Green Candle Restaurant, a popular Durham home cooked foods establishment, and firemen (above), view damage resulting from a grass fire Monday which closed down operations.

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