

COUNCIL RESCINDS UTILITY INCREASE INTERVENTION

By Trelle L. Jeffers

The Durham City Council voted 8-5 at its regular meeting Monday night, February 2, to rescind the policy of having its city attorney intervene on behalf of citizens in rate increases of public utilities.

Several pleas were made by citizens to the council before the vote in an attempt to get the council to keep the policy. Those speaking to the council for the policy stated that it was the only way for the council to get the information it needed to protect the citizens it represents.

City Attorney Thornton said before the vote that he thought it was a good policy and offered to answer questions about the policy. None were asked.

Councilman Hunt told the council that when the resolution was voted on in 1977, its purpose was to give the city attorney a chance to review the matter of utility increases, to collect information and then come before the council to get the direction that he was then to take.

"It puts us ahead if it is necessary (to intervene)," said the councilman.

Only four other members apparently agreed with Hunt: Fox, Vick, Keller and Brown — all of whom voted against the decision to rescind the policy.

As it now stands, the council will decide when and if the city attorney will intervene in future utility increases.

On other matters, the council voted unanimously to give the seat vacated by Rev. William Smith to Mrs. Judy Harward. Mrs. Harward becomes the third woman on the council. She is a former chairman of the Durham

Recreation Advisory Committee, former campaign manager of Councilman Pledger's last campaign for the city council, and a former member of Mayor Harry Rodenhizer's campaign committee.

Mrs. Harward was sworn in immediately after the vote giving her the seat and she cast her vote with the majority to rescind the utility intervention policy.

Mayor Rodenhizer also read a resolution against crime at Monday night's meeting and declared the week of February 15 as Crime Prevention Week.



MS. DURHAM BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL CHAIN

Ms. Diane Jones Miller is flanked by first runner-up, Ms. Joyce McCain Thorpe (l) and Ms. B. Kaye Fields following coronation Sunday at Studio D.

NAACP Wins Settlement In Elgin Air Force Base Bias Case

Walter Johnson To Be Sworn In Friday

Greensboro lawyer Walter Johnson will be sworn in as the first black chairman of the state Parole Commission on Friday, February 6, at 10:30 a.m. The ceremony will be held in the house Chambers of the Capitol.

Johnson, 40, will succeed James Woodard, who has been appointed Secretary of Correction. Johnson is chairman of the N.C. Inmate Grievance Commission, but will give up that post for this chairmanship.

"I am delighted to appoint a man of Walter Johnson's caliber to this position," Governor Jim Hunt said. "His superb

service as chairman of the Inmate Grievance Commission, his outstanding tenure as chairman of the Inmate Grievance Commission, his outstanding tenure as chairman of the Greensboro Board of Education, and his standing as one of North Carolina's finest trial lawyers uniquely qualify him for this post."

Since 1968, Johnson has been a partner in the law firm of Figg, Johnson and Barboe. He was chairman of the Greensboro board of Education and from 1974-78.

Johnson will serve the remainder of Woodard's term, which ends June 30, 1981.

A Federal judge in Pensacola, Florida approved an agreement awarding over \$2 million in back wages to black civilian workers at Elgin Air Force base, ending a controversial discrimination case initiated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and called "unprecedented" due to the national implications the settlement holds for the federal employment sector.

NAACP General Counsel Thomas Atkins said, "This unprecedented action is significant for the following reasons. Not only does it represent the largest most comprehensive agreement ever obtained from the federal government, but the wide range of jobs affected by this settlement is unparalleled. Goals and timetables have been established to ensure that minorities are represented in some 240 job categories. More importantly, we've been able to obtain one largest sums of money ever awarded to victims of public discrimination."

In addition to the \$2 million back pay award, the far-reaching settlement requires the United States Air Force base at Elgin to hire an additional 100 black workers for their civilian labor force and promote 25 current employees. Mr. Atkins pointed out that another provision in the settlement includes a training program designed to identify low-level employees who demonstrate the potential for moving into middle management positions. He added that 10% of the high level job vacancies over the next 7-10 years would be reserved for this program.

NAACP Executive Director Benjamin L. Hooks also endorsed the settlement, saying it demonstrates the Association's commitment "to resolve a complex discrimination complaint by agreement. A case such as this would ordinarily fight its way through the courts, take several years and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to litigate."

The case, popularly known as *Turner vs. Mark*, grew out of class action suit filed in 1976 on

behalf of the Ft. Walton NAACP branch, the Progressive Community Improvement Organization (PICO) and eighteen other community leaders and concerned parties. This action followed an investigation by the President of the Florida state conference, Charles Cherry and former Field Director James Petiford, who accused military officials at Elgin Air Force base of perpetuating institutional racism.

William Wells, a national office NAACP staff attorney and chief counsel for the case said "The pursuit of this case uncovered a degree of racism greater than any job discrimination case we have encountered in the country, either with public or private employers."

The terms of the settlement, agreed upon after years of intense and complex negotiations, also called for a Plaintiffs Monitoring Committee. This is important proviso, being retained in the settlement according to Mr. Atkins, "will provide a powerful vehicle for those most affected by discrimination, allowing

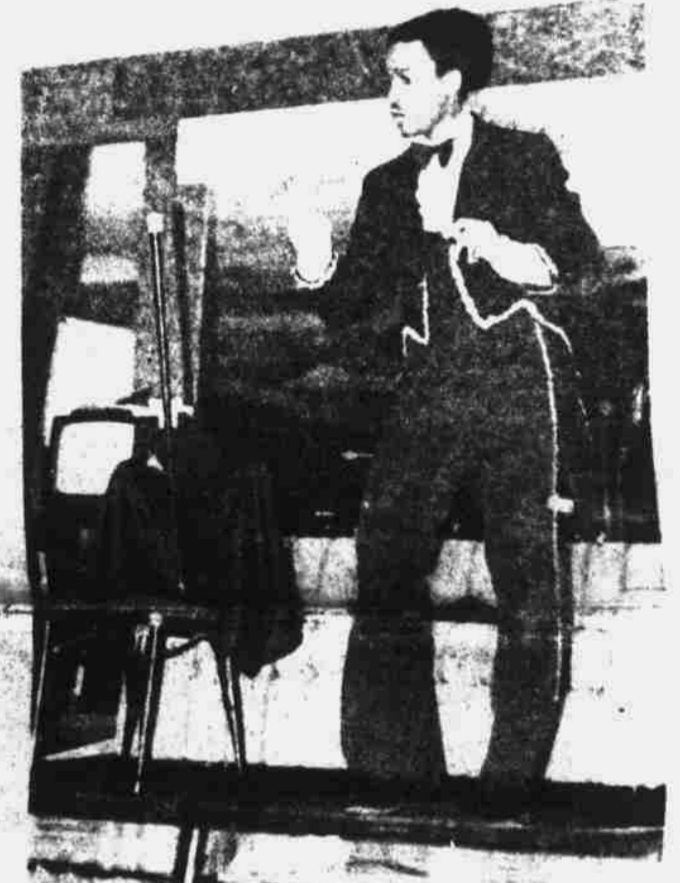
them to take part in the process of eliminating discriminatory promotion and hiring practices."

The selection of members to serve on the committee will be determined by the aggrieved parties under the settlement—the original class-action suit plaintiffs. The committee then will select the 100 people to fill the newly created civilian labor positions, and also recommend the 25 employees who will receive promotions.

Additionally, Atkins said, "the committee will determine the awarding of compensatory damages to those workers who can establish past discrimination, which either depressed their promotion or prevented their employment in positions for which they were qualified."

The NAACP has spent well over \$100,000 on the case, according to Atkins, and "this settlement will enable us to recover all legal expenses and fees incurred over the last six years."

Additional articles in the issue include: "Black Enterprise Reports: Engineering, Science - Top Technological Fields"; "Mayor Issues Black History Proclamations"; "NCCU Prof To Speak At Stanford Warren"; "Darryl Dwayne Lindsey, 19, second year student at NCCU and slated to be the starting quarterback for the football team, died Saturday, January 31 at Duke Medical Center with meningitis. Funeral services will be held Saturday, February 7 in Washington, D. C."



MAGICIAN ROBERT SMITH
Photos by Kelvin A. Bell

Black Enterprise Reports

Engineering, Science - Top Technological Fields

New York—Engineering and science will be the fields of the future job market, reports BLACK ENTERPRISE Magazine in its February annual Jobs Issue.

Black participation in these fields is minuscule at a time when there is renewed interest in engineering and science throughout the United States, because of high technological competition from foreign countries, high production costs, the energy crisis, and environmental concerns. High salaries are due to the acute shortage of technically trained manpower and great public demand for such expertise as the U.S. enters new high-technology age during the eighties.

According to recent statistics, blacks are seven times less likely to become engineers than whites. Department of Labor figures show an average of 37,000 engineering openings available from attrition alone this year. Computer programming is expected to grow 29.6 percent while computer analysts will see a rise of 37.4 percent. BLACK ENTERPRISE reports that blacks are still less than five percent of the country's engineers. In 1970 blacks represented two percent of the new engineers; in 1979 they made up six percent. By 1972, nonwhites made up five percent of all the computer specialists and by 1979 they comprised eight percent. The shortage also occurs in virtually all health

fields. Although blacks with M.D. degrees rose from 0.2 percent to 2.4 percent of the total number of M.D.'s in 1978, black representation in medical schools is still below 6.6 percent.

Nonwhites make up twenty percent of the population but receive less than two percent of the Ph.D.'s in science and engineering. Aside from discrimination, other reasons are proffered to explain why there are so few blacks in these fields. Lucious Walker, Dean of Howard University's School of Engineering, believes "there is a mystique associated with technical and abstract subjects. Some of us (blacks) feel we can't do math or science or succeed in quantitative fields." One black engineering student points to the low visibility of black engineers while another emphasizes the inadequate high school curriculum of black students disqualifying them from entering quantitative areas.

BLACK ENTERPRISE focuses on the programs that have been established to increase the number of minority engineers and health specialists such as the Minority Engineering Education Effort (ME3) and "Dual Degree" programs.

"There remain some vestiges of discrimination, but for the most part, engineers have overcome these problems," comments Dean Walker. A black female engineer

Mayor Issues Black History Proclamations

Durham Mayor Harry Rodenhizer has issued two proclamations relative to the 1981 observance of Black History Month.

One proclaims February, 1981 as Black History Month in Durham and urges "all citizens to give support and recognition to this very special month. It also notes that

"Durham's cultural heritage is rich in Black History."

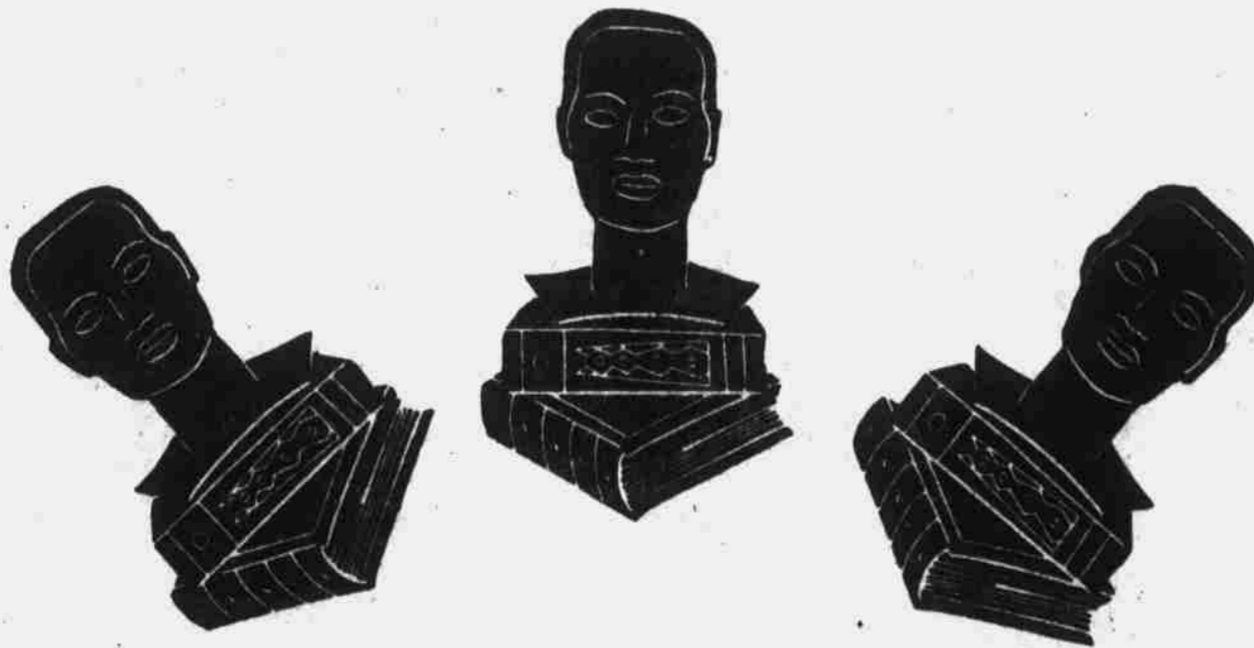
The other proclaims Sunday, February 8, 1981 as Richard Allen Day. Richard Allen was the founder and first bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which represents the first black institution to own property

in the United States. Allen was a former slave who purchased his own freedom. The AME Church was also one of the original founders and charter members of the NAACP and the National Council of Churches.

"With its philosophy of Self-Help, elucidated by its founder and first

Bishop, Richard Allen," the proclamation reads, "believing that Black People could help themselves by lifting themselves up by their own bootstraps, inspired many Black People to enter the world and business, and as a result, have many successful black businesses in Durham today."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION



STANFORD L. WARREN BRANCH LIBRARY

NCCU Prof To Speak At Stanford Warren

By Trelle L. Jeffers
Dr. Percy E. Murray, chairman of the History and Social Studies Department at North Carolina Central University, will speak in the auditorium of the Stanford L. Warren Public Library, 1201 Fayetteville Street, Wednesday night, February 18, at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Murray's subject, "Black Perspectives on the Media," will include the roles of blacks in films during earlier periods, the attempt made by some blacks to give a positive image to blacks in films, and a look at the way in which blacks are depicted some of the popular television shows and other media today.

Dr. Murray holds both B.A. and M.A. degrees from NCCU and Ph.D. degree from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Before joining NCCU faculty in 1977, he served on the faculties of Winston-Salem State University, Fayetteville State University and Miami University.

Dr. Murray is a professional member of the National Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, the N.C. Historical Society, the American Historical Association, the Southern Historical Association, and the American Society for the History of Education. He is also a member of Silver Square Lodge, No. 791, Prince Grand Lodge, F&A M. of North Carolina. Dr. Murray has published several articles in the

Ohio Historical Society Bulletin as well as several book reviews in other scholarly journals. He is presently revising his manuscript entitled, "Harry Clay Smith, Afro-American Journalist and Legislator" and he is editing another manuscript entitled "My Rise and My Persecution. The Autobiography of Thomas Wallace Fleming." The public is invited to attend the lecture.



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