



# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBIDDEN

**Words Of Wisdom**  
Difficulties strengthen the mind, as labor does the body.  
—Seneca  
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He climbs highest who helps another up.  
—George Matthew Adams  
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There is not a moment without some duty.  
—Cicero

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TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

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## Hayti: To Renew Or Not To Renew

A Staff Report

Outside of the view of most of the public, the Durham city administration has been quietly trying to resolve a twenty-year-old problem. What to do with the remains of the urban renewal area known as NCR-54.

NCR-54 is what was known in Durham as Hayti, an area that extends from Pettigrew Street at South Roxboro Street to the expressway (as it's northern border). It is bordered on the west by South Roxboro Street, on the south by Piedmont and on the east by old Fayetteville Street.

For the first time, the city is taking some steps to complete the Urban Renewal process. The City Planning Office, headed by Paul Norby, has worked diligently for a year in developing a plan for this area.

The big problem, it seems, is what to do with the remaining eight businesses which have not been permanently relocated. Five of these businesses are located in a "temporary" facility, popularly known as "tin city". "Tin City" was built twelve years ago, to last eighteen months, in order to move businesses which were in the path of the East-West expressway — then in the process of being constructed.

To resolve this last barrier to the redevelopment of NCR-54, the city has taken two important steps. First, it has rewritten the Urban Renewal plan for the area in such a way that the renewal of the area no longer will have to be restored comparable to its early composition or even to provide needed services for the community. Rather, the new plan limits all commercial development to east of Fayetteville Street in the area on the two large empty tracts west of Fayetteville Street being targeted for an office part on one and the other as all-residential. Both are to be developed by private developers, although with some site preparation via Community Development Block Grant money.

The housing is projected to cost a minimum of \$70,000 per unit and the office park can be expected to be a high rent district, thereby "upgrading" the area. The portion of Hayti north of the expressway is no longer considered in the plan, as the city expects that some large business concerns, wanting to expand outward from downtown Durham, will develop.

Secondly, the city's plan calls for a \$40,000 contract with the Durham Business and Professional

Chain to "assist" the relocatees to move into the commercial development east of Fayetteville Street. It appears that the city is willing to "assist" with construction of a building, only if it is located in this area.

Further, the relocation of the eight businesses is to be based on their "viability" for the relocation which is to be determined by the Durham Business and Professional Chain.

This six-months contract will give operating expenses to the Chain which lost its federal contract last spring. Salaries and fringe benefits total \$31,500; expenses (phones, photocopying, mailing, etc.) add another \$7,500 and a \$2,000 miscellaneous category round out the funding proposal.

Most of the eight businesses involved have questioned if the Chain is fully aware of what the city's plan entails. They believe the original urban renewal concept is completely compromised by the city's plan. Although it must be said that many past city administrations have let the problem fester and that it is encouraging to see some movement by the city to upgrade the area, there is strong sentiment among the southeastern Durham community that the city's plan falls way short.

The unfulfilled promise of renewing the area, which was overwhelmingly supported by the black population of the city in a vote in 1962, but only narrowly passed (the margin is generally less than 300 votes out of approximately 10,000 cast), is still the expectation of most southeast Durham residents.

The city, however, had originally presented the new plan to the City Council on November 16, 1981, with a schedule to approve it on December 21, including public hearings.

This plan offered very little time for community input and the plan was not publicized at all. A full discussion of its implications would have been almost impossible.

The Hayti Development Corporation, which had been generating a plan of its own and had had some discussions with the city, became aware of this short schedule.

In response to a suggestion by the Economic Development Sub-Committee of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People that some organization be formed to specifically deal with

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## Women Shot At and Robbed On Way To Church

By Donald Alderman

Two women were beaten and robbed as they were leaving a car to enter church for services, Monday night.

One of the victims, Mrs. Catherine Forbes, was injured slightly by a single pistol shot that grazed the side of her face. She was treated and released from Duke Medical Center Monday night.

The other victim, Mrs. Elizabeth Watson, was knocked down but was not injured.

Mrs. Watson said she and Mrs. Forbes arrived at Fisher Memorial United Holy Church on Piedmont Avenue around 8:30 to attend installation services of Elder Elroy Lewis.

After parking on Piedmont Avenue, Mrs. Watson said they began walking toward the church and were approached by four or five black males. She said they appeared to her to be between 17 and 19 years of age.

She said the attackers knocked them down, snatched their purses, and ran east toward Fayetteville Street. Before leaving the scene, one of the assailants held a pistol at close range to Mrs. Forbes' face and fired.

Mrs. Watson said her purse contained about \$10. Mrs. Forbes said her purse contained about \$20.

Public Safety detectives are investigating the incident. No arrest had been made at press time.

Elder Elroy Lewis, the newly installed pastor of Fisher Memorial United Holy Church, said the attackers entered the Education Building section of the church shortly before the victims arrived. After a deacon asked whether he could help them, the four young men, never answering, left.

Elder Lewis said he will ask Public Safety to patrol the area more during night services.

## U. S. Black Elected Officials Increased By 2.6%

WASHINGTON

The number of black elected officials in the United States increased by 2.6 per cent between July 1980 and July 1981, according to the Joint Center's annual survey of black elected officials (BEOs). Last year's increase was 6.6 per cent.

The 1981 increases were concentrated in a few states. This year, as last, Mississippi had the largest net increase in the number of black elected officials, 52. Georgia gained 43 BEOs; Illinois and Kentucky each gained 17; Ohio gained 13 and Tennessee, 11. Texas had a net loss of 33 BEOs. Other than these

substantial changes, net losses and gains around the country were generally small.

The number of black officials has increased every year since the *Roster* was first published in 1970. In 1969, three years after passage of the Voting Rights Act, there were 1,160 BEOs in the country; as of July 1981, there were 5,038. (Results of this fall's elections are not counted in this total.) Blacks now hold 1.03 per cent of all elective offices in the United States.

On the whole, blacks must still depend on support from black voters to win elective office, and

the geographic distribution of BEOs still corresponds to the distribution of the black population. Thus, the southern states, which contain 53 per cent of the black population of the United States, also contain 61 per cent of all black elected officials.

At present 340 blacks hold state-level offices; 36 hold regional offices; 465 hold county offices; and 542 hold judicial and law-enforcement offices. By far the largest category of BEOs remains municipal officials: this year there are 2,382, up slightly from last year's total of 2,346. The second largest

category of BEOs is education officials. The 1,255 black education officials represent 25 per cent of all BEOs.

As they have for the past decade, black women continued to gain offices at a greater rate — 3.4 per cent — than black men — 2.4 per cent. Black women make up about 20 per cent of all black elected officials. They are distributed widely both geographically and by level of office. They are especially concentrated in educational offices and hold relatively few judicial and law enforcement offices.

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### Nearing Trial Date

Accused child killer Wayne Williams is hustled away from an Atlanta courthouse by deputies November 20. A judge refused to throw out evidence taken during a June, 1981 search of his

home. Williams is scheduled to stand trial in late December in the killing of two of the 28 black youths.

UPI

## The Black Church Response To Reaganomics

By Donald Alderman

*NOTE: Political and social activity by the black church, in response to Reagan economics and the new political climate is examined in a two part series. Economic and social services are first examined. The second part examines political activity.*

Responding to depressed economic conditions and conservative politics, the black church is increasing its role in affecting political, economic and social concerns.

The church uses a two-pronged approach. A number of political action steps are taken to affect critical legislation, including the lobbying of lawmakers by national and statewide church groups, and the sponsoring of a number of economic assistance programs to benefit the poor and needy.

In response to an increase in the number of people seeking economic assistance from the church, several churches have created special funds.

"There has been a recent upsurge in the number of people calling or stopping in for help," said Dr. Grady D. Davis, pastor of Union Baptist Church in Durham. "Some are members and some are referrals from different agencies and groups."

Dr. Davis said that since the new administration came into office, there has been a fifty to sixty per cent increase in the number of cases handled at Union Baptist. As a result, a Good Samaritan Fund was started. The fund aids persons needing assistance for fuel, utilities and housing costs.

A screening committee was also appointed, Dr. Davis said, to prevent abuse of the fund. The church tries to prevent being "ripped off" by people who may take advantage of the system.

"The black church is in the process of utilizing resources to meet the needs of those affected by budget cuts," said Rev. W.W. Easley, pastor of St. Joseph's AME Church. "Mobilizing resources to effect political action on a national level is also in process."

Referrals from V ten-In-Action and Durham County Social Serv Department make up the

majority of those seeking help from St. Joseph's, Rev. Easley said. He said the congregation has responded well to those in need.

Easley said he expects a "tremendous increase" in the number seeking help as more budget reductions take effect. He said referrals have risen about fifty per cent since the first of the year. A check is also made to make sure all requests are valid.

Total aid to the needy amounts to "thousands of dollars a month," Dr. Davis said. In addition to cash assistance, the church finances programs to aid the unemployed, alcoholics, senior citizens and those in need of clothing, Dr. Davis said.

### More Togetherness Seen

The black community is working more collectively now than during the seventies, partly the result of the new conservative political climate, the ministers noted. Rev. Easley said many who had become complacent are "waking up" and are becoming more economically and socially aware and active.

"People are realizing that the church is the strongest institution in the black community," Rev. Easley said. "It is a positive sign to see more and more people waking up and becoming concerned about conditions that they can affect. The present administration is a blessing in disguise to wake up the masses. Perhaps we needed this to bring us together."

A cohesive spirit of solidarity is gaining momentum in the black community, Dr. Davis said. The church's role has increased because the church is about the only black organization that has retained its freedom, he noted.

"If we work together and stick together, we can accomplish a lot. Blacks are realizing that progress is better made by helping ourselves than by depending on services from white people," Dr. Davis commented.

The ministers said their Sunday sermons are geared toward keeping people conscious of social concerns, thereby lifting the relevance of the gospel to conditions of today.