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IN THIS ISSUE
"Our Blood Runs Deep"
Blacks In The Military, Part II
Special Black History Section
Save All Three Parts

Words Of Wisdom
Strong men are made by opposition; like kites they go up against the wind.
—Frank Harris

What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul.
—Addison

Goldsboro To Raleigh Four-Day Protest March Underway

By Donald Alderman
The North Carolina office of the Commission for Racial Justice Thursday launched its fifty-mile, four-day march in protest of the Reagan administration's decision to grant tax exempt status to private schools whose policies are racially discriminatory.

At a press conference announcing final plans, the Rev. Leon White, the office's director, said the protest is also against:

- President Reagan's budget cuts and military expansion which seems to be at the expense of the needy;
- North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms' anti-busing amendment which recently won Senate approval;
- President Reagan's proposal to weaken the Voting Rights Act, and
- the President's 'New Federalism' program.

The Commission for Racial Justice and the Ministerial Alliances of Raleigh and Durham have also declared Sunday, February 21 as a "Day of Prayer for Justice and Peace".

Beginning in Goldsboro Thursday night, the group will rally at Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 215 Denmark St., before marching to Smithfield

Friday morning (9 a.m.). Goldsboro is the home of the Goldsboro Christian Academy, one of two schools in the suit that resulted in the tax exempt status shortly after the President's decision. While the

school does permit a few blacks to attend, it does not allow interracial dating or marriage and seeks to discourage it.

The group will rally in Smithfield Friday (Feb. 19) at the Shiloh Christian Church, 1209

Durham St., at 7:30 p.m., it was announced. The crusade will resume Saturday morning at 9 a.m., with marchers trekking on to Clayton where another rally is scheduled at Mount Vernon Christian Church at 6 p.m.

After an overnight stay there; participants will march to Raleigh, the trip's final leg, on Sunday morning starting at 9 o'clock. Organizers are expecting to arrive in Raleigh by 1:30 p.m., for a rally to take place at Laodicea United Church of Christ, 2004 Rock Quarry Road.

The crusade will culminate with a march through South Raleigh to the Century Post Office on the Fayetteville Street Mall downtown where the final rally will take place at 3 p.m. Rally speakers include the Rev. Grady Davis, the Rev. Leon White, the Rev. B.W. Lewis and H.M. "Mickey" Michaux.

Rev. White said the "Christian Crusade for Justice and Peace is a concerted religious response to the attempt to cloak racism in the clothing of religious freedom."

"If people want to be racist, let them be racist, but not in the name of the Lord", Rev. White said.



JUDGE CLARENCE Cooper, shown leaving the courthouse, opened the seventh week of Wayne Williams' murder trial February 8 by citing the 23-year-old photographer's parents for contempt of court. Cooper said the parents had failed to protect his innocence. This violated Cooper's gag order on attorneys and witnesses in the case.

LPI Photo

Marion Gooding Makes Nursing Programs Successful

PAGE 7

Dr. Cobb, Native Durhamite Sets Pace

PAGE 16



Richard Allen Day Proclaimed

Governor James B. Hunt (center) proclaims February 14, 1982 as "Richard Allen Day". Joining in the ceremony are (l-r) James Odom, member of the General Board of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and a trustee of St. Mark AME Church of Rocky Mount; Rev. Donald Wess, pastor of St. Mark AME Church of Rocky Mount; Rev. W.W. Easley, Jr., pastor of St. Joseph's AME Church Durham, and Attorney William A. Marsh, Jr., member of the Judicial Council of the AME Church.

Richard Allen was born into slavery on February 18, 1760, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He and others of African descent were denied freedom of worship in the Saint George's Methodist Episcopal Church in 1787, and Allen started a movement which blossomed into the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He served for fifteen years as the denomination's first bishop.

County Commission Incumbents, Challengers Don't See Eye To Eye Future On Directions

By Milton Jordan

Stifled economic growth looms ahead for Durham County, and its citizens are mostly oblivious to the major impact of county government decisions, if one listens to three of the four candidates for a seat on the Durham County Commission. One candidate, Rod Adams, could not be reached.

On the other hand, the four incumbents who are running for reelection contend that everything is doing well, the county is economically healthy, and except for some rather minor budgetary adjustments to accommodate Reaganomics, and holding the line on tax increases, very little needs to be changed.

Those two divergent views pretty much summarize the major issues in this year's county commission race. Nine candidates, including four incumbents, are running for the five seats. One incumbent, Howard Easley, is not running. Incumbents in the race are: Edwin B. Clement, chairman, running for his 15th two-year term; William V. Bell, seeking his sixth term; Mrs. Elna B. Spaulding, running for her fifth term, and Dillard Teer, seeking his second term.

The challengers, all seeking their initial terms, are Mrs. Rebecca Heron, Albert Hight, Nathaniel W. McLaughlin and William Mixon.

"We've already lost more than \$100 million in tax base," declared Al Hight, a local realtor who sells commercial and industrial land. "And we've got to do

something about water and sewer in this county, or we will continue losing tax base, and people will be paying taxes on land they can't develop."

While most of the candidates agree that the county's lack of sewage treatment capability is a problem in light of the fact that county soil doesn't handle waste well when septic tanks are used, they disagree on just how serious the problem is.

The challengers say that the county's future economic viability hinges upon increasing the sewage treatment capacity.

The county currently owns a sewage treatment plant that serves the Research Triangle.

The incumbents say a comprehensive sewage treatment program would be prohibitively costly, and that it's better for the county to consider sewage treatment needs almost on a case by case basis.

"I would not favor any comprehensive effort to increase our sewage treatment capacity," insisted Mrs. Spaulding, "unless there were some reasonable assurances that we would get a return on our investment within a relatively short period of time."

Mixon disagrees: "That's what is wrong with the current county commission. They are unwilling to change. They are satisfied with things the way they are, and they don't want to rock the ship. But those of us who live in the county are not getting services for the money we pay in taxes." The current countywide tax

rate is \$.87 per \$100 valuation. Other county taxes include special fire district and school district taxes.

Sewage treatment capacity relates to the question of increasing the county's tax base by attracting both new industry and new residents.

Again, the challengers call for sweeping changes while the incumbents stand on the status quo.

"I think that we have to do something to help increase our tax base," said veteran commissioner Clements, who is finishing his first term as chairman of the board.

"But I don't think we can convince the voters to pass a bond issue to finance the increased sewage treatment capacity, though we are obviously going to have to take a good hard look at that issue very soon."

But according to Durham County Manager, Ed Swindell, there are several ways for Durham County's tax base to grow.

"First of all, any time an industry wants to locate in Durham County, we will work with them to accommodate their sewage treatment needs," Swindell said, "provided we can get a return on our investment within five years."

Other ways for the tax base to increase, according to Swindell, are through tax reevaluation, which the county is currently planning; growth in the Research Triangle Park, and growth within the city's corporate limits.

"You know," Swindell added, "we are really enjoying the gravy of all this development around us."

Commissioner Bell concurs: "While it is true that most of the people who work in the Research Triangle don't live in Durham County, but if we had the people here, we'd have to provide the services to them, too."

I'm not saying that we don't want the people to live here. My point is that it doesn't hurt us as bad as some might contend because they don't live here."

The question of sewage treatment capacity, and future growth of the county will boil down to money in the final analysis.

The county's current budget does not hold forth much hope. The county's budget for this fiscal year is just a little over \$85 million, and about \$72.4 million of that goes to finance education and human services, both activities are state government-mandated county services. This means that the remainder of county government is operated on just a little over \$12.6 million.

Swindell said there are just not many other sources to tap for new revenues.

The prospect of decreasing revenues, because of federal budget cuts, and the need to hold the line on property taxes while not having to appreciably decrease county services is another headache the new commission will face.

"I think we are doing a very good job," said Teer, a retired construction executive. "We have raised taxes only once in twelve years, and we could discriminate should be

Foes Jeopardize Civil Rights

By Donald Alderman
Charging that Republican senators have launched a well-coordinated effort to roll back the clock on civil rights," Ms. Althea T.L. Simmons warned blacks to be determined to give their all to protect past civil rights gains.

Speaking here Sunday during a rally sponsored by 26 statewide and local organizations that support renewal of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, Ms. Simmons, director of the NAACP Washington office, specifically charged North Carolina Senators John East and Jesse Helms with "the most blatant attack on the rights of black Americans ever."

The groups, including the local NAACP chapter and the N.C. Association of Black Educators, hope that Sunday's gathering and other rallies around the country will influence senators to vote favorably on key provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

The Senate is debating whether to renew Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which expires August 6, the "pre-clearance" section requires nine states and portions of thirteen others, including North Carolina, to get U.S. Justice Department approval before any changes are made in election laws or procedures.

In October, 1981, the U.S. House passed a version that would allow the Justice Department to rule voting procedures illegal if they result in discrimination.

But the Reagan Administration — and Helms and East — argue that the intent to discriminate should be

the basis for proving violations.

Ms. Simmons, supporter of the House passed version, told the crowd of about 360 that proving intent would be

difficult, if not impossible.

In addition to opposing the House passed version, Ms. Simmons said Helms and East have joined other

Republican senators in efforts to "repeal fifteen or more years of civil rights work".

She cited attacks on affirmative action, efforts to prevent the courts from ruling on desegregation or busing suits, efforts to repeal the minimum wage, the appointment of anti-civil rights advocates to civil rights commissions and boards, efforts to authorize the Attorney General to reopen past desegregation cases, and efforts to control federal courts through congressional action.

Though strong voting rights are needed, Ms. Simmons said, it will only guarantee blacks and other minorities equal access to the ballot box.

We must do what we can to get our young people to exercise their rights. . . . We must get out the biggest and best voter registration, get-out-the-vote drive ever."

Ms. Simmons urged supporters to write all senators requesting a vote in favor of the act. Sixty-one senators support the act, which is to be voted upon sometimes in March. But many senators' support is "soft" and opponents are busy attempting to influence supporters away, Ms. Simmons said.

The act is partly the result of a march the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama seventeen years ago. Marches began Monday re-enacting that fifty-mile, five-day historic journey for voting rights.

Called "Voting Rights Sunday" the mass rally was staged two days after the 73rd founding anniversary of the NAACP.

Bishop Adams Urges Adoption of Action Plan

By Donald Marable
Bishop John Hurst Adams, Presiding Bishop, Second District, African Methodist Episcopal Church, is urging members of the District to adopt a plan of fifteen actions to survive the harsh economic conditions.

Bishop Adams maintains that the Reagan Administration's policies, programs and directions are in sharp contrast to the Constitution and the traditions of the United States government. And it should be the black church's first priority to reject the Administration's attempt to reverse social and civil rights causes to an era long past which are inconsistent with Christian and American ideals of compassion and justice.

"It is imperative that we do not accept the redefinition of the role of the federal government as not being responsible for the well-being of American citizens," said Bishop Adams. "Not only is this view mean and diabolical, but it may also be unconstitutional."

According to the plan, the Church wants to: establish political action groups, establish a year-round voter registration

drive, establish ministries to youths, elderly, and prison inmates, establish a larger revenue and food reserve, and, establish cooperatives to purchase food from farmers, fuel, and other bulk items. Programs already in effect, but will be reinforced encourages family participation, black cultural awareness, and immigrant understanding.

Rev. W.W. Easley, Jr., pastor of St. Joseph's AME Church, Durham, said that his congregation is already involved in all but four of the proposals of the plan. "We will be concentrating on establishing cooperatives, the political action groups, the revenue and where possible, housing for the emergency cases and a legal services and health care pool by March 1," Rev. Easley said.

"Although, the other parts of the plan are in effect, we will be reinforcing them."

The AME Church has a worldwide membership of over 3.5 million represented in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Bermuda, Guyana, South America, and Africa. There are over 188 churches in North Carolina.