

inside

"Black Americans... our concerns and their geo-politics and our countries..." if we are to have "prosperity or justice" at home, says Congressman Gus Savage. This week, Part I of an enlightening report on geo-politics by Curtis T. Perkins - Pages 10-11

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# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBROKEN

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**Words Of Wisdom**  
He is truly wise who gains wisdom from another's mishap.  
—Publius Syrus  
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Nothing can overtake an untruth if it has a minute's start.  
—Anonymous

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## New Law Slows City's Hand In Taking Downtown Land

By Donald Alderman

There was a time when a city, like Durham, wanted to build a public facility, it would simply condemn the land it needed if the owners wouldn't cooperate, and haggle about the price later in court.

If Durham could do that now, it likely would be a lot further along with plans for a downtown civic center, and with a lot fewer headaches as well. The old condemnation law allowed a so-called quick take that transferred property ownership to the city immediately.

But a new state law makes the condemnation process a lot less attractive because now, instead of the property automatically becoming the city's as soon as it condemns, a judge has to decide if and when the local government takes over the land.

The new law has slowed the land acquisition process for the civic center, and given city officials almost endless headaches.

On paper, the matter seems simple enough.

The city needs to buy 14 parcels of downtown land to assemble the property needed to build a civic center approved in June when Durham voters approved a \$10.5 million bond referendum. A new hotel and office complex is also to be built as part of the downtown complex.

Hefting a \$1.2 million land acquisition budget, city officials moved into negotiations. Most of the property owners sold rather quickly for prices ranging from \$25,000 to about \$700,000. Currently, the city is about \$14,000 over its land buying budget with about four other parcels of land to be purchased. Two other parcels are

under option and one owner is negotiating with the city to sell the other parcel.

Then came the snag. Grover Burtthey and Owen Williams balked at a city appraisal of their land of \$100,000 and said they wanted about \$700,000. Burtthey and Williams own a large building at 213 E. Chapel Hill Street. It houses their business, Furniture Moods.

Another property owner, Wade Penny, who owns Penny Furniture Store and several other businesses downtown, also balked at the city's offer for his land. A city appraisal set Penny's property value at \$196,000. But Penny is negotiating.

Then came the headaches, mostly in private negotiations that, according to sources close to the matter, have

been more like fencing matches.

At last count the city wants to give Burtthey and Williams \$120,000 for their property, and the two black businessmen, with one of the few black businesses downtown, reduce their price to \$520,000. At that point the talks broke off.

The city's real estate officials started talking about condemning the land, but sources say the Durham City Council has rejected that recommendation.

Several issues, however, complicate the situation.

One is the fact that the city can only condemn land for a public use, such as the civic center, but not for a private use, such as the proposed hotel and office building. But the civic center site has not been

finally approved, thus the location could be different.

Burtthey and Williams know, according to a city source, that if they sell now, they could come up short if the hotel or office building goes on their property. They could negotiate with the private developer themselves and probably get more money.

Another issue is the fact that Burtthey and Williams, according to both city officials and other sources, cannot relocate downtown in building of comparable size, for the \$120,000 the city wants to pay for their property.

City negotiations with Penny are also a complicating factor. Penny has not said publicly what he wants for his property, but a source says it's in the neighborhood of

\$800,000.

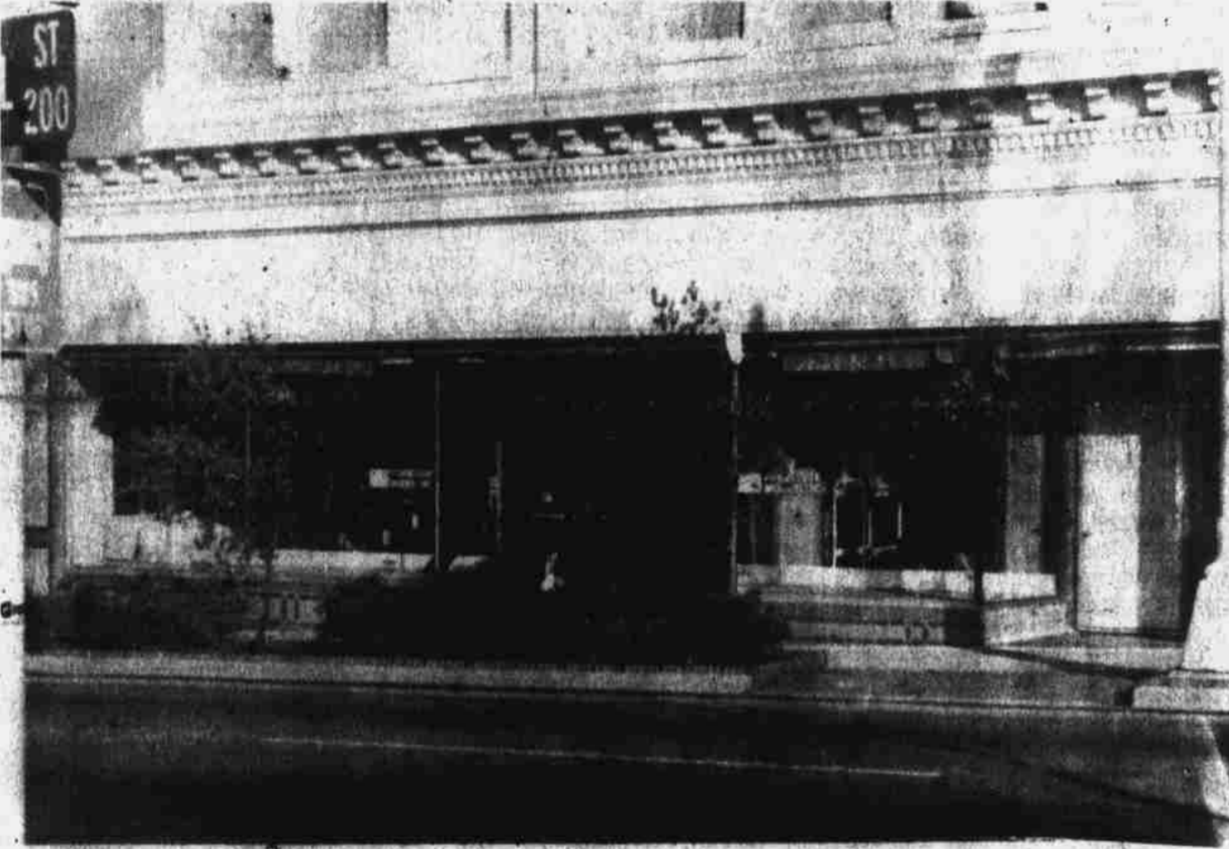
But even with all these complicating factors, the city has several alternatives it can choose.

One is to move the civic center location so that the disputed property is not a factor in the development. Most people interviewed agreed, however, that this is not likely occurrence.

Another option is to find a comparable piece of property downtown for Burtthey and Williams to relocate their business into, and pay moving expenses, along with a square foot for square foot property exchange.

The other option, of course, is to condemn the land. Finally of course, the city could pay what the businessmen want.

Both Burtthey and Williams declined comment. (Continued on Page 13)



**BUILDING IN QUESTION** - This furniture store - Furniture Moods - at 213 East Chapel Hill Street has been the subject of some tough negotiations as the city continues trying to amass the parcels of land necessary to begin work on the downtown civic center. The owners - Grover Burtthey and Owen Williams - want more than \$500,000 for the building, while the city has offered them \$120,000. Photo by Mayfield



**Mrs. Hall Goes to Congress**

State Senator Katie Hall (D-Gary) thanks supporters after she was chosen to represent Indiana's First District in the U.S. House. Mrs. Hall is the first black and third woman to represent Indiana in Congress. She takes the seat left vacant by the death of Democrat Adam Benjamin. UPI Photo

## State's Black Lobbying Office To Open in Raleigh

By Donald Alderman

Two historic events will converge in Raleigh in January.

When the N.C. Legislature meets, 12 black lawmakers will take their seats, marking the first time in history that more than five blacks have held seats in the state house and senate.

But at about the same time, a coalition of black organizations will open a lobbying office in Raleigh, marking the

first time that a fulltime lobbyist will work in the state capital to push for black concerns.

Supporters of the lobbying office say there are still some final details to be worked out before the office opens, but everyone is optimistic that everything will be underway at about the same time the legislature convenes.

"A group of us met last week," said former State Senator Henry Frye, "and we're still

working on it. But it looks like we'll have the lobbying office when the legislature convenes."

Frye recommended back in June that a lobbying office be established in Raleigh. He spoke before a joint convention of the state's black lawyers, doctors and dentists meeting in Winston-Salem. That was the first time organizations had held a joint convention.

According to members (Continued On Page 3)

## Local Police Brutality Suit Follows National Trend

By Donald Alderman

In several weeks when attorneys for Durham County go into court to try to prove that a county ABC officer is not culpable in an attack on Durham man during an ABC raid, the case will follow a rapidly growing national pattern.

Leroy McNeil, 26, recently filed a \$650,000 suit against the county, the ABC office, and ABC Officer Ronald Allen, claiming that the officer's attack was unprovoked and a vicious example of "police brutality."

McNeil, who says his hearing in both ears has been permanently damaged following a blow to the head allegedly delivered by Allen during a raid on a suspected "bootleg" house at 1006 Berkeley Street, is seeking \$400,000 in actual damages and \$250,000 in punitive damages.

The Durham case is just one of many suits occurring around the country in which citizens are charging law enforcement officers with police brutality. In many cases, the citizens are winning and juries are ordering large payments.

While charges of police brutality, especially against blacks, are not new, they do seem to be on the increase. For ex-

ample, the U.S. Justice Department statistics report that 45 per cent of the people killed by police in this country are black. There are no figures available for attacks that are not fatal, many of which often go unreported. In some of the nation's largest cities, such as Chicago and Philadelphia, statistics show that about 70 per cent of the people killed by police are black.

Police seldom face criminal prosecution on charges police brutality, because even in what often appear to be extreme cases, citizens have a hard time piercing the system.

First of all, many charges against police get lost in an official maze called "internal affairs," where police investigate themselves, and charges seldom, if ever, are discussed publicly.

There is yet another problem that helps police stay out of criminal court. It is what the Justice Department calls a "bad network" that includes police, district attorneys, judges and other law enforcement officials who rally around each other whenever charges are lodged.

Therefore, many people apparently believe

that the only alternatives they have when faced with alleged police brutality is to call for a federal investigation and file a civil suit.

According to one Justice Department official, the department gets more than 10,000 complaints annually about police brutality.

In the McNeil case, all

these factors appear to have led to the suit, filed just two days shy of the first anniversary of the alleged attack.

The confrontation came on a cold November night when three Durham County ABC officers moved in to raid a suspected "bootleg" house in the Wailtown area near Nor-

thgate Mall.

The house belongs to Mrs. Janet McNeil, who says she had agreed to let the officer search the house. Her son - Leroy - says he asked the officers for their names, and as he turned to get a pencil, Allen hit him with the heavy metal flashlight. (Continued On Page 7)



Ms. Julia Wilder, 70, (left) and Ms. Maggie Bozeman, 51, (center) were honored at Tuskegee last Tuesday by Dr. Joseph Lowery (right), president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as the Pickens County women were paroled on their voting fraud convictions. They returned to their homes in west Alabama after serving about ten months on special work release programs in heavily black populated Macon County. UPI Photo

## UDI Initiates Revolving Loan Program For Small Businesses

UDI Community

Development Corporation initiated its Revolving Loan Fund program by conducting the first advisory committee meeting recently. The program was established with a \$400,000 grant from the Economic Development Administration. It is designed to be a financial

source for small businesses located in or planning to locate in certain census tracts in Durham designated as UDI's Special Impact Area. Special emphasis will be placed on the UDI Industrial Park.

According to Ed Stewart, executive director of UDI Community Development, "UDI/CDC has funds available on a loan basis to provide 'support financing' to small businesses while helping them obtain technical and management assistance. These funds are the major elements lacking in most small businesses. We want to put these funds to work, so we are eager to begin servicing applicants that satisfy the RLF criteria."

Stewart noted that "the primary step in organizing the RLF program involved the development of policies to govern the operation and an advisory council to ensure that the policies are properly implemented."

The advisory council constitutes a cross-section of persons involved in daily activities related to governments, banking, business development, corporate finance, and management.

A major role of the committee is to analyze

applications submitted for loans and to make recommendations to the Staff and Board of UDI Community Development Corporation. "The role has major significance, because the success of the program depends on the loans being repaid with interest."

Stewart emphasized that very attractive elements of the RLF are: (1) the interest can be less than that charged by commercial lending institutions, and (2) a payment schedule can be negotiated and governed by the ability and potential of the borrower.

Criteria for loans have been established, and UDI/CDC is prepared to begin receiving applications. Once an application has been recommended by the advisory committee and approved by the Board of UDI/CDC, funds could be available within 2-5 days. This factor is very important because so often, if borrow has to wait 1-8 months, for his funds, a change in the economic environment may create an economic situation that can not be addressed by the loan requested.

According to Stewart, "the primary purpose of the RLF program is to stimulate and sustain economic development by assuming a greater

(Continued On Page 19)