



HERBERT CARTER, director of Operation Breakthrough, pledges support to NECD program.

POLICE CHIEF JACKIE McNEIL offers prayer at NECD Partners Against Crime.

## North/East Central Durham Initiative To Offer Security

By Ray Trent

An initiative to create a more secure living environment was launched in August 1993 with a workshop held at Greater St. Paul

Church in Durham. The morning long session brought together members of city and county government, the Durham Police Department and various citizen

groups.

The overall plan is to target a section of Durham called North/East Central Durham —

roughly a 96-block area containing, 1,884 housing units and 4,272 residents.

Police Chief Jackie McNeil has identified East Central Durham as an area devastated by crime and conditions that breed drugs and crimes of violence.

Data indicate that the population in the area has a disproportionate share of the city's youth, households headed by a female, low income households, unemployment and low education

achievement. All of these factors point to the need for intervention beyond simple law enforcement.

The new program will utilize the "Weed and Seed" concept in which intense coverage by the police CATT team will weed out the crime element; other community agencies will act immediately to alleviate the causal factors and enhance the areas of housing, employment, street maintenance and improvement, sports and recreational programs, fire

prevention in a surge to eliminate the problems that cause crime and hopelessness.

Funding is already included in the 1993-94 budget which would allow the Police Department, Fire Department, Transportation, Employment and Training and Planning Department to conduct the activities indicated in the initiative.

Further progress and community meetings (time and place to be announced) will follow.

## N.C. Doctors Concerned Clinton Plan Lacks Details

By Estes Thompson  
Associated Press

Doctors feel left out of planning the Clinton health care reforms and worry that it could hurt a physician's relationship with patients, the leader of North Carolina's doctors said Tuesday.

"It seems to me we have been saying to the state Legislature and the Clinton health planning team, please let us be a part of the process," said Dr. Mac Mauney, president of the North Carolina Medical Society.

"Their attitude seems to be that we can't let the fox in the henhouse. The doctors I hear talking about this issue don't like being portrayed this way. ...Nobody seems to think we have anything more than a self-interest in this." The medical society has more than 8,000 of the state's 14,000 practicing doctors as members. The society and its national counterpart, the American Medical Association, have been pushing for health care reform more than three years, Mauney said in a telephone interview from Asheville.

"We all believe it's necessary," he said. "Whenever we raise a question, we are portrayed as being naysayers." Doctors and others say the Clinton plan lacks specifics.

"In each section, more questions are raised than answers given," said Professor Gordon H. DeFries, director of the Shep Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Months ago, people expected the Clinton announcement to be the outline of legislation. But that won't be the case when the president presents his plan to Congress Wednesday night, DeFries said.

"This is a discussion outlining what the issues are as the administration sees them," he said. "For example, there will be a suggestion that employers ought to be mandated in playing a role, but the specifics aren't there." DeFries has testified before congressional committees and met with the Clinton planners on health care issues. He is head of the Washington-based Partnership for Prevention, a nonprofit coalition that promotes the importance of preventive medicine to head off illness.

"I have been assured there is a genuine, sincere interest on the part of the administration in preventive medicine," but ideas for prevention that are known don't include obvious things such as cancer screening, he said.

"There's more promise here than there is actual concrete detail," he said. "I don't want it to sound like we're negative because this president has managed to get this on everybody's list of top discussion items. ...People in this country should be encouraged to think positively about this."

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