

# Racism Charged

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development of nearly an acre of land in 1974. However, he said that he never received an answer. He feels as though Haley shelved the plan.

"As time went on, someone else bided on the property and their plan was similar to mine," he said.

However, Oliver's plan was approved by the board in October of 1975. But, it was nearly three weeks before Oliver was notified about winning the bid, he said.

Haley contends that Oliver was given every possible extension available. "We tried our best to work with Dr. Oliver in his proposed plan," Haley said.

According to Haley, Oliver got a preliminary plan showing what he would do if he got the land. That was in September.

Bids were open on October 9, 1975. At that time Oliver had until December 8 to get his final plan into the office.

But, before the December deadline, Oliver wrote the commission and explained that he couldn't get the final plan in by that time. He was then given an extension until February 9, 1976, said Haley.

On February 2, Oliver wrote a letter to the commission asking that they withdraw his proposal since the ABC board was not going to enter into the lease with him. He also asked the board for his bid deposit.

"Obviously, time was not the problem," said Haley. "It's quite convenient to put the blame on someone else. The primary thing was that Oliver was unable to do what he said," Haley commented.

Guy Ward, director of the ABC board said there were three people who were trying to get the property and all had asked that the ABC board enter into their lease.

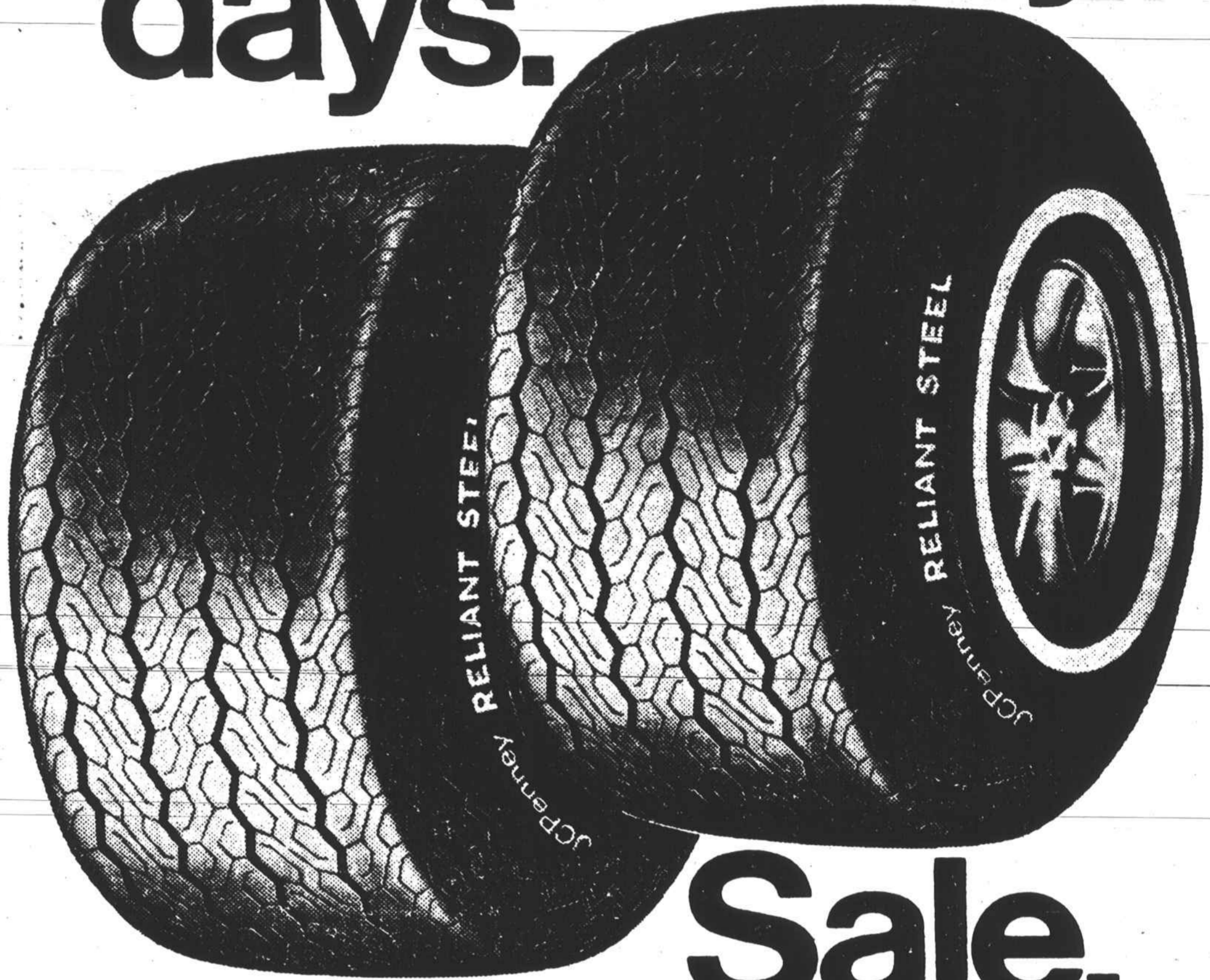
"What we did was take the best of the three propositions," stated Ward.

In regards to the commission being racist, Oliver made the following statement.

"I think black citizens have the right and should own business property in East Winston. For white politicians to scheme in favor of white people's interest is a great injustice and rip-off of the black citizens right as a citizen.

If this land is lost to blacks in our city, I think the voters should hold the mayor, the aldermen and other democratic politicians responsible. Why vote for people who pat you on the back for your votes, then turn around and rip you off when it comes to land, a place to locate your business and money in general."

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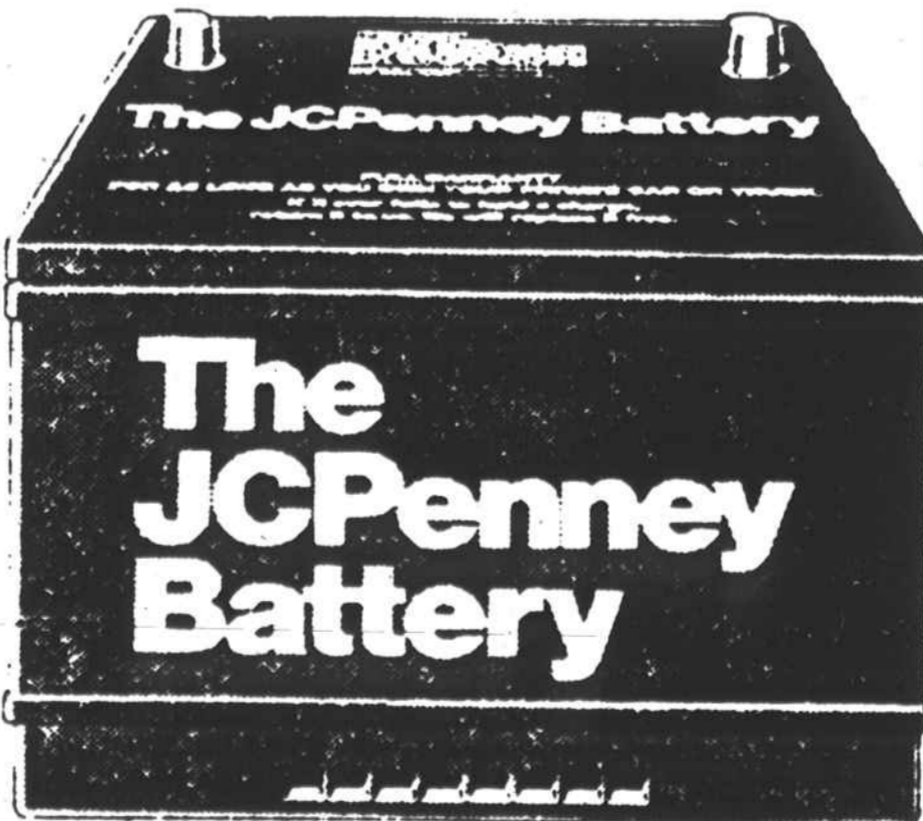
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