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Wachovia Settles Discrimination Suit

Food Stamp Program To Increase By \$1.4 Billion

by James Smith
Staff Writer

With the passage of a new food stamp bill, the cost to operate the program has increased to \$1.4 billion a year over and above the present level.

In a newsletter from Senator Robert Morgan, D-N.C., he stated that the most important change in the program was to remove the "itemized deductions" rule, by which millions of people who were not poor could qualify for food stamps.

"They could pyramid deductions for such things as home mortgage payments, private school tuition, alimony payments, medical and utility bills, and work-related expenses, and get their incomes down to where they qualified. Also, the Agriculture Com- See FOOD STAMP, Page 2

CETA Jobs May Last

by James Smith
Staff Writer

Even if President Ford and the U.S. Congress does not act on getting additional funds, the Title VI program of the Concentrated Employment Training Act (CETA) should be able to run a little longer than its expiration date, June 30.

Mrs. Florence D. Creque, director of Human Services here said that even though the expiration date is June 30, those persons employed under the program will be not laid off their jobs -- at least for a while.

However, she said it is not known yet as to how long the program can be expected to run.

A while back, President



Wine drinking and parking has been singled out as two chief causes of the plight of the downtown area. Unemployed men frequently drink wine in clear view of the public as shown here.

Winos-Parking Blamed For Downtown Demise

Winos and parking meters were blamed for the demise of the downtown shopping area by a local merchant at Monday night's Board of Alderman meeting.

Joe Choplin, owner of Joe's

Fine Foods on Sixth and Trade streets, said winos and bums were penetrating the area heavily. He placed responsibility for the situation on the city. "The city has neglected the area," Choplin said. "The city is slowly letting it become a ghost town."

The aldermen were in total agreement with Choplin but no immediate solutions could be found. Doing away with the parking meters was the closest anyone could come to a solution and even that was not a good one, according to Norman Pomrenke, Public Safety chief. "There is nothing downtown to draw the shopper," Pomrenke said.

However, Choplin insisted that it was the winos and the parking meters that "convince people to go elsewhere to shop." He said he was just about ready to hang it up.

Alderman C.C. Ross charged the police with playing a little game with the parking problem. "They (police officers) are quick to run up and give tickets," he said. Ross said that alcoholics are sick people. "We started off trying See DOWNTOWN, Page 2

\$879,520 In Payments Go To 1,400 Blacks

A proposed consent decree was filed Tuesday in U.S. Middle District Court in Greensboro to settle a civil rights class action suit against Wachovia. The suit was filed in July 1975, by four black women who were employed by Wachovia here. They alleged that Wachovia followed certain employment practices which were discriminatory to blacks.

In the decree which is subject to court approval, Wachovia denies that it has practiced discrimination and contends that its existing personnel and affirmative action programs have significantly increased employment and promotional opportunities for minority classes.

The decree provides for a strengthening of certain personnel programs and affirmative action plans related to the employment and advancement of females and non-whites. It also provides for incentive payments totaling \$879,520 to be divided among the 1,400 full-time black staff members employed more than six months by

Wachovia since January 1, 1970.

Julius Chambers, lawyer for the four plaintiffs said in a telephone interview that he felt the settlement was a reasonable one.

"I think the girls are very satisfied with their settlement," Chambers said.

Chambers stated that when the original suit was filed, it asked for back pay for the girls and all the other black employees of the bank.

"However, not every black person working at the bank will be entitled to back pay," he stated.

Chambers estimates the total costs of the settlement at nearly \$1 million.

Also, there will be about seven other persons who will receive money from Wachovia outside of the class action suit, he said.

In a press release issued by John F. Watlington, Jr., chief executive officer, he stated that Wachovia elected to negotiate a voluntary settlement "to avoid long, disruptive and costly litigation See WACHOVIA, Page 2

Soul City Founder- 'Blacks Still Enslaved'

by James Smith
Staff Writer

"Black people think they were freed by the 13th, 14th or 15th amendment, or perhaps they would like to give credit of their freedom to Abraham Lincoln. But, if you really want to give someone credit for your freedom, it should be given to Eli Whitney for inventing the cotton gin--the 'nigger' then became obsolete.

"It was all a matter of economics," states Floyd McKissick, founder and president of Soul City.

McKissick was the keynote speaker Wednesday night at a seminar and banquet for the



McKissick accepts award from Black Business League President, Johnny Williamson.

Business Action League of Winston-Salem, which was held at the Nile Club.

The seminar, which was entitled "Minority in Business" See McKISSICK, Page 20