

WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

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Wilmington 10 Case: Comes Out In The Wash

The old folks always said that things will come out in the wash, and this is what seems to be happening now in the Wilmington 10 case. The state's chief witness, Allen Hall, after four years has finally decided that he did not tell the truth at the month-long trial in October of 1972. He principally was responsible for the conviction of the Wilmington 10 on charges growing out of the 1971 rebellion in the port city.

In a nine-page statement, Hall has revealed the presence of a conspiracy that was long suspected, but not proven: That the state and federal governments had conspired to frame the Wilmington 10 on false charges in order to get the civil rights activists off the scene. Chief target appears to have been the Rev. Ben Chavis, who at that time served in the capacity of Director of Community Organization for the N.C./Va. Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Chavis was active in organizing protests against racism and repression all across the state. This conspiracy resembles remarkably in its substance the one that was earlier revealed to have taken place in the Charlotte 3 case, even to the point that the same federal agent, William Walden, took a leading part in both frame-ups.

This same pattern has been repeated again and again all across the country, as was

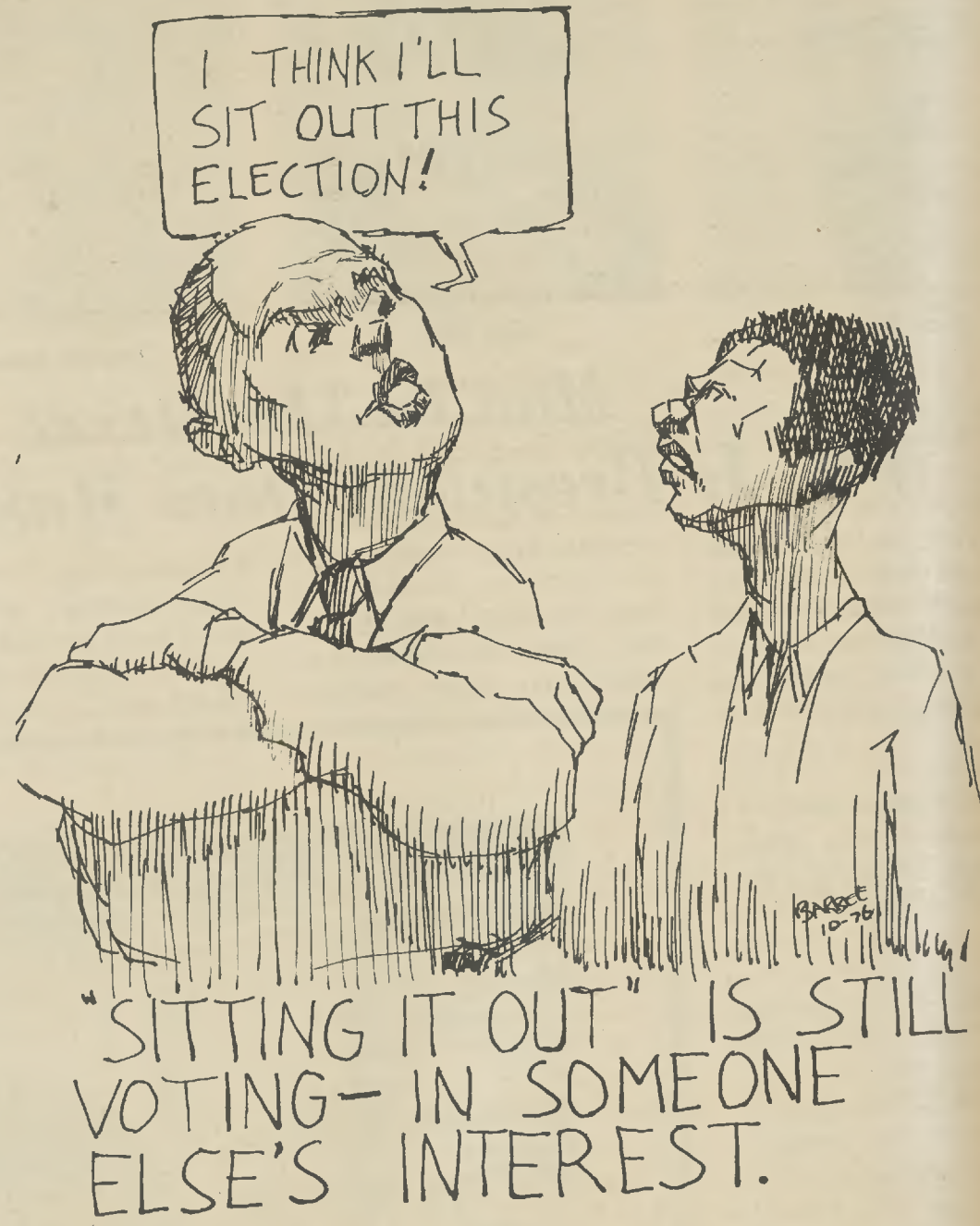
documented by the recently-released statements by high officials in Richard Nixon's government relating to the COINTELPRO of Third World and progressive white groups who were in the forefront of the movement for social change.

When we take the time to check out the history of North Carolina we find that frame-ups are part and parcel of the way in which the political system responds to demands for social and political change.

The Wilmington race riot of 1898, the dock workers rebellion in the same city in 1904, the Gastonia Strike of 1929, the Mack Charles Ingram frame-up in 1955, along with that of Junious Scales and the Henderson Labor organizers in 1958, Robert Williams in 1961, extending right up to today will give a clear picture of how justice operates in this state.

What happened in Burgaw in October, 1972, was not an isolated event, but an affirmation of history; a history of barbarism and butchery unparalleled anywhere in this country with the possible exception of the Deep South states of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.

It is the history of a ruling class fanatically determined to hold the reins of power absolutely -- whether through the use of the Klansman's white sheet and rope, or that of the black judicial robes of the modern Klan.



Removing The Poor

by Vernon E. Jordan

Remember those urban renewal programs of the 1950s that plowed up central cities, destroying homes and neighborhoods of poor people to make way for speculative projects that benefited the better-off?

Well, hold on to your hats because those days are on the way back -- at least if numerous housing experts, city planners, and urban theorists have their way.

Typical of the new thrust in city planning is the recent

testimony, before a Congressional committee, of a described in news accounts as "a theorist on the reconstruction of American cities."

He urged that the

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Letters to the Editor

Last week's editorial contained some interesting speculations about potential Black political leadership in North Carolina. As the writer indicated, probably none of these possibilities will materialize. He blames Black voter apathy and was harsh in his criticism of our failure to get out and vote.

What about newspaper apathy? Why don't you publicly endorse a slate of candidates as the daily papers do? Doesn't the Chronicle have an obligation to put its prestige and influence on the line? Can it be that you are afraid of alienating your affluent advertisers? Is it that you fear the loss of face that would result if those you endorse loose? Do economic or other considerations supersede your journalistic responsibilities?

As one who has twice suffered the loss of privacy and other personal costs involved in running for office,

I challenge you to take a similar sacrifice. Print an editorial announcing your support for candidates who meet whatever criteria you consider appropriate and make those criteria public. Neither race or political party affiliation should be a factor. Put your prestige on the line and support those who will, in your opinion, best serve the interests of the entire community. If subscriptions are cancelled or advertising withdrawn, so be it. Whether the candidates you endorse win or lose, your credibility as a responsible voice of the Black community will have been affirmed. Stop complaining about apathy and do something about it. Demonstrate some leadership instead of deploring the lack of it. Put up or shut up!

Sincerely,
Beaufort O. Bailey

I want to give my opinion on why Black people should continue to support the Democratic Party.

Many people have struggled and died to help Black folk the right way. I am a senior citizen. I have identified with the Democratic Party because of its struggle for equality. I have identified with the Democratic Party because of its struggle for equality. I have identified with the Democratic Party because of its struggle for equality.

The Democratic Party believes in equality for all people. This view is a basic belief that each of us should stand by. The Democratic Party responds to the needs of the people and has recognized basic rights. It is to our advantage to support the Democratic Party. Nov. 2 with the greatest of interest.

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