

WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

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Minority Businessmen Meet To Discuss New Bill

By Sharon Bratcher
Staff Writer

Winston-Salem's minority businessmen gathered at Winston-Salem State University August 10th to discuss the 4 billion dollar Local Public Works Bill, recently passed by Congress and now available to qualified local communities.

The bill specifies that 10% of the money in the

program must be spent with minority businesses, and the big questions among those at the meeting were: "How does it work?" and "How do I qualify?" Among those on hand to answer those questions were Estrelita Smith, of the legal office of the Offices of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) in Atlanta, John Duncan of the Mid-West

Piedmont Area Business Development Organization, and Walter Farabee, economic development coordinator for the City of Winston-Salem.

Winston-Salem has received \$1,612,000 of Public Works money, which is to be used for the construction of public works projects. According to Farabee, Winston-Salem plans to use its money

to fix up some of the city's tennis courts and to construct a building to house maintenance vehicles.

Those who qualify as part of the 10% minority business participation are companies in which 40% are minority group members, or in the case of publicly-owned businesses, those in which 50% of the stock is owned by

blacks, Spanish-speaking persons, Orientals, Indians, Eskimos, or Aleuts.

The minority businesses does not have to be a construction company in order to qualify. As long as the company contributes something to the project, and is paid for doing so, it is counted as participation. This could mean employing a black architect, hiring a black

firm to carpet the building, buying gas for the bulldozers at a black-owned gas station, or letting a firm of black accountants keep the books. Any and all of these may satisfy the requirements of the program. The figure 10% is intended as a Minimum figure, officials stated. It is hoped that minority involvement may exceed

that figure.

As for how one volunteers for the program, it was agreed that John Duncan of the Midwest Piedmont Area Business Development Organization will keep the list of those who wish to be considered. Those wishing to receive more information should contact him at 623 Walughtown Street, or call him at 784-7970.

Holy Church Rebukes Hunt

At its 8th annual convocation the Western N.C. District of the United Holy Church of America appealed to Governor Hunt to commute the sentences of the Wilmington Ten. Calling the case a "miscarriage of justice," church leaders strongly condemned the governor's refusal to "speak out with boldness," linking that refusal to political considerations surrounding the "pending referendum that would allow the governor to succeed himself."

Four Run In S.E. Ward

A third candidate has joined incumbent Eugene F. Groce and challenger Larry Womble in the democratic primary of the Southeast Ward aldermanic race.

Donald F. Holcombe, a former alderman, was forced to resign in 1973 when he pleaded guilty to accepting a \$5,000 bribe to rezone a lot on Reynolda Road.

Holcombe made his announcement to run for re-election last Wednesday in the office of Holcombe Motors, Inc. on Woughtown Street.

In his prepared statement Holcombe apologized to the people of Winston-Salem for what he called "a human error." "With great reluctance and mixed feelings," Holcombe announced that he would run for office. He is being urged to run, he said, by supporters in the Southeast Ward who circulated a petition asking Holcombe to enter the race.

Asked about the support of blacks in his ward, Holcombe answered that the top priority in his

Ten for arson and conspiracy arising from social disturbances in Wilmington during 1972 has prompted a number of local and national leaders and organizations to request intervention in the case. Despite direct appeals, Governor Hunt has remained adamant in his refusal to intervene in the case. The statement by the church group marks the first time the Wilmington Ten case has been tied with the succession issue. The controversial referendum is scheduled to be presented to N.C. voters in November.

Addressing itself to a number of other local and national issues, the Convocation urged the governor and President Carter to appoint more Blacks to "all levels of government."

In a series of statements on social issues the Convocation condemned "acts of violence, looting, stealing and other antisocial behavior," and further, "acts of systematic violence demonstrated in unemployment, underemployment, the cheating of merchants and other acts of racism." This statement was apparently in response to the outbreak of lawlessness which occurred in the ghetto areas of New York during the recent blackout. On the local level, the Convocation spoke out against what they termed, "The apparent efforts of the state of North Carolina to undermine the status and programs of the traditionally Black col-

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Angela Watson, a senior at A&T State University, accepts the title of Miss Black America of North Carolina in Friday night's pageant.

Angela Watson Wins Pageant

Angela Watson, a 21-year old senior at A & T State University, was selected as the new Miss Black America of North Carolina.

Miss Watson, who succeeds Phyllis Tabron to the title, performed a modern dance routine to the song "I Believe." She will represent North Carolina in the Miss Black America Pageant in Hollywood in September.

Another Greensboro girl, robin J. Simmons of Greensboro was first runner-up. Sherry Burnette Cobb of Kinston was named second runner-up. The third and fourth runner-up positions went to two local beauties: Winifred W. Straks of Winston-Salem and Janice Price of Walkertown. The Miss Congeniality Award went to Melanie Wheeler.

The pageant, which was emceed by WXII's Jane Harrington and Mr. Dan Andrews, was sponsored by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Proceeds from

See Angela, Page 2

Discrimination Is Leveled At Integon

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Reporter

Six black women employed by Integon Insurance Corporation have filed a class action suit against the company, charging that Integon discriminates against minority employees in hiring, training, performance evaluation, sick leave, promotions and terminations.

Herman Stephens, attorney for the women, five of whom are no longer with the company, stated that the suit asks for an injunction requiring Integon to cease its discriminatory practices against these persons and all other members of minority groups, and to reinstate them to their jobs, with commensurate salaries and the back pay they had missed since their dismissal.

The suit also asks for \$600.00 in punitive damages and the cost of the legal fees in bringing the suit. Liz Todd, one of the employees bringing suit against Integon, said that she began to work for Integon in 1976 as a filing clerk.

Several months later, she had to go on sick leave when an abdominal cyst required surgery.

"When I got back, my job had been filled," said Mrs. Todd. "They moved me around to five different jobs."

For a month, she said, she held a "grade five" job, higher in rank than her old job, but she was told she was not qualified to hold the job permanently.

"Black employees that Integon hires have to have some college but the white employees come from places like Pizza Hut," she charged.

Mrs. Todd was discharged from Integon several weeks ago. The company cited insubordination and excessive absenteeism as causes for her dismissal.

Eric Gordon of Integon's personnel department stated that the company position regarding the suit is, at this time, "no comment."

It is generally agreed among lawyers that class action suits are very hard to prove. As one attorney put it: "Any company who wants to discriminate usually uses a more acceptable excuse to do so."

Producers Of King Film Respond

SCLC-Film Distorts Image

Carolina Community News Service

Paul Maslansky, a spokesperson for Filmways Corporation, has responded to charges by several directors of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that the film "Martin Luther King" distorts the history of the civil rights movement, and defames many of the key civil rights figures, including the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, President Emeritus of SCLC.

Filmways is the producer of the 245 minute serial to be shown on NBC television stations much like Alex Haley's "Roots".

Maslansky says that the charges by SCLC officials are "natural" because for "everything is subjective from the point of view of the people who took part in the (civil rights) movement." Maslansky continued saying, "they have their own perspective. It's necessary to step back from it, that's why historians are so very important."

One critic of the film, Dr. C.T. Vivian, a former King aide and SCLC board

member, said in an interview that some scenes in the film were not factual and would be

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Three Candidates Now In Mayors Race

Cecil Butler is no longer the only candidate for mayor of Winston-Salem, although since Carl Russell is still deliberating, he is still the only black in the race.

As expected, Wayne Corpening, the former county chairman of the Democratic Party, announced Tuesday that he was entering the race. Corpening, who is a senior vice-president of Wachovia Bank & Trust Co., stated that he will put in for early retirement if he is elected, in order to devote all his time to the mayor's job.

The other candidate in the Democratic primary of

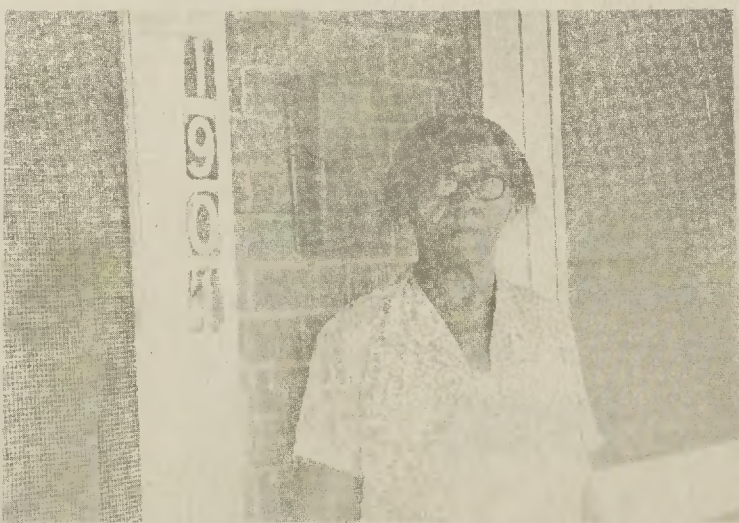
William G. Pfefferkorn, a local attorney, who has represented environmentalist groups, and is considered a "liberal" Democrat.

In his press conference, held at his campaign headquarters at 725 Bonhurst Drive, Pfefferkorn expressed concern over the growth pattern of the city.

"Will we allow Winston-Salem to become an urban sprawl with spectacular growth at the outside and decay in a growing circle in the middle?" He asked.

Mayor Franklin R. See Three, Page 2

Aldermen Clash Over Row Street Houses



Mrs. Lucille S. Edwards, a resident of Row Street, lives in a house with holes in the wall and no central heating while city officials debate over whether to

repair the houses or build new ones. Candidates Jon DeVries and Clarence Washington say repair; incumbent Eugene Groce says no.

A candidate for alderman and two incumbents clashed over a housing issue at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen's finance committee last Thursday night.

Jon DeVries, who is running for alderman in the Northwest Ward, criticized the committee for refusing to endorse a plan to renovate 15 houses in the Boston-Thurmond Street Community Development area.

The Fitzgerald Mortgage Company, which owns the houses, requests city approval to repair the houses in order to participate in the federal rent-subsidy program.

Aldermen Richard Davis and DeVries' opponent Eugene F. Groce expressed doubt about that

the houses were worth repairing.

"They don't have central heat or underpinning. They're poorly constructed," says Davis. "Groce is a builder and he once worked on those houses. They're not worth repairing."

Jon DeVries contends that the residents want the houses renovated, and that they want to remain where they are.

Mrs. Lucille S. Edwards, an elderly resident on Row Street, has mixed feelings about the plans, but she is sure of one thing: "They ought to do something."

She indicated the holes in the wall of her house. There is no central heating, either.

"I'd like to move to a

new house," she decided.

She does not want to live in a high-rise, though. "The neighbors would make too much noise, fighting and carrying on." Row Street is a nice quiet neighborhood, she said.

If the owners of the houses could bring them up to standard, at their own expense, the federal government would subsidize the tenants' rents, about \$200,000 for each five year contract period.

"I don't think we ought to spend money to keep black people living in slums," Davis insists.

Fix up the houses or move--the tenants on Row Street are still waiting for something to be done--and winter is coming.

Chronicle Weather Outlook

Partly cloudy. Highs in the 80s across the state; lows ranging from the low 60s in the mountains to the low to mid-70s elsewhere. Showers on and off today thru Sunday. Sunny and hot Monday and Tuesday.