

Carter Faces Reminders

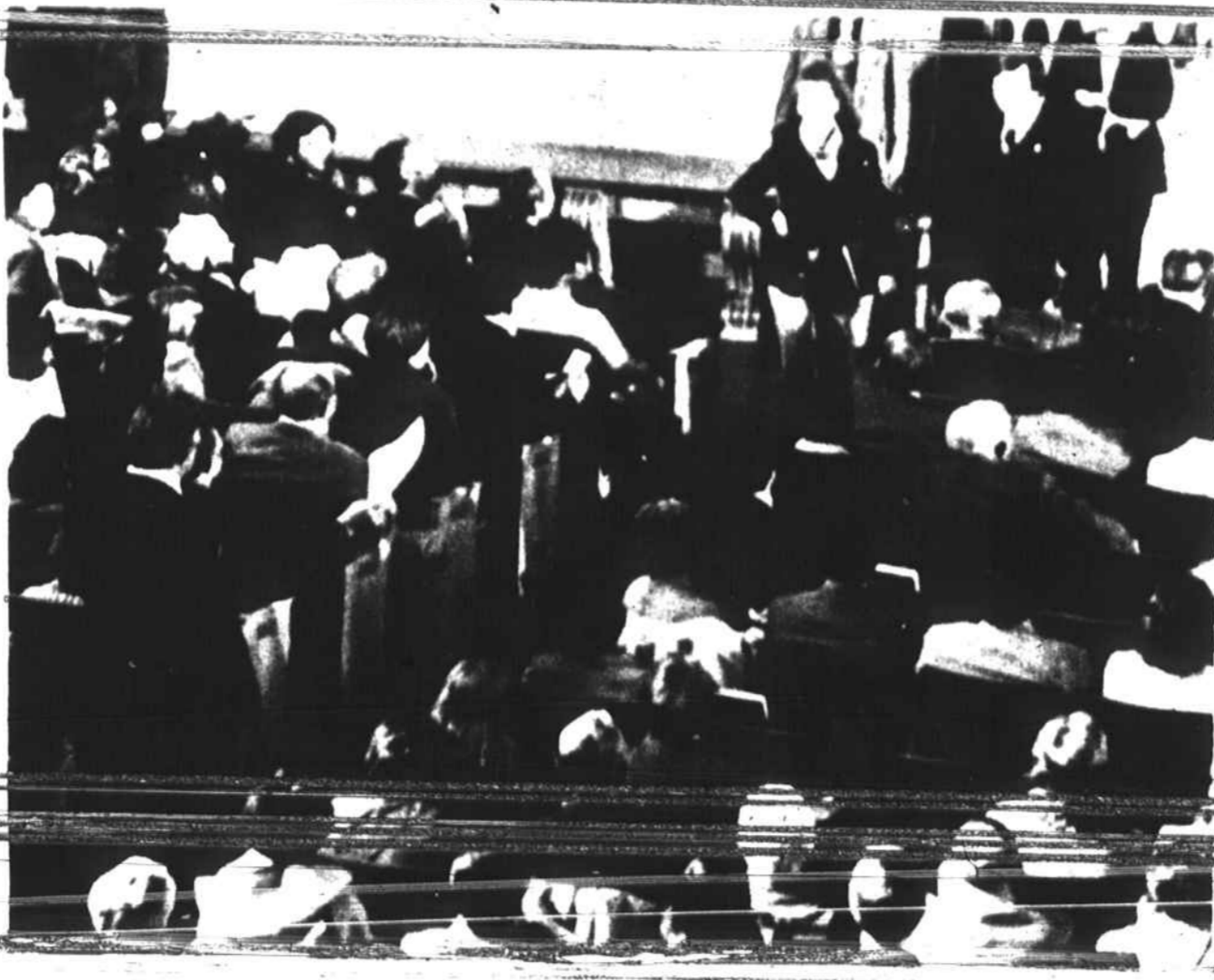
From Page 1
that many people are up in arms over the Califano mess," he stated, referring to the HEW secretary's anti-smoking campaign. "and I share that outrage. However, I believe that the people of the Fifth District are able, as I am, to disagree with the administration from time to time without losing respect for, the President of the United States."

in Wait Chapel emphasized the necessity of maintaining military strength in order to avert the possibility of a war with the other super-powers.

In a brief news conference after his speech, the president told newsmen

that the federal government most likely would not become involved in the Wilmington Ten case. He explained that the only way the federal government would become involved is in the court system. This statement seems to rule out the possibility of a presidential pardon for the Ten whose sentences were reduced recently by Gov. Hunt.

About 2400 Democrats and other invited guests were present in Wait Chapel for Carter's speech, which was restricted to invited guests only. Several hundred persons, including Wilmington 10 protestors, gathered outside the chapel to catch a glimpse of the president after his speech.



Joe Felmet interrupted Carter's opening remarks to present him a petition to free the Wilmington 10. The audience, many of whom were forewarned, pretended not to notice.

Felmet Petitions President Carter

By Sharyn Batcher
Staff Writer
Joe Felmet, a candidate for the U.S. Senate, has made the Wilmington Ten his own cause celebre, endlessly collecting petitions of signatures of those agreeing with him that the Wilmington 10 should be freed. He has delivered petitions to Gov. Jim Hunt and N.C. Attorney General Rufus B. Edmiston, but last Friday he was aiming for bigger game than that: Jimmy Carter.

He told the news media a few days in advance, and also informed the secret service of his intentions, so that none of them would get nervous...or trigger happy. He met Friday with no objections from those quarters, but the local Democrats were another matter. Apparently, they did not want to be "embarrassed" by a dissenting Democrat questioning a governor's decision. Felmet reported that Robert Stockton, chairman of the local Democratic party tried to persuade him to give up his tickets to the Carter speech, promising him that somebody else to hand it to the president. Felmet said he would think it over, and went to consult his lawyer. Apparently, he decided

Black Secret Agent Works Carter County

By Sharyn Batcher
Staff Writer
This is a story of an interview I never got -- but at least Joe Felmet didn't get shot or hauled away, so that's some consolation. It started at ten o'clock on the Tuesday night before the president was due in town. I answered my phone and heard the mischievous voice of a friend ask: "Hey, you wanna talk to a secret agent?" I had mentioned to her months earlier that I needed to check with a local FBI man about a story. "What have you got?" I asked her. "FBI? CIA? -- KGB?" "Nah," she sneered. He's secret service. He just guards the president, that's all. That's all. "PUT HIM ON."



This secret service man, complete with trenchcoat, is part of Carter's security force. He's almost as inaccessible as Carter himself.

Being somewhat unprepared for this gift horse, I didn't come up with any of the questions that Barbara Walters would have rattled off by heart. Instead I blurted: "Hello -- listen...if on Friday morning, a stocky guy in a cardigan sweater comes lumbering down the aisle, waving a paper at the president, don't shoot him. He's harmless." The genial voice that had introduced himself with "Hi there" in a soft southern drawl immediately turned to stainless steel. "What's his name?" "Joe Felmet. He's running for U.S. Senate, and he collects petitions to free the Wilmington Ten. He says he's going to hand one to Carter in Wait Chapel Friday morning." "I see. Just a minute, please." (I could practically see the wheels and gears go into operation.) He asked a few more questions about Felmet, and by that time I had formulated a few obvious questions to ask him. I was about to launch the first one when he said "Thanks for your help" and the line went dead. The next day, armed with all those unused questions and the feeling I just botched a golden opportunity in journalism, I called my "source" to see if I could have another talk with "the agent." "I'll try," she promised. Sure enough, later that day, the "secret agent" called our office, and I

explained that I wanted to interview him, because the CHRONICLE is a black newspaper, and he is the black secret agent who guards the president. "Oh, so Carter picked you for the job," I said making the connection. Wrong. He had been on presidential assignment seven years, he explained. The chief executive does not choose his own security people. For a further interview, he would have to get permission, he said, and promised to get back with me. The day before Carter's arrival, I had to go to the Holiday Inn North to pick up my press credentials so while I was there, I decided to drop in on the phantom agent. He wasn't listed at the front desk, so I called my press room and asked how to reach him. "Who?" asked the press agent, when I asked for him by name. I repeated it. "I'm sorry, I don't know who you mean..." "The black secret agent," I began. "Oh. Room 213." There's a moral there somewhere. Anyway I called his extension and he was there. "Just a minute," he said, upon hearing that I was in the lobby, camera in hand. "I'll call you back."

Fire Dept. Promotes Three

Winston-Salem Fire Academy St. Chief A.B. Bullard has announced the promotion of three members of the Fire Department effective Mar. 20. Glenn D. O'Ferrell was promoted from lieutenant to captain. He is now assigned to Engine Company No. 5 at 771 Palmer Lane. Fred E. (Pete) Harless moved from engineer to lieutenant and is assigned to Engine Company No. 12 at 3620 New Walkertown Rd. Thomas G. (Gary) Puryear was promoted from assistant fire marshal to driver/engineer of Engine Company No. 6 at 1717 W.

Gray High School and resides at Box 92, Clemmons. Puryear is a 29-year old native of East Bend. He graduated from Yadkin High School and attended Johnson C. Smith University. He started with the Fire Department in 1971 as firefighter and became fire marshal last year. He and his wife, Sarah, and two children live at 3612 Denver St. Harless is a 35-year old native of Bluefield, W. Va. he started to work with the Fire Department in 1963 as firefighter, became firepolice patrolman in 1964 and driver/engineer in 1973. In 1974 he served on the Public Safety administrative staff and in 1973 was reassigned as driver/engineer. Harless is single and

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