

Drummond Favors Merger

By Donna Oldham
Staff Writer

Whether or not to consolidate Reynolds Health Center and the Forsyth County Public Health Department, always a touchy issue, has resurfaced once again as an even touchier subject.

The issue was tested several years ago under former County Manager Nick Mizer and the final decision was to leave the two departments separate, however, Commissioner David L. Drummond has offered the consolidation proposal again and residents in the East Winston community are concerned.

According to Drummond, who offered the proposal Feb. 27, when the commissioners met at Tanglewood, the two county agencies could work in conjunction with one another since, as Drummond put it, "the health department does the screening and Reynolds Health Center does the treatment."

The commissioner said that he favors the merger for mostly economic reasons.

"I proposed the merger because number one, county management recommended it as feasible. I think the two staffs could be more fully utilized. There would be only one pay plan for employees where now there are two," Drummond continued, "you've got people working side by side, doing the same thing and they're on two different pay plans." Drummond said that pro-

bably his biggest reason for supporting the merger was the fact that Forsyth County operates four different laboratories.

"The labs should be consolidated and the technicians can be cross-used and cross-trained. The county would, I feel, utilize people to the fullest and save money."

Drummond said that a merger could also mean cutting some administrative costs. "I don't care who the administrator is; this isn't an emotional or a political question. I'm interested in saving the county some money."

He added that he would also like to see the Environmental Affairs agency merged with the health department.

While Drummond says he wants to save the county money, residents of East Winston say they are afraid that Reynolds Health Center will be taken away from them, just as the former Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital was.

They are also concerned about the possibility of RHC coming under the jurisdiction of public health director Dr. Thomas R. Dundon.

Dundon, who is also chairman of the Knollwood Hall Advisory Council was quoted in the Winston-Salem Journal newspaper on Feb. 2 as making questionable statements about blacks and low-income people; people which Reynolds Health Center serves almost exclusively. In his remarks, Dundon said "you

know, there are so many blacks that are living off the state all along, it's not their money to begin with."

Dundon refused to comment on either the merger, or the statement.

Former RHC Advisory Council Chairman C.P. Booker, in an appeal before the council last week, warned that the merger is not in the best interest of the black community.

Commissioner Drummond's primary concern is trying to get things under one umbrella, to do away with Reynolds Health Center. From all indications, public health department has never had black people's best interest at heart."

Booker added, "I thought we'd put this issue to rest."

Three years ago, the county did a study that verified that merging the two was not feasible and I don't think it would be now. My only interest is in informing the board of what was happening."

The study that Booker referred to was done by former assistant county manager A. Edward Jones, Paul L. Fulton and Gregory Bethea.

The study revealed that the two agencies could not function as one, because of too many conflicts in administrations and purposes.

According to the report, "After studying the areas

Trade Expo To Open Here

The North Carolina Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors, Inc. will hold a Trade Show, EXPO 81 at the M.C. Benton Jr. Convention Center in Winston-Salem, March 13 and 14, 1981. The Exposition will be open to the public Friday, March 13, 12 noon - 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 14, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. No admission will be charged.

The Annual Trade Show will be the largest plumbing, heating, cooling exhibit in North Carolina. Exhibitors will be displaying the most modern plum-

bing, heating, cooling equipment and techniques available.

The Exposition is being held during the North Carolina Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors' 71st Annual Convention at the Winston-Salem Hyatt House.

Highlights of the convention will be an Opening Breakfast Friday, March 13, with Horace "Bones" McKinney as the keynote speaker; and an Open Forum with the North Carolina Department of Administration, Division of State Construction.

"Drums of Fire" at WSSU

The Performing Arts Series of Lyceum Events at Winston-Salem State University will present "Drums of Fire" Saturday,

March 21, at 8 p.m. in the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium. "Drums of Fire" is a presentation of authentic African songs and

dances. The stage becomes a festoon of village scenes complete with exotic rain forest effects.

They are on sale weekdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the box office of the Williams Auditorium. Tickets are \$4, \$6, and

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Black Ribbons

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text, it becomes inescapable that we can't afford to wait any longer. Only the concerted and consistent mobilization of the Black community offers any hope of arresting the worsening picture for Black children," states Evelyn Moore, Executive Director of The National Black Child Development Institute. "Who, if not us," she asks, "will be responsible for Black children?"

The Coalition For Black Colleges and The National Black Child Development Institute point out that the wearing of ribbons successfully reminded Americans of our patriotic duty to the hostages in Iran. "This domestic tragedy is comparable to if not worse than the taking of hostages in Iran and black ribbons will remind us of our moral obligations to Black children. They will become a profound symbol of the tragic deaths and an equally evocative statement of our national solidarity to protect the defenseless," states Tony Brown.

The Black Children's Campaign also emphasizes the color black because of its association with mourning and when tied to the American flag, it vividly reminds Americans that the nation's morality is endangered. The Atlanta incident is a tragedy for all Americans.

The Campaign believes that this simple expression of moral support from the country would assist the families and workers of Atlanta as they face the stark terror of their situation and let them know that we share their deep sense of loss and anguish.

The Campaign is urging that Americans in addition to wearing a ribbon: volunteer to serve as an area coordinator; inform as many people as you can by passing out fliers in your community; call your radio and television stations urging them to publicize the Campaign and give appropriate news coverage to the Atlanta situation; endorse and solicit endorsements for the Black Children's Campaign.

For more information write: Black Children, 1463 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Chronicle Camera

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Frenchie Slade--"A lack of togetherness."
Kevin Michael Vaughn--"More jobs and have an equal chance of doing things."

Rickey Basket--"I'm not from Winston-Salem but it seems money problems. Also black colleges being integrated so rapidly."

Dianne Smart--"Finding adequate housing and being able to afford it and buying food."

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