

Hunt supporters

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confession was in jail on manslaughter charges in another case.

In Hunt's highly publicized first trial in June 1985, he was convicted of raping and stabbing to death newspaper copy editor Deborah B. Sykes.

Drayton and three women testified at the May 5 probable-cause hearing. Drayton said he, Hunt and Mitchell stole \$105 from Wilson and beat him to death. He said his conscience forced him to testify.

But now Drayton has pleaded not guilty. "Something is not right," Little said.

"Now Drayton, who once said he would accept the death penalty (for his part in the murder), says he is not guilty," Little said.

What's more, Little said, just as in Hunt's first trial, the police have rounded up witnesses whose accounts conflict and whose credibility is questionable. Anna Marie Davis, Barbara Jean Bason and Patricia Ann Williams all said they were eyewitnesses to the Wilson's murder, though none said they saw the others at the scene.

"They can get anybody out of one of these drink houses to say anything," Little said.

All three women admitted they had been drinking the night of Wilson's murder.

"They are trying to pin every unsolved murder in the black community on Hunt and Mitchell," Little said. "This man (Tisdale) is thoroughly corrupt.

He is the local version of Ferdinand Marcos."

Tisdale could not be reached to comment on Little's statements after repeated attempts to see him in person and reach him by phone.

Little said Drayton agreed to testify against Hunt after the manslaughter charges against Drayton were dropped. A deal apparently was cut, Little said.

Drayton was charged with manslaughter in the death of Mary Annette Smith in March. Drayton allegedly pushed Ms. Smith down a flight of stairs. At a probable-cause hearing, District Court Judge R. Kason Keiger dismissed the manslaughter charge against Drayton for lack of evidence, an action Little said was unprecedented.

"It's a rarity," Little said of no probable-cause being found in such a case. "It doesn't happen."

During Hunt's first murder trial, robbery charges were dropped against prosecution witness Johnny Gray (alias McConnell) after he testified against Hunt.

Drayton has denied making any deals with the district attorney at the probable-cause hearing.

Little said he was saddened when he heard news of Ms. Smith's death. "She was very helpful to me providing information on some of the state witnesses against Hunt," he said.

Although he denied any involvement with the second

murder charge against Hunt and the other two men, Tisdale was defeated in the Democratic primary, with black voters overwhelmingly supporting his challenger, W. Warren Sparrow.

Afterward, Tisdale said blacks used Hunt as simply a means of attacking and defeating him.

"Hunt was not the angel they made him out to be," Tisdale told the *Greensboro News & Record* in May. "They didn't give a damn about Hunt. They were out to get me, and they got me."

"It's absolutely a lie," Little said of his involvement. "When I began to work and raise questions about this thing in September '84 (when Hunt was arrested for the Sykes murder), I wasn't even remotely concerning myself with a primary that occurred in May 1986."

Little said he had known Hunt after living in the same neighborhood as Hunt for five years. He said he also was concerned that Hunt wouldn't be tried fairly.

North Ward Alderman Patrick T. Hairston said the two murder charges against Hunt are unrelated. "The first trial stunk so bad they are trying to clean it up with a second trial," he said.

Northeast Ward Alderman Vivian H. Burke declined to comment on the second murder charge against Hunt. Last year, Mrs. Burke asked the city manager to review the police department's handling of the

Sykes investigation.

The review led to a rearrangement of the department's murder investigation unit and the dismissal of James I. Daulton, the officer in charge of the Sykes murder investigation. Three other officers, including Chief Joseph E. Masten, received reprimands, and several unsolved murder cases were reopened. The Wilson case was one of them.

"We think a prime motivation for these second charges against Hunt is to clear Daulton," Mendez said.

Daulton was criticized for his handling of a police lineup where state witness Gray identified Hunt as the murderer of Mrs. Sykes.

Hunt was the fourth person in the lineup. After Daulton told Gray to write the number of the murderer, Gray wrote "1-4." Daulton testified that Gray meant, "The No. 1 suspect is No. 4."

Daulton also was accused, in an unofficial city manager's report, of giving contradictory testimony.

"People, both black and white, want a fair justice system and a fair police department," Mendez said.

The defense committee has raised about \$30,000 for Hunt's appeal of the first murder conviction and will continue to examine the second case, Little said. "The people in Winston-Salem have been very generous," he said.

Armenta Hummings to open summer Arts for Tots Project

The opening sessions of the Winston-Salem State University Arts for Tots Project will be held June 6 and June 13 from 9 to 9:45 a.m.

The opening of the 1986 summer project will be held with Armenta Hummings as workshop leader. Children 2 to 5 years old and their teachers will be involved in hands-on arts experiences.

Mrs. Hummings is a renowned concert pianist and arts education consultant.

Youngsters and teachers from area child-care centers as well as Arts for Tots staff members will be involved in the sessions.

For more information call Dr. Faustina L. Holman at 784-1935.

Mediation center

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the county jail for simple things that could have been settled," she said.

The center's board of directors has applied for funding through the United Way Inc., said David W. Burke, treasurer of the center. "The center will continue to operate and be solvent," he said.

Center officials have applied for city, county and state funds and are seeking donations from local businesses and foundations, Burke said. Center officials have requested \$9,730 from the city for the 1986-87 fiscal year.

Its request is part of the city's \$145,509,860 budget recommended by Mayor Wayne A. Corpening. The Board of Aldermen will consider that budget, including the center request, at its June 26 meeting.

East Ward Alderman Virginia K. Newell said she will support the funding of the center. "It does a terrific service for the community," said Mrs. Newell, who helped create the center as an outgrowth of the East Winston Crime Task Force.

Many companies will make

their decisions about charitable contributions in the fall, Burke said.

The center, located at 1201 E. Ninth St., has received funding from the Winston-Salem Foundation, the Kate B. Reynolds Poor and Needy Trust, the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Mrs. Menefee said.

"Those foundations have provided us with funds for our short-term needs," Mrs. Menefee said. "But we need to secure funding on a long-range basis."

The center deals with cases such as misdemeanor offenses, domestic problems, neighborhood disputes, small claims, landlord-and-tenant disputes and consumer problems. It has been praised for easing caseloads in the courts.

"We are here to provide an option to going to court," Mrs. Menefee said. "We have the time to look at the underlying issues

behind the disputes. The courts don't have time to do that."

Paul O. Cloud, who served as the executive director of the center for 18 months, said local corporations should realize the value of the center.

"The business leaders have a stake in this too," said Cloud, the affirmative action officer at Winston-Salem State University. "It is not only important to the black community; it is important to all of Forsyth County.

"It would be sad if the funding for the program ceased to exist," Cloud said.

Mrs. Menefee agreed. "The community would lose a good program if the center had to close," she said.

Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to the Neighborhood Justice Center, P.O. Box 436, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

Three plead not guilty

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Charlotte and Al Stein of Chapel Hill to defend Hunt on the second murder charge.

Ferguson and Stein are handling Hunt's appeal of his June 1985 murder conviction in the death of newspaperwoman Deborah B. Sykes.

Hunt, Mitchell and Drayton are charged with allegedly kicking and beating Wilson to death with an ax handle outside of an East Winston liquor house. Wilson, 57, was found dead in the 1700 block of Claremont Avenue on Sept. 17, 1983. He died of head injuries.

Hunt was sentenced to life in prison last June after he was convicted of the rape and murder of Mrs. Sykes, a copy editor for the Winston-Salem *Sentinel*. Black leaders say Tisdale helped railroad Hunt on flimsy evidence and a defense committee continues to raise money on his behalf.

—JOHN HINTON

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