

Womble, Oldham Urge Senate

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more private contributions were received and they paid for 20 percent of the program.

It's unreasonable for the House leadership to hold the program hostage by forcing the governor to raise that amount of cash," Womble said. "It doesn't seem reasonable to make it an absolute requirement."

Womble pointed out there are many other resources includ-

ing volunteers' time and donated facilities and land that is as valuable as the cash that would need to be raised.

"I can see the results of Smart Start in Winston-Salem. This is a program that needs to be implemented throughout the state."

Smart Start is now in 32 counties, but Gov. Hunt has proposed an additional 24 programs to begin over the next two years. One estimate said the Smart

Start expansion will cost an additional \$72 million.

Smart Start, which partners government and private enterprise, serves more than 8,600 children across the state. Smart Start's services include early education for 4 year-olds and preventive health care.

"I support what the Covenant with North Carolina's Children is trying to accomplish," Womble said. "I've worked with children for 30 years and we should be showing

compassion for our children. They shouldn't have to suffer for the actions of their parents."

And suffer they could, if the present cuts stand. The cuts in state funds would also affect the amount of federal matching money North Carolina receives. The Covenant expressed concern that the state could lose more than \$26 million in federal money that would go to low income children and families. They also contended that the

budget cuts aren't fair because families in the bottom 20 percent of the income scale would bear almost 40 percent cuts in services.

"We are alarmed by the cuts in the House budget that we believe would harm children and families," said Rev. Jimmy Creech of The Covenant with North Carolina's Children. "Cuts to children never heal."

Creech said the Covenant has collected more than 15,000 signatures on a petition that

urges the legislature to give children's issues priority and to support measures that will protect and support the well-being of children.

"We've got something tangible here," Womble said. "These petitions show there are people in the state who are concerned about our children."

The petitions were delivered to House Speaker Harold Brubaker, R-Randolph, and Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight, D-Dare.

African, African American Summit Focused on Trade

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bring Black Americans and Africans together for the future advancement of Africa. I wanted to build a bridge to close the gap (between Africans and African Americans). And on that bridge, improve jobs, education, business and opportunities for our children." And improvement on "the Mother Continent" was what conferees from over 40 countries set about to do in Africa's most western country. They spent the week-long conference grappling with how to propel this continent's countries into a new age of economic sufficiency as government donors become more tight-fisted with foreign aid.

"The only solution to Africa's problems is self-help," said Samuel Maligi, interior minister of English-speaking Sierra Leone. "The type of democracy you expect to see in Africa will fail woefully if we cannot alleviate poverty," he continued. "Africa is in a very serious situation," said Senegalese professor, Aly Ndaw. "We have to come up with alterna-

tives to aid. The American government will not always be there for us." Sub-Saharan Africa receives about \$800 million from the United States, which devotes one percent of its budget to foreign aid, most of which goes to Israel. Although numerous members in Congress are seeking to cut foreign aid to Africa, asserting that it has borne little fruit, according to conference reports, American assistance to Africans is currently less than \$2 per year for every man, woman and child there. But it is true that the area has generated little in the way of economic production and much in the way of child bearing. Africa's economies, and population growth, have been at a rate of just under three percent for the past decade. A World Bank report predicts that African economies will grow more in coming years, but at a far slower clip than those of Asian countries. Black leaders around the world assert that much of the problems with their economies stems from subtle racism that hinders trade between African countries and Western industrial-

ized nations.

Fourteen percent of sub-Saharan Africa's exports came to the United States in 1993, making America that continent's leading market. The U.S. is also the third-leading industrial supplier in the region. "If we're going to take advantage of the relationship between Africans and African Americans, there must be economic ties at the most fundamental level," said Edward Dennis, a Philadelphia lawyer. To bring about fundamental economic ties, Sullivan announced an America-based "Support Africa Campaign" to raise monies from black U.S. groups and link them with specific African countries with the greatest need for help in housing, education and business development.

Sullivan, 73, a long-time civil rights leader and former member of the board of directors of General Motors, has set his sights on improving conditions in Africa during his lifetime. His International Foundation for Education and Self-Help was founded after his success in

bringing about a set of affirmative action guidelines for businesses during apartheid South Africa which became known world-wide as the Sullivan Principles. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom award from President George Bush in 1991. Sullivan founded the Opportunities Industrial Centers (OIC) and set the course for training more than 1.5 million men and women for better jobs and careers. A retired minister, he is also credited with building and managing the largest shopping center owned and operated by blacks, Progress Plaza in Philadelphia.

Although politics was not at the forefront of discussions, many prominent African Americans who have made names for themselves in politics were there. Washington, DC - Mayor Marion Barry was there, as was Jesse Jackson, New York activist Al Sharpton, Gary Mayor Tom Barnes and Tuskegee Mayor Johnny Ford, former Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan and former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy. Other

delegates included comedian and actor Dick Gregory, a vice president of Anheuser-Busch and presidents of numerous historically black colleges and scores of people who are past and present officials of Sullivan's OIC movement.

H. Arthur Taylor, president of the domestic OICs, has attended all three Summits. He says, "This is the time for America to show its economic and moral strength to help with the

development of a struggling continent that is striving to rise and move ahead. It is a challenge for America that must not pass." Taylor, along with U.S. Secretary of Commerce, was to persuade their African counterparts to strengthen business ties with the U.S. Brown told the delegates that he would do what he could for U.S. aid to Africa, but "real economic growth has to be driven by the private sector."

Postal Workers Demand Equality

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Winston-Salem's Postmaster J. Mark Matics two years ago that racism existed in the city's main post office.

Matics said in November 1994 that he was unaware of the discontent among many postal workers and wondered why many postal workers would go to the media with the complaints instead bringing the disputes to their supervisors.

During Tuesday's rally, postal workers complained about the slow pace of labor negotiations in Washington, D.C. between postal managers and union officials. The

demonstrators also charged that Postmaster General Marvin Runyon of favoring the Republican congressional proposal of privatization of the postal service. Many petitioners carried the sign, "My Runyon is Unfair."

Other postal workers said that management wanted to reduce their pay by 30 percent and scale back sick leave and other medical benefits while increasing the retirement age for workers from 55 to 62. At the same time, managers would receive a 10 percent raise in their salaries, the protesters said.

During the protest, many motorists slowed down on the

Patterson Avenue to read the signs and look at the picketers, who labored under a warm May sun. A supply of soft drinks smoothed their thirst and gave them strength to protest for nearly four hours. There were some strange occurrences at the protest. A white woman pushed a stroller with a smiling black infant. As the pair walked along the sidewalk, the woman screamed, "We Want a Safe Workplace!"

Throughout the demonstration, an elderly white postal worker trimmed the grass and joked with demonstrators, many of whom ignored him.

Best Choice Kids Engage Artists

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exercises. Tim Douthit, Best Choice program director, said adults were pleased with the interesting questions the youth asked Lawrence.

"They asked some unbelievable questions," Hazzard said. "These kids were fabulous."

Douthit said sixth and seventh graders did all the research and made presentations to the fourth and fifth graders. Anita Simpson was one of those students who fired though provoking questions at Lawrence. Other students such as Patricia Crawford made drawings as a result of the Harlem renaissance project. One became the basis for an invitation for the Diggs Gallery

reception that took place after the session.

Hazzard said she hopes meeting Lawrence will have a lasting impression on the young people. "It was a very happy moment," she said. "I hope the memory will last for a lifetime."

The Best Choice Center, directed by Dorothy Graham-Wheeler, has 110 African American students ranging from kindergarten to middle school. Douthit indicated that there is a waiting list of over 100 youngsters.

There was a steady flow of art lovers and Lawrence fans seeking autographs following the session with the Best Choice Students.

Brooke Anderson-Linga, director of Diggs Gallery, said "I am thrilled at the response of the

public but absolutely amazed by the Best Choice youngsters. They are wonderful."

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Police Search for Suspect

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friend. "He was trying to turn his life around. He had just got out of jail. Nobody deserves to die like that."

At press time on Wednesday, Coad was still at large.

Paul Hay's mother, Gloria

Hay, said Wednesday that she hoped that her son's death would prevent other black youths from going astray. "God is the only one that our people need," she said soberly. "They need to believe in him instead of going into the streets."

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