

EEOC Speeds Up Case

Compliant Investigations

Special To The Post

Three hundred and forty of the 3,000 North Carolinians, who have filed complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and have gotten no response, may get their cases investigated soon.

According to Harris Williams, Charlotte-based Director of the North Carolina

EEOC, a mandate has come from the central office in Washington, D.C. to speedup the rate of complaint investigations from the current average of slightly less than 150 per month. North Carolina's speedup is part of a national drive to eliminate 12,000 cases from the backlog across the country.

The EEOC investigates cas-

es where race, sex and age discrimination have been charged by employees or prospective employees. The backlog has been criticized by North Carolinians as a manifestation of government insensitivity and neglect of the problems of minority citizens. Harris Williams appeared before the North Carolina Association of Human Rights Officials defending the program several months ago.

A former human rights official and now a complainant to the EEOC said to a reporter that she is concerned that a speedup of complaint settlement will lead toward inadequate time to investigate discrimination to the disadvantage of the complaining party. Ms. Beverly R. Mitchell, formerly Associate Director of the Raleigh Community Relations Commission (RCRC) and now a first year law student at Wake Forest University Law School, said that if the EEOC is going to speedup its investigation, some of the cases to be investigated might be better off left alone until more staff are hired and trained. Ms. Mitchell has a case now pending against the city of Raleigh which she said is two years old.

EEOC Director Williams agrees that the federal agency needs more staff to reduce its backlog but denies that rights of charging parties will be adversely affected.

Ron Ingle, Executive Director of the North Carolina Human Relations Commission, said when contacted that he is optimistic that the speedup will help many North Carolinians but did express concern that there not "be any lessening of the protection of the rights of the individuals or the companies involved. Certainly the speedup is needed because some of the complainants have to wait as much as 3 years to hear of any type of resolution of their situations," Ingle said.

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MR. AND MRS. JOHN DRAKEFORD
...Loyal church workers

Drakefords Celebrate Their 59th Wedding Anniversary

By James Peeler
Post Staff Writer

John Drakeford, who will be 77 years of age on October 18, and Lillie Mae Walker Drakeford, 74 on last May 6, quietly celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on the 23rd of September.

The loving couple rented a horse and buggy and drove seven miles to Heath Springs, South Carolina and waited until after evening service to be married by circuit preacher Rev. J.W. Robinson, who drove back to his other church, Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, in Keshaw, S.C. to perform the wedding ceremony.

The Drakefords were members of Pleasant Hill AME Zion Church when they got married. After moving to Charlotte, they joined Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, now pastored by the Rev. Morgan W. Tann, in 1925 and later joined East Stonewall AME Zion Church, pastored by Rev. James E. McCoy,

because it was more convenient.

At East Stonewall, Mr. Drakeford is Treasurer of the Steward's Board and has served as Preacher's Steward, and Class Leader.

Mrs. Drakeford is a Deaconess, a member of Steward's Board No. 2, and has sung on the church choir.

The Drakefords have three children: Johnnie Mae Flowers, 58, of Troy, N.Y.; Andrew James Drakeford, 55, of Charlotte; and Willie Lee Drakeford, 52, also of Charlotte. They have 14 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

Mr. Drakeford's hobbies are "sitting around the house and running this beagle hunting dogs." He raises hogs and cows and does extra hauling for enough work to "keep young".

He says, "I've got a good Subscribe to the Charlotte Post! Your support helps!"

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John's first assignment was Greenwood, South Carolina. Today, he works 115 miles of track as a track supervisor. John believes in working with the men and not just supervising. He calls this "railroad work." And says, "Railroading can be hard work but it pays off in career advancement and good wages."

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Livingstone Receives

\$562,600 Title III Grant

Livingstone College is the recipient of a \$562,600 Title III grant for this academic year, it has been announced by Dr. F. George Shipman, Livingstone president. Title III, Strengthening Developing Colleges, is a part of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and is administered by the Division of Institutional Development of the Bureau of Postsecondary Education. This is one of the agencies under the U.S. Office of Education.

The Title III program's mission is to assist in raising the academic quality of that group of institutions of higher education, which has been and continues to be primarily concerned with higher education for low-income students. Program priorities of Title III are: programs that have a major focus on providing a successful education - all experience for low-income students; programs that show promise for moving such selected colleges into the mainstream of higher education as a result of careful long-range planning and substantial improvement in the area of development and management.

Livingstone's proposal for Title III support successfully demonstrated that it fulfills the program priorities. Livingstone has been receiving Title III support for a number of years; however, the present grant, one of the largest in the nation, is the biggest grant received to date. The \$562,600 grant exceeds last year's by \$108,100. Dr. Shipman considers the size of this year's grant, "a vote of confidence in Livingstone's ability to provide the type of programs demanded by Title III priorities and Livingstone's capability for administering such grants."

Title III funds are intended to supplement the institution's own expenditures for such programs. Livingstone's grant provides supplement support for advanced faculty and staff development, curricular development, student services and administrative improvement. The grant also provides Livingstone with four

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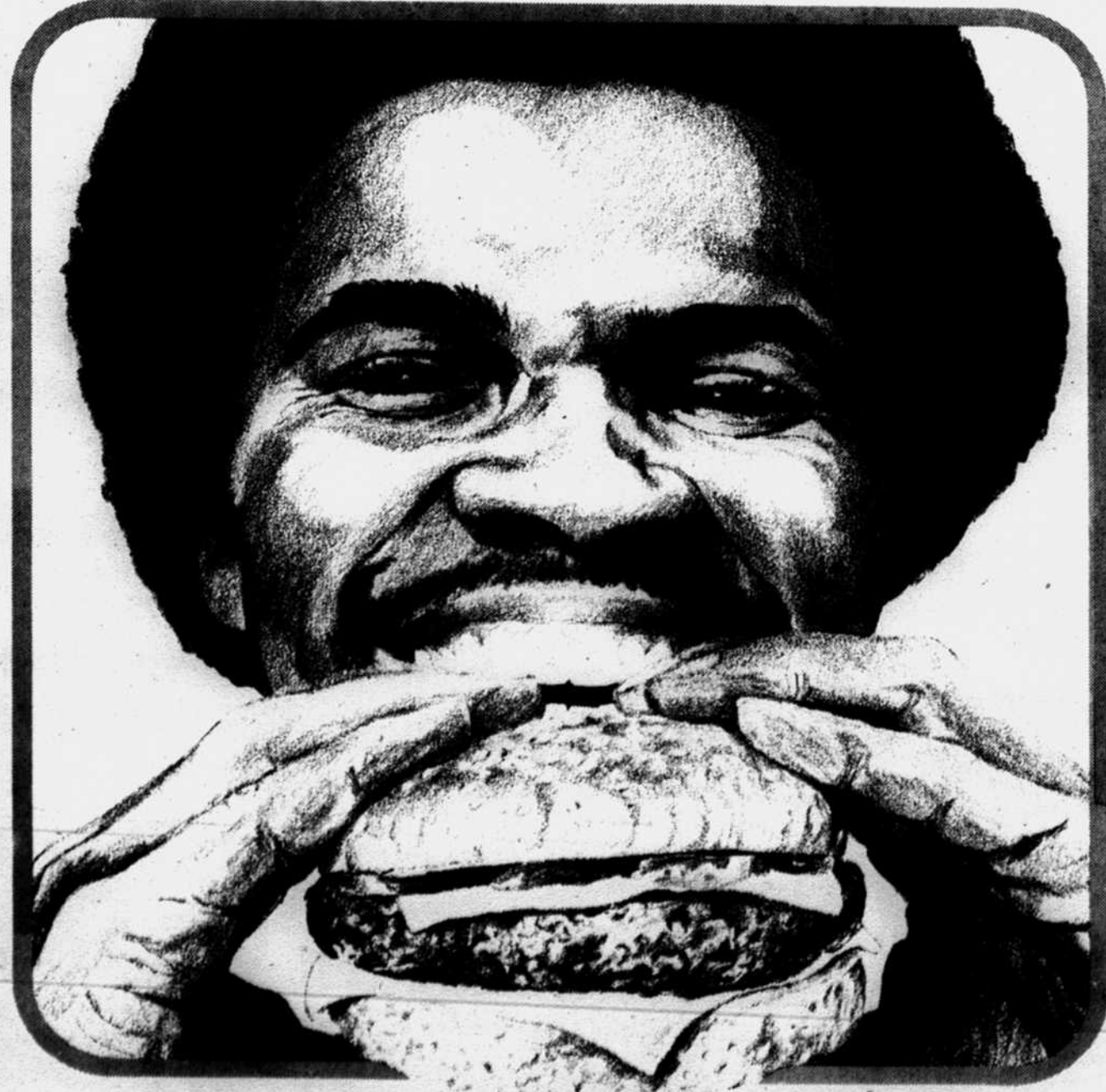
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