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## Harris Unveils Program To

## Aid Public Housing Projects

### CA To Protest Usage Of CD Funds

Members of the Plaza Hills-Villa Heights Community Improvement Committee, a neighborhood group affiliated with Carolina Action, staged a demonstration to protest the usage of Community Development funds.

"We feel that these Federal funds were set aside to benefit low and moderate income neighborhoods," said Mary Wells, a neighborhood spokesperson. "But often we've seen them go instead into creating more vacant property, clearing away slums to make a profit for developers. The process of neighborhood deterioration could be stopped at its root by giving people an incentive to fix up their houses. But this seems to have less of a priority with Community Development than real estate acquisition and clearance," Ms. Wells concluded.

The group held up signs reading, "Is an old house and an abandoned factory worth more than an entire neighborhood?" in their afternoon action at 10th and Brevard on Monday. This was to question the priority given by City Council to fund \$800,000 in CD funds to clear a block in First Ward, over putting the money into rehabilitation loans and grants and drainage work for over 100 homeowners in the Plaza Hills-Villa Heights area. The group questioned the motivation for the priority, since \$350,000 worth of property was bought up there in 1974 by the HFS Investment Corporation at the same time the strip was declared a CD target area. "This thing reeks of land speculation," said Shirleen Glover. "Otherwise, I can't see why a vacant lot would have priority over a neighborhood," Ms. Glover concluded.

Following the rally, the group went down to the Community Development offices on McDowell St. and presented Assistant Community Development Director Walter Phillips with a pair of glasses marked "Prescription for our Neighborhood." Said Mrs. Wells, "Way back in February, when the City Council extended the boundaries to include Plaza Hills in the target area, they directed CD to look for more money. Well, we figured it'd be so long they needed a little help.



LOVELY SELENA MCARTHUR  
...Cites main hobby

### Selena McArthur Is Beauty Of Week

Selena McArthur is the Post Beauty of the Week. Born in Concord, N.C., this artistic young lady is a Gemini. She cites her main hobby as being paintings, watercolors, and pencil drawing which she enjoys during her leisure time.

Selena also stated she loves to travel, but didn't fail to restate drawing as her favorite past-time. Selena is a graduate of West Charlotte High School and attended Central Piedmont Community College for one year. Job hunting led her to her present employment for Bib Distributing, a record distributing company, where she has been for one year. Selena indicated that she is interested in working with record promotions and feels that in working at Bib, she is in the right place. "I like it," (working at Bib) "and I would like to continue working here. I plan to learn as much as I can about it and would love to work as promoter for one of the Black labels, such as Casa Blanca Records, etc. Bib is a good place to start," Selena affirmed.

The daughter of Ms. Sadie

McArthur, Selena has spent most of her life in Georgia where she lived in both Atlanta and Savannah before moving to Charlotte three years ago. Her philosophy: "I believe in living life to the fullest, being happy—not worrying all the time, content."

Selena attends Greenville Memorial AME Zion Church. Selena's artistic abilities don't terminate at drawing. She is also involved in creative dancing, something she began quite some time ago. While she was still in Georgia, she put on several shows which she arranged herself.

Selena's love of music covers a wide spectrum of categories, and covers everything from jazz to country western, "any kind," she exclaimed.

Selena describes herself as "more or less a communicator because she likes meeting and talking to people. Like any other normal young lady, Selena said that she likes guys, and is very wise in being choosy. Guys she likes must be very honest and down to earth; and she also added, "I don't like people who jive around."

### \$209 Million Program To Upgrade Living Conditions

Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris this week committed the Department of Housing and Urban Development to a \$209 million program to upgrade the living conditions and management of large urban public housing projects. The program involves three Federal agencies in addition to HUD.

"Since its inception in 1937," said Mrs. Harris, "the low-income public housing program has provided housing for millions of families and individuals who could not afford housing in the private market."

Despite the fact that the majority of public housing projects provide decent homes for many Americans, Mrs. Harris acknowledged that there are some that have not lived up to expectations, particularly in large urban areas.

"Although troubled projects represent only a small percentage of the vast public housing inventory," said the Secretary, "the problems they generate loom very large for the tenants who have to live in them."

The Secretary attributed the presence of troubled projects to a number of factors including: inadequate initial design, financial difficulties, management problems, crime and vandalism, and neighborhood conditions.

In unveiling the Public Housing Urban Initiatives program, Secretary Harris said: "This is another example of the Carter Administration's coordinated approach to solving urban problems. Since these problems are multifaceted and cut across several Departmental jurisdictions, the single approach by one Department would, in the long run, solve nothing. A comprehensive approach, combining different elements, can provide the necessary tools to solve these complex problems."

The experimental program will contain several initiatives including: A \$159 million targeted rehabilitation program designed to upgrade those projects which fall far below acceptable conditions. Among other things, the rehabilitation work could involve major structural changes, overall upgrading of the buildings and grounds and improvements to project security.

A \$15 million management assistance program designed to identify and correct the underlying management deficiencies which may have been responsible for the deterioration of the project in the first place. This could include installation of project-based management, and the upgrading of specific management and financial systems. An innovative \$32 million interagency anticrime program designed to improve the security and stability of public housing projects, without the necessary management and physical improvements cannot be effectively accomplished. HUD, FIA, Labor, and LEAA will participate in this pilot program.

A \$2½ million urban partnership program designed to encourage city governments to work more cooperatively with PHAs in such ventures as developing neighborhood and commercial revitalization

programs in public housing areas. The funds can also be used to improve the level and quality of community and social services.



Ulysses Ford ...Moves to Michigan

### Ulysses Ford Leaves City Government

Ulysses Ford (formerly employed by Public Works Administration) left Charlotte City Government July 11 to become director of the Solid Waste Department of the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In addition to sanitation services, the department he's joining handles forestry, parking and real estate services — an operation similar to our Public Works Department.

Ford came to work for the City of Charlotte in 1972. His duties here included working with all Public Works divisions in preparing administrative data and dealing with public requests for information and service.

Ford graduated from West Charlotte High School in 1961, and is a 1965 graduate of Talladega University in Talladega, Alabama. He has also taken graduate courses at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Ford and his wife, Beverly, have three sons: Anthony, Steven, and Michael.

### New President Mechanics And Farmers Bank

J. J. Sansom Jr., senior vice president and Raleigh's city executive of Mechanics and Farmers Bank, has been named president of the bank. Sansom succeeds John H. Wheeler who died recently.

Besides the elevation of Sansom to the presidency of the bank, Mechanics and Farmers' board of directors changed four other top bank positions.

J. W. Goodloe was elected vice chairman of the board of directors; Jesse B. Anglin, Jr., senior vice president, was named executive vice president of the bank and was named to the board; Julia W. Taylor, vice president and manager of the Raleigh Offices, was named senior vice president and a member of the board. Mrs. Taylor was also appointed Raleigh's city executive officer for the bank.



SPEAKING OUT FOR JUSTICE  
Seen left to right at a recent press conference James Barnett, Rev. C. E. Dewberry and for David Miller at the University Park Baptist Church are Rev. James Palmer, Rev. Lonnie Graves. Post photo by Eileen Hanson.

### Local Gospel Choirs To "Sing Out For Justice"

By Eileen Hanson  
Special To The Post  
A "Sing Out For Justice" is planned for Sunday, August 6, in support of a young black man who faces the gas chamber in a "murder for hire" case. Sponsored by the David Miller Defense Committee, the Gospel program is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. at the Gethsemane Baptist Church, 2670 Dr. Carver Road. Various choirs are being invited to sing. Speakers will include the Rev. James Barnett (People United for Justice), Dr. Helen Othow (Wilmington 10 Defense Committee) and Bob Davis (Black Political Caucus).

The David Miller Defense Committee was formed two weeks ago by local black ministers and civil rights leaders who are concerned that the young man is being charged with murder on the basis of questionable evidence. Miller, 28, married and father of four children, is charged with first degree murder in the slaying of Julius Smith, shot near the First Ward Grill on Sept. 20, 1977. The only witness in the case, Terry Lyons, alleges he hired Miller to kill Smith for \$3,000, but that no money was ever paid. In plea bargaining, Lyons pleaded guilty to arranging the murder and he

faces at most a 10 year sentence. Bonnie Smith, wife of the dead man and Lyons's girlfriend, pleaded guilty to conspiring to have her husband killed. She was sentenced to 10 years.

Lyons and Smith are both white. Miller, who is black, pleaded innocent and faces the gas chamber if convicted.

The lack of evidence against Miller and disparity of sentences raised concern among several black leaders earlier this month. On July 3 the Rev. James Barnett and the Rev. C. E. Dewberry, of Gethsemane Baptist Church, spoke at a news conference calling for the District Attorney's office to drop the charges against Miller. A letter was sent to Joe Dozier, Assistant District Attorney who is handling the case. To date the ministers have received no reply. They are now seeking a meeting with Dozier on July 31.

"I find the David Miller case to be another frame-up in the making against a young black man," said Barnett at the news conference. "We are going to start now fighting for justice before injustice is done." Comparing the case to that of the Wilmington Ten and Charlotte Three, Barnett continued, "We had faith in the courts, faith that justice

would be done. After years of frustration and waiting, we have lost faith that the courts are halls of justice...We are going to stand by David Miller and fight for justice."

Rev. Dewberry, who is Miller's pastor, said at the new conference, "All black citizens of the community should stand up and let the city of Charlotte know we will not be brutalized any more." Referring to Dozier's statement that he had a weak case against Miller, but wanted a conviction, Dewberry said, "Miller is being used as a scapegoat."

The Defense Committee intends to raise \$3,000 for Miller's legal fees. The "Sing Out for Justice" Gospel program will be its first fund-raising event. The group also plans to participate in the August 20 "Wilmington Ten Sunday" called by the North Carolina Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. "Churches will be asked to make special observances that day for the Wilmington Ten," said Barnett. A march will be held at 6 p.m. from the main Post Office to Marshall Park. "The theme is 'stop the plots against black people,' including the Wilmington Ten, the Charlotte Three, and David Miller," according to Barnett.

Officers of the Defense Committee are Rev. Barnett, Chairman; The Rev. John Epps (St. Marks United Methodist Church), co-chairman; Dot Darby, Secretary; Rev. Dewberry, Treasurer. Also involved are the Rev. James Palmer (University Park Baptist Church), the Rev. Paul Drummond (St. Paul Baptist Church), Bob Davis, Carrie Graves, Lonnie Graves, and members of Gethsemane Baptist Church. The Committee will meet again on Sunday, July 30 at 5 p.m. at Gethsemane Church, 2670 Dr. Carver Road. For more information call Rev. Dewberry (376-4797) or Rev. Barnett (332-2250).

### At 21st Annual Convention SCLC To Tackle Black Economics

"Economic Justice: Basic to the Dream" is the theme of the 21st Annual Convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to be held August 15-18 in Birmingham, Ala., at the Metropolitan AMEZ Church. The Birmingham Hyatt House will serve as the convention hotel.

"In view of the Bakke decision, staggering black unemployment rates, the 'tax revolt' that threatens social programs and public-sector jobs crucial to black opportunity and President Carter's urban policy plan," said Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, SCLC President, "we decided to focus this year on achieving economic progress."

He concluded, "We will be analyzing the economy and how it affects blacks and the poor."

NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks, Special Assistant to the President, Martha "Bunny" Mitchell, E.E.O.C. Chairperson Eleanor Holmes Norton, Cong. Walter Fauntroy, Urban League President Vernon Jordan, and social activist Dick Gregory are among the Administration officials, civil rights leaders, lawyers and educators scheduled to address the 1500 delegates and visitors to the convention.

According to Lowery, among the topics to be discussed are the urban policy question, the survival of black



Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery  
...President, SCLC  
colleges, the Bakke decision, and "Proposition 13." One of the highlights of the four-day strategy session will be a service at the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist

Church, where four young black girls were killed in a 1963 bombing claimed by the Ku Klux Klan.

It has been 23 years since Rosa Parks sparked the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott by refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a segregated bus. The late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Dr. Lowery and others involved in the Alabama protest later organized SCLC in 1957.

SCLC has over 80 chapters and affiliates across the nation engaged in voter registration drivers, political education programs, and Operation Breadbasket, designed to promote and upgrade economic opportunities for blacks.

### Black Unemployment Sets New Record

Unemployment continues to be a major problem for millions of Black Americans, as actual Black unemployment jumped to a record 3.1 million in the first quarter of 1978, according to unofficial figures.

Utilizing the National Urban League's Hidden Unemployment Index, the unofficial jobless rate for Blacks rose from 23.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 1977 to 23.9 percent in the first quarter of 1978, according to the League's Quarterly Economic Report on the Black Worker. Although the official jobless rate for Black workers in the first quarter was 12.9 percent according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the NUL's

Hidden Unemployment Index found that "discouraged workers" accounted for the largest increase in hidden unemployment among Blacks, rising from 1.2 million to 1.3 million between the fourth quarter of 1977 and the first quarter of 1978.

Unemployment among teenagers continued to be a severe problem according to the report as this group of workers experienced the sharpest increase in joblessness among all Black workers with their hidden unemployment figure rising from 708,000 to 783,000, lifting their unofficial jobless rate from 55.6 percent to 60.2 percent. Officially, the number of Black teenagers classified as unemployed during the first quarter of 1978 was only half as large (354,000), while their jobless rate was recorded at 39.4 percent.

The report also indicates that contrary to usual non-recessionary trends, adult men bore the brunt of increased unemployment during the first quarter of 1978, while the number of unemployed women actually decreased among both Blacks and whites. The official jobless rate for Black men rose from 9.4 to 10.4 percent between the fourth quarter 1977 and first quarter of 1978, while the unemployment rate of adult Black women dropped from 11.3 to 10.9 percent.

**TURTLE-TALK**

If you are a self starter - your boss won't have to be a CRANK.