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THE CHARLOTTE POST

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"The Voice In The Black Community"

Vol. 5, No. 31

THE CHARLOTTE POST - Thursday, February 28, 1980

Price 30 Cents

North Carolina Tenants

To Establish State Chapter

Food Stamp Benefits May Be Cut

WASHINGTON--Food stamp benefits for close to 20 million Americans may be suspended June 1, Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland said today.

In a letter to the 50 governors, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories, Bergland said he has advised Congress that funds for food stamp benefits will be nearly gone by the end of May.

"Unless Congress appropriates additional funds by May 15, I will be forced to order a suspension of food stamp benefits effective June 1," Bergland said.

The food stamp program is running out of money, according to Bergland, because the legislative ceiling on expenditures for fiscal year 1980 was set at \$6.189 billion. That figure, established by Congress in 1977, was based on predictions that unemployment would average 5.7 percent in fiscal year 1980 and that food prices would increase 13 percent from fiscal year 1977 to 1980.

Each one percent increase in unemployment adds 750,000 to 1 million people to the program, while a one percent increase in inflation adds \$58 million to food stamp costs, Bergland said.

An extremely tight Congressional schedule and requirements of the budgetary process complicate the food stamp situation, Bergland said. Although the Senate has approved legislation to remove the cap on food stamp spending and the House Agriculture Committee completed its work on the measure Wednesday, action will still be needed on the House floor and in the Appropriations Committees of both houses.

But the actual appropriation of more money for food stamps may not be possible unless and until Congress passes a third budget resolution for fiscal year 1980, Bergland said. A second resolution approved in November has no room for additional appropriations of any size, and passage of the third resolution is not expected until at least mid-May.



REV. BEN CHAVIS CHATS WITH
...City Councilman Ron Leeper

Chavis Realizes

Victories Won; But Storm Of Controversy Remains

By Eileen Hanson
Special To The Post

Rev. Ben Chavis left Charlotte in 1970, amid a storm of controversy about a black studies department at UNCC, the rights of city sanitation workers to have a union, the counseling of black teenagers against the Vietnam War draft, and representation of black and poor communities on City Council.

When Chavis returned a decade later to celebrate his release from prison and to salute Black History Month, many of the things he had fought for in the 1960's have been realized, but the storm of controversy remains.

At the homecoming celebration, Feb. 17 at University Park Baptist Church, City Councilman Ron Leeper (District 3) presented Chavis with the key to the city saying, "If it hadn't been for Ben, I wouldn't be in position to

give this key today. I give it in recognition to Ben as a Freedom Fighter for a long time, struggling for equality and justice, a struggle that is never ending."

But the following Day Mayor Eddie Kox criticized Leeper's action, saying he wouldn't have given the key to Chavis because he was only recently released from prison.

Chavis and 9 others were convicted of burning a grocery in Wilmington in 1971 during racial turmoil in the port city. The case of the Wilmington 10 received international attention when Amnesty International declared them "prisoners of conscience."

"If the key to the city means anything at all and if the taxpayers are going to pay for it, then there ought to be some judgment used in who gets them," said Knox.

Outraged local black leaders called a press conference at University Park Baptist Church on Friday, February 22 in support of Leeper's action. They were also mad that the mayor's statement ignored blacks as taxpayers.

On Monday, February 25, Rev. James Barnett, Carrie Graves, Lucille McNeil and Rev. Lorenzo Seegars went to City Council with a speech and a check for \$3.64 - the cost of a key, plus sales tax.

"We think the mayor's statement is a slap in the face to the black community," said Barnett. "We don't like whites picking our leaders for us. We have the right to decide who gets keys, just as whites do. We shouldn't have to remind the mayor that he is an elected official and he should keep his private opinions to himself."

Ms. Graves reminded the Council that blacks and poor whites were also taxpayers.

NTO Plans All-Day

Conference In Durham

Tenants in North Carolina may soon have a means of communicating with each other. Plans for establishing a state chapter of the National Tenants Organization (NTO) will be presented by Jessie M. Gray executive director of the NTO, at an all-day North Carolina conference in Durham on Saturday, March 1.

The National Tenant Organization works for both public-funded tenants and those renting from landlords on the private market. It has affiliate groups all over the country. NTO keeps a lobby going in Washington, D.C. and has four representatives on the Housing Task Force with HUD. The NTO brings in proposals from its affiliated groups in different states. It can also mobilize to work for local strategies or state projects affecting tenants.

In the morning session workshops will be presented on North Carolina tenant-landlord law and community development (are these federal funds being used to benefit low-income tenants in this state?). Workshop leaders will include attorneys Donald Saunders of Legal Services of the Blue Ridge in Boone and Benjamin Erlitz of the Legal Aid Society of Northwest North Carolina, Inc. in Winston-Salem. Organizer Pat Bryant of Durham will deliver the opening address.

The conference is a joint project of two Durham-based tenant groups: West End Community Action

Group, which deals mainly with private housing tenants, and The Durham Tenant Steering Committee, which is composed of public housing tenants.

Elizabeth Terrell of the West End commented on the meeting. "I think it's wonderful; I hope it will do some good. I've been waiting for this for a year." As Zeima Smith, also of the West End, remarked, "North Carolina needs something like this - tenant rights are not looked to much around here by landlords."

Durham Tenant Steering Committee member Norma Burton felt the attempt to combine public, private, and subsidized tenant interests to be an important feature of the March 1 event. "I think that this state needs a private and public housing mobilization committee for tenants. There should be better communication between public and private housing residents. I think the resource people coming in will be able to help us accomplish this. It will be very educational for tenants in public and private housing on conditions, policies, and guidelines locally and nationally."

Neighborhood groups, experienced tenant organizers, legal advisors, and private citizens from Wilmington to Asheville have indicated plans to attend on March 1. The conference will last from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at McDougald Terrace on Lawson St. in Durham.

Food Stamp Shoppers

Pack Economic Punch

By Susan Ellsworth
Post-Staff Writer

Food stamp shoppers pack an economic punch despite their modest buying habits, according to findings of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

While most Americans spend only 60 percent of their income on necessities such as food, shelter, medical care and utilities, the poor spend 90 percent of their cash on necessities, USDA research shows.

With pressures imposed by poverty and inflation, money is spent immediately and quickly returns to the economy.

In 1979 the poor spent \$3 billion more on food than they would have without the food stamp program. Farmers received a \$1 billion share of the spending increase.

Greater food purchases by the poor increased the incomes of food processors and distributors by \$1.4 billion.

Use of food stamps has increased purchases \$481 million for meat, \$167 million for dairy products, \$87 million for fruits and vegetables, \$46 million for eggs, \$43 million cereal and bakery products and \$89 million for other farm-produced foods.

Results of a recent study

Third In Series

by USDA economists show food stamps have the strongest economic impact in the most disadvantaged counties. The majority of rural counties with the highest infant mortality rates are located in the South and Southeast.

Between 1967 and 1976 grocers in these counties saw their average food sales per person grow by 12 percent over other counties.

Food stamps accounted for nearly 16 percent of every dollar increase in these sales. Most other counties registered little or no increase in per capita retail food sales over the decade.

Economists say that if the program were cut, farmers would lose about \$140 million for every \$1 billion reduction in food stamp spending.

Food distributors, including processors, packers, wholesalers and retailers would lose about \$210 million annually.

Money spent on food would decrease by \$350 million, even though food stamp users would substitute some of their own money for the stamps that were cut.



ATTRACTIVE SHEILA CHERRY
...Takes one day at a time

Sheila Cherry

Is Beauty Of Week

By Teresa Burns
Post Staff Writer

Some people feel that the joy of life is living from day to day, without worrying about tomorrow. This is the contention of our chosen beauty, Sheila Cherry. She believes we should take one day at a time.

Actually, this may have some merit. Especially when you receive a check in the mail at the precise time you need it. There is even a television program called "One Day At A Time."

As far as our beauty is concerned, she just prefers not to worry about tomorrow.

"I take life step by step. I don't plan things in advance, and I don't worry about what tomorrow will bring," Mrs. Cherry began. "If you don't depend on what will happen next week then it won't fall through with disappointment."

There is no disappointment, however, about maintaining one's own identity and not forgetting where you came from, according to Mrs. Cherry.

In fact, Cicely Tyson is one of her most favorite people because of this reason. "I admire her. She hasn't lost her identity as a black," Mrs. Cherry commented.

Other favorite people in Mrs. Cherry's life include her mother, Bertha Hubert, her husband Curtis

Cherry and her daughter, Timika Cherry.

"It's demanding and challenging to be a mother. I am down to earth, but not too strict. I like to discipline my child to let her know what is right and wrong. The most important thing to teach a child is to respect their elders," our beauty noted.

At age 23 Mrs. Cherry has graduated from East Mecklenburg, is a member of Mount Moriah Baptist Church and is employed at NCNB Bank as a Proof Operator. Her position allows her to experience many aspects of the banking field. "I'll try to maintain a future in banking," she said. But she can also envision herself as a professional model. One day Mrs. Cherry could be bank president and a high fashion model, at the same time!

Her hobbies include dancing, "...it gives me a chance to loosen tensions," and sewing. She is a person who likes to do a little of everything and she enjoys being a member of a close-knit family.

Close-knit is how she wishes the entire world would become. "I'd like to see people's attitudes toward one another change. I wish we could get rid of all the prejudices," she stated.

Step by step, day by day - this is how our beauty, Mrs. Cherry, lives her life. And who knows, she might have a good point.

JCSU Observes

Since the 1957-58 school year, Johnson C. Smith University has held an Annual Women's Week during the first week in March.

This year is no exception. This year's observance will be held March 2-8.

The week is set aside to promote educational, spiritual, vocational, economic and cultural enlightenment of campus and community women.

The program is as follows: March 2, Breakfast for Campus Women, 9:30 a.m.; Student Union Main Lounge; 11 a.m., worship service, University Church; 6:30 p.m., "Tri-

Women's Week

bute to Black Women in Poetry," University Church.

Monday, March 3, Careers of Women, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 5, film and history night on "Women."

Here March 6

"Religious Activities Day" Will Open

28th NAACP Southeast Conference

By Susan Ellsworth
Post Staff Writer

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will hold its 28th Annual Southeast Region Conference March 6-8 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Charlotte. All meetings will be open to the public.

Activities will get underway Thursday, March 6 with Religious Activities Day. "In Search of World Peace" will be the theme. Whereas, most of the Conference will concentrate on blacks in the U.S.

A panel will discuss "Citizen Participation in Foreign Affairs" to highlight Thursday Activities at 4:30 p.m.

Participating will be Randall Robinson, Executive Director of the Trans Africa Organization, and Kelly Alexander Jr., member of the NAACP Board of Directors.

The public meeting held at Friendship Baptist Church in Charlotte, will feature Dr. Richard Arrington, mayor of Birmingham, Alabama as the guest speaker.



Kelly Alexander Jr.
...Board Member
Following the 7:30 p.m.

meeting a reception will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel for Dr. Arrington, delegates and friends.

About 500 delegates from the Southeast region are expected to attend.

Registration will take place Friday and Saturday between 8-5 p.m.

Friday morning at 11:30, a panel will discuss "Building Better Branches." Presidents and Vice Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers, and Standing Committees and Membership will make presentations.

After a membership luncheon the NAACP Task Force from 2:30-5:30 p.m. will examine education, employment, civil rights, and political legislature.

As an added attraction a performance of "Sizwe Banzi is Dead" will be presented at the Civic Center at 7:30 p.m.

Based in South Africa this Athol Fugard play reveals the plight of a poor worker who has been expelled from New Brighton and the authorities must take the identity and pass-see NAACP Page 4

TURTLE-TALK



The HEIR as well as the HAIR can often be trained properly through the use of a RUSH.