



Ms. Geraldine Thompson
...VEP executive director
Ms. Thompson

Is J.C. Smith

Keynote Speaker

A workshop to focus attention on the importance of the Voting Rights Act will be held on the Johnson C. Smith University campus on Saturday, May 8 from 12-3 p.m. in the student union.

The workshop, entitled, "Survival of the 80's", is being sponsored by the Student Government Association of Johnson C. Smith, the Vote Task Force and the Carolina Coalition for the Retention of the Voting Rights Act.

The Act is being described by many participants as "the most important civil rights legislation in the United States history." It will serve to enhance awareness and appreciation of voter registration and voter participation.

Keynote speaker for the occasion will be Geraldine Thompson, executive director, Voter Education Project, Atlanta.

Many local community and political leaders will conduct various sessions of the workshop. Workshop topics and leaders are as follows: "Political Gains Within Parties," Robert L. Davis, chairman, Mecklenburg County Democratic Party; "Services Available on the City Level," City Councilmen Ron Leeper and Charles Dannelly; "Voter Registration: Guidelines and Restrictions on the Board of Elections," Phyllis Lynch, chairperson, Mecklenburg County Board of Elections.

Others include: "Voter Registration and the Importance of the Role of the NAACP," Kelly Alexander Jr., NAACP; "How Politics Effect Human Services on the County Level," County Commissioner Robert Walton; "Utilizing the Vote in the Black Community," City Councilman Harvey Gantt; "Redistricting on a State Basis," civil rights attorney Julius Chambers; "Student and Community Relations in Politics," Terry Bellamy, acting director, JCSU Urban Studies and Community Affairs; and "Voter Participation in the Educational System," Rev. George E. Battle Jr.

The public is invited to attend free of charge.

Steele Bible

Class Plans

Closing Session

The A. O. Steele Community Bible Class will hold its annual closing session at Johnson C. Smith University on Tuesday, May 11 at 8 p.m. in conference rooms B&C of the student union.

The guest speaker will be the Rev. L. D. Parker, pastor of the St. Luke Baptist Church, Charlotte. Music for the occasion will be provided by the O'Conner AME Zion Church Young Adult Choir and the St. Luke Church Choir.

Certificates of merit will be given to participants in the class. This class has met each Tuesday night since September. An informal reception will be held immediately following the ceremony.

Officers for this session's classes were the Rev. R. C. Jones, president; Mrs. Bessie S. Cowan, secretary; and Ms. Pearl Ferguson, treasurer.

The class was taught by Rev. Reginald Dalton, pastor of the New Canaan Tabernacle Baptist Church of Gastonia.

The public is invited to attend. There are no fees.

Religious Leaders Launch Campaign For Economic Justice

Special To The Post
WASHINGTON - More than 50 U.S. religious leaders have launched a campaign for economic justice, hoping to "prevent the infliction of additional hardship on the most vulnerable group in the nation"—the poor.

Declaring "the poor have suffered enough," persons from Catholic, Jewish and Protestant faith groups urged others to join in the Interreligious Emergency Campaign for Economic Justice.

The campaign arose out of the current public and

congressional debates over last year's "severe cuts... in the programs that help poor Americans secure the necessities of life," followed by further major cuts proposed for the 1983 federal budget.

Those reductions and proposals—as they affect necessities of food, decent housing, medical care, and jobs—are specified in a detailed analysis prepared for the campaign by Robert Greenstein, former administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The campaign call declares "our vigorous opposition to all public policy proposals that would inflict additional hardship on America's needy people."

The goal is to persuade Congress to "preserve the integrity of federal programs such as food stamps, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, housing subsidies for low-income families, and Medicaid. That integrity, it declares, "requires both adequate funding and the retention of federal responsibility."

In its efforts to influence

lawmakers, the campaign is urging citizens to write their members of Congress once each week during the current session, to recruit co-workers within their congregations, to form groups to study the Greenstein analysis and other data, and to encourage other civic groups to take responsibility in advocating the cause of "the most vulnerable in your community."

The goal is both moral and political, according to the call, with a commitment which "our religious faith compels." The call

asserts that the principal reason for seeking economic justice for the poor is "our love for and loyalty to God and our deep conviction that God...loves justice, does justice, demands justice and is glorified in justice."

It recognizes that "persons of good will can and do differ in their judgments about what justice requires," but "we cannot remain silent when the moral stakes before the nation are so high that silence and timidity represent a betrayal."

The leaders express their

commitment to the campaign "because of our reading of what is at stake in the current political and economic situation." That includes whether the poor "will be unjustly compelled to bear intolerable burdens for us all or receive their dues as human beings," whether Congress will "remember the poor and secure the rights or ignore their plight," and whether the non-poor American people "will demand justice for the needy or remain passive while their rights and well-being are being jeopardized."

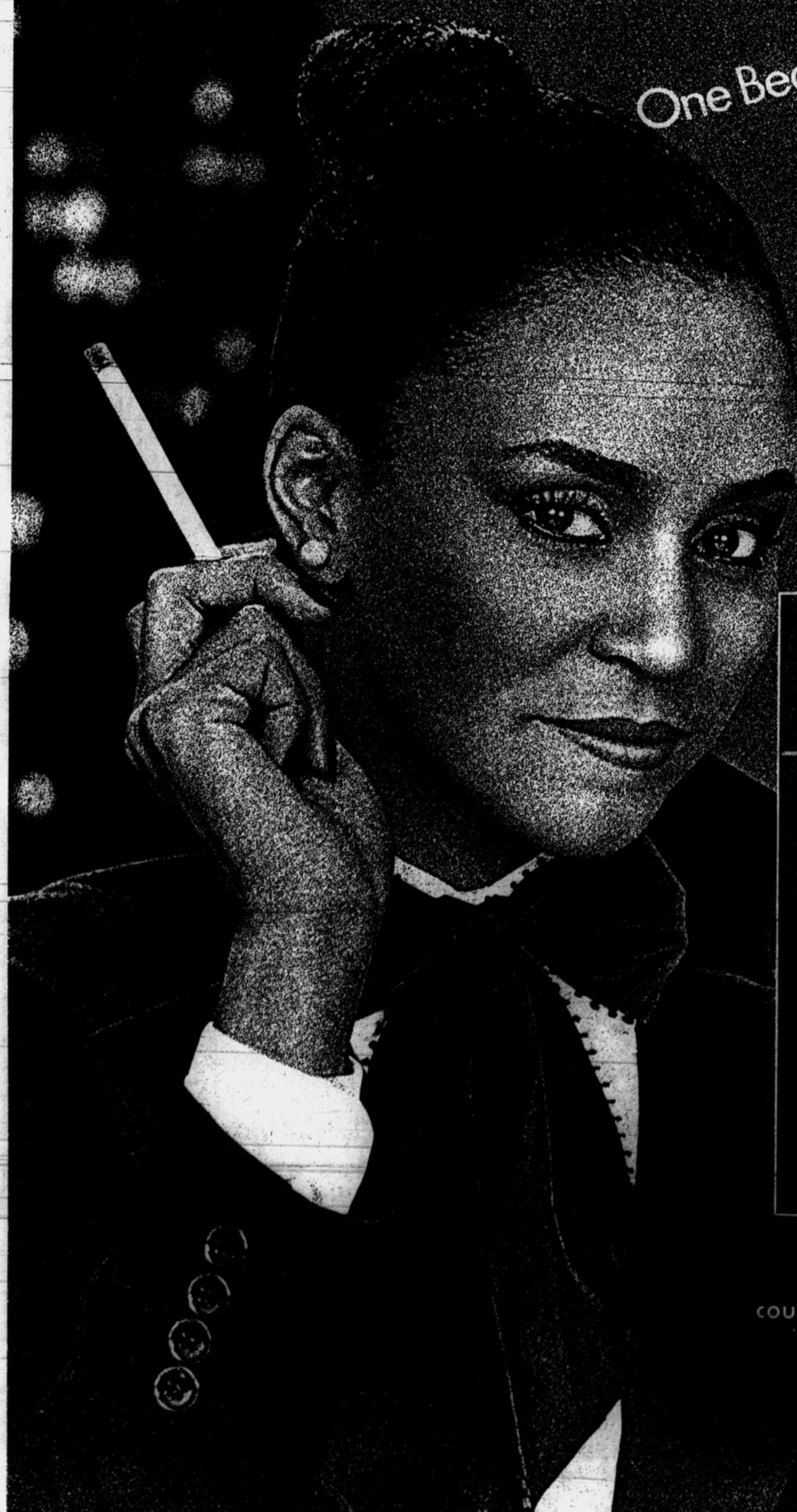
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The campaign's steering committee is chaired by Rev. Paul Kittlaus, Washington, director of the Washington Office of the United Church of Christ Office for Church in Society.

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