### 1982 Congress Reneges On Federal Relief Programs

Post Staff Writer

December 23, 1982 marked the eventual close of the 97th Congress. Following is an analysis of major legislative issues:

In 1932 when jobs were scarce and the United States was suffering from a Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt believed the government should assume more responsibility for the welfare of the nation.

grams like building roads, highways, buildings and parks were established to provide jobs until employment rose. In October 1982, unemployment in the United States skyrocketed to 11.6 million, according to

the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. President Regan in a recent statement at the White House. declared, "If there's one lesson we should have learned over the last two decades, it is that focusing As a result, federal pro- totally on government as

**Emmanuel Cheek Heads** 

## Northeast Optimist Club

The Northeast Optimist Club of Charlotte was officially organized recently with 36 men as charter

Emanuel Cheek, 6701 Cardigan Avenue, was elected president of the new club. It will meet at 10 a.m. on the first and third Saturdays of every month at St. Paul United Presbyterian Church. The Northeast Optimist Club was sponsored by the East Charlotte Optimist Club. James Ross, president of the sponsoring group was present for the establishment of the Northeast Optimist Club.

Both clubs are affiliated with Optimist International, an association of more than 3,600 service clubs in the United States and Canada. The total membership is more than 135,-000 men. They operate

**NEW ST. JOHN'S** New St. John's Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. Robert Leak, will hold Sunday service January 2 with the theme "Spiritual Security in 1983." This service begins at 11 a.m.

You are cordially invited to attend. The church is, located at 2000 St. John



**Emanuel Cheek** 

...New president under the slogan, "Friend of Youth," and conduct a wide variety of youth activities and projects in their communities.

Officers are Louis D. Rudisell, secretary-treasurer; David W. Hughes and Columbus O. Gillespie Jr., vice presidents; Donald M. Kincaid, George J. Morris, Shedrick E. Williams Jr., Lathan B. Phillips, Vonnie Brown and Charles C. Cathey, board of directors

The Northeast Optimist Club is also affiliated with the North Carolina District of Optimist International. Dr. J. C. Boone Jr. of Albemarle is governor of the district.

a vehicle for social improvement is the least effective method of improving the lives of our people."

Shortly thereafter, Congress killed a legislative bill that would have created emergency jobs for the millions who are unemployed in this country. Now unemployment statistics may continue to stagger unless some people with labor skills will be able to work when the massive highway and transit projects are underway.

While these may be federal programs, intended to create jobs, it's hard to view them as federal relief programs when they are funded by a five-cent gasoline tax increase passed by Congress last week. Instead of paying four cents tax for every gallon of gas American motorists will be paying nine cents.

Senators John East and Jesse Helms voted against the gas tax not only because of the five-cent increase, but also to prevent levying higher excise and user fees on heavy trucks.

At about the same time the American public begins paying higher gas taxes, members of the House of Representatives will be receiving an increase in their salaries. They voted themselves a 15 percent raise which will lift them from \$60,662 to \$69,800.

The Senate decided against a raise; instead it will receive unlimited outside earnings from public appearances, speeches and writings.

Another major issue debated on and killed was the MX Missile. The Senate and House shot down Reagan's plan to appropriate \$988 million for developing five MX missiles. However, Congress did agree to set aside money to research the MX missle. No development is expected to take place until Congress approves a basing system for the weapon.



Attorney and Mrs. Thomas Henry Wyche, of Charlotte, announce the engagement of their daughter, Gwendolyn LaNelle, to Randy Gene Harris, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Ernest Harris of Marshville, N.C. Miss Wyche is a graduate of Clark College. Harris is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University. The wedding will take place in June.

#### **Anderson Wins Top Prizes**

There were many people who felt lucky the day of the Southwest Charlotte Optimist Club raffle ticke: drawing. But only Charle W. Anderson would walk away with two all expense paid tickets for a trip to the Bahamas.

Anderson was one of thousands who contributed to the raffle which in turn helped buy 40 turkeys, 10 10 hams and fruit for needy families during the holidays.

Some of the proceeds were used for a Senior Citizens Dinner sponsored jointly by the city Housing Authority and the Southwest Optimist Club.

"These were attempts on the part of the club to take care of the needs of some families," according to Calvin Harris, president of the club. Vice president is Alvin Woods, and Charlie Mitchell is secretary-treasurer.

Members of the Optimist Club realize the many problems and despair hunger

can bring about. Mitchell emphasized, "We like to think of it as giving of cheer from the people in the community who gave donations.'

From Charles Anderson and others who donated by buying raffle tickets over 400 were served at the Senior Citizens Dinner and 50 families received food during the holidays.

#### RCH Day Care

Respite Care Homes of. Charlotte, Inc. is now providing before and after school services for developmentally disabled children and adults. RCH Day Care operates from 7-9 a.m. and trom 2-5:30 p.m. in school

On most school holidays and during summer vacation, the program operates full days from 7 a.m. to 5:30

This program is located at Metro Center, 700 East Second Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

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