

Towards The Year 2005

In a day-long conference on Tuesday under the heading "Urban Renaissance - Planning For A Livable Community," over 200 Charlotteans and other Mecklenburg County residents heard panel discussions and citizens' comments on housing, transportation and urban design. However, the main focus of much of the discussion and low-key but very evident controversy was over the concept of balanced growth.

A booklet entitled "General Land Use Plan 2005 A Working Document," has ignited controversy over land-use goals and policy proposals during a series of neighborhood workshops during the month of March. The document proposes policies for balanced growth and urban design and suggests controversial government regulations in land use of public facilities.

Mayor Harvey Gantt, the initial speaker on the opening panel discussion on "Land Use Issues" referred to balanced growth as meaning government attempts to redirect growth to areas of the city to avoid overburdening our roads, utilities and schools and to avoid increased traffic traveling through one neighborhood to get to another. Panel member Bill McGuire of McGuire Properties representing land developer interests, spoke of balanced growth as a means for government control that would inhibit growth and serve as a disincentive for economic development.

Growth Policy

A primary argument against a balanced growth policy is that it will cause land prices to rise in those areas where development might be encouraged to go. However, much if any such increases, could be off-set by the tax incentives that might be given the developer. On the other hand, to suggest that balanced growth is a land-use central technique is correct. However, it is necessary for the function of responsible government. Our point is, wherever development occurs local government must provide required public services - water and sewage, public transportation, police and fire protection and garbage collection services. Since all taxpayers share in these costs, government would be acting irresponsibly if it did not provide some direc-

tion to land-use and growth to assure fair and equitable service to all of its citizens with its limited resources.

Limited Market

During the question and answer session with the panel on housing, one citizen asked how can we, and why do we seek to predict what might occur 20 years hence? The panel members offered no answer to this very important question. However, Cetron and O'Toole raised a similar question in their book "Encounters With The Future: A Forecast of Life Into The 21st Century." They ask, "Why is it important to be able to predict the future?" In responding to their own question, they state, "Because times are changing so fast we can no longer prosper by adlibbing responses to future events." They add that predictions must be based on solid facts used in a rational way with unbiased reasoning to accurately forecast the future.

Giving some relevance to these writers' words, if we had known in 1970 that by 1984 we would have double digit interest rates, that an average 1,800 square foot house in Charlotte would cost \$82,000, that southeast Charlotte's unchecked growth would be causing a near imbalance in the use of public facilities, that developers generally don't want to build new housing in northeast Charlotte

because of limited market demand (only blacks, whites won't live there), that increasing numbers of people are moving into Charlotte and other Sun Belt cities from the North, or that tax exempt low interest financing would have led to such rapid

development in Fourth Ward and Third Ward, if we had had solid facts to make such predictions, what might we have done differently both publicly and privately, in terms of land-use policy and related issues?

We should note too that some panel members made the observation that developing a factual data base is necessary for the development of policies and strategies leading toward the year 2005.

The policy issues related to housing, transportation and urban design will affect citizens wherever they live and work in our city.

BLACKS WHO THROUGH THEIR SLAVE LABOR BUILT THIS COUNTRY, SHOULD NOW UNITE TO REBUILD OUR COMMUNITIES FOR THEMSELVES.



Lt. Governor Has Tremendous Influence

Dear Friend:

The office of Lieutenant Governor has tremendous influence on funding, policies, and legislation affecting children and youth. We encourage your support for Bob Jordan for Lieutenant Governor.

Bob Jordan understands the needs of children and has been a strong advocate for them in his eight years in the North Carolina Senate.

Bob Jordan has sponsored several pieces of legislation to increase funds for children with special needs. Bob Jordan has supported legislation to reduce class size in kindergartens and to improve the quality of day care for our youngest citizens. Bob Jordan has worked hard to assure that the rights of our most vulnerable children, the abused and neglected, are respected and that emotionally disturbed children receive adequate and appropriate treatment. These are but a few examples of Bob Jordan's deep concern for children and youth.

As Lieutenant Governor Bob Jordan is committed to establishing a Select Committee on Children and Youth in the North Carolina General Assembly to provide a visible forum for children's issues and to assure that children's rights are protected and their needs are met.

For our children's sake, please join us in voting for

Bob Jordan for Lieutenant Governor:
Pat Ashley Dolly Tate

M. E. Justice Pat Lloyd
Less Bobbitt Maria Petrea
Mr. Ray A. M. Brooks

Griffin Demonstrates Positive Leadership

Dear Editors:

It disturbs me to no end that candidate for School Board Arthur Griffin is being portrayed as one who would not cooperate with Superintendent Jay Robinson.

This, no doubt, results from Arthur's statement that some residents have expressed to him the belief that the present school board is of "rubber-stamp" variety.

Evaluate Candidates Carefully

Dear Sir:

I hope every voter will carefully evaluate the qualifications of each 9th District Congressional candidate and compare what they've done more than what they say they'll do.

Ben Tison's record speaks for itself while all the others can do is make promises. They have no experience. Ben's words are backed up by twelve years' experience as a legislator. As a State Representative and State Senator, he was always accessible, interested and understanding. He listened to what the people of Meck-

I have observed Arthur as he has demonstrated not only positive leadership potential but the desire plus willingness to render valuable service to our community via the school board.

Concerned citizens, join me on May 8 as I cast my vote for Arthur Griffin. We need the breath of fresh air he personifies - now more than ever before.

Daisy Spears Stroud

lenburg asked him to do and responded with action. In fact, he was consistently rated among the most effective legislators from all over the state.

The Ninth District needs a qualified, capable, experienced legislator in Washington. We need Ben Tison!

Omega K. Autry

PTA Meeting

Statesville Road Elementary School will hold its PTA meeting in the school's auditorium tonight at 7:30. After a brief business meeting, performances will be rendered by the band and orchestra.



AT&T And Consumers

As of April 3, United States telephone consumers were scheduled to start paying an additional \$2 monthly charge to cover a part of the local telephone cost - a cost that previously was subsidized by long distance rates before the break up of American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT&T). This was temporarily halted by the Federal Communication Commission and will be indefinitely delayed in response to Congress and objections to AT&T. Presently, only commercial establishments are forced to pay the access charge.

A recent opinion survey commissioned by BUSINESS WEEK magazine and conducted by Louis Harris & Associates, Inc. have found that most Americans were and are prepared to pay the access charge. And 58 percent of those polled stated that they are willing to pay the \$2 if long distance charges were reduced by an equal amount. In fact, AT&T had promised that as part of the package when implementing the \$2 access charge to gain public support.

Included in the survey, it was found that 63 percent to 32 percent of those polled are willing to live with a "pay as you use" method of supplementing local services. Under this plan the price of local calls would be planned to cover all costs: thus meaning heavy users would have higher bills.

If the poll proves any particular fact, it is that Americans are basically satisfied with telephone service in the U.S. and view the additional charge as a way of maintaining and improving it in the future. Nearly 72 percent of those polled view local service as excellent or good and long distance service as the same.

Unfortunately, the areas Americans are most happy with will turn out to be the weakest points in the service with the split of long distance, local service and equipment sales. However, only 53 percent of telephone consumers are happy with installation service on new telephones. Another 27 percent rate installation service as fair to poor. Repair service ratings vary in response: 55 percent of telephone consumers are happy with repair service, 24 percent are not and 21 percent are not sure. The reason for such results is due to the fact that only 25 percent of Americans have come in contact with the phone company on service, repair and installation as of April this year.

The pattern on the decision to rent or buy telephones vary. Two-thirds of phone users view the \$35 per month service charge as fair and necessary, and worth the money. However, only 32 percent view installation charges as fair and 45 percent view it as unfair. This dissatisfaction may disappear due to the fact that the trend towards the purchase of telephones is increasing - based upon the idea of do-it-yourself installation. Only 45 percent of American households have purchased phones new and existing: an additional 16 percent plan to buy phones and only a third plan to continue renting.

The findings of the BUSINESS WEEK, Harris Polls prove that Americans really have no real idea as to what the true meaning of the break up of AT&T really means. All the services previously taken for granted will become difficult to obtain and possibly expensive. Aside from the cost of services increasing the cost of long distance calling will potentially reach record levels. What will this do - force consumers to seek other ways to cut the cost - thus causing the upstart of other independent companies such as MCI and Sprint.

MCI and Sprint are wonderful ideas and their long distance rates are cheaper than AT&T. However, they fail to mention that local service is very limited and almost non-existent. AT&T will dominate a large portion of the telecommunications system throughout the U.S. and abroad. AT&T is the monopoly company at present; however, MCI is posing as a strong adversary first in long distance and potentially local service. Phone service and maintenance are viewed as being obsolete in the future meaning phone companies will not be responsible for phone servicing. Telephones will be like small appliances, the telephone companies like electricity: one is not responsible for the upkeep of the other. They are separate but dependent upon each other.

Consumer response to the \$2 access charge, installation, long distance service and other services will determine what AT&T, MCI, Sprint and other phone companies do to service consumers and how much they charge. So, consumer, stay alert and speak your minds - because it's your money.

From Capitol Hill

CA Policy Viewed As Invitation To War

Alfreda Madison Special To The Post
The Reagan Administration is seeking a peace goal attainment in Central America by killing, starving and maiming people. It is providing military mercenaries, training soldiers to fight on side of the repressive government in El Salvador, training and supporting militarily Nicaraguans who are fighting to overthrow the government, mining Nicaraguan ports and conducting military maneuvers in Honduras. Are these the acts of a compassionate man? Mining the Nicaraguan ports, shuts off the country's lifeline.



Alfreda L. Madison

military solution to the problems that I perceive to be political in nature."

Congress has already approved \$21 million for military facilities in Honduras. The Administration is asking for an additional \$8.7 million. This is viewed as military assistance. Dellums says "a military build-up that is too fast and out of proportion to the actual legitimate military needs of Honduras could actually set back the cause of democracy."

Witnesses disagreed with the Administration's policy that Central American conflict represents a communist challenge. Instead, the conditions spring from the crumbling old order because it has been incapable of meeting the changing economic and social needs. They admit that Cuba and Russia have given some support to forces in these countries,

but not of the exaggerated magnitude expressed by the Reagan Administration. The Administration's military solution is not working. It wants to overthrow the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua, to force the guerrillas to suffer in El Salvador and establish a government on our terms, said a witness.

Leyda Barbieri, the Washington office of Latin America, said, "The militarization and ideological polarization of Honduras have been actively fueled by the United States' policy. Honduras has become central to U.S. efforts to stem the spread of Marxism in Central America through military measures."

Barbieri stated that U.S. military aid to Honduras increased from 3.98 million in 1980 to \$78.5 million in 1984. Honduras spends six percent of its GNP for the military. The armed forces increased from 14,200 in 1979 to 30,000 in 1983 - one infantry battalion and three brigades were created last year. The U.S. has expanded military constructions.

It was reported, by witnesses, that far more serious than the military expenditures, are the atrocities against the people. There have been tortures, clandestine cemeteries, and jails, extrajudicial

killings and increased disappearances. Recently, resigned General Alvarez, whom the U.S. supported, is accused of corruption and repression.

Fred C. Ilke, Secretary for Policy in the Defense Department, attempted to defend the Pentagon policy in Central America. He stated that the American contingency facilities in Honduras, are Honduran facilities to which America has access. Ilke said it is not the Administration's goal to have permanent military presence in Honduras - such he said would be a tragedy. The only goal, the Administration has in Central America, said Ilke, is to strengthen democracy and aid economic development. He said U.S. national security and advancing human rights will be served by promoting democracy in the region.

James Michel Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, said, "The U.S.-Honduras partnership is a force for stability and hope in Central America."

Because of the recent inspection Central American trip and Subcommittee hearings, Dellums introduced an amendment to H.R. 5167 which would prohibit any U.S. funding for overt and covert military operations.

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