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Westside Citizens Fight County In Court

By HERB WHITE
Post Staff Writer

The westside fight to keep a proposed recycling station out of a predominantly black neighborhood has moved to the courthouse with the start of a suit against Mecklenburg County.

The case, which started last week in U.S. District Court, is being heard by Judge James McMillan.

The plaintiffs, Westside Coalition Against the Garbage Dump, maintain the county selection of the old Royster fertilizer plant on LaSalle Street as the site of a waste transfer station was racially motivated. The site became available when a fire destroyed the plant in 1985. Mecklenburg later revised its plans from a transfer station to



Watt

a 30,000 square-foot recycling center after negotiations with the City of Charlotte and a public outcry against the original

facility.

Residents who live near the site say any waste station would bring noise and pollution to the area, which is in the midst of revitalization with Project Catalyst. The project, conceived by business and civic leaders, is an attempt to bring commerce and improved housing to the area surrounding Johnson C. Smith University.

The county's attorney, Jim Cobb, maintained that the selection of the LaSalle St. site was not racially motivated and came after screening 200 sites in the county.

Mel Watt, attorney for the plaintiffs, said the selection continues a pattern the county has followed for years. He intro-

duced census data that outlined the percentage of "negative services" in black neighborhoods, such as garbage dumps, against the number of blacks in the county.

Mecklenburg is 26 percent black, the statistics point out, but 64 percent of negative services wind up in the black community, Watt said.

Cobb countered that the proposed site is located in an area zoned for industrial use and the recycling station wouldn't be as big a hazard as the fertilizer plant was.

"It always was and always will be zoned industrial," he said.

McMillan retorted: "What you're saying is the county wants the right to do at least as bad as Royster."

Most if not all of the 200 sites

considered for the facility were located on the predominantly black westside, Watt said. The county, by following its guidelines to locate the center, assures that it would land in a black community.

"If you have a criteria that says industrial, you have no choice but to say its going in the black community," he said.

Cobb said the outcry by westsiders is an understandable reaction by residents who fear an undesired addition.

"Everywhere you go there's resistance," he said. "What it all comes down to is 'put it somewhere else.'"

Watt introduced legal precedent in Baker vs. Kissimmee (Florida) and Washington vs. Davis as to prove the selection was based on race.

The facility, he said, will have a discriminatory impact, negative consequences for the area and shows Mecklenburg has a history of putting negative services in black communities.

Cobb said that argument has no weight because the county has put negative facilities in white areas as well, with an incinerator near UNC-Charlotte and landfills near suburban areas.

As an area of industry before it was zoned as such between 1949-54, the present-day residential makeup isn't a good indicator of the site's advantages, he said.

"There was industrial activity before it was even zoned," Cobb said. "I don't think it's fair to look at zoning versus the present population."

Unemployment Report Is Misleading, Says Hawkins

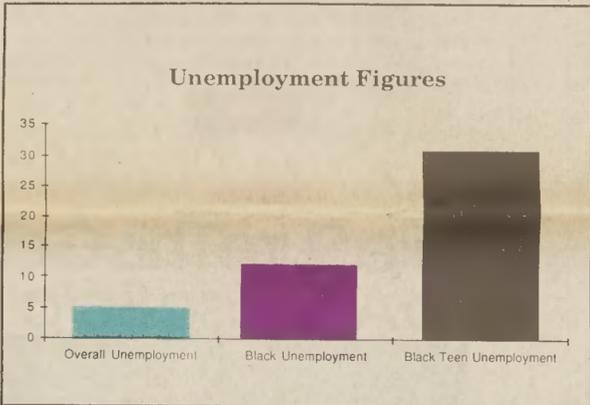
By Chester A. Higgins
NNPA News Editor

Washington, D.C.—The U.S. Dept. of Labor's rosy unemployment report for the month of April, detailing a 1.1 percent drop to 5.4 percent, the lowest level in 14 years, is misleading as reported in the media in that it does not represent the true widespread unemployment in the black communities across the country, Rep. Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Cal.), observed.

By placing emphasis on the macro economic picture, and ignoring the micro which reflects the true situation of black and Hispanic joblessness, the media, thus does the public a disservice, Hawkins says. "If you read the Labor Dept.'s figures, it is all there, even though you have to dig for it," he continued, "but the emphasis there and in the media is on the overall picture," he told NNPA, while the real picture is one of almost two economies, one black the other white.

Further, the Labor Dept. figures do not "look deeper at that growing group of unemployed who are no longer counted because they are no longer looking for jobs," said Hawkins who is a veteran congressman and chairman of the powerful House Labor and Education Committee. "These unemployed have simply lost faith and given up. While the overall unemployment rate is a very low 5.4 percent, black adult employment is 12.2 percent, more than double, and black teen joblessness remains a horrendous 31 percent, more than twice that of white teens.

The low jobless figures has



caused some economists to raise fears of impending inflation that could be triggered by full employment. Hawkins, who with the late Democratic Minnesota Sen. Hubert Humphrey, sponsored the famous Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill, said his bill envisioned a theoretical full employment rate at 4 percent. "But that is four percent for every group, black and white, not overall."

"We really need to zero in on micro economics --- really look at those groups at risk."

Janet L. Norwood, commissioner of Labor Statistics, told NNPA: "It's nonsense to say we are near full employment. We in

this country like to look at aggregates. We really need to zero in on micro economics --- really look at those groups at risk. It is clear jobs now are going to require a lot more education --- jobs in the service areas: banking, finance, computers, accounting, legal, technical health --- all these fast growing areas. Minorities concentrated in central cities don't have these kinds of educational skills at present. These must be addressed. Simply viewing macro economy and ignoring the micro will not address those who have been overlooked."

Hawkins said the Reagan administration places great store on these monthly labor reports, while cutting back on funding that would help black teens prepare to compete in the expanding service market.



MARY HATWOOD FUTRELL, president of the National Education Association, warned graduates of North Carolina Central University to avoid what she called the "microwave mentality" which causes many of today's youth to care more

"about the clothes on their backs... and the gold chains around their necks" than about their future or the future of the world. She spoke at NCCU's commencement exercises May 7 in Durham, NC.

Candidate Jesse Jackson Speaks Of "Reasonable Expectations"

By JOHN FLESHER
Associated Press Writer

GREENSBORO (AP) --- Jesse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination appears to have fallen short, but he and his North Carolina supporters are determined not to be treated as losers.

For months, "What does Jesse want?" has been a burning question in national politics. As the black civil rights activist won more caucuses, primaries and delegates than expected but not enough to become front-runner, speculation arose over what he

would demand of the Democratic establishment for giving the party's nominee his blessing.

Jackson did not answer that question directly during a recent visit to North Carolina. But in a commencement speech at his alma mater and in remarks at a Greensboro fund-raiser, Jackson dropped some hints. In so doing, he introduced a phrase likely to be a familiar refrain in the year's political lexicon:

"reasonable expectations."
Nearly a quarter-century ago, See JESSE on page 2A.



McDonald's Inn Ready For Opening

Charlotte - Best Western/McDonald's Inn will officially open with an 11 o'clock Grand Opening ceremony Thursday, June 2, 1988, followed by a noon, all-you-can-eat luncheon with owner John McDonald's special and personal touch. The new 105-room hotel is located on Beatties Ford Rd., at I-85 in northwest Charlotte and adjacent to his popular McDonald's Cafeteria.

"This will be a great moment for me and my family and I want to do this for the people, all the people," says McDonald about the special Grand Opening least he is preparing to follow the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The menu includes: roast prime rib au jus, fried seafood platter (scallops, shrimp and perch), baked Virginia ham, barbecue ribs, beef straganoff, and baked chicken; broccoli casserole, string beans, turnip greens, cream style corn, candied yams, lima beans, scalloped tomatoes, rice, and baked Idaho potatoes; homemade rolls, corn muffins, a variety of desserts, tossed salad, melon-in-season, iced tea and

McLean, Newsom Speak At BSC Commencement

Concord, NC--- She has said it for the last 14 years, but this year it had a special and final ring.

In her last ritual charge to a graduating class as President of Barber-Scotia College, Dr. Mable Parker McLean, who is scheduled to retire from the college June 30, 1988, challenged the seniors at the 121st commencement exercises Sunday to "never let your parents regret that you have become a college graduate."

"Listen to the sound of the word," said Dr. McLean, "a college graduate. Wear the title proudly, square your shoulders and let the world know by your performance, by your attitude, by your contributions, and by your concern for society that you are a college graduate . . . that it could not have been any better if you hadn't become such a person." "That is the challenge and the responsibility," she added as approximately 800 spectators and friends gathered on campus to witness the undergraduates receive diplomas.

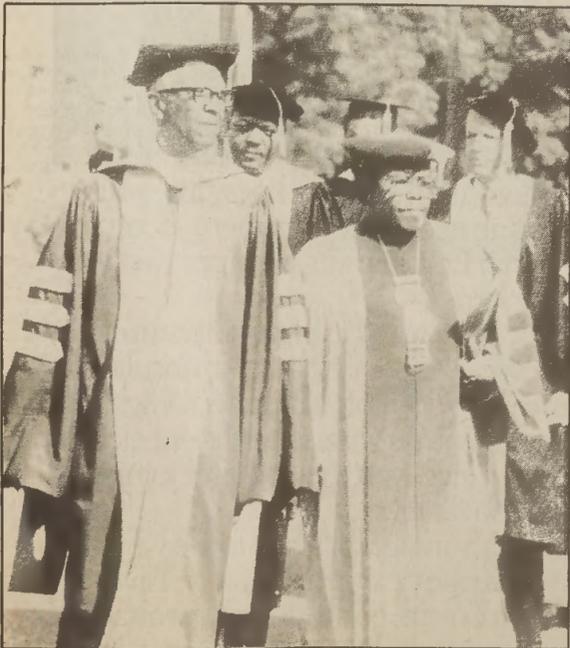
In addressing the class of 1988 as the commencement

speaker, Dr. Lionel H. Newsom, a former president of Barber-Scotia College and a United Negro College Fund Distinguished Scholar at the college, said, "I want to challenge you as alumni today to give to Barber-Scotia College."

"... I have in my pocket a little gift," he emphasized. He then reached under his academic attire and pulled out approximately 35 envelopes -- one for each member of the graduating class.

Waving the stack of envelopes into the air, he said, "I am giving you a check that I want you to reproduce next year." Each envelope contained a five dollar contribution to Barber-Scotia and a contractual agreement that each graduate would give five dollars or five times the amount in the next year to the college to assist its efforts in higher education.

"What are industry, foundations and the federal government doing today?" asked Dr. Newsom, referring to their support of black colleges. "I'll tell you, . . . all of them are doing



Former Barber Scotia College President Dr. Lionel Newsom (l) and retiring President Dr. Mable P. McLean (r) lead the graduation procession. Mr. Hugh Cullman (second row, right) was presented with an honorary degree.

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