# THE BETTER WE KNOW US ...

**TAX REFORM: The Battleground of the Movement of the Seventies**

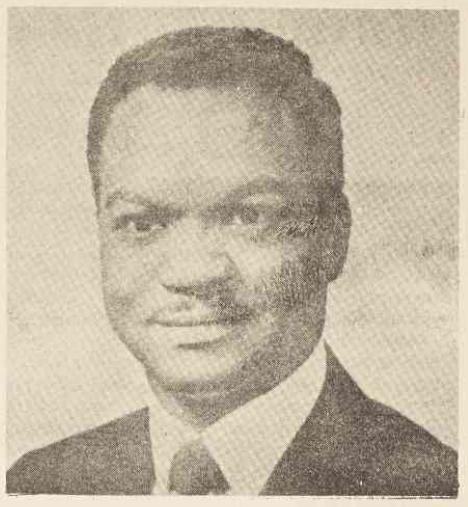
**by The Honorable Walter E. Fauntroy [D., D.C.]**

**"THE BETTER WE KNOW US" is proud to publish the speech given by the Honorable Walter E. Fauntroy of Washington, D.C., in Salisbury, N.C. on Friday, Demember 5, 1975.**

**Congressman Fauntroy, formerly a top aide to the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the guest speaker for a banquet held by the Association of Progressive Black Democrats of North Carolina's 8th Congressional District.**

**Listed among many of the congressman's accomplishments and responsibilities, he is a full-time minister and was appointed by Dr. King as a coordinator of the "March on Washington" and also the "March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama".**

**This speech will be published in its entirety in a three-part series.**



**PART ONE**

The noted actor-producer, Ossie Davis, in an outstanding speech at the first Congressional Black Caucus Dinner in 1971, coined a phrase that has profound significance for our continuing struggle for freedom and human dignity today. Said he:

It's not the man, it's the plan;
It's not the rap, it's the map."

Lamenting the tragedy of the deaths of men like Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X and warning of the liklihood that still more brilliant leaders will fall before our victory is won, Ossie Davis then called upon black leadership to:

"Give us a plan of action...a '10 Black Commandments; simple, strong, that we can carry in our hearts, and in our memories no matter where we are and reach out and touch and feel the reassurance that there is behind everything we do a simple, moral, intelligent plan that must be fulfilled in the course of time even in all our leaders, one by one fall in battle, somebody will rise and say 'Brother! our leader died while were on page 3 of a plan. Now that the funeral is over, let us proceed on to page 4.' "

I come tonight to talk about such a plan. I come to talk about changing a system of taxation that robs the masses of working Americans, black and white together, of the resources to solve this nation's basic domestic problems that just happen to be reflected in the black experience: Unemployment, inadequate housing and health care, poor public schools and other pressing social ills. I come to offer a **plan** for **changing** that tax system and meeting those human needs. It is a plan to coordinate and concentrate the potential of the black vote across this nation to end the **domination** in national politics of a historic coalition of Southern Democrats and conservative Republicans. That infamous coalition has developed and maintained a system of gaping tax loopholes for the wealthy few at the expense of the unmonied many; $77 billion worth of loopholes, which, if closed, would enable our nation to fund solutions to its basic domestic problems.

It is a plan to mobilize the power of the black vote to forge new coalitions with white voters based on mutual respect and cooperation: **Respect**, because of the power of the black vote in key Congressional Districts and States across the nation; and **Cooperation**, because of the recognition of basic commonality of interests on a range of economic issues that blacks share with the masses of white wage earners and small businessmen in this country.

Now I know there are those of you saying: "there they go talking that coalition politics stuff again." Before you tune out on the plan, however, let me remind you that there was a time, a little over 100 years ago, when black voters in America were an indispensible part of a voting block that threatened to drive the perpetrators of social and economic injustice from the command posts of power in the South.

Let us recall the facts of history for a moment, and I think you'll understand what I mean. The noted historian C. Vann Woodward, in his book **The Strange Career of Jim Crow**, clearly points out that the segregation laws of the South were not the outgrowth of natural enmity between the races stemming from the Civil War but, rather, the result of the shrewd manipulation of race prejudice by emerging bourbon interests to keep southern labor dividend and the cheapest in the land. You see, it was a simple matter for the emerging "bourbon" interests in the South to keep the poor white masses working for near starvation wages in the years following the civil war. If the poor white laborer complained about his low wages, the plantation or mill owner would merely threaten to fire him and hire a former black slave whom he'd pay even less. This strategem assured low wages everywhere in the South and that southern labor would remain the cheapest in the land.

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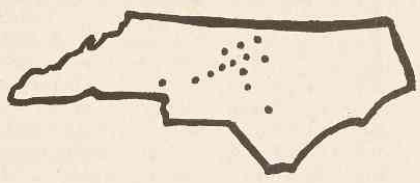
# THE TRIBUNAL AID

VOLUME III, NO. 29 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1975 $5.00 PER YEAR 20 CENTS PRESS RUN 8,500

**MEMBER:** North Carolina Black Publishers Association — North Carolina Press Association, Inc.

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## Notes & Reminders

HIGH POINT--Southside Branch Library, located in the Southside Neighborhood Center, 401 Taylor Street, is now open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

A specialized branch of the High Point Public Library, the Southside branch will serve the library needs of neighborhood families, schools, churches, and clubs, and individual patrons of every age.

The spacious quarters, two rooms with bright carpeting and colorful posters and mobiles, is designed to house a collection of 7,000 books and a variety of audio-visual materials, creative learning kits, and toys.

Daily schedules include story hours and learning activities for day care centers, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The programs also include filmstories, games, creative construction, and simple puppet making for grade-school children.

Afternoon programs are planned for after-school groups, including teenagers.

Interested persons may contact Mrs. Lizzie Royal, head of branch services for the High Point Public Library, at the Southside Branch telephone number, 885-0310.

* * *

From the Better Business Bureau

**FINAL RULES ON EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES PUBLISHED**

Since October 28, persons can no longer be refused credit solely because of sex or marital status. That is the date when the Equal Credit Opportunity Act became effective. Creditors also cannot request information about birth control or discourage anyone from applying for credit because of their sex or marital status. Other sections of the law become effective a month later, November 30. They prohibit a creditor from refusing separate credit applications if sex or marital status is the only reason for denial. And credit reporting agencies will no longer be permitted to use sex, marital status or telephone listings in their credit reporting records.

Beginning January 31, an applicant for credit who changes her or his name will no longer be forced to reapply for credit. Creditors will also be required to indicate the reason for denial of credit within a reasonable time and include the credit reporting agency's address in the statement. Also on January

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## RETRACTION

**In last week's "The Better We Know Us", featuring Mr. Nathaniel Oates who is a marketing representative with IBM, statements were made which were not directly attributable to Mr. Oates and his representing IBM.**

**Mr. Oates maintains that "no business doors have been closed in his face" nor, to his knowledge, "has there been any case of an IBM customer purchasing products from another territory to avoid buying from a Black."**

**THE TRIBUNAL AID wishes to apologize to Mr. Oates, IBM and our readers for erroneous reporting.**

# Charlotte Sailor Works On Helicopter

by NAVY JOURNALIST Stephen Wilders

SAN DIEGO--If you had told Vellon Leon Rivers, of Charlotte, a year and a half ago he would be directing helicopters onto an aircraft carrier and teaching the "bump" to Australians he probably wouldn't have believed you. Yet, just six months after boot camp that is exactly what Pearl Rivers was doing.

Leon, who likes to be called by his nickname Pearl, joined the Navy on August 4, 1974. The thing he wanted to do most was to work on helicopters. This desire was so great Pearl agreed to extend his original enlistment from three to four years just so he would be guaranteed duty with a helicopter squadron.

Pearl said, "I wanted a helicopter squadron because I thought it would be exciting." Little did he know just how exciting it was going to get.

After boot camp Leon was assigned to Helicopter Squadron-One (HC-1) on board the attack aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea (CV-43). The ship was preparing for a seven month deployment to the Far East and Leon was about to see and do things he never thought imaginable.

The cruise seemed routine to the newest member of the Navy's forces afloat as they steamed towards Perth, Australia, one of the

**Leon is training to be an Avaition Machinst Mate (AD). As an AD Leon maintains, services, and installs helicopter engines, gear boxes, and flight systems. (Photo by Navy Photographer Robert Weissleder)**

From CABLELINES: Sept./Oct. '75

## Nation's First Black TV Station Is Operational

### *WGPR-TV Signs On*

On September 20, WGPR-Detroit, the first black owned television station in the continental United States began broadcasting. The license is held by the International Free and Accepted Black Masons, a Detroit-based organization founded in 1950 by Dr. William Banks. The organization first received its construction permit two years ago.

At that time, Banks prevailed upon the 350,000 member International Masons to liquidate property worth $2.7 million. This sum was sufficient to buy and equip the station.

A lawyer and minister, Banks views the station as "an alternative to the portrayal of blacks in American culture that emerges on television generally." If it succeeds, its owners envision it as the basis for an eventual network of up to seven stations. Thirty-three of the station's 48 employees are black.

Banks has been the leader of several successful black enterprises in Detroit, including the successful rejuvenation of radio station WGPR-FM, which he bought in 1964. Originally founded in 1961 by white owners, the station faltered with a middle-of-the-road format. When Banks acquired the station, he oriented its programming toward the black audience of Detroit. The operation now grosses more than $1 million per year.

One reason for the delay in construction was that the original site, vacated in 1972 by the white-owned WXON-TV, was located in suburban Southfield. However, Banks wanted the studio and transmitter located within the city limits, to facilitate access by inner city residents. When it was discovered that the Pentagon had first claim to the steel necessary to build the tower, President Ford intervened, and the steel became available.

According to the program director, George White, 60-65 percent of the programming will be locally produced, including a consumer show, local game shows and children's programs. Banks believes that most entertainment shows provide stereotyped views of black life. The station plans to produce shows which present what it considers a more realistic view.

Ulysses Boykin, vice president of civic affairs and public relations, stated the station would be operating from noon to 10:30 temporarily. At present, programming is composed mainly of news, movies, syndicated programs, sports and cartoons. When fully on schedule, the station will operate from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m., perhaps moving to a 24 hour schedule within a year's time. □

## Greensboro Pioneer Cited By N. C. State

GREENSBORO--Robert L. Wynn of Greensboro, who in 1945 became the first black extension specialist in the United States, has been honored as a pioneer by the Department of Animal Science at the North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Wynn's portrait has been permanently placed in the hallway of Polk Hall, home of the Department of Animal Science and Bio-Chemistry at the university.

Wynn, a native of Taylor County, Georgia, retired from the state's agricultural extension service at North Carolina A&T State University in 1970, after completing 25 years with the program.

According to Dr. George Hyatt Jr., chairman of the Department of Animal Science at the North Carolina State University, Wynn's work with black dairy farmers of the state was outstanding.

He suceeded in getting the first black farmer into Grade A dairying, later increasing that number to more than 60 farmers.

Through Wynn's efforts, by the late 1950's, the state's black farmers were selling more than $2.4 million worth of manufactured milk annually.

Wynn was educated at Hampton Institute, where he received a B.S. degree in agricultural education in 1939. He taught vocational agriculture in Georgia three years, then became head of the animal husbandry department at Fort Valley State College. He later earned a M.S. degree in animal husbandry from Michigan State University.

## High Pointer Enjoys Navy

HIGH POINT--In the September 17, 1975 edition of THE TRIBUNAL AID, we reported that Kelvin Garrison, a 1972 graduate of High Point Central, had enlisted in the United States Navy in the field of Advanced Electronics. Well, Mr. Garrison has recently returned from his six weeks' recruit training in Orlando, Florida. Kelvin returned to High Point as grade E-3.

The next step for Kelvin will be six weeks at Great Lakes, Illinois, at the Basic Electricity and Electronics Training Center.

At the present time, Mr. Garrison is unsure of his long range goals as far as the Navy is concerned. He is still enthusiastic about the Navy program, and encourages those who need direction and future planning to consider the Navy.

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