

Lt. Governor Hopefuls To Appear As

Candidates Forum Starts Apr. 23

All three Democratic candidates for lieutenant governor have accepted an invitation by the League of Women Voters of North Carolina to participate in a televised candidates forum. The forum is part of the league's "Inform '84" campaign, a series of non-partisan events aimed at informing North Carolina voters about the 1984 elections.

The Democratic lieutenant governor's forum will be held on April 23 in the studios of Durham Cablevision and taped for later airing by Cablevision companies across the state. The candidates will be questioned by a panel of league and press representatives.

Another forum featuring the Democratic candidates for governor is scheduled for May 2 in Charlotte and will include eight of the 10 people who have filed for that office. The May 2 forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters and WSOC-TV in Charlotte. It will be aired on May 5 by WSOC-TV at 6 p.m. and by WSPA-TV,

Spartanburg, S.C., at 11:30 p.m. The program tape is available to other member stations of the Carolina News Network (WRAL-TV Raleigh, WFMY-TV Greensboro, WWAY-TV, Wilmington, and WCSC-TV, Charleston). League president Elizabeth Grant said that thus far, only WSOC-TV and WSPA-TV had opted for the program.

Republican forums sponsored by the League of Women Voters of North Carolina are being held April 14 in Durham in conjunction with the league's Biennial Council which includes participants from all leagues in the state. Candidates James G. Martin and Ruby Hooper are scheduled to participate in the gubernatorial forum. Four of the five candidates for lieutenant governor are scheduled to participate in that forum. The Republican gubernatorial forum will be videotaped as a public service by the league. The program tape will be available to all television stations that request it. The Republican lieutenant governor's forum will be videotaped by Durham Cablevision for later airing; that program tape will be available to Cablevision stations across the state.

Radio station WRAL-FM plans to carry the Republican candidates' forum live and to make the program tape available to other member stations of the North Carolina News Network, which is made up of 60 radio stations in 60 markets across the state.



COUNTY OFFICIALS MEET—Ms. Mary E. McCallister, second from right, of Fayetteville, was among members of the National Association of Black County Officials who attended a recent briefing on federal housing programs conducted in Washington by officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Pictured with her, from left, are the Rev. St. George Crosse, special advisor for minority programs in the office of the HUD deputy undersecretary for intergovernmental relations; Maurice Barksdale, HUD assistant secretary for housing and federal housing commissioner; and, far right, Webster B. Guillory of Orange County, Calif., president of NABCO.

Numbers One And Three Nationally Black CPA Firms Merge

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Mitchell/Titus and Co., the nation's largest minority certified public accounting firm, announced last week that it had concluded a merger with Stewart, Benjamin and Brown, third largest minority firm in New York City.

It is the first merger of two major black CPA firms in the United States.

The firm, headed by Bert N. Mitchell, managing partner, will retain the name of Mitchell/Titus and Co. and will continue its principal offices at 2 Park Avenue in New York City, with branch offices in Washington, D.C.

The fast-growing Mitchell/Titus and Co. will now have nine partners, 90 employees and more than 500 clients. Its clients include Fortune 500 companies, Black Enterprise 100 companies, government agencies, entertainment and sports

figures. Among its well-known clients are Time, Inc., Philip Morris, NAACP, Jackie Robinson Foundation, Phelps-Stokes Foundation, New York City Health and Hospitals Corp. and the Washington, D.C. Transit Authority.

Mitchell/Titus is also one of two companies conducting an audit of the entire state of New York, the largest audit of its kind.

Managing partner Bert Mitchell, who is also chairman of the New York State Board of Public Accountancy, said, "Our organization has brought together top professional talent that will enable us to expand areas of specialization such as taxes, financial planning, management consulting and increased utilization of high technology. We will compete favorably with the larger, non-minority firms."

Robert Stewart, managing partner of Stewart, Benjamin and Brown, said, "We have competed with Mitchell/Titus for several years, and have watched their operation grow. They are consummate professionals with high standards of performance. This merger is most advantageous to our clients because it pools a significantly large number

of professional accountants and financial planners to provide more comprehensive services."

Mitchell, when asked about the future, said, "I see important growth opportunities for CPAs. Indeed, I am seriously looking at additional merger opportunities in other parts of the country."



ANIMAL CRUELTY—Miami, Fla.—Animal control agents try to contain a pit bulldog April 15 after they found an illegal kennel inhabited by 41 half-starved dogs staked in place on three-foot chains. Two men have been charged with numerous counts of animal cruelty and neglect. (UPI)

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