

1963 Remembered

# Washington March Celebrates First

BY NORMAN HILL  
Special To The CAROLINIAN

Those of us who were there will never forget it. The day was electric with overpowering emotions: a joyful bewilderment, shared euphoria and hope. The images have been forever etched in memory—a massive sea of faces, black and white, undulating in the searing heat, rolling in waves along the reflecting pool from the Lincoln Memorial down the Ellipse

toward the Washington Monument.

There were buttons, colorful union banners and placards: "Freedom Now," "Pass the Civil Rights Bill," "UAW Marches Too," "Free in '63." There were songs of protest and optimism. There were famous faces—actors, singers, playwrights, athletes, politicians, writers—marching with workers, farmers, students bused in from virtually

every corner of the union.

The day was Aug. 28, 1963, and before it was over, 250,000 Americans would dramatically awaken the nation to the power, the goals, and moral imperative of the civil rights movement. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was a watershed, a glorious high point that thrust civil rights to the top of America's social agenda and

helped make progress inevitable.

The march was organized by 74-year-old A. Philip Randolph, the pre-eminent black labor leader and elder statesman of the civil rights movement, and coordinated by Bayard Rustin, whose tactical and logistical genius was a primary reason for its success. And it was given universal, moral power by the eloquence of Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr., whose inspiring "I Have a Dream" speech beautifully encapsulated the aspirations, hopes and demands of millions of oppressed citizens, and reinforced his position as the moral leader of the struggle symbolized by the march.

The march was successful because it brought together a broad coalition of religious, political, civil rights and labor groups. Moreover, a point often forgotten is that it was not purely a civil rights march. The motto was "Jobs and Freedom." For Randolph, freedom meant not only the elimination of Jim Crow laws barring blacks

from public accommodations and facilities and denying them the right to vote. Freedom meant economic justice, the elimination of poverty, vocational training and job placement programs, a fair minimum wage, a broadening of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and a federal Fair Employment Practices Act outlawing discrimination by federal, state and municipal governments, and by employers, contractors, employment agencies, and trade unions. These were all part of the 10 demands listed on the programs handed out to all the (See RIGHTS MARCH, P. 2)

## City Grants Permit For Klan Parade

DURHAM (AP)—Durham City Manager Orville Powell has denied a request by Ku Klux Klan members for a parade permit on Sept. 3, and instead will offer to let them march in downtown Durham on Sept. 10.

Officials in Raleigh, however, decided to grant the Klan's request for a Sept. 3 permit. It also appears likely that the Klan will be allowed to march in Hillsborough that day.

Durham police would be "too thinly stretched" to provide security for the Klan group on the Labor Day weekend, Powell told the Durham Sun.

A football game also is scheduled for 7 p.m. that Saturday in Durham between teams from North Carolina Central University and North Carolina A&T. The game is expected to draw at least 11,000 spectators.

Powell said the fact that the game is between the predominantly black schools wasn't a factor in his decision to offer the Klan a parade permit for the following Saturday.

"It could have been two white universities," he said. "Maybe we should have considered that, but we didn't."

Dwight Pettiford, Parks and Recreation official who handles parade permits, suggested Monday that Powell deny the Klan's request for a Sept. 3 permit and offer one on the 10th instead.

"That was Mr. Pettiford's recommendation and I concurred in this," Powell said. "We had too much going on, too much call on our people to handle another major event."

Pettiford said last week he has tried to contact Terry Boyce, the grand dragon, or state leader, of the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, about the change in dates, but has been unable to talk to him.

Boyce has earlier said he does not intend to change the date.

Powell said the Klan group would be informed of their right to appeal his denial of the Sept. 3 (See DENIED, P. 2)

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## Higher Premiums

# Firms Bilking Blacks

## Policies Based On Racism

(AP)—Two North Carolina-based insurance companies will be asked to alter life insurance policies from the 1960s that force black people to pay higher premiums than white people, the State Department of Insurance said last Thursday.

Durham Life Insurance Co. of Raleigh and Charlotte Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. of Charlotte were named in a nationwide survey as being among 21 companies that continue to collect on such policies.

However, both say they have ceased to write or sell them. The survey was released Tuesday, July 2, by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

"(Such policies) are not expressly prohibited by stated statute," Ed Bristol, spokesman for the state Department of Insurance, said Thursday, "but it appears discriminatory."

Bristol said state insurance officials plan to meet with the two North Carolina companies still carrying the policies and try to persuade them to alter them.

He said the department also would ask the Legislature to enact laws that specifically prohibit race-based insurance adjustments.

According to some actuaries, blacks have a shorter life expectancy than whites and so were charged higher rates. How much depended on the company and the amount of insurance.

However, most insurance companies (See BILKING BLACKS, P. 2)



LIVING DREAM—Jesse Hill, Jr., chairman of the board of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, awards a certificate of achievement to Virginia King, tenth grade grand prize winner in the "Living the Dream" Essay and Speech Contest. The contest was sponsored by local businesses and organizations to enhance students' understanding of Dr. King's ideals.

## Long Urges Congress To Keep Racketeering Laws

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Insurance Commissioner Jim Long has told a congressional subcommittee that pending legislation would weaken a law that helps insurance regulators fight corruption in business.

Bills now pending would amend the so-called "Racketeer Influenced and

Corrupt Organizations Act." Chiefly affected would be the ability of government and the private sector to sue defendants for triple damages, a provision considered one of the sharpest "teeth" of the RICO law.

The amendments would "tie the hands of insurance regulators," Long said. The commissioner, acting as a rehabilitator of bankrupt Beacon Insurance Co., is himself a plaintiff in a RICO suit.

"To now change the law would hand defendants in these cases an unwarranted congressional gift, place a substantial burden on insurance departments, and decrease the number of fraud and misconduct cases that states would be able or willing to pursue," Long told the representatives.

The testimony came in a hearing conducted by the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, part of the House Judiciary Subcommittee.

House Bill 2963 and Senate Bill 1523 would remove or weaken the triple damage provisions and would apply to pending cases. Long said that suits involving him and other state insurance commissioners were based on current RICO provisions and that triple damages were necessary to reimburse plaintiffs for legal costs.

Speaking for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners as well as on his own behalf, Long said that insurance commissioners were concerned that the "rules of the game" might be changed so that the "possibility of recovery is diminished."

## Bobette de Lisser Elected To New Post With National Group

Bobette de Lisser of Knightdale was elected statistician of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc. at the national convention in Orlando, Fla., recently. Ms. de Lisser is the first North Carolinian to be elected to office, according to the national history book published in 1964.

The NACWC, Inc., is organized and operated exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes, including making contributions to such tax-exempt organizations and causes as sickle cell anemia, the NAACP, the United Negro College Fund and scholarships to deserving high school graduates.

Ms. de Lisser's duties as statistician are to gather biennially a state-

## Emergency Powers Are Invoked To Ease N.C. Prison Overcrowding

For the third time this year, emergency powers designed to ease prison overcrowding have been invoked.

State Correction Secretary Aaron J. Johnson informed Gov. Jim Martin and Parole Commission Chairman Sam Wilson by letter last Wednesday that the special provisions of the Emergency Prison Population Stabilization Act of 1967 are now in effect. Those provisions were triggered as a result of the prison population remaining above the legislatively mandated cap of 17,400 for 15 consecutive days.

Last week the population of the state's prison system stood at 17,604. The Department of Correction is now required by law to take steps to reduce the prison population to 17,200 within 60 days or before Oct. 9.

The triggering of these special powers comes less than a month after the expiration of the last prison population emergency on July 11. The emergency powers have been invoked on three previous occasions: March 26, 1967, March 3 and June 23 of this year.

To reduce the prison population, the North Carolina Parole Commission can only consider inmates eligible for parole. The pool of eligible inmates includes Fair-Sentencing Act felons nine months before their release date instead of the original 90-day re-entry parole. Also included in that pool are all misdemeanants except those serving sentences for assault and related crimes.

With the triggering of the special provisions of the cap legislation, the state is required to stop accepting short-term misdemeanants, those serving 30 to 180-day sentences, into the prison system. Although the law also gives the secretary of correction the authority to return short-term misdemeanants already in the state prison system to local confinement facilities, Secretary Johnson has indicated that he will avoid doing so.

This latest population emergency comes at a time when the State of North Carolina is facing a number of legal challenges to its prison system. Overcrowding is a major issue in some of those lawsuits.

In an effort to maintain a prison system that is just, humane, and constitutionally defensible, the construction of 3,608 beds and support facilities has been authorized since January 1965. Even with that construction, the state is still approximately 1,000 beds shy of the number needed to establish a standard 50 square feet per inmate, one that is believed to be constitutionally defensible.

The 1968 General Assembly appropriated \$17.4 million for construction of 624 medium-custody beds and support facilities. That was \$10.5 million and 252 beds less than recommended by Gov. Martin in his supplemental budget request.

This population emergency also comes at a time when the resources of the Division of Adult Probation and Parole are being strained. Figures released last week by the Department of Correction show that the caseload of parole officers has risen 38 percent during the past year. The total number of persons under DAPP supervision stood at 72,449 in June.

Although the General Assembly did appropriate money for the hiring of 29 probation/parole officers, supervisors, and support staff, the lawmakers tagged the allocation with a provision that freezes hiring for those positions until Feb. 1, 1969. The legislature also chose not to fund 14 additional intensive probation positions and 34 clerical positions requested by the governor's budget.

## Major Firm To Build New Facility In Kinston

White Consolidated Industries Major Appliance Group, one of America's leading manufacturers of major appliances, will build a new \$75 million appliance manufacturing facility in Lenoir County, Gov. Jim Martin and WCI Home Products Chairman Donald C. Blasius announced last Thursday. The new plant is expected to employ 850 workers.

"A great many people have worked hard to make this project a reality," said Martin. "Local development officials in Kinston and Lenoir County, local legislators, as well as officials of our state Department of Commerce have all been involved in bringing WCI to eastern North Carolina."

"White Consolidated Industries manufactures and sells all types of appliances. I know I speak for all North Carolinians in welcoming this internationally respected firm to eastern North Carolina," the governor said.

Martin flew to WCI headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, in the spring of 1967 (See KINSTON PLANT, P. 2)

to convey North Carolina's interest in the dishwasher project and discuss the state's suitability for the new operation with company officials.

WCI will build the new plant on a 100-acre site just off US 70 west of Kinston. Company officials say construction of the 500,000-square-foot operation will begin later this quarter, with operations scheduled for 1969. The factory will produce private label dishwashers as well as WCI branded products. Company officials say the new operation will emphasize WCI's belief in the importance of its employees and their involvement in the products they build.

To accommodate WCI's new plant, Lenoir County will extend water, sewer and natural gas service to the new plant site. County officials received an appropriation of \$3.5 million from this year's General Assembly to fund the improvements. County officials say they also expect to apply to the state Department of Natural Resources and Community (See KINSTON PLANT, P. 2)

## N.C. GOP Surpasses Democrats In Boosting Of Minority Purchases

Republican Gov. Jim Martin's administration is outdoing Democratic-controlled state agencies in efforts to boost purchases from minority firms, figures compiled by the state's central purchasing office show.

Seven of nine departments under the Martin administration make at least four percent of their purchases from businesses controlled by minorities, women or disabled people, says a report by the Division of

Purchase and Contract. By contrast, just one of nine state agencies controlled by Democrats—the Office of State Auditor—exceeds the four percent goal set by Martin and later by the General Assembly in 1967.

Some Democrats disputed the figures, saying the size of their agencies made it difficult to attract some minority contracts, while others noted that the Legislature's resolution urging the four percent minority-buying goal was passed only a little over a year ago, in July 1967—five months after Martin issued an executive order to that effect.

The survey of state purchasing covered the period from July 1967 to March of this year. In it, the purchasing office found Martin administration agencies doing the following percentage of business with firms operated by minorities, women or the handicapped:

Administration, 2.5; Commerce, 4.3; Correction, 8.6; Crime Control and Public Safety, 4.8; Cultural Resources, 7.9; Human Resources, 9.0; Natural Resources and Community Development, 4.5; Revenue, 1.6; and Transportation, 4.5.

Figures were reported for Democratic-controlled agencies as follows:

Agriculture, 0.3; Department of Community Colleges, 1.1; Public Instruction, 0.1; Insurance, 1.3; Justice, 2.6; Labor, 1.11; Secretary of State, 1.2; State Auditor, 26.0; State Treasurer, 0.4.

The figures troubled some Democrats.

"I certainly think we should be doing better than that," Attorney General Lacy Thornburg said. "We are doing considerably better than that in hiring practices."

"I just think that shows we've got a long way to go," said Rep. Thomas C. Hardaway, D-Halifax, who introduced legislation that set the rate at four percent last year.



SUMMER FUN—It is almost back-to-school time for Wake County Public Schools and these third grade students of Lucille Hunter are enjoying a watermelon festival. (Photo by Wilbert Sanders)



MS. BOBETTE DE LISSER