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## Secretary Johnson Asks Reexamination Of Justice System

### More Comprehensive Approach

State Correction Secretary Aaron J. Johnson warned of the "hidden costs" of prison overcrowding and called for a more comprehensive approach toward addressing the problems facing the state's criminal justice system.

In delivering his "State of Correction" address to the North Carolina Correctional Association's 16th annual conference in Asheville, Secretary Johnson borrowed a phrase from a Florida legislator who recently asked, "Are we going to use prison beds to punish the guilty or protect the public? There are just not enough beds to do both."

The secretary noted that North Carolina has spent nearly a quarter of a billion dollars since 1985 to make up for decades of neglect toward the state's correctional system. "And as we all know, that figure is more of a down payment than it is the final bill."

"However, I am also concerned about the hidden costs associated with this massive buildup," he said. "We have been forced to take temporary measures which have undermined the public confidence in our nation's criminal justice system."

The secretary was specifically referring to the Prison Cap, adopted by the General Assembly in March 1987 as a means of stabilizing the state's prison population. Although the legislation has eased overcrowding and helped to prevent a federal court takeover of the state prison system, Secretary Johnson noted that "there is also a down side."

According to figures developed by the department's Management Information and Research Section, there has been a dramatic drop in the percentage of original offender sentences spent in prison since the adoption of the Prison Cap.

"In 1985, the average assaultive felon was spending 39 percent of his original sentence in prison," Secretary Johnson said. "Today, he spends 35 percent. For assaultive misdemeanants, that figure is down from 40 percent in 1985 to 21 percent today."

(See JUSTICE, P. 2)

## New Developments In Germany Paving Stages For African-Americans

BY DR. ALBERT JABS

An Analysis

The walls are tumbling down. We do not have to be Joshua to see that. The victories of L. Douglas Wilder and David Dinkins and the mass movement of German brothers and sisters between the two Germanies bring changes of new ground and perhaps a new epoch.

We do not have to have the insights of an Old Testament prophet to know that these events are historic turning points or jumping-off stages for a future African-American president and German unification. Those goals may happen in this century, but it is probably inevitable in the next century.

Very seldom can human beings discern the forces of history and problems do not evaporate with change inexorably, but general tendencies seem to exist, and the logic or flow of history seems to favor the fresh vision of German unity and an African-American president.

Perhaps a metaphor of "homeplace" can be used in this analysis. There is a massive homesickness or restlessness in the world and in our neighborhoods. In spite of poverty, violence, alienation, hatred, prejudice, and oppression, there is a drive for wholeness or the "homeplace." Something moves people.

(See WALLS TUMBLE, P. 2)

## INSIDE AFRICA

BY DANIEL MAROLEN

NNPA News Service

South Africa's new president, F.W. de Klerk, comes to the presidency after apartheid's fury has raged over the past 23 years of presidents John Vorster's and P.W. Botha's administrations. Those years were a period of extreme racial repression and brutality—an era of an unprecedented reign of terror to the native Africans of the country.

Now, as President de Klerk settles down in his new office, the oppressed victims of apartheid are once more demonstrating along the beaches and on the streets of Cape Town; at schools or college campuses, and many other parts of the country. They rightfully loathe their total exclusion from participation in the government of their own country.

In a surprising move last week, President de Klerk ordered South Africa's beaches be opened to all races and said some other public places, including libraries and parks, would be desegregated soon.

The plans would not affect the legal segregation of schools, hospitals and residential neighborhoods.

De Klerk, speaking in Cape Town, said the Separate Amenities Act, which permits municipal officials to segregate public facilities by race, would be repealed as soon as possible.

The law, enacted 36 years ago, has been used to bar nonwhites from parks, swimming pools, civic centers, libraries and public transportation.

"The time has arrived to repeal this act," de Klerk said. "The government has decided to do so as soon as possible."

During the administrations of President John Vorster and President P.W. Botha, the African-ruled

(See INSIDE AFRICA, P. 2)

## Congress Plans To Abandon Action On Child Care Because Of Impasse

The issue of child care has once again been abandoned by some members of Congress last week.

A bill that would go down as a landmark child care legislation came to a halt due to deep differences over the scope of the legislation and how to pay for it.

Supporters of day care as well as

armies of children lobbied through corridors on Capitol Hill singing in a last-ditch lobbying effort. Some of the children bore signs saying "littlest lobbyist" on their backs.

The children visited the offices of House Speaker Thomas S. Foley, but the Washington Democrat was not in his office to receive them. Instead,

they met with Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, who said child care remained high on the Senate's agenda.

The lobbying efforts came after Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, blamed lawmakers for the congressional delay, which she called "the latest in

a series of efforts you have engaged in to sabotage groundbreaking child-care legislation all year for petty jurisdictional and power reasons."

In response to Edelman's three-page attack, Rep. Thomas J. Downey stated that postponement of further work on the bill occurred because of

(See CHILD CARE, P. 2)

### Multiple Stab Wounds

## Mother Held In Slayings

### 3 Children Brutally Murdered

What made Katrina McKay allegedly murder her children? This is the question that is on the minds of Franklin County sheriff's investigators as well as neighbors and psychiatrists at Dorothea Dix Hospital.

The 20-year-old mother of three is being held at the state psychiatry hospital for observation and examination after allegedly stabbing her children, each hundreds of times, and then tying their bodies up with electrical cord.

After the slayings, Ms. McKay allegedly forced her way through a back door of one of her neighbor's houses, and began frantically fighting with him.

The neighbor, George Harris, and his wife and two daughters were sitting in their living room watching television when they heard someone pounding on the back door. At first they thought someone was trying to knock the door down, so Harris ordered his family not to open the door, then reached for his shotgun.

Once inside the house, Ms. McKay began to struggle with Harris and eventually the family of four apprehended the woman by tying her legs together as she laid face-down, naked and covered with blood.

On the back porch of the Harris home were the bloodied bodies of Ms. McKay's children.

(See MURDER, P. 2)



VISITING JAILS—The Rev. Jesse Jackson and his family "invest in people," and this non-traditional practice offers long ago abandoned gift-giving at Christmas, and instead visit jails to offer hope to inmates. He says this is a time to

## Legislature Approves Initiatives To Ease State's Nursing Shortage

The recent General Assembly approved a number of initiatives aimed at easing the state's nursing shortage by retaining more of the best people we have in the profession, as well as encouraging some of our brightest young people to look into nursing as a

career. North Carolina is not the only state to face a shortage of trained nurses. The entire nation faces such a shortage and it could lead to major problems in health care unless appropriate steps are taken.

Demand for trained nurses is increasing; enrollment in nursing

ing more and higher levels of nursing care.

Increasing career options for women, as well as concerns about nursing pay and stressful working conditions, have contributed to a sharp decline in the number of people enrolling in nursing schools at all levels. In North Carolina, enrollment

Scholarship loans will also be available to college juniors or community college graduates interested in preparing to be a registered nurse, as well as registered nurses who want to obtain a baccalaureate degree in nursing.

education is decreasing. People are living longer, patients in hospitals and long-term care facilities are more acutely ill, and they are requir-

ing registered nursing programs dropped more than 20 percent and in practical nursing programs more than 40

(See NURSING, P. 2)

## AIDS Virus Can Be More Threatening To Senior Citizens

There are two AIDS epidemics in America today. Among whites, AIDS was largely a disease of gay men, but fully half of blacks and other minority people with AIDS are heterosexual.

And in minority communities this epidemic has breached its original boundaries. A black woman is 11 times more likely than a white woman to contract AIDS. And while everyone is talking about AIDS, few mention how this disease affects older adults. No wonder so many older adults believe they are not likely to become infected.

The fact is that as many as 10 percent of all AIDS cases reported have involved people aged 50 and older. Many more older people are believed to be infected, although not yet experiencing symptoms.

People with acquired immune deficiency syndrome often appear healthy for a long time after becoming infected. Nearly 10 years is the average length of time after a person becomes infected before the disease symptoms may begin to appear.

AIDS Control Program, the National Institute on Aging and other organizations continue to campaign to raise awareness about the devastating psychological and social problems engendered by AIDS.

"These problems affect not only AIDS patients, but their families, their friends, their acquaintances, their co-workers—in short, everyone in the community," says a spokesperson for the National Association of Social Workers. "AIDS, which many of us equate with death, can mean a living death for many if we fail to understand our responsibilities to those who need our help."

The National Institute on Aging of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has pointed out that older people may be especially vulnerable. With increased age there tends to be a decline in immune system function, making older people more susceptible to a variety of illnesses such as infections and cancers. Because of these changes in immune functions, AIDS may affect older people differently than it does the young.

(See AIDS, P. 2)



FUNDING—The first installment of a \$100,000 AT&T Foundation grant was presented recently to (right) Dr. M. Lucius Water, Jr., Dean of Howard University's School of Engineering, by AT&T's Robert L. Engram. The AT&T Foundation grant will be used by the School of Engineering for student scholarships, improvements to laboratory facilities and faculty attendance at technical seminars. In addition to this grant, AT&T also announced computer equipment and software donations to the Schools of Engineering and Business. Engineering will receive \$100,700 worth of equipment while business will get equipment valued at \$104,867.