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AT THE WHITE HOUSE — African National Congress deputy president meets President George Bush at the White House while visiting the United States after being invited by the president. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

Gov. Compromises On Prisons Legislators Agree On Prison Alternatives

North Carolina would spend \$275 million raised through bonds to start building space for 6,300 more prison inmates under a plan unveiled Tuesday.

The package, announced by Gov. Jim Martin, Sen. Dave Parnell, D-Robeson; and Rep. Anne Barnes, D-Orange, would increase the capacity of North Carolina's prisons from about 18,000 to 24,300.

The first \$75 million would come

from bonds issued by the General Assembly, with the final \$200 million available if the public approves a statewide bond referendum.

"This agreement represents the midpoint between my earlier proposal to expand prison capacity to 27,500 and that of Rep. Anne Barnes and Sen. David Parnell to expand it to 21,000," Martin said. "It will also give us some breathing room to take a fresh look at our sentencing laws, to

be sure they are meeting the needs of society."

Barnes said lawmakers hope the \$200 million to be approved by voters would not be used.

"We prefer a pay-as-we-go approach if possible, so as not to incur any more indebtedness or pay any more interest than is absolutely necessary," she said. "However, having the bond option available will ensure that the construction program

can continue uninterrupted should other revenue sources be insufficient."

Barnes said interest on the \$75 million in bonds issued by the General Assembly would be about \$50 million over 20 years, with interest on the larger public bond issue coming to about \$140 million for the same repayment period.

Both Martin and the legislators

(See PRISONS, P. 2)

Black Press Ignored By Visit Organizers For Nelson Mandela

Editor's Note: Organizers of the Nelson Mandela visit appeared insensitive to the black press, with only a few black reporters assigned from daily newspapers to cover the activities. Fenton Communications, an advertising agency handling the tour; ProServ, a Washington, D.C. sports management firm; TransAfrica executive director Randall Robinson; entertainer-activist Harry Belafonte and Jesse Jackson were unavailable for comment on this report from the National Newspaper Publishers Association at press time.

BY SHARON D. GONDER

As the black press of America, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, prepares to meet in its 30th anniversary convention in Chicago, Chicago newspaper publishers hosting the convention have expressed disappointment that Nelson Mandela, the ANC's leader, would not attend the convention. But, according to

The failure of planners of Mandela's itinerary to include the NNPA representing approximately 300 black-owned newspaper serving more than 36 million black population of this country was a blatant personal affront to black newspapers and millions of readers of the black press.

Dorothy Leavell, publisher of the Chicago and Gary Crusader newspapers, "disappointed" is a mild expression of their feelings. "We feel the failure of the planners of Mr. Mandela's itinerary to include the NNPA convention on his schedule is not only a personal affront to the black press, but also an affront to the millions of readers of the black press."

Early on, NNPA sought to have Mandela touch the lives of the many millions of readers of black newspapers when it was made public that Mandela would be coming to the United States. In a letter to Lindwe Mabuza, chief U.S. representative of the ANC in Washington, D.C., Steve G. Davis, executive director of the NNPA,

(See BLACK PRESS, P. 2)

Graphic Account

Jury Hears Grim Murder Case

Teenager Killed By White Mob

A jury began deliberations this week after a prosecutor said a third defendant was guilty of murder for assembling a white mob that attacked and killed a black teenager in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn.

John Vento's attorney countered in his closing argument that his client was neither a killer nor a racist. The lawyer said the triggerman acted independently when he shot Yusuf Hawkins.

Vento, 21, is the third defendant to stand trial for the Aug. 23, 1989 attack.

With the help of Vento, an admitted participant in the Bensonhurst racial slaying, prosecutors believed they had the evidence to win numerous murder convictions in the highly charged and important case.

But, when he backed out of a deal to cooperate in exchange for immunity and disappeared for a number of months, prosecutors suffered what would be the first of several setbacks. Vento's account of the murder, which prosecutors had expected to use against all of the defendants, can now be used only against him, under state law.

Vento is on trial in Brooklyn state Supreme Court to face murder and other charges. Jurors heard from his sworn grand jury testimony the most complete and compelling account thus far of the murder of Hawkins.

Defense lawyers maintain that Vento's story may bolster their claims that the defendants did not believe anyone would be shot and that triggerman Joseph Fama acted independently.

A transcript of Vento's secret grand-jury testimony obtained by the

(See MURDER, P. 2)



SPECIAL VISIT — Sen. Frank Ballance introduced a resolution to the North Carolina Senate that calls for honoring the men and women who died fighting for freedom in South Africa. He was unable to get the

resolution ratified before leaving for Washington to hear an address by Nelson Mandela. Left to right: Mrs. Alice Ballance, Sen. Frank Ballance, Atty. Bernadine Ballance and Ms. Melinda Solomon.

Sen. Ballance Asks N.C. Senate For Resolution Honoring Mandela

State Sen. Frank W. Ballance, Jr., visited the halls of Congress on June 28 to hear an address by Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress, to a special joint session of Congress. Ballance, who has long admired and followed the life of Mandela, traveled to Washington, D.C., with his wife, attorney Bernadine Ballance; mother, Ms. Alice

and his wife Winnie have completed visits to New York and Boston, and after leaving Washington were scheduled to travel to Atlanta, Ga.

The group were guests of Rep. I.T. Valentine, who at Ballance's request made arrangements for them to visit Congress for the occasion.

Ballance had hoped to be able to present Mandela with a ratified copy of a resolution passed by the N.C. Senate, but was unable to get the

and his wife Winnie have completed visits to New York and Boston, and after leaving Washington were scheduled to travel to Atlanta, Ga.

After seeing Mandela, Ballance was quoted as saying, "My life will never be the same."

The resolution Ballance introduced calls for honoring the men and women who died fighting for freedom in South Africa and to welcome Mandela as a living symbol of

Public Reviews Jobs, Services Program Plans

The Division of Social Services has announced that the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training program plan and Supportive Services Plan are now available for public review. The public review period for the plans will end Thursday, Aug. 9. Copies of the plans are available in the division's central and regional offices. Written comments regarding the plans must be received by the division by Aug. 9.

The purpose of the JOBS program is to provide recipients of benefits in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program with the education, training and supportive services necessary for them to achieve self-sufficiency. The JOBS program is being implemented as the result of the Family Support Act which was passed by Congress in 1988. The act, commonly referred to as the welfare program, includes provisions which directly impact the Child Support and AFDC programs as well as employment and training programs for AFDC recipients.

The JOBS program will be implemented in 40 counties in the state on Oct. 1 and will be operated by the local county departments of social services. The number of individuals projected to be served during the first nine months of the program is more than 11,000. The remaining counties will be phased in during the next two years with the program becoming available statewide by July 1, 1992.

The JOBS and Supportive Services plans describe goals and objectives of

(See JOBS, P. 2)

Runaway Deficit Bush Ends "No-Tax" Pledge

WASHINGTON, D.C.—President George Bush abandoned his no-new-tax campaign pledge this week and acknowledged that tax revenue increases are needed to reduce a runaway federal deficit.

"It is clear to me that both the size of the deficit problem and the need for a package that can be enacted require all the following: entitlement and mandatory program reform, tax revenue increases, growth incentives, discretionary spending reductions, orderly reductions in defense

expenditures, and budget process reform," the president said.

Democratic leaders said it now may be possible to reach an agreement on reducing the \$159 billion deficit by mid-July; the White House said it hoped for a final agreement by the August congressional recess.

In spelling out the ingredients of a budget deal, Bush went beyond his promise last month to hold budget talks with "no preconditions." But White House officials cautioned that the president has not approved any

tax increase yet. The change was noted at the White House with a three-paragraph statement, issued at the end of a two-hour breakfast meeting between the president and top leaders of Congress.

The statement was endorsed by the five congressional leaders who met with Bush: House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash.; and the majority and minority leaders of both chambers, senators George Mitchell, D-Maine, and Bob Dole, R-Kan., and representatives Bob Michel, R-Ill., and Richard Gephardt, D-Mo.

On Capitol Hill, Democrats quietly celebrated and Republicans gritted their teeth. One Republican called the statement "dumb."

Asked if Bush was officially junking his "no-new-taxes" pledge, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater responded, "No. Are you crazy?" Democratic Party Chairman Ron Brown said Bush's statement was candid and "gives no one comfort. It's no time for partisan gloating."

"The White House doesn't speak for me," said Rep. Bob Walker, R-Pa., chief deputy whip for the House minority. "I personally think that it was kind of a dumb statement."

Walker said no more than "a handful" of House Republicans would support a tax-raising deal between the White House and congressional Democrats in an election year when the GOP is trying to regain control of the Senate.

To underscore that point, Walker was gathering signatures on a letter urging Bush not to raise taxes. By

(See NEW TAXES, P. 2)



COUCH — Third degree black belt Nathan Ray, right, puts some of the secrets moves he has learned and now teaches after 4 years of study at the Kenan International School in Knightdale. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

Central Office Preparing For New Postmaster

Floretta E. Reed was appointed the new management sectional center manager/postmaster of Raleigh effective Saturday, June 30. William J. Henderson, field manager/postmaster for the Greensboro Division of the Postal Service, announced.

Reed, 45, began her postal career as a distribution clerk in the Los Angeles, Calif., Post Office in 1965. She also served as PSDS technician, postal source data specialist, foreman of mails, and highway transportation

(See POSTMASTER, P. 2)



MS. FLORETTA E. REED