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Citizens Show Concern... City Urged 'Be Honest' About S.E. Developm't

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports
Raleigh, like many cities around the nation, is undergoing change. Change means growth, change means replacing old with new, or complementing the old with the new. In the past the tool for change was urban renewal. This tool meant massive relocation, clearance or demolition of homes and businesses. Now, however, we have a tool known as community development/redevelopment and neighborhood conservation. Recently, a broad spectrum of citizens met at the Hargett Street YWCA with representatives of the city's planning department to list their concerns and priorities relative to the feasibility of designating the New Bern/Edenton Street corridor as a redevelopment area. Approximately 80 citizens were divided into four groups of 12-15 peo-

ple to give serious thought about improving and beautifying this Southeast Raleigh area. City Council members Ralph Campbell, Jr. and Mary Watson Nooe participated in small group discussions following a slide presentation. People who own property in the proposed redevelopment area say they favor the plan to clean up the neighborhood and encourage compatible new development but want city officials to be honest about plans and provide assurances that longtime residents will not be forced out of their homes. This message emerged from the forum with members of the task force charged with formulating plans for the approximate 16 city blocks. Linda Dahl, a land planner and architect who co-chairs the task force, led group discussions with Reggie Haynes, Seanne Winters and Mayola

Winston. Ms. Dahl said she hoped the interest would continue and noted that it was just the beginning of the process. The forum gave citizens their first opportunity to say how they would like to see the target area changed. Their comments will be used to develop detailed recommendations for development. The 11-member task force will present a draft proposal for public review at the next forum in April 1991. A public hearing is planned for July 1991, before the Raleigh City Council and in September 1991, the council wants to adopt a final redevelopment plan. The following recommendations were presented by the group leaders: (1) Build new homes to complement old homes; (2) Older citizens kept in distance to churches, bus lines and downtown/security measures in housing complexes; (3) a crosswalk over Edenton Street near the residential area; (4) a traffic entrance to St. Augustine's College; (5) planting of trees to buffer the sound of transportation. Haynes said, "It is important that the community get a feel for this pro-

posed plan before this community is declared a redevelopment area." Dolphus Pearson emphasized the importance of someone talking with property owners to update their property similar to the improvements made on New Bern Avenue. Mayor Pro Tem Ralph Campbell stated the need for on-site management of rooming housing in the area. It was stated that the view approaching the Capitol from the east could be as nice as Atlanta, Ga. and other capital cities with the involvement of state government and local lending initiatives to make this a beautiful gateway. Community development funds and bonds should be used to assist in redevelopment of this area, it was said. Some speakers voiced concern about rundown properties, particularly rooming houses, that they said brought vandalism, filth and drug use, and most said they favored redevelopment if it would clean up the area. Freddie Curtis, who lives on New Bern Avenue, said, "Be truthful with us. Don't meet with us and be putting

"We may have to march...and picket again..."

(See DEVELOPMENT, P. 2)

New Housing Council Set To Assist In Drug Prevention

In response to U.S. Department of HUD Secretary Jack Kemp's request to organize a task force to rid HUD and conventional housing of illegal

drugs, the N.C. Housing Council for Drug Prevention has been formed. With the cooperation and coordination of numerous organizations throughout the state, the council will serve to "provide support, education and assistance to managers and residents of multifamily housing in their quest to recognize and eliminate drug use and activity in North Carolina."

The organizations supporting this effort are the Department of Housing and Urban Development; Farmer's Home Administration; N.C. Housing Finance Agency; State Bureau of Investigation; N.C. Governor's Drug Cabinet; Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education Program; N.C. Department of Public Instruction; Drug and Alcohol Defense Program; Department of Crime Control and Public Safety; Division of Crime Prevention; Legal Services of North Carolina; N.C. Association of Realtors; Institute of Real Estate Management; the Triad, Triangle and Charlotte Apartment Associations; Southeastern Association of HUD Management Agents; and a number of individuals involved in multifamily housing management in North Carolina. Three seminars are tentatively scheduled to take place in February in Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro. The seminars will cover the purpose and goals of the council, drug and drug abuse identification, law enforcement assistance, and the legal aspects of drugs and drug abuse problems.

Action Limits Minority Scholarships Williams' Position Questioned

BY LARRY A. STILL
NNPA News Service
WASHINGTON, D.C.—White House supporters of black Republican appointee Michael Williams are still attempting to clarify his original, controversial ruling limiting "equal opportunity" scholarships based solely on race during a hectic week of confusing policy decisions, congressional debate and the replacement of his cabinet secretary by the "Education President."

The shocking directive by Williams, the assistant secretary of education for civil rights, was finally held up for review by chief executive George Bush following an uproar from all sections of the nation, including members of his GOP less than 24 hours after several historically black college presidents met with Bush, Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos and congressional leaders who scheduled more hearings on the scholarship issue by Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), retiring chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. When Williams refused to appear at the congressional hearing, the usually mild-mannered Hawkins angrily called the decision "an affront to the committee, to the Congress and to the American people." Hawkins called the new policy "a hoax... such a distinction has no basis in law or fact. Moreover, it is contrary to the express letter of the veto of the [1988] Civil Rights Restoration Act." (See SCHOLARSHIPS, P. 2)



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT — WLL Radio's Henry Monroe, Jr., left and Bro. James Thomas, right, gospel radio personality are pictured giving Christmas Cheer bags to community residents. Bro. Thomas coordinated the Christmas giveaway with area churches. (Photo by James Giles)

NEWS BRIEFS

NO TO CITY HALL

The City of Raleigh is planning to put a 20,000 seat amphitheater close to the corner of Sunnybrook and Rock Quarry Roads. Some members of the community believe that the large volume of traffic, excessive noise and intoxicating beverages sold during the performances will have a negative impact on property value and have taken the City of Raleigh to Superior Court over the construction.

HOUSING BOND IMPLEMENTATION

The public is invited to make comments and suggestions for the implementation of the \$20-million housing bond which was passed in November. The public hearing will be held on Jan. 2 at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Raleigh Municipal Building, 222 W. Hargett St.

PARTNERSHIPS OPENS DOOR

New job horizons for blind citizens are emerging as a result of a public-private partnership between the N.C. Division of Services for the Blind (DSB), Goodwill Industries of East Central North Carolina and Holiday Inn. Through training offered by Goodwill Industries and DSB, coupled with the latest in computer technology purchased by the division, some visually impaired Triangle residents are finding jobs with Holiday Inn's Central Reservations Office in Raleigh. Holiday Inn's reservation center in Raleigh serves one-third of the nation and employees between 400 and 500 people. The local center is expected to receive in the neighborhood of seven million calls this year.

LOW-INTEREST MORTGAGES

First-time home buyers in North Carolina can soon obtain \$40 million in below-market-rate mortgages as the result of a tax-exempt bond issue sold last week by the N.C. housing finance Agency. The loans were made possible because mortgage revenue bonds survived the congressional budget tax last month and were extended for one more year. During the budget negotiations, all 13 of North Carolina's senators and congressmen signed delegation letters supporting the program, which has helped almost 25,000 North Carolinians

N. C. Food Program For Mothers & Children Upped

Hunger and homelessness continued to grow this year as in previous years in major U.S. cities while the public tolerance of, interest in, the homeless is waning. Although there is evidence of change in the public sentiment toward the homeless, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is increasing help for mothers and children.

An economic slowdown in recent months has placed added pressure on many agencies providing emergency food and shelter as unemployment and diminishing resources further project conditions will produce greater demand for emergency food and shelter in the year ahead.

The USDA recently announced a 13 percent increase in caseload allocations for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program for fiscal year 1991 in North Carolina and 17 other states and the District of Columbia that will provide nourishing packages for thousands of needy people not previously served.

The CSFP is a food assistance program that provides supplemental packages to low-income women, infants and children up to age 6, and to elderly persons. The 1991 national caseload is 350,400 compared to last year's total of 291,973 participants. The program is administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. The authorized caseload level for North Carolina is 2,091 during fiscal year 1991.

"I am pleased that we can accommodate a significant increase in the number of CSFP participants," said FNS Administrator Betty Jo Neisen at Washington, D.C. "This means

FNS can provide nourishing food packages for thousands of needy people not previously served."

Nelsen said USDA was able to expand 1991 CSFP caseload levels by donating the entire amount of nonfat milk needed for the program.

CSFP food packages are tailored to different categories of participants and include, infant formula and cereal, nonfat dry and evaporated milk, juice, cereal, farina, rice, pasta, egg mix, dehydrated potatoes, peanut butter, dry beans and peas, canned meat and poultry, and canned fruits and vegetables.

Recent findings in major cities reveal that requests for emergency food assistance increased overall by an average of 22 percent this year—the largest percentage increase in years—and requests from families with children increased.

An average of 14 percent of the requests for emergency food were unmet during the year and food facilities in many cities turned away people in need because of lack of resources.

Mayor Raymond Flynn of Boston,

stated in a survey for the United States Conference of Mayors that "the problem in America today is hunger, not the hungry. The problem in America is homelessness, not the homeless. The problem in America is poverty, not the poor."

Charlotte Mayor Sue Myrick, co-chair of the Conference of Mayors' Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness said the problem was being exacerbated by the economy and "help will be even harder to provide."

Israel Threatend Target

Showdown Looms In Gulf

BY NNPA News Service
Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has threatened to make Tel Aviv his first target if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, involving the entire Middle East, thus bringing the United States and some European nations to high level rounds of consultation within three weeks before the Jan. 15 United Nations deadline for Iraq to withdraw its armies from Kuwait or face a possible military strike.

Meanwhile, top defense officials have told the White House that U.S. forces will not be ready to attack Iraq until several weeks after the Jan. 15, 1991 deadline set for complete Iraqi withdrawal. Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney and Gen. Colin L. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recommended this week at a meeting with President Bush at Camp David, Md.

The two officers urged delaying any strike until the full 430,000-troop U.S. force was ready which is not until sometime after Feb. 1, 1991. Many African-Americans say the buildup in the Persian Gulf is disproportionately black and are beginning to stage protests and demonstrations around the country urging withdrawal of American troops from the area.

War, what is it good for? For us, absolutely nothing! Throughout history, war's only friend has been the undertaker. Unless U.S. President George Bush refrains from his desire for war-making in the Persian Gulf, far too many African-American parents and families will be making arrangements with a friendly undertaker while the rich and mighty continue their feeding off our lives, labor and taxes. As we go to a war sought and paid for by the wealthy sheikhs of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the similarly rich Seven Sisters (oil companies) of the world, black families should be asking now, "What is it that we will get out of the deal?"

The entire Persian Gulf and Middle East situation provides graphic illustrations of the inequity of the Anglo mentality, black and white relationships around the world and the continual gap between the haves

and have-nots. In the United States, Bush refuses to sign the Civil Rights Act to allow blacks a better chance of being, and moving up, in the workplace while he willingly accepts our out-of-work youth to die for rich people's interests in a land 8,000 miles away. In the super-rich Gulf States area, there is ample proof that what African-Americans in the Desert Shield operation will be protecting is years of chattel slavery of other blacks who are being used in the palaces of the ruling families of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

And in the broader Middle East our ally, the state of Israel, has broken as many rules as Iraq is accused of, and has been an occupying force in

southern Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip with impunity for years. While war may be good for everyone who has a vested economic and real-estate interest, African-Americans can't even get a job or fair shake in their own land and are expected to put their lives on the line to protect the lands of the sheikhs, oil companies and military occupations of the Israelis.

As we go to protect the economic claims of rulers from here to there, when will African-Americans demand that we get a better deal from oil companies, the administration and Congress?

Don't black Americans need a bet-

(See PERSIAN GULF, P. 2)

PRELUDE TO THE NEW YEAR!

It is a good custom to speak kind words and to say "I wish you well." It would be good to make this a resolution. "Good," the dictionary says, is "that which is conceived as fitting in the moral order of the universe." The human urge to be good and/or kind is fairly universal. Thus, "kind" is defined as proceeding from or characterized by goodness or benevolence. It is a virtue which our politicians could profit from if they exercised it more in their dealings with each other as they campaign for public office.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1856-1919), a popular American writer, long deceased, summed it up thus: "So many gods, so many creeds, so many paths that wind and wind, when just that art of being kind is all this old world needs."

Dec. 25, we witnessed another celebration of the greatest event in the history of the Western world: the Advent of the birth of Jesus Christ.

As a postlude to the New Year, 1991, let us quote from the works of an original American sage, John Hayes Holmes (1879-1964), who years ago in his opus, "The Sensible Man's View of Religion," wrote the following: "If Christians were Christians, there would be no anti-Semitism. Jesus was a Jew. There is nothing that the ordinary Christian dislikes to remember so much as this awkward historical fact. But it happens, nonetheless, to be true.

"Priests are no more necessary to religion than politicians are to patriotism.

"The universe is not hostile. Nor yet is it friendly. It is (See NEW YEAR'S, P. 2)