

Lou Rawls
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Special Session Called

N. C. Lawmakers To Reconsider Redistricting

(AP)—State lawmakers will meet in special session before year's end to consider what to do about the U.S. Justice Department's rejection of North Carolina's redistricting plans.

House Speaker Dan Blue, D-Wake, said that he was concerned politics was involved in rejection of the three redistricting plans.

The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division said in a letter that North Carolina's redistricting plans

failed to protect the interests of black voters.

Blue said the decision seems to conflict with the Bush administration's position on hiring quotas.

"I think that if we are going to be consistent about that, that we have to say just as we are opposed to quotas in job opportunities... so are we opposed to the use of quotas in the political process itself," Blue commented.

Blue said the General Assembly plans to return for a one-day session Dec. 30 to decide on changes in filing deadlines. He said lawmakers hope to avoid delays in primaries or elections.

Until Dec. 30, the staff will examine the issue, Blue said.

"We'll be working on it while everybody is walking under the mistletoe and stuff," he said. "We'll be looking at how you draw lines in a loving way."

Republicans were optimistic about the Justice Department's decision. They said it could lead to adoption of a plan earlier dumped by the Democrat-controlled state Legislature.

Gov. Jim Martin said he would call the special session after consulting with the Council of State on Friday. Martin said he approves of Blue's plan. But he said the Justice Department decision vindicated Republicans.

"During the legislative session, there were many people who pointed out that the maps were flawed," he said. "I took that position."

Martin said Blue's claim that politics was involved in the rejection was ironic.

"That's what was involved in the first place," he said, referring to the Democrat-controlled redistricting process.

"We're going to get parts of it," said Rep. Art Pope, R-Wake, of a

GOP plan that competed with the one sent to Washington. "With the congressional plan, they're 100 percent behind our plan."

He estimated the Justice Department was 75 percent in line with Republican plans for the state House and Senate.

But Blue said legislators are unlikely to go along with Republican offerings, including a second major

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Depression Era Survivors Find Times Today Almost As Bad As Yeasteryear

PASSAIC, N.J. (AP)—In the late 1920s, Jessie Bernstein and her husband ran a bustling Newark market specializing in Southern food.

It was a happy, prosperous time. Credit was easy to get. People bought cars and appliances on the installment plan. And even small investors speculated in the stock market.

Then the bottom fell out. The market crashed in 1929, and Bernstein's world turned upside down.

"Everything went," said Bernstein, 82, recalling relatives' suicides and her own struggle to survive after she lost the market.

That was the Great Depression: a time of bread lines and cardboard shacks. The jobless rate soared, and people lost everything.

Now, some experts are using the word "depression" to describe the country's economy. U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., said the nation is in a "slow-moving" depression.

But those who lived through the Great Depression and others who have studied it say things aren't nearly as bad now.

"Today we have unemployment compensation, Social Security and two-income families," said Martin Bookbinder, a political science and economics professor at Passaic County Community College in Paterson.

In 1930, he said, the unemployment rate was 25 percent. The na-

tional unemployment rate in November was 6.8 percent.

Still, there are similarities.

When Bernstein's store was thriving, some unskilled workers and farmers didn't have a share in the prosperity. And though the reasons were different, the foreign market for American goods was almost nonexistent.

"Certainly the common thread is very restrictive monetary policy," said Robert L. Greenfield, a professor of economics at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison. "Between 1929 and 1933, the quantity of money, which is contracted by the Federal Reserve, fell by 27 percent—a money supply contraction of unprecedented proportions. We've seen restrictive monetary policy beginning in 1987."

Harry and Deborah Goldfarb, both 79 and living in a senior citizen's complex in Clinton, said they don't think the country is going back to the times when they saw men wandering the streets of Brooklyn selling apples.

But they agreed that today's economy is in bad shape at a time when people are expecting a high standard of living.

"In those days," Harry Goldfarb said, "there was a breadwinner. A man took care of his family. Today, you can't do it."

Marilyn Berkowitz, a 77-year-old nursing home resident in Clifton, said her husband weighted eight

(See DEPRESSION, P. 2)



GIVING GIFTS — Raleigh Deltas collect gifts of toys and clothing for distribution by area social services department. On Saturday, December 21, the Raleigh Alumnae Chapter held its annual Christmas breakfast at the Crabtree Marriott at 8:45 a.m. Pictured above from

left to right around the tree are committee members Lisa Wharton, Rita Hanes, Lillar Barnes, Brigitte Peebles, Cathy Peebles Brown and Julia Shealey, chairman of the committee.

'Economic Vision' Crucial To Success Of African-Americans In The Future

BY CASH MICHAELS

Contributing Writer

With the theme, "Economic Vision for the 21st Century," this year's O.A. Dupree Scholarship Fund Banquet not only defined the economic realities facing African-

Americans today, but also provided dramatic evidence of young people striving to succeed, even in the face of an uncertain future.

Held at Martin Street Baptist Church on Dec. 16, the 10th annual tribute to noted educator, community activist and radio commentator Prof. O. A. Dupree of Shaw University honored three outstanding businesspeople of Raleigh's African-American community with the "Living Legacy Awards."

Those honored were Edward Maxwell, owner/operator of several McDonald's franchises in the Triangle area; Ms. Vivian Irving, proprietor of Irving-Swain Press; and Dolphus Pearson, owner/operator of Pearson's Insurance Agency. Each were cited for their contributions to the community.

"As I look at the theme for this year's banquet," said Maxwell as he accepted his award, "I can't help but

reflect on the word of God that says 'a nation without vision will perish.'"

Maxwell, who is also an ordained minister of a ministry called "Second Chance," went on to illustrate how African-Americans are not utilizing the economic opportunities available to them to succeed.

"Look at the things that are happening in the [Soviet Union] today..." Maxwell said, referring to the recent economic collapse and disintegration of the USSR. "A lot of people can't understand that we're heading down that same road. Anytime our deficits keep getting bigger and bigger, and we have to borrow

(See ECONOMIC, P. 2)

Holiday Spirit Helps Hamlet Fire Victims

BY CASH MICHAELS

Contributing Writer

Two and one-half months after one of the greatest tragedies in North Carolina history, the survivors of the Imperial Foods plant in Hamlet are slowly trying to put the pieces back together. For those who lost family and friends in the chicken processing plant fire that claimed 25 lives last Sept. 11, it is much harder, for not only did they lose people they loved, but their jobs, too. And yet, the outpouring of love and contributions from around the country have given many of them hope to survive.

"They're coming out of it, but I think they're still kind of in shock," said Ms. Cassandra Smith, chairperson of CARE, a coalition of community organizations in Richmond County that came together to help the survivors of the Imperial foods fire.

"We're trying to get them to come out to our meetings to organize things, and more of them have been coming out lately. But with it being the holiday season, the event is still in their minds and close to their hearts, because the holidays always make you think about the ones you love and lost," she told THE CAROLINIAN.

Ms. Smith's group, along with the Black Workers for Justice, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and others, raised \$30,000 in donations from across the country for the employees of Imperial Foods.

More than 200 checks for \$145 each were distributed to them recently at St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Hamlet so that the families would be able to do something for Christmas.

"It helps a lot," said Thomas Oates, III, looking at his check. "The way things were going, there wouldn't have been a Christmas."

Oates worked in the gravel area of the plant the day of the fire, and was one of the first to get out.

(See HOLIDAY SPIRIT, P. 2)

Rep. Lewis Seeks Stand On Black Violence; Hoodlums Erode Gains

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), a former top, young, non-violent civil rights leader who now is deputy majority leader of the House of Representatives, denounced the tide of growing violence in African-American communities during a speech in his home state this month.

Speaking at the Israel Williams Memorial Scholarship banquet in Bessemer, Ala., near the area where

he was beaten to the ground with other non-violent demonstrators for voting rights during the historic 1964 Selma-to-Montgomery marches, Lewis told the audience, "black-on-black violence... constitutes the greatest threat to the African-American community in the 1990s."

"Once again, the time has come for our communities to take a stand to protect our future. We have to galva-

nize forces as we did in the 1960s... We have to secure our social and economic freedom. And we must stop the drug trade and black-on-black violence that is plaguing our communities," Rep. Lewis declared.

"There are young teenage hoodlums who are wrecking the gains made by young black and white students who went to jail—and even

(See REP. JOHN LEWIS, P. 2)



WLE CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY—WLE Radio personalities Bro. James Thoms, second from right and Rosa Hodge, far right, assisted in the food distribution at the station's Martin Street location Thursday afternoon.

Pictured also are happy recipients, who received the tree food donations, made through the generosity of churches, clubs, individual, and businesses. (Photo by James Giles)

Shooting Results In One Man Hospitalized

A Southeast Raleigh man has been arrested and charged with shooting two Raleigh men recently.

Dennis Leon Williams, of 921 Peace Terrace, was charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury with intent to kill and felony assault.

Records show police arrested the 30-year-old man after he shot at two Raleigh men, hospitalizing one with a wound to the chest.

The shooting incident occurred in the 1300 block of Walnut Street in South Raleigh.

Willie Summer Foster, of 1331-B Holman St., was shot in the chest. Williams allegedly shot at, but missed, Marvin Mitchell of 512 S. Person St.

Williams was in the Wake County Jail under a \$5,000 bond for the assault with a deadly weapon charge and a \$500 bond for the felony assault.

(See SHOOTING, P. 2)

RALEIGH OBSERVES KWANZAA

A Raleigh Kwanzaa celebration is set for Saturday, Dec. 28. The event will start at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. at the Roberts Park Community Center, located at 1300 E. Martin St. This is the 25th anniversary of the Kwanzaa celebration: one-quarter of a century and getting stronger. Join us for this joyous and serious cultural celebration, sponsored by the Raleigh Kwanzaa Committee. For more information call 533-5269. Please bring a covered dish for the feast.

YEAR-ROUND SCHOOLS EXPAND

Going to school in all seasons—even summer? Yes, that's what year-round education means for students in Wake County. But it also means refreshing breaks from school in all seasons, not just in the summer.

The Wake County Public School System is launching its recruitment drive for the expansion of the year-round education program for the 1992-93 school year. Morrisville Elementary, West Lake Elementary, West Lake Middle, and Durant Road Elementary are the four "schools for all seasons" that will provide voluntary year-round education programs for the system next year.

CONGRESS ASSESS JOBLESS BILL

Congress recently passed an unemployment benefits extension bill that will give a financial boost to some 50,000 jobless North Carolinians who have been hit hardest by the recession.

Congress passed the final version of the bill last week that would allow eligible North Carolinians to receive an additional 13 weeks of

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)