

DWEN CARDWELL, SR
ca 1988

NO MATTER HOW LONG

Theme: "FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOW WHAT THEY DO."

Chapter One - School Integration

In the city of Lynchburg during the period of 1885-1889 there were five (5) Blacks elected to City Council. After 1889 there was a definite decline in the participation of Black's in local politics.

One hundred years later, 1988 there is only one Black on City Council. We are retrogressing instead of progressing. By 1900 social and political opportunities for Black were limited. In many ways we were denied more rights at the turn of the century than before the civil war. Virginia law required the separation of the races on trains and streetcars and in public schools, restaurants, newspaper articles, and all other public facilities. Segregated schools had been in existence in Lynchburg since 1971.

A Black delegation to the State Constitutional Convention (a man by the name of Samuel Keslo), had proposed a system of public education for all Virginia citizens regardless of race. The state's response was to set up separate but equal educational institutions.

On May 17, 1954 in it's historic Brown vs. the Board of Education the Supreme Court of the United States unanimously ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. This marked the beginning of the end of

racial segregation as a way of life for southern Blacks and Whites. It also marked the beginning of the twenty (20) year struggle by concerned citizens to secure for Blacks their constitutional rights.

The events which followed the historic Supreme Court decision rocked the nation. All over the south, in the 17 states affected, Whites reacted to the decision. The initial response in Virginia was low key. Many whites continued to assume that there was cheerful acceptance of subordinated status on the part of Negroes.

Initially Governor Thomas B. Stanley, governor of Virginia at that time, seemed to set the tone for compliance with the courts decision. State Attorney General J. Lindsey Armand, Jr. said, "The highest court in the land has spoken, and I trust that Virginia will approach the question realistically and endeavor to work out rational adjustments."

Virginia Senator Harry Byrd, was warning of implications and damage for the greatest consequences and called the decision "the most serious blow that has been struck against states rights."

Many people were looking to Virginia as a potential leader in the southern adjustment to the Supreme Courts ruling. In Lynchburg an editorial in the News and Daily Advance proclaimed "That the high court had made a harmful decision." But wrong as the ruling appeared to be, there could be no defiance of the law. The news also predicted that the mingling of the races would produce friction and violence. While the attitude of many Lynchburg public officials was wait and see just how the courts' decision would effect the

cities 8,400 public students. 6,300 Whites and 2,100 Blacks remained to be seen.

The News interviewed prominent Lynchburgers for their reactions. Lynchburg School Superintendent Paul Monro, and Carl B. Hutcherson, Sr., who was the first Black school board member, both had no comments on the courts decision. State Senator Mosby Perrow, expressed surprise and concern for sometime yet. This is one of the most startling jokes to our way of life; particularly in the south!

On the day of the Supreme Court decision, I was employed by the Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company. The man who hired and trained me was Mr. H.A.M. Johns, a dedicated community leader. He had led a fight to equalize the schools in the City of Lynchburg. At that time he was President of the Dunbar P.T.A. and the only president that they had until his declining health for over 40 years. Mrs. Frances Adams Deyerle, wrote a book published in 1987 which she states - "That over the years the students of the Dunbar High School set impressive records and were recognized for their achievements. The basketball team played three times for the national championship. The Theatre Guild received the highest rating of the state V.I.A. Drama Festival. The chorus was generally acclaimed as one of the finest high school singing groups in the nation. Academically over 300 students were elected to membership in the national honor society. Among Dunbar's records in sports the football and basketball team had the most impressive record of any Black high school." This was the type of students that Dunbar High School had to offer. Among some of the graduates are people such as Christopher Edley who is the Executive Director for the United

6-12?

Mr. Johns had previously advised the lawyers for the committee that last August a small confidential group of us, the colored citizens of Lynchburg were invited to come to Mr. Seay's office for a secret conference in which he carefully and painstakingly presented to us the intention of the school board. Mr. Seay had told the confidential committee the interminable conditions of the Negro high school of Lynchburg, which the school authorities had sent him correspondence relating to plans for the new E.C. Glass High School. Mr. Seay told the committee that they could not sit idly by and await the spending of large sums of money on a white school that it would mean that the doors would be closed to improvements for Negro schools for many years. From this information the group formed a committee which was later enlarged to its present size, and presented the Superintendent of Schools and the school board a petition to reject the plan in the 10 year improvement plan for the Negro. The Superintendent of Schools then sent to Mr. Seay a blueprint plan for a 10 year greater expansion which they had planned to link together the elementary Payne School and Dunbar High School, by constructing across Polk Street a building to provide for the common use of the two schools, an auditorium, a cafeteria, a gymnasium and administrative offices.

This plan as presented was rejected by the whole high school faculty as unworkable and contrary to the requirement of secondary education facilities. They should not link elementary and high school students together. However, they offered a counter proposal that instead of linking an elementary school and high school, the city of Lynchburg had never had Jr. high schools linked to white schools. That the campus and buildings after proper renovation at the present Payne School site be taken over for a Jr. High School

accomodating grades 7th through the 9th. This would leave campus and building of Dunbar High School as a Senior High School and accomodating grades 10th, 11th, and 12th. That a new and modern elementary school building be built in another block, away from the secondary school areas to provide for grades in the areas through the 6th grade. These suggestions of the Dunbar Faculty were expected to be presented to the Superintendents office Saturday morning, January 28, 1950 at 10 o'clock. We, of the citizens school committee, know nothing about any such plans nor do we approve them. We stand definitely for equalization of school facilities in every way for negro children. This state was published in The News and Daily Advance.

The following are excerpts from the letter written to Dr. Paul Munro on March 1, 1950 by the Dunbar High School faculty.

The faculty of Dunbar High School has given serious thought and consideration to your program of expanding facilities on the secondary school level. We have studied this plan which was placed at our disposal and have discussed them in committee and in special faculty meetings called for this purpose. After several weeks of study and discussion organized with a thoroughly democratic manner, we find ourselves in agreement on the following points:

- (1) That our present facilities are badly in need of expansion and modernization in several vital areas and that these facilities should be provided for with permanent type construction at the earliest possible moment.
- (2) That our present curriculum is not providing for needs in some areas and that some of the things we are now doing are being done under the handicap of insufficient space and unsuitable equipment.

- (3) That there are many advantages in Jr. High School organizations and instructions in which our pupils do not enjoy and that a Jr. High School plan would be a big step forward for our schools.
- (4) That the only answer which we can see to a Junior, Senior High School instruction in our schools for many years to come lies in joint facilities, not joint offerings.
- (5) That the establishment of separate Junior and Senior high schools at the present time would so reduce the student population of the Senior high school that it would be practically impossible to offer a comprehensive program.
- (6) That we are opposed to the joining of Dunbar and Payne Schools as presently organized because of the differences in ages, objectives, activities, curriculum, schedules, and philosophies.
- (7) That all available data leads us to believe that the enrollment in the Junior, Senior High School grades for the school year 1951-1952, the first full year when all sections of all 12th grades will be operational will be as follows: Total of 574 students in the Junior High grades and a total of 460 students in the Senior High grades. A grand total of 1,034.

We therefore urge your consideration of the following recommendations:

- (1) That the present site of Payne and Dunbar be retained and as large as the secondary school center for all pupils.

- (2) That the present plan which was drawn to accomodate a student body of 800 be redrawn and modified to take care of 1,200 Junior and Senior high school pupils operating as one unit instead of two separate units.
- (3) That the old part of Payne School be demolished and new facilities be erected in its place.
- (4) That a building containing a cafeteria, gymnasium, auditorium, and administrative offices be erected and joined to the two plants in such a way as to make a consolidated unit of the two, allowing easy access across from one to the other, that might include an underground passage near the 12th Street end.
- (5) That grades 1 - 6 be moved from the present Payne to the new school or schools as the classes may be located in accordance with present and future needs of elementary facilities.
- (6) That grades 7 - 12 be provided junior high school students instruction on the secondary school site.
- (7) That we consider this unit as a junior, senior high school rather than a junior high school then a senior high school.
- (8) That all necessary facilities be provided on this site to meet the needs of a comprehensive junior senior high school unit catering to 1,200 students.
- (9) That the auditorium be erected with a minimum seating capacity of 1,500 so as to serve community needs as well as school needs.
- (10) That the entire project be undertaken at one time

outside groups without opening the entire school.

This was submitted by the Dunbar High School faculty, on May 23, 1951.

Mr. Johns sent the following letter to the attorneys for citizens committee. It states:

Dear Mr. Robinson,

Please find enclosed a copy of our local evening Daily Advance paper in which you will find an article entitled plans for Dunbar to be ready for the next meeting of council in which you will note that this statement, if made, is not true. It's location below the main Dunbar plant was favored by the faculty and the Administrator of the school, Dr. Paul Munro. It is also accessible to Payne School which is directly across Polk Street from Dunbar High School. True to the custom of putting over things on the colored teachers and citizens by stating a half truth for the public sentiment. It is not true that the faculty and Administration of the Dunbar High School favored linking up any facilities of an elementary school with that of the high school which would certainly cause our high school to lose its accreditation rating which we must maintain at all costs. This type of dialogue continued for several years between the citizens committee, the lawyers for the citizens committee and the Superintendent of Schools. The greater Dunbar was built and linked to Payne Elementary School because of threatened court actions.

My son, Owen Cardwell, Jr. was born in 1947 and by the time the high school was completed he had reached the age to enter Dunbar High School. He had gone through the elementary school with a straight A average and now was at Dunbar High School which did not offer the type of curriculum in which he was interested. He at that time told me that he wanted to take Mechanical drawing being interested in a background which would enable him to enter the Engineering field. Dunbar High School did not offer Mechanical drawing, E.C. Glass, the white high school did offer these courses that would give him the necessary background and early training that would enable him to enter one of the better colleges offering Engineering courses.

We first visited the offices of Mr. C.W. Seay, who was principal of Dunbar at the time and requested that he would be able to travel to E.C. Glass and take these special courses that he needed. Mr. Seay did not have the authority to do this we were informed. So we went to the Superintendent of Schools. He did not have the authority to grant our request. So we made an appointment with the School Board and they flatly rejected our proposal. Having read some of the communications that the school citizens committee had been reading and writing made my blood boil and I was determined to do all that I could to help my son receive the education that others in the City was receiving.

As small as it might have been, we paid our fair share of taxes and we felt that the tax dollars were spent to educate white children and prepare them for the future better than it did black children. The white children's curriculum was geared towards academic training, where black children's education was geared towards industrial training. Black

children were handicapped from the beginning of their life, as far as a good education was concerned. They were educated, yes, but under inferior conditions.

There was a federal law on the books that was not being enforced, only a part of it. There was a law that required separate but equal. The equal part of the law was never enforced while the separate part was most vigorously enforced. The equal part of the law could not be enforced because there is no such thing as separate but equal. Where many white people failed with their superior facilities and buildings and curriculum, blacks succeeded.

During the years immediately before the integration movement, a young Minister by the name of Rev. Virgil Wood came to Lynchburg. He was called by the Diamond Hill Baptist church where he followed as pastor, the Rev. W.J. Hodges, who was a member or rather a former member of the Dunbar High School citizens committee for improvements at Dunbar. Rev. Wood was a brilliant Minister. Not only was he a Minister, but he was a born leader who believed in the dignity of man. He along with Mr. William Gordon, the owner of a black dry cleaning firm known as Community Cleaners, organized a group of people and called this group, the Lynchburg Improvement Association. But at that time, the news of the day was the historic bus boycott, that was going on in Montgomery, Alabama, led by Mrs. Rosa Parks, who refused to give her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus to a white man. Mrs. Parks was closely associated with Dr. Martin Luther King of Atlanta, Georgia.

I joined the group, known as Lynchburg Improvement Association, and we were discussing who we could get to come to

Lynchburg and speak in order to unify the black folks around the Lynchburg area and encourage them to work with the Improvement Association. Dr. G.F. Jackson, a dentist in Lynchburg, suggested Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. because his name was in every headline in every newspaper across the nation. I was appointed as the Coordinator of this program. We invited Dr. King to come to Lynchburg and he accepted. He spoke at the E.C. Glass High School auditorium and electrified the audience, a capacity crowd. The most active members of the Lynchburg Improvement Association were Dr. G.F. Jackson, Rev. Virgil Wood, Mr. Theodore Burton, Mr. Oliver Thaxton, Bates Ford, Mrs. John Hughes, Ms. Mary Payne, Ms. Essie Gordon, Mr. Frank "Dit" Hughes, Owen Cardwell Jr., Owen Cardwell Sr., Mr. Albert Granderson, Ms. Marie Thompson and so many others whose names do not come to mind just now. Most of the people that I named worked on the committee to bring Dr. Martin Luther King to Lynchburg. This was before the historic march on Washington. The following is the speech made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Lynchburg on March 12, 1961.

22-40?

WHY SEGREGATION?

From the beginning of men on earth as friends
People judged each other for the color of their skin,
Since this has been the trouble since the world began
Now let us work to change it before the world ends.

For when we buy our bacon already sliced
We don't ask whether the pig was Black or White,
So we fry our eggs, Brown and White
But when they are cooked they are both alike.

As we sit and judge our friends
How can we tell the color of their sin,
Is the Black for Women and White for Men?
But we realize they both are the same in the end.

They tell everybody milk is good for life
But can't tell if the cow was Black or White,
So if we Segregate we know it's not right
For you can't tell souls apart at night.

For when the Great Reaper comes to collect at night
It doesn't class the souls as Black or White,
It returns them back to the bank of the soul
If they was not Segregated, they are color of pure gold.

We claim our churches are free from sin
But if another race come, we won't let them in,
We all say Segregation is not right
But just a few of our churches have Black and White.

For when this life is over, then we can tell
If there will be Segregation in Hell,
For we were made Yellow, Red, Black and White
Because they were all beautiful in God's sight.

Then when we finish the road we trod
We will be so surprised of the color of our God,
There we will gather on Judgement Day
We will all be surprised when we are turned away.

For the Bible tells of the wheat and the tare
He say let them grow together, don't try to part,
For everything on this earth was made by God
And those that see Him, must be pure in heart.

For when He returns, it may be day or night
He will leave us all here, if we are not right,
For there is no Segregation in His sight
There is only God, He is neither Black nor White.

BY

ADDISON S. WOOD

After Dr. Martin Luther King came to Lynchburg, the Lynchburg Improvement Association changed its name to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Lynchburg Branch, because the Montgomery Improvement Association had changed its name to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Montgomery Branch. These were the first two branches of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized. Dr. Virgile Wood remained as leader of the Lynchburg Branch and came to maturity at an ideal time. He had both the mind set and the spiritual stamina and he brought to the struggle painful memories and painful scorns that all black people carry.

Following the model of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Wood the organizer of the Lynchburg Improvement Association like King would use his pulpit as a base for this operation. He advocated new methods in the struggle. The old methods were obsolete. He thought legal channels. The demonstration marches and civil disobedience urged by Wood were revolutionary tactics that sparked controversy among both blacks and whites. On February 22, 1961, Wood was one of the four black men arrested and charged with trespassing at Pattersons Drug Store. Picketing the drug store at the time of the arrest were 7 women from Sweet Briar College. The blacks involved were given 60 days jail sentences. Rev. William Walker Roberts, pastor of the Eighth Street Baptist Church was one of the group of black citizens arrested, and on March 1, the Rev. William Walker Roberts handed the City Council a list of desegregation demands and an ultimatum that Council was told either to end all segregation of the City's swimming pools, libraries, parks, courts, jails, schools, cemeteries, and the City Armory or face a federal suit. The Council's response to the Rev. Roberts ultimatum was that it would be impossible to make an immediate decision on desegregation. Desegregation of any resultive action could

take months, to this Roberts replied, the patience of 100 years is not inexhaustible. You have one week. Attending this hearing at City Hall was Frank T. Burgess, member of the Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties, who spoke out strongly against the ultimatum at the meeting. Mayor William Vaughan advised Burgess to hold his comment, but he continued to voice his criticism. Burgess' main complaint was the unfairness of the black proposal, especially after all Lynchburg had done for its colored. It is interesting to note that no records of Roberts comments, the ultimatum, Burgess' outburst, or Vaughan's request for Burgess to hold his comments were found in City Council minutes of the March 1 meeting. The sit-ins and protests continued. On March 4, 1961, Rev. John Teeter and two black companions were refused service at S & W Cafeteria in Pittman Plaza. The next day, Owen Cardwell, Jr. and a white girl went in to the cafeteria. The white girl ordered a cup of coffee, and shared it with Cardwell in the restaurant. As a result, they closed the restaurant and called in the bi-racial committee which had been appointed by that time to alleviate a solution to the problem. Cardwell called the headquarters of the S & W Cafeteria and returned to the cafeteria the next day. Which I transported him and some other students who were going to picket the cafe, when a car load of police, including the Chief of Police stopped me in the parking lot and said I could call off the demonstrators, that the cafe was open to everyone on a non segregated basis. Dr. Carter Tinsley, a former Defender member believed that most of the Black Civil Rights Leaders of the 1960s were Communists and Communists inspired, especially the Rev. Martin Luther King and Virgil Wood. "The Communists love these men", stated Tinsley, "I have a picture of him in a Communist school." The Lynchburg Improvement Association met on May 15, at the Court Street Baptist Church. At this meeting the name of the organization was changed. The Rev. Virgil Wood asked

state pupil placement board and no decision on the transfer request could be made. There had been along drawn out court battle in order to reach the point of this request which started in early 1960. This ended the protest of the Dunbar Citizens Committee that had protested the building of the E.C. Glass High School at the cost of four million dollars. While the grading of the grounds of E.C. Glass High School cost more than all of the black schools put together. The protest of racial segregation continued in the City of Lynchburg. At first, only two students, Owen Cardwell and Linda Woodruff were ordered to enter E.C. Glass. They entered E.C. Glass with no incidents at all, other than the fact that a group of white students, mostly boys gathered on the steps of E.C. Glass that morning, awaiting the arrival of the first two negro students to attend a white school in Lynchburg. They were talking and joking in a holiday mood. They were described as merely curious by one school official. When told to go inside they went inside immediately without a fuss. Said one, it is too cold to stand out here anyway. In October 1961, the State NAACP held its annual convention in Lynchburg, and I was forced to write this letter to the local branch of the NAACP at that time. And I stated that there seems to be misunderstanding as to how and why the school applications were made and under whose sponsorship. This letter is intended to clarify some rumors which are damaging both to the local branch of the NAACP and the NAACP as a whole. The present Administration of the local branch of the NAACP minds are warped with the idea that some of the organization is trying to discredit the splendid record that has been maintained over many years. And the contributions which they have made for the advancement of Negroes in Lynchburg and the vicinity. They have made many of the members ashamed to be associated with either group. Many have threatened to

because it cost less than present proposals as far as the elementary schools are concerned. Where pairing already exist let it remain with reference to inner city elementary school set up a pairing system between Yoder and Frank Roane Schools until a suitable building can be erected to consolidate the two schools. Under the present desegregation plan as submitted by the School Board, there will exist an element of freedom of choice which has been ruled unconstitutional in achieving desegregation. Respectfully submitted, O.C. Cardwell.

With this plan Cardwell noticed that Glass would house 2,138 pupils and Dunbar would have 1,404 students. He said that the capacities of these two schools are 2,000 at E.C. Glass and 1,700 at Dunbar. This would give room for additional pupils. The BLAC plan also called for the end of mass shifting of entire grades from arear junior high schools and maintained both schools as academic senior high schools while meeting court order integration in the fall of 1971. The BLAC stated that it's research supported the fact that Glass was already too large for a meaningful educational opportunity for quite a few students. Cardwell acknowledged that the return of the nineth grade to the city senior high school would be a temporary educational set back from recent trends toward housing this grade in the junior high school. He contended that the set back would not be as bad as the permanent damage the Negro community would suffer from taking away it's only senior high school facility.

The following editorial was broadcase on WLVA radio and television on Wednesday, October 29, 1969 -

In recent weeks WLVA has supported the efforts of the Black Lynchburg Action Committee to express the feelings of this City's Black community, however, in their

Incorrect
Note: BLAC WAS NOT ORGANIZED UNTIL 1969. - LAS

Council. This Council will consist of seven Black persons elected by the Black community. The Black Leadership Council is determined to live up to the trust placed in it by the Black citizens of Lynchburg, and will demonstrate that it is determined to find ways calculated to produce concrete action on the grievances of the Black community. In the pursuit of this goal the Black Leadership Council will call upon all people of goodwill, Black and white, to join hands in building the bridges of equality over the challenges of inequality which dangerously separate the people of this City.

In 1973 a special article appeared in the Afro-American Newspaper concerning the Black Lynchburg Action Council "MAKES BIG GAINS". For years Lynchburg was a conservative slow moving apathetic community. With this in mind a group of Black leaders determined to make Lynchburg a more progressive community decided to go to the Black community and request that it elect representative leaders, determined and fearless individuals, who were sympathetic and completely committed to making social and economic changes in Lynchburg. The two groups merged themselves into one confederated group. One was the Black Action Council. The other group was an elected committee of the people from the Lynchburg community. Both groups were selected by the method of open election. The Leadership Council was a wide range one.

For years the White establishment had accused the Black committee of being divided. The Black Action Council and the special committee of parents and friends of the Black youth proved themselves to be a unified group. The representatives of the Black Action Council included among others the following:

Rev. Herman Ford - Pastor of Rivermont Baptist Church and Chairman of the Special Parent Committee; Mr. M.W. Thornhill - President of the Lynchburg Voter's League and a local Funeral Director; Mr. Garnell Stamps - Vice-Chairman of the Black Lynchburg Action Council and a Public School Teacher; Mr. Robert Winfrey - Minister of Music at the Diamond Hill Baptist Church and Choral Music Director at Dunbar High School; Mr. O.C. Cardwell Sr. - Insurance Executive, Manager of the Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, District Office, Lynchburg, Virginia; O.C. Cardwell Jr. - a Student in a local college; Miss. Evelyn Chambers - Housewife and Spokemans for the Special Parent Committee; Rev. E. R. Berrymanl - Minister of the White Rock Baptist Church; Mr. Junius Haskins Jr. - Youth Director of the Lynchburg Community Action Agency; Rev. James L. Brooks - President of the Lynchburg Chapter NAACP; Rev. Dr. M.C. Sutherland - President of Virginia College; Mr. James Abbott - local Laborer in the Lynchburg community; Rev. Haywood Robinson Jr. - Executive Director of the Lynchburg Community Action Agency and Minister of the Diamond Hill Baptist Church; Mr. Raymond R. White - Chairman of the Timbridge Hill Advisory Group; Rev. Leroy Roberts; Mr. Robert Daniels - Coordinator of the Lynchburg Community Action Agency YOUTH Group; Mr. Danny McCain - Instructor at the Detention Home in Lynchburg; Mr. Kenneth Oglesby - Youth Coordinator of the Black Action Council; Attorney Charles M.L. Mangum; and Miss. Mary Payne - a local Nurse.

In April 1971, after numerous attempts to approach the power structure of Lynchburg the committee decided to present

some issues with the public schools and the community in general. A list of demands was drawn up and presented to a Special Assistant to the Governor of Virginia. This Special Assistant being Mr. William R. Robertsth. These were the major items:

- To increase the number of Black firemen;
- to upgrade policemen;
- to establish an overall policy of hiring Black people in all city offices;
- to hire a Black person in the position of authority in the area of minority affairs;
- to hire a Black Coordinator of Recreations and Parks;
- to desolve the bi-racial committee and set up a new commission consulting with the Black community.

Also included among the various school issues was the hiring of a Black Assistant Principle at E.C. Glass High School. The hiring of a Black Head Coach in major sport. The arranging of the organizational structure for the observance of National Negro History Week with students and faculty members and student council association all taking an active part. To issue equal representation of Blacks on student council at the high schools. The hiring of qualified Black people in the central office in positions of decision making. The hiring of Blacks in other visible positions throughout the entire school system. Checking that Black youth and White youth be given special consideration in regards to college entrance and hiring of Black persons in positions of authority on a full time basis at the Janice Snead School for problem students.

The result were phenomenal. At least one additional Black fireman was employed. The City began to upgrade certain policemen and also to increase the number of Black policemen. The City Council under pressure from Black Action Council made a public proclamation of establishment and overall non

discriminatory hiring practice at City Hall. No Black person as of this publication has been hired to assist directly in minority affairs. The same applies for the position of Coordinator of Recreation and Parks. The bi-racial committee has not been dissolved. Real victories however, were obtained in regard to the school system. A Black assistant principal was hired less than four months after the complaint was made. A Black Head Coach was appointed at a formerly all white E.C. Glass High School. Two Black Assistant Coaches were hired there in a major sport. A Black person was appointed as Head Coach. The Black person, Mr. Robert Saunders was hired as Coordinator of Student Affairs at E.C. Glass High School. Under his leadership certain arrangements were made to make National Negro History Week observance at E.C. Glass more meaningful to Black students. Two Black counselors currently assisting Black youth trying to select and find financial assistance to college. Those were some of the gains made to that point under pressure applied by the Lynchburg Black Action Council.

In 1973 two prominent citizens, a white law student and Afro-American Lynchburg correspondent, were arrested in Corporation Court Thursday, while attending the now famous trial of Thomas Carlton Wansley. In early 1960 Lynchburg was shaken by the freedom movement. Many black people were in the streets fighting the segregated public facilities. Tensions were high. In the midst of these struggles a 59 year old white woman, Miss. Annie Lee Carter, claimed that she had been raped by a Black man. Police mounted a big man hunt and they came up with Thomas Carlton Wansley. He was just turning 17 and had dropped out of school and was working in a restaurant. He was not involved in the freedom movement, but he was Black and had big ears that resembled a picture that was drawn from the

the description given by Miss. Carter. Wansley's first trial was in 1962. Miss. Carter then testified that she was not sure Wansley was the man. Still he was hastily convicted and sentenced to death by a jury picked by Judge Cundiff. His last trial was in 1967. By this time Miss. Carter's memory had improved. She said naturally I can identify him because I have seen his picture in the paper and I've also seen him in court since then. The lawyers for Wansley had already pointed out that the two newspapers had made it impossible for him to receive a fair trial in Lynchburg.

A change of venue was requested by his attorney but was denied by Judge Cundiff. The scandalous trial however bought many eager Lynchburg residents to Wansley's defense. A defense fund was organized. Dr. G.F. Jackson was appointed treasurer and O.C. Cardwell program coordinator. M.W. Thornhill, who was chairman of the local Lynchburg Voters League had taken great interest in this case because of the injustice perpetrated against Blacks. Thomas Carlton Wansley has been in prison ten years now. He has educated himself and has become a model prisoner. He also was helpful in forcing prison reform in the state of Virginia.

On January 1, 1973, Judge Robert Merhige ruled that the courts must give Wansley a new trial within the next 60 days or set him free. He also ruled that the lawyers must set bail for him through the local courts, but if they refused he would take another look at the matter.

Wansley's attorney, William S. Kunstler of New York, Phillip Hirschko of Alexandria, Virginia and Charles M.L. Mangum of Lynchburg, Virginia were in the process of petitioning the lower courts to set bail for Wansley when Dr. G.F. Jackson, M.W. Thornhill, O.C. Cardwell, Sr. and all of

Lynchburg and Michael D. Mickles of Big Island were arrested. Attorney Kunstler brought the first and only outburst from the audience when he said he would "not trade conscience with Judge Cundiff". The judge after a while interrupted Kuntsler's discourse to interject that in the matter of conscience he, Cundiff would prefer his to Kuntsler's. Then Kuntsler said he would challenge the statement and hoped he would be held in contempt, so that he could argue the matter at a later date. A low outburst of cheering then caused Judge Cundiff to order the court room cleared of the persons not connected with the case except for the court officials and clerks.

O.C. Cardwell was then writing for the Afro-American Newspaper and the Norfolk General and Guide. "I was the first person asked for identification even though there were several news reports from various publications. I informed them that I was the Lynchburg correspondent for the Lynchburg Afro-American Newspaper and the Norfolk General and Guide, but I had no press card." They said if you have no press card shut up, you are under arrest. At this point no other reporters were asked for identification. I do not know what happended in court after this. Shortly after being at the lock up Dr. Jackson, Mr. Thornhill and Mr. Mickles were ushered in. They stated that they too were under arrest. After this then came Attorney Hirshcoft, Mangum and Kuntsler stating that they had walked out of the court room because the judge had systematically cleared the court room of all Blacks and that the only people left were white. Judge Cundiff had succeeded in segregating the court as it was in the first trial of Thomas Carlton Wansley.

We were told by the lawyers that they refused to argue the case in a racially segregated court. In Judge Cundiff's decision, he said "it is the opinion of this court that it would endanger the safety of every woman in the state of

Virginia if this man was allowed bond." The decision of the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Virginia is not to find a judge, and therefore it would be inconceivable to grant bail and allow this person to prey on other women in this state. Bail denied."

After the judge's decision, Mr. Thornhill, Jackson, Nicholas and myself was brought before Judge Cundiff for a hearing. I was dismissed due to a letter I had in my pocket from Mr. Raymond H. Boone, editor of the Richmond Afro clarifying my position. Dr. Jackson and Mr. M.W. Thornhill and Mr. Mickles were arrested in order to appear the next Corporation Court to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court. Mr. Thornhill and Dr. Jackson were released on their own recognizance. Mr. Mickles, the only white arrested, was released on a \$500 bond.

Following are actual statements taken from Mr. Thornhill, President of the Lynchburg Voters League, member of the State Democratic Committee, delegate to the National Democratic Convention, and leading Mortician in the City of Lynchburg. He states:

"I attended the hearing Thursday morning at the Corporation Court in Lynchburg, Virginia as an American citizen. I was very orderly during the course of events. There was applause due to comments made by Attorney Kunstler. The judge directed the officials to empty the court room of most of the people there. The group was 99 and 9/10% Black. I did not leave, as a result one of the officers approached me and said I would have to leave. I assured him that I would not. As a result, I was taken to another room and arrested. I personally feel as an American citizen, I had a right

to be there, and if the room had to be emptied all persons should have been forced to leave. There were certain privileges for whites who remained. Some of the people I know by name, some were attorneys but they were not involved in the case. I thought if they had the right to remain, I also did.

Dr. G.F. Jackson, Treasurer for the Wansley Defense Fund, member of the Bi-Racial Committee for the City of Lynchburg and is a nationally known practicing Dentist in the City of Lynchburg states that as a citizen and a taxpayer residing for some twenty-seven years in the City of Lynchburg, "I highly resent Judge Cundiff's actions. That is to clear the courtroom of all Black people. My feeling is that the Judge simply lost his cool and that in effect to regain some of his posture he tried to take it out on the audience, the predominantly Black audience."

As a correspondent for the Richmond Afro and the Norfolk Journal and Guide on March 20, 1973, I wrote the following article for the paper:

The trial of two prominent Black Lynchburg citizens and a white law student was held in contempt of court Tuesday, March 20, 1973 at 9:00 AM. Judge Raymond O. Cundiff, Judge for the Corporation Court had an earlier hearing and disqualified himself to hear the case because he was the one who admonished the defendents to appear and show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court. The alleged contempt occured during the nationally famous trial of Thomas Carlton Wansley. At which time the courtroom was ordered clear of all spectators with the exception of the members of the court and the press and those connected with the

Wansley trial. Four people remained in the spectators section namely Dr. G.F. Jackson, Mr. M.W. Thornhill, Mr. Michael D. Mickles and O.C. Cardwell all of which were arrested. Later Cardwell was released after showing proper identification proving that he was connected with the press. The other three were held in contempt of court. Judge William M. Huntle, a retired judge of the Hesting Court of Richmond, Virginia presided at the hearing. A tape recording was played of the Wansley hearing that led to the arrest of the defendents. No evidence came forth proving that Judge Cundiff had ordered the courtroom cleared instead the order came from one of the sheriffs. Judge Hasking ordered that Attorney Charles M.L. Mangum and Robert K. Dokins prepare the brief to support their connection on that April 2, 1973 and prepare to reappear before the court on April 24th at which time the hearing would reconvene. They appeared before the court on this date and were fined \$25.00 each and released.

Also in 1973, a white policeman charged with brutality in Lynchburg. A fifty-six year old man, retired, and a disability receipient had charged that a six foot, two hundred pound officer had beat him about the head causing hospitalization. William Douglas JOhnson of 1117 Polk Street Lynchburg, was ommitted to the emergency room at Lynchburg General Hospital on Saturday evening, June 23rd where he was treated for facial lacerations. Stitches were required to close wounds around his left eye which was closed shut from the beating leaped on him by Officer Saunders. In a four page notarized complaint which the police chief mailed, Wiley E. Gilpam, sevent black citizens who claimed to be eyewitnesses, gave their accounts of the alleged brutality. The complaint called for the immediate suspension of Officer Saunders and the

ultimately firing of him from the police force. The Local Chapter of the NAACP had become involved in the situation and on Tuesday, June 26, 1973, Mayor Gilliam had suspended Officer Saunders. It marks the first time in the history of the Hill City that a white officer was suspended as a result of accusations brought against him by a Black person.

Let us go back to yesteryear in the case of Thomas Carlton Wansley. On Wednesday, October 10, 1967 the Daily Advance printed an article stating that the "Court Refused Review In Contempt Convictions". The State Supreme Court had refused to review a contempt conviction against one of the attorneys of Negro rapist Thomas Carlton Wansley. The attorney Phillip J. Hirshkop of Alexandria has thirty days from April 26th to seek a stay from the State Supreme Court of it's order refusing review. Judge O. Raymond Cundiff of Corporation Court who held Hirschkop in contempt on February 14, 1966 after the lawyer failed to appear in the defense of Wansley at a hearing said today that attorneys must either receive a stay from the courts ruling or he will order payment of a fifty dollar fine. In addition to the fine Cundiff gave Hirschkop a five day suspended jail sentence. The appeal from Wansley's lawyer was rejected by State Supreme Court on the grounds that he failed to follow required legal procedure. The court said Hirschkop failed to file his appeal within sixty days of being sited for contempt. He also failed to file his appeal with the high court in Richmond within four months of being sited. Commonwealth Attorney Royston Jester, III said Hirschkop would probably be able to appeal the citation to the U.S. Supreme Court. Wansley was found guilty in March of raping and robbing the elderly white woman in December, 1962. He said Hirschkopf was represented at the trial by Charles M.L. Mangum, a Negro Lynchburg attorney and William M. Kuntsler of New York. Kuntsler on numerous occasions had been linked to Communist

front organizations and efforts. Wansley, now a twenty-two year old Negro, previously had been convicted and sentenced to death on the charge in February 1963, however due to procedure errors in the first trial the conviction was overturned. Wansley again was convicted this spring. He was given two life sentences. During the re-trial Hirschkopf informed the court repeatedly that being cited for contempt had weighted heavily upon his mind. On May 1, Judge Cundiff postponed until June 5th a ruling on how Wansley's two life terms were to be served, either concurrently or consecutively. However, either way it is still possible that Wansley could be released after serving fifteen years. He already has served four. Cundiff postponed the decision on the sentencing after listening to Kunstler make a lengthy appeal which accused the Lynchburg newspaper of pre-trial prejudice news. Cundiff declared the restudy the four point appeal on the case of Dr. H. Shepard. Wansley is being held in city jail.

Jester, the Commonwealth Attorney, presented his motion for the reduction in the robbery sentence at 9 am Thursday, June 22nd. Before, presiding Judge Raymond Cundiff noted again the ruling last week of the United States Court of Appeals. The Commonwealth Attorney said that Wansley when first convicted on the robbery account, more than four years ago, was given a sentence of twenty years. The jury's verdict on the rape conviction was death in the electric chair. Jester also said that his motion Thursday would have no bearing on the fate of Wansley, a former dish washer in the downtown grill, who would possibly be given parole after fifteen years. Then a Supreme Court review was asked for in the Wansley case. The State Supreme Court will ask to review the conviction and life sentence given to Lynchburg Negro Thomas Carlton Wansley for raping a white woman. It also will be asked to reverse the contempt conviction fine also given to one of Wansley's

attorney's, Phillip J. Hirschkopf of Alexandria for failing to appear at the hearing in the drawn out procedure.

Wansley's attorney had indicated that they would seek a reverse of his second conviction on the grounds that they were unable to obtain a fair trial in Lynchburg because of newspaper publicity and should have been granted a request to have the trial transferred elsewhere.

On June 5, 1967 the headlines read "A New Trial for Wansley" in the News and Daily Advance. The two life sentences handed down to Thomas Carlton Wansley, Negro, at his re-trial for rape and robbery of an elderly Rivermont white woman will be served consecutively. The Corporation Court Judge O. Raymond Cundiff said he saw no other alternative in the already drawn out litigation. AT the same time Cundiff denied a motion by Wansley's counselor in May in which he requested the verdict to be tossed out and a new trial ordered outside the jurisdiction of Lynchburg. The judge also denied a motion by defense attorney William A. Moseley of New York, that a public hearing be held to take testimony from the signers of the so called open letter criticizing the racial news published in the Lynchburg News. Kuntsler had said he wanted to show that Wansley could not receive a fair trial in Lynchburg because of what he called prejudice news coverage of the trial. The newspapers have repeatedly stated that Kuntsler had been linked with the Communist front organization in efforts. On Monday, August 31, 1964 the Advance headlines read "Man Linked with Red Fronts, the Talks of Negro Rapist." The New York attorney who has been accused on the floor of congress as being less interested in the plight of the Negro rapist than he is in the Communist and their cause, yesterday spoke here on the defense of twice convicted Negro rapist, Thomas Carlton Wansley of Lynchburg. The Attorney William S. Kunstsler was one of the

principle speakers at the mass meeting at Court Street Baptist Church sponsored by the Wansley Defense Fund and attended by approximately seventy-five persons mostly Negroes. Kuntsler who has been linked with Community front organization and efforts on numerous occasions is one of the attorneys representing Wansley in his appeal for death sentencing for raping a Lynchburg woman. In his talk Kuntsler noted that the Lynchburg newspaper had printed stories sustaining representative William M. Tucker of Virginia, fifth district, who had accused him of being interested in Communists and their causes in a congressional speech last February 1, while Tucker was opposed to the Civil Rights Bill. Tucker sited Kuntsler's activities and ended by saying that from one background he is led to suspect that Kuntsler, who along with Carl Gratum and Carl Gratum's wife, of their link, was prominent in the strike which occurred in Danville, and is less interested in the plight of the Negro race than he is in the Communist and their cause, and that he is more interested in creating a stage for civil disobedience which will further the cause of lawlessness. Kuntsler did not deny Tucker's accusations but said he found it strange that this is all the Lynchburg newspaper had chosen to say about his arrival in this City. Kuntsler said, "I saw the article about my arrival here in the newspaper, if you can dignify it by calling it that. I don't know if it was in the News or Daily Advance, but it doesn't matter they're both the same." He added, "most papers here participate in the judicial lynching of Thomas Wansley some year and a half ago." The attorney then proceeded in an attempt to tear down the case of the prosecution against Wansley, being that the state evidence was not conclusive and it was only the word of a Lynchburg police officer. They just have to get a Negro. They have to put him in the electric chair to keep the Negro community in check. Kuntsler said "white men too, commit rape, you know. Not one white man has been executed for a crime in the state of

Virginia for the last fifty years. Where forty Negroes have been executed here. And he pledged to the assembled group that he would do all in his power to see to it that Wansley would not be the forty-first. Kuntsler charged that Wansley did not have a stenographer present at his second trial to represent every word that was uttered. "You just can't go to the chair and no one has recorded what you said in the trial", the lawyer stated. He said that he was confident that the Virginia State Supreme Court would reverse Wansley's two death sentences and that the case would return to Lynchburg.

In 1970 another unjust trial became a landmark case in Virginia:

LYNCH MOB JAILS JAMES CARRING FOR 75 YEARS

By: Tom Gardner

CHARLOTTE COUNTY - This country is in the heart of southside Virginia, an area which ranges from 25 to over 50 percent Black in population and which is known elite. Most of the Black people in this area as well as many poor working whites survive by working at starvation wages at nearby lumber and textile mills or as tenant farmers on white-owned plantations.

The long history of crimes against Black people committed by the racist rulers of southside Virginia is too long to list here. But that whole history of oppression has been crystallized for all who wish to see it in the racist frameup of James Murray Carrington on phony charges of rape and abduction.

James Carrinton, a 24 year-old Black man from Charlotte County, Virginia and a Lynchburg, Virginia foundry worker, is now completing his third year of imprisonment for a crime he did not commit.

On the night of April 10, 1970, Mr. Carrington was sitting in a car with a young woman friend who happened to be white. Reportedly, her father overheard the date being made and organized a KKK-style armed vigilante squad which found the couple and beat Mr. Carrington severely. They stopped short of killing him only in response to the pleadings of the young woman and her promises to go along with them on the rape frame-up.

The young woman was then apparently intimidated physically and socially by her father and his fellow racist goons into testifying that Carrington had kidnapped and raped her.

When these threats were exposed in the cross-questioning of the woman's father in the trial, the father became hysterical, threatened Mr. Carrington's black lawyer, and demanded loudly, "Judge, do I have to answer that?" The judge quickly responded "No" and the matter was dropped.

But then it really wasn't a trial - it was simply a courtroom lynching. About 100 whites turned out for the "trial" and the prosecuting attorney made clear the purpose of the whole show when he said, "We're going to use this boy as an example so that no colored man will ever lay hands on a white girl again."

There was absolutely no evidence of rape, however, because there had been no rape. A doctor who examined Ms. Carrington immediately after his "citizen's arrest" testified that he found no evidence that James had committed a sexual act. Even the FBI, infamous for its racism, could find no evidence of either kidnapping or rape.

The prosecution witnesses only established that Mr. Carrington was with the young woman sometime during the night of April 10th. But that was enough for the jury, which Mrs. Othelia Carrington, James' mother, described as "All old, all men, and all white".

In a country which has an almost 30 percent Black population, all Black people have been systematically excluded

from the jury. This is one of the main grounds for the writ and appeal being brought by Carrington's lawyer, Charles Mangum of Lynchburg, Virginia.

After almost three years of James' imprisonment, Mrs. has decided that only through public protest can the legal system be made to free her son. Local civil rights leaders in Charlotte, Prince Edward, and Appomattox Counties, as well as Nathaniel Lee Hawthorne, a militant, nonviolent civil rights organizer in southside Virginia have been working from the beginning to help raise funds and expose the racist frameup.

Also active in the defense of James Carrington are high school studnets and young peole from Farmville, Virginia, in Prince Edward County, where Freedom Schools were set up in the 1960's when the county closed its public schools rather than desegregate them.

Mrs. Carrington, wishing to expand the fight for Jame's freedom statewide, recently contacted the Prisoners Solidarity Community (PSC) in Richmond, where her son is now imprisoned in the State Penitentiary. The PSCs in Richmond and Norfolk decided to launch a campaign to help bring Mr. Carrington's case to the people and to demand that James Carrington be set free now.

Mrs. Carrington, along with other members of her family, came to Richmond on February 4th to visit James. While there, they helped the PSC launch the campaing to free him by speaking at a rally which had been called in support of the Richmond prisoners and to free Thomas Wansley.

Mrs. Carrington, a strong and proud woman, and leader of a Gospel group, spoke powerfully about her son's case and

expressed solidarity with the struggle for all prisoners. She said, "That place (the Pen) is not fit for any human being to live in".

Mrs. Carrington was greeted at the rally with a standing ovation when Nathaniel Lee Hawthorne introduced her. After her talk, the people responded with loud chants of "Free Carrington."

(Reprinted from Workers World)

On June 10, 1970 the headlines in the News & Daily Advance read "Negro Elected To City Council". A record vote turn out for a councilmatic election hearing Thursday gave Lynchburg it's first Negro councilman. The first Negro ever elected to a council here is C.W. Seay. An educator who was Principal of Dunbar High School for many years and is now Assistant Professor of Education at Lynchburg College. He received 6,057 votes, the second highest number. Leading the candidates was Layton B. Dodd of United Virginia Bank and First National who received the highest votes of 6,326. Two other Negroes were also on the ticket. They were Mrs. Hazel B. Boulware who ran seventh among the ten contenders with 3,004 votes and Attorney Charles M.L. Mangum who received 2,662 votes to place eighth. Mangum was also an unsuccessful candidate. In 1968 Dodd, Mrs. Boulware and Mangum, the Lynchburg Voters League endorsed candidates, showed the greatest strength in the predominantly Negro precincts. On the other hand Seay, the lone Negro victor received good support in predominantly Negro and predominantly White precincts. The new councilmen, Dodd and Seay, will take the seats of current Councilman Elliott S. Schewel and William C. Bond who chose not to seek re-election.

Historically the councilman who received the highest number of votes would be elected Mayor of the City of Lynchburg by the remaining councilman. This was done up until the last election in which Elliott Schewel had the largest number of votes but was not elected to the Mayor's position because of the racism involved on council at that time. But Layton P. Dodd was elected Mayor. And in my judgement Layton P. Dodd was the best Mayor we have ever had in Lynchburg up until that time.

In 1971, there was a cross burning on the lawn of a City Councilman, this Councilman was Mayor Dodd. The article in the News & Daily Advance on March 12, 1971 read that police are seeking the person who burned the cross on the lawn of City

Councilman Layton B. Dodd's home on Wednesday night. At the city council meeting Tuesday night attended by a Negro delegation, Dodd made a tearful plea against what he termed discrimination in the hiring of Negroes by the City and others. Police Lt. C.E. Robinson, Jr. said a telephone call was received at 11:40 pm reporting that a six foot cross was burned on Dodd's front yard at 4624 Lakeview Road. Robinson said that when police unit was en route to the site, Dodd called to report the incident. Robinson said the cross was steadily constructed. Six feet in height with a four foot cross bar. Two by fours were used, Robinson said, with a burlap wrapped securely shaped to the frame. A woman neighbor who telephoned the initial alarm, said she did not see the cross set up but noted that traffic on Longview was unusually heavy that particular Wednesday night. She said she saw a pick-up cruising Lakeview Rd prior to the cross burning. Robinson said the cross with the shaped end had been plunged into an old tree stump on the lawn to make it stand erect.

What lead up to the Negro delegation attending this specific council meeting was that a group of Negro citizens had met the week before in the home of Dr. Herb B. ~~Box~~^{Barks}, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg. Persons attending this meeting were Elliott Schewel, Dr. Nathaniel Brooks, Dr. Herb ~~Box~~^{Barks}, Dr. Carroll Lippard, Mayor Layton B. Dodd and Mrs. Carroll ~~Box~~, our hostess. The Black Delegation was Rev. Haywood Robinson Jr., Mr. Garnell Stamps, Mr. M.W. Thornhill Jrs. Rev. James I. Brooks, Mr. Bob Winfrey and Mr. O.C. Cardwell Sr. We discussed a list of grievances from the Black community. Some of the things that members of the white delegation did not know existed so much so that Mrs. Carrol ~~Box~~ broke out into tears and said that "Lord something has to be done". Previously this same committee including Mr. Junius Haskins, Jr. had met at the Court Street Baptist Church and the

White Rock Baptist Church on two separate occasions. With a most prestigious and powerful committee from the white community which included George T. Steward, President of First Colony Life Insurance Company, Richard Gifford with the General Electric Company, Harold Leggett of the Leggett Department Store, Frank Bushnell, Dr. Carl Brewer of Lynchburg College, Dr. William Quillian of the Randolph-Macon College, Elliott Schewel of the Schewel Furniture Store, Rev. Herb Fox, Dr. Nathaniel Brooks, Rev. George Bean and Gordon Leggett. At this particular time racial incidents were occurring spasmodically in the black and white communities. There were concerns on both sides on how to handle the incidents and come to some peaceful solutions. Sometimes we would go and meet with this group in the white community, as a matter of fact in the midnight hours and try to resolve these grievances.

At the December meeting of the NAACP in 1972 I, O.C. Cardwell, was elected President of the Lynchburg Branch. Other elected officers were Vice-President-Miss. Joyce Shalango, Secretary-Miss. Bertha Dickerson and Treasurer-Mrs. Thelma Jennings. The Executive Board consisted of Garnell Stamps-Chairman, Junius Haskins, James Brown, Glenn Webster, Loraine Watkins, Sarah Thornhill and Rose Scott. On April 1, 1973 the Lynchburg Chapter of the NAACP planned a crash membership campaign, beginning April 1 until May 3rd. Attorney Christopher Edley, newly appointed Director of the Negro College Fund was guest speaker at the kick-off meeting April 1, 1973 at the Court Street Baptist Church at 7:00 pm. At which time the campaign contestants representing twenty black churches in Lynchburg was presented. Those twenty participants were competing for the King and Queen of the Lynchburg Chapter of the NAACP. A plaque was presented to the winning church. The winners were crowned by the Executive

Director, Mr. Roy Wilkins at the Virginia Seminary & College in Lynchburg, Virginia on May 3, 1973. Mr. Wilkins appeared ~~that~~ at the Virginia Seminary & College to receive the distinguished service award for 1972 along with an honorary doctorate degree.

Appearing on the program was the E.C. Glass High School Band, the first time this band had ever made a public appearance for a black organization. The Special Committees appointed for this crash membership drive were as follows: Life membership - Dr. G.F. Jackson-Chairman, Mrs. Frances Mason-Co-Chairman, Mrs. Edith Steptoe-Co-Chairman, Dr. M.C. Sutherland, Robert Stickley, Vivian Hickens, Jean Jennings, Ida Anderson, Rosa Scott and Lawrence G. Pullen-Advisor; Publicity Committee - Alfred Key-Chairman, Robert Tate and Garnell Stamps; Finance Committee - Charles M.L. Mangum-Chairman, Maxine Patterson, Charlie Gilmore and Clara Dean; Budget Committee - Frances Mason, Lawrence Pullen and O.C. Cardwell-President; Education Committee - M.W. Thornhill Jr, O.C. Cardwell Jr. and Haywood Robinson; Youth Work Committee - Cheryl Thornhill-Chairman, Langston Walker, Raymond White; Youth Membership - Rhia Mangum-Chairman; Community Coordinators - Joyce Shalangoo-Chairman and Eva Jones; Church Work Committee - Dr. M.C. Southerland-Chairman and Winston Jones; Freedom Fund Committee - Loraine Franklin-Chairman; Legal Redress Committee was Glen Webster-Chairman; Housing Committee was Daniel A. Jackson-Chairman and Veterans Committee was Gerald Morris-Chairman and Kingston Davis.

During those days many things claimed my attention as President of the NAACP, such as the issue brought to life by the Lynchburg Transit Company, threatening to discontinue bus service in the City of Lynchburg. If This was done it would effect the underpriviledged citizens, the black citizens, senior citizens and most of the community as a whole who

depended on the Transit Company to furnish transportation. The Lynchburg Transit Company did cut back on it's bus service in the City of Lynchburg so much so that it prompted me to write a letter to the Editor of the Lynchburg News and Daily Advance.

To the Editor of The News & Daily Advance:

It appears that we are headed for no public transportation because at present we have inadequate transportation which the taxpayers are subsidizing to the tune of over \$15,000 a month. Since our appearance before City Council on October 23, 1973 we have had over twenty-five calls and numerous personal visits from employees of a specific segment of the labor force. Primarily by citizens of the lower income bracket who are not financially able to use other modes of transportation to get to and from their work. Even if they could afford a taxi, often they are not available during the evening hours. Our elderly citizens, our mothers and fathers, black and white, are standing at bus stops in the cold and rain waiting a half an hour for bus service. They are endangering their lives, becoming targets for molesters and robbers. Also we have reports of night shift workers getting to work three hours ahead of time in order to get transportation. There are also citizens who have to work Sundays as well as weekdays, yet, you speak of cutting out transportation on Sundays all together. The city fathers talk much about annexation which will make the City much larger than it is now if accomplished. If they do not provide adequate transportation now, how will they provide it in the future. They tell us that money is not available for transportation, yet on October 23, 1973 your elected

representatives spent \$355,000.00 on air conditioning and \$90,000.00 for the installation of a school track. Air conditioning is not normally needed during fall, winter, and early spring and school is out during the summer. Your elected officials spent nearly a half billion dollars for an elevator that 99% of the citizens of Lynchburg never use and the other 1% that have used it are afraid to use it again.

They have also provided plush offices for our City Administrators and furnished them with cars to get back and forth work and anywhere else they care to go. Just where do your funds for this come from for all these luxuries? They take it out of the taxpayers pockets and spend it as they please. The city fathers and the power structures have a moral obligation to it's working class to furnish adequate transportation. If we do not speak now, public transportation is doomed. There will be a council meeting on November 1, 1973 at 7:30 pm in City Council Chambers at City Hall. Come, you will hear. This meeting is open to all citizens of Lynchburg. Speak now or forever hold your peace.

I attended this meeting and spoke to City Council. The following is what I said to them:

My name is O.C. Cardwell. I am President of the Local Chapter of the NAACP. We respectfully request that you reconsider your decision to allow the curtailment of bus service between the hours of 8 P.M. and 12 noon daily and all day Sunday. The buses are used primarily by citizens of the lower income bracket who are not able to afford other modes of transportation to get to and from their work. Gentlemen, you are forcing more

people to depend on welfare aid for their livelihood. For these people will lose their jobs if they cannot report to their work on time. Even if they could afford a taxi, taxi's are often unavailable during the evening hours. Transportation to and from work is not even deductible from our income tax.

You are talking about annexation which will cost the citizens of Lynchburg more money, yet you cannot solve the small problem of transportation in the inner city. What will happen when the City grows? Since the City of Lynchburg supplements the Bus Company we as citizens have some voice about our needs. We strongly urge you to reconsider the small taxpayers because without them some of you would not be in the seat of authority you now occupy. Inadequate transportation is just as bad as no transportation at all. Mayor Dodd, we are here tonight to request that you gentlemen restore bus service to it's original schedule prior to the cut back October 21, 1973. Our proposal will be presented in four parts. After our presentation other organizations will speak on the same subject. The NAACP spokesmen are Owen Cardwell Jr.-Chairman of the Publicity Committee, who will present petitions from the citizens of Lynchburg and Mr. L. Garnell Stamps-Chairman of the NAACP Executive Committee who will present our six point alternative plan. Mr. M.W. Thornhill-President of the Lynchburg Voters League who will speak on behalf of the voters and Mr. Junius Haskins-Chairman of the Community Action ManPower and Economic Development Program, will also speak. Their are other agencies and organizations who have also asked to be heard. After the NAACP's presentation we request that you hear from them now.

The result of this hearing was that according to the Lynchburg newspapers, regular bus service restored by City Council. Both city officials and the President of the Lynchburg Transit Company today are somewhat confused as to what action the City Council took Tuesday night towards restoring bus service that was curtailed on October 21st. But all agreed, however, that the intent of Council seemed to be the eventual full restoration of service until such time as the mass transit study is completed and council can come up with a long range answer to the bus situation. The motion made by Councilman Samuel W. Green which passed unanimously by Council Tuesday, was to restore bus service effective November 18, 1973 to include six nights a week and Sunday and reinstate the fifteen minute head time as soon as possible. Previous council action on October 9th that resulted in the elimination of bus service here after 8 P.M. nightly and on Sunday and Holidays, as well as other schedule changes including reducing bus service from 15 to 20 minute intervals on certain lines. In voting in favor of Green's motion, Council was rejecting recommendations of the Thornhill transportation committee headed by Vice-Mayor C.W. Seay. The committee earlier had recommended that the 20 minute headway be retained, that bus service be from 8 pm to midnight six nights a week and that bus service be restored on Sunday and Holidays from 8 am to 6 pm. After listening to demands by the Lynchburg NAACP, however, the bus services being restored to the level it was prior to the curtailment of service on October 21st. Seay said he was sure no other member of Council had realized what a difference the five minute headway had made in the lives of people and the hardship it had caused. The Lynchburg Chapter NAACP had several speakers including O.C. Cardwell-President and Garnell Stamps-Chairman of the Executive Board. In all there were some fifteen speakers who called on council to restore the bus service to it's previous level. Council also

heard representatives from the Greater Lynchburg Jaycees, The Central Virginia Labor Council, Lynchburg Taxpayers League, Lynchburg Voters League urging for restoration of bus service. Lynchburg President J.W. Stowell said today he is going to go on the assumption that Sunday bus service would be restored presumably from 8 am to midnight although there was some mention of 10 pm instead of midnight.

Two years later I spoke before the special commission that had been formed to look into the transportation system for the state. This my presentation:

My name is O.C. Cardwell and I'm President of the Lynchburg Chapter NAACP. I speak to you on behalf of the 234,000 citizens of Central Virginia who ride these buses of the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company. We know that there are some on this commission here tonight who are opposed to federally subsidized transportation system in Lynchburg. We must realize that the Lynchburg Transit System is available to all citizens within it's service area. Lynchburg is known as Central Virginia's shopping area. A bus service is available to all shoppers. We would like to point out further that the buses are primarily used by citizens of the low income bracket who are financially unable to use other modes of transportation to get to and from work. Transportation should be available on a continuous scheduled without long layovers between transfers. Our elderly citizens, our mothers and fathers, black and white, should not have to spend long hours waiting at bus stops in the cold and rain, endangering their lives and become targets for molesters and robbers. Gentlemen, without transportation you are forcing more people to depend on welfare aid for their livelihood. The labor force will loose their jobs if they cannot report to work on time. Large Metropolitan areas like Washington,

D.C. recognized this fact and are now spending millions of dollars on the Metro subway system. The nation is now in the midst of the energy crisis. We too should be conserving our natural resources as much as possible. What better way to do this than public transportation.

Air pollution is a great concern to all people living in and around Lynchburg. Automobile exhaust fumes are greatly responsible for much of our polluted air. We can continue to reduce the use of private automobiles with an updated public transportation system. Whether tax dollars be locally imposed on citizens or federally imposed we pay the bill. The taxpayers should have a voice as to whether they want public transportation or not. Inadequate transportation is worse than no transportation at all. We must have knowledge of our transportation system in order to make intelligent plans for the livelihood of our families. Those who could maintain the status quo must be dealt with because there is no place in our productive society for such misfits. I strongly urge you to put away petty jealousies, self centered interests and plan for a well being and progressive future in Central Virginia.

As a result of these meetings in public forums we now have a up-to-date transportation system in Lynchburg. Prior to this confrontation all of the drivers of our transportation were white, but now most of, if not all are Black. So we did provide more employment for our Black community.

During this time the annexation was about to take place when the Lynchburg News ran an article "Consultation With Black Group on City Ward System Urged". This was done as a result of several things. In the beginning I learned of the

2 } ward system being sought in Lynchburg. We presently were
1 } operating with a ward system but all councilmen were elected at
large. This made it almost impossible for a Black to get on
City Council. It fell to my lot as President of NAACP to go to
talk with Mr. M.W. Thornhill who was the President of the
Lynchburg Voter's League at the time. I called to his
attention that if they annexed the area that they were seeking
to annex, it would dilute the Black vote which at that time had
not crossed Mr. Thornhill's mind. As a result of this
conversation, Mr. Thornhill, President of the Lynchburg Voter's
League and Garnell Stamps, Chairman of the Executive Committee
of the NAACP and I as President of the NAACP were invited to
the Justice Department in Washington, D.C. Prior to this
invitation to go to Washington, D.C. I appeared before the City
Council and the newspapers account of this appearance read
thusly:

The President of the Lynchburg Chapter NAACP said Wednesday
he hoped that either the City Manager or some
representatives of the City administration would consult
with a ^{DIA.BLC} variable representative group of the Black community
before determining what type of ward system elections would
use. O.C. Cardwell, head of the Lynchburg organization,
made this remark Friday after a six to one vote Thursday
night directing the City Manager to prepare for council's
consideration of a single member district plan in Lynchburg
following annexation. Council moved as an attempt to
remove a Justice Department objection to Lynchburg
annexation, with twenty-five square miles of Campbell
County and Bedford, on the basis that the annexation would
dilute the Black voter strength. The Justice Department
consulted the Lynchburg Chapter of the NAACP regarding
their feeling about the dilution of Black voter strength.
We hope if there is to be a redistricting or gerrymandering
that someone from the City administration would see fit to

seek the opinion of some group which bore the representation in the Black community. Cardwell said, "Councilman faced with the choice of submitting a ward system of electing councilmen or challenge the Department's findings in court, said that such a single member plan, as many as would be adopted by Council, was to be submitted to the Attorney General of the United States. The Justice Department expressed that it was not concerned with the validity of annexation itself but only compliance with the 1965 Voters Right Act."

The annexation of twenty-five miles had been applied for in the proper courts by the City Council in 1972 but was delayed for several years because of the NAACP's opposition ~~to~~ The annexation because it would dilute the voter's strength of the Black population.

The annexation procedure, as a result of the studies and advice of Council ordinance was adopted by the City Council on January 28, 1972 and by the terms became enforced and effective on January 31, 1972. The ordinance was filed by a petition for annexation , which in turn was filed on February 1, 1972 through the Circuit Court of Campbell County, seeking the annexation of eleven hundred and fifty-four square miles from Amherst County. Twenty-five and eight hundred square miles from Campbell County

The case matured and came to trial before a three judge annexation court constituted in accordance with the annexation status on September 19, 1973 title 15.1-1032 F.F. code of Virginia, 1950, as of Monday. After taking of evidence covering the period of approximately seven months the court remanded its written opinion on January 26, 1974, granting

annexation of approximately twenty five miles from Bedford and Campbell County. Court denied any annexation from Amherst County. On May 21, 1973, as stated above the courts entered its order of annexation setting forth description of the area to be annexed and the terms and conditions of annexation. The counties of Bedford and Campbell will have interviews as permitted by the annexation status. The Court of Virginia after which, considering the record of the petitions for appeal, affirmed the order of the annexation court by the terms of the order of annexation, which became effective midnight December 31, 1975.

The City Council is composed of seven members who are elected at large. Six of the Council members are white and the remaining member Mr. C.W. Seay is black. The first scheduled election for members of City Council after the effective date of annexation will occur in May 1976 at which time an election will be held for the unexpired term of each of the seven members of Council. This election is required by the annexation status specified in 515.1-1054 code of Virginia as amended. The statistical information is according to the 1970 U.S. Census the population of Lynchburg was 54,083 of whom 12,558 or 23.04% were non-white. The population of the area to be annexed from Bedford is 1,409 of whom 231 or 16.04% is non-white and the population of the area to be annexed from Campbell County is 11,117 of whom 1,744 or 15.07% are non-white. Thus the enlarged City will have a total population of 66,609 of whom 14,654 or 22% will be non-white. Annexation took place and we reverted to a ward system which now exists recommended by M.W. Thornhill, President of the Lynchburg Voter's League, L. Garnell Stamps, Executive Board Chairman of the NAACP and O.C. Cardwell, President of the NAACP. As a result of the ward system, Mr. M.W. Thornhill ran unopposed in Ward Two for the City Council seat in 1976. He

was the first elected under this new system in the City of Lynchburg and has remained unopposed in this seat until the present time.

Many people felt that Mr. Thornhill should be the Mayor of Lynchburg because previously with the exception of one predecessor, the person receiving the mandate or the most popular votes from the registered voters in Lynchburg became the Mayor of the City of Lynchburg, so therefore it is concluded that there is still racism existing on City Council. The City of Lynchburg has progressed tremendously under Mr. Thornhill's administration on City Council. Most minority appointments to various City boards, were recommended and adopted by Mr. Thornhill. City Hall in every department has black participation in places of authority. The Assistant City Manager is black, the Chief of the Fire Department is black, the Chairman of the School Board is black. In 1987 out of ten Cities named as an All-American City, Lynchburg was listed in the top ten Cities in America. This is a great achievement and progressive outlook accomplished by efforts of both the black and the white community in order to gain this recognition. It never would have happened in 1960.

Nevertheless, we are still retrogressing instead of progressing as a race. The main barrier that I see is the mental/financial slavery that we now find ourselves engulfed in. The chains of slavery have been removed from our necks and ankles, and placed on our pocketbooks. We will never be able to break the chains unless we become employers instead of employees, and owners of business instead of supporters of businesses, and until we become managers of business instead of employees of businesses, until we become stockbrokers instead of stockboys. Jesse Jackson has made a great impact on the lives of the majority of the community by proving to

that the minority community has intelligence and can occupy positions of authority. If he had been white, there would be no doubt in anyone's mind that he would be the Democratic nominee for the President of the United States. We must teach our children and our youth the history of the struggle of black people. The elderly must tell the youth the history of the movement to gain freedom because the history of the past has a great deal of influence on the future. How is it that our elderly are resigned to a life in the convalescent homes, forgotten and harboring the feeling of uselessness. In them is a wealth of wisdom and knowledge, meanwhile our youth are floundering in a maze of ignorance, misinformation, apathy and a total absence of direction. It is quite apparent to adults that the survival of the community will ultimately depend on the intricate strength and integrity coupled with improved cooperation among the tenants of youth, adults and senior citizens. As long as the various groups in the community dispense, their well found motives, remain autonomous and independent, true progress cannot be achieved and maintained.

We must shift our emphasis to economic development. If we would put as much effort as we did toward voter registration and increasing black participation in politics. What if we would get together and become organized in an effort to increase the wealth of blacks. As an example, in Atlanta, Georgia, they are enjoying withdrawing all deposits and savings from white established banks and depositing in black banks. This is bound to increase the purchasing power of blacks in Atlanta. We must pool our resources and be more selective in our buying principles and then we can exert some economic power. If we could spend all of the billions of dollars that we are spending in white businesses and institutions and shift that buying power to black institutions and businesses, we would greatly increase our economic power.

This is an interview made in the office of one of the highest elected officials in the City of Lynchburg, who happens to be black, Mr. M.W. Thornhill, Jr.:

Mr. Cardwell: Now, Mr. Thornhill, I hope that you understand that whatever is discussed on this tape will be published in a book that I am in the process of writing.

Mr. Thornhill: Mr. Cardwell, I am well aware of that. Whatever I relate to you, you are welcome to publish.

Mr. Cardwell: Thank you. You have been involved in so many things in the City of Lynchburg that I don't really know where to start, but let us start when you first became interested in the political life of Lynchburg.

Mr. Thornhill: My first interest in political life in Lynchburg took place when I graduated from Dunbar High School at our Baccalaureate service. The late Dr. Frank P. Lewis delivered a stirring message and he motivated many of us to leave there that day and try to do something to make our City, State and Country a better place for black people to live.

Mr. Cardwell: Well, Mr. Thornhill, it appears that from that day on you really made an impact on the political process here in Virginia. I would like to ask you when did you first become involved in social changes in the City of Lynchburg.

Mr. Thornhill: After finishing Dunbar High School, taking two years in an apprenticeship as an embalmer and funeral director. I went to Eckels College of Embalming, after completing my training there I came back to Lynchburg and it was at that point that I began.

Mr. Cardwell: Do you recall the first confrontation with the authorities in the City of Lynchburg that you participated in?

Mr. Thornhill: My first involvement took place when under the Lynchburg Voters League, we proceeded to pay the poll taxes of a number of underprivileged citizens, because in order to vote in that era, you have to be a registered voter and your poll taxes had to be paid up to date.

Mr. Cardwell: I had an interview with Mrs. Virginia Hughes and she stated that the Lynchburg Voters League in those days paid poll taxes for people who weren't able to afford them themselves, so I know that this is true. During the early sixties I believe, the City father's created a bi-racial committee and it is my understanding that you were either the first or second person to serve on the bi-racial committee. Could you tell me a little about that?

Mr. Thornhill: The late Bill Gordon and I were the first two blacks to serve on the bi-racial committee. It wasn't a mountain shaking organization, but it was one that made an effort to bring blacks and whites together.

Mr. Cardwell: As I stated before, I have had some interviews with some of the people that were involved at that time. Some of them did not like the fact that you were on the bi-racial committee and really I don't think that you liked it, because ultimately you resigned. I have always defended your actions because I felt that you were doing what anyone else would do if faced with the opportunity to do so. Specifically, they were talking about a moratorium which you and some others had suggested. I don't know whether this was coming from the bi-racial committee or if this was coming from you. Could you shed some light on this?

Mr. Thornhill: The moratorium you have reference to came from the bi-racial committee. I can understand the unrest among many of the black citizens and I hope that they understood the position that Bill Gordon and I were in. We were trying to use the commission as a device to bring the groups together and to get what we wanted as rapidly as we could and had I not been on the commission, I probably would have taken the same position as you and some of my friends took. We are all for the same cause.

Mr. CARDwell: Now let us move on up to the period of annexation. I think this is one of the most progressive steps that had been made in order to bring about certain changes. Matter of fact, I would daresay tht this was the beginning of changes that really were meaningful in the City of Lynchburg. Could you inform me about annexation and its results.

Mr. Thornhill: First I want to say that the bi-racial committee was an organization that many blacks had reservations about, but I thought to use it as a device to bring on some of these changes. I want to emphasize that there were some who participated during that era who dropped out and you never heard of them any more. There were some who participated din between that era and annexation. Many of them have dropped out. There are some who participated during annexation and many of them have dropped out. I would have to say that I participated in every era that we've had. Annexation I guess was the most controversial, political and social thing that has taken place here other than integration during my time. This really wasn't a black issue. The controversy took place mostly between the whites. They were as bitter about annexation as some persons years ago were about slavery. Campbell County didn't want Lynchburg to annex any portion of it. As a result, Lynchburg annexed twenty six

square miles. That's when we stepped in with our political maneuvers. We proposed, when I say we, I mean O.C. Cardwell, Garnell Stamps and M.W. Thornhill, Jr., we on behalf of our organizations, the NAACP and the Lynchburg Voters League, we proposed that there be four Wards and a representative from each Ward, and three at large seats. This proposal was presented to City Council. City Council accepted and asked us to go Washington, D.C. and present it to the Federal Government. We did so and waited several months to get a response from the Federal Government. Finally we heard and found out that the Federal Government accepted and approved the recommendation that the three of us presented in Washington.

Mr. Thornhill: You are correct. Once we drew four wards, one predominantly black ward, we were satisfied we were protected politically. We felt and we still feel that the representatives from the predominantly black ward could easily be elected and re-elected as necessary, and we would have the balance of power in several of the other wards, so much so that we would control the destiny of politics in Lynchburg for the next twenty years.

Mr. CARDwell: Mr. Thornhill, I don't think I have ever asked you this, but how did you feel not being elected Mayor after receiving the highest number of votes of any Councilman for City Council.

Mr. Thornhill: I was hurt and to be honest I cried, but that's the way politics go. There are many things that I received in Lynchburg, politically and many things I ask for at City Hall, I get. To enumerate, I asked for a million dollars for Daniels Hill to improve housing, I got it. I asked for a million dollars for home improvements and

and renovations, a rehab program on White Rock Hill, we got it. I asked for a quarter of a million dollars on White Rock Hill for what is known as the shot gun program, people who received money from that shot gun program don't have to pay any of it back, it's purely grant. There are numerous other things, such as black employees in every office in City Hall. I've gotten most everything I've asked for except one thing. So would I have rather been Mayor and not receive a million dollars for Daniels Hill, the answer is no. Would I have rather been Mayor and not have received a million dollars for White Rock Hill, the answer is no. If you go to Daniels Hill you will find people who used to have what they called closets, a commode and a basin tacked onto the back of the house, known as a closet. YOU don't have any of that over there now. They have decent homes. That means more to me than bein Mayor.

Mr. Cardwell: Mr. Thornhill, I think, matter of fact I know that you have been involved inthe Voters League for many, many years and the Voters League strength is grown considerably under your administration. I know that throughout the state of Virginia if not the nation, that they have heard about the organization known as the Lynchburg Voters League. Could you tell me some of the changes that the Voters League has been able to bring about in the City of Lynchburg.

Mr. Thornhill: The Lynchburg Voters Leagues has played a part in many things. We've been instrumental in influencing the composition of the Lynchburg School Board, as a result that has been a help to black teachers and black youth here in the City of Lynchburg. We are playing a great part in getting the best elected officials here in the City.

Mr. CARDwell: Mr. Thornhill, I'm sorry to interrump you at this point but it has been on my mind to ask you this question for some time. As you know the state of Virginia is the only state

that has an appointed instead of an elected school board. Could you tell me the advantages and disadvantages of this?

Mr. Thornhill: Yes, an elected school board is the most democratic way to select school board members, but the appointed way will produce the best qualified persons on a school board. To be specific, recently my sister, Yvonne T. Ferguson, retired from the public school system, she had enough years to retire. We appointed her to the school board. She was the best qualified person who applied. She is qualified educationally, she has her Masters Degree in Guidance, she has a wealth of experience in dealing with youth, she has had a lot of experience in dealing with people. She is the ideal person for the position. Were there an election, someone might have been selected or elected with no experience, no knowledge whatsoever, but it would have been democratic. So I like the appointed way because we study the person or persons who apply. We try to put the best qualified person there. The person might not be the most popular person, but the best qualified one.

Mr. Cardwell: As I say I was sorry to interrupt you, you may continue to tell us about the Lynchburg Voter's League.

Mr. Thornhill: I recall a gentleman by the name of Claude Hoskins who was interested in flouridation of water. He was opposed to putting any form of flouridation into our water system. He campaigned and talked about that, ran for City Council and we used that as a write in vote and we got him elected by writing him in. We were not satisfied with his action on City Council so just the way we got him elected, we proceeded and got him defeated. We have over a period of years, endorsed a number of candidates and our record is phenomenal, always got the best one elected and the worst ones defeated and as a result Lynchburg is a better place for all of us to live. Our recent participation, a young fellow, Julian Adams, ran for

City Council and we endorsed him and he placed first of all the candidates. He ran again the next time and we didn't endorse him and he just barely won, he took third place. Our most recent endorsement was for the House of Delegates, we endorsed a man for the House of Delegates. We were opposed to the former Commonwealth Attorney, Royston Jester, who had been selected three times. We endorsed his opponent and he defeated Jester, the most thrilling defeat in the history of the Lynchburg Voter's League.

I do not totally agree with Mr. Thornhill concerning many issues now, because this is a new day and a new way. Brain power is important in its place but give me economic power now. I do not agree with his analysis of selection versus election. A person may be academically qualified for certain positions but still not the best person for a particular position on a particular board. Everyone has a brain and most minds are trainable. What about the person who is business oriented? It may not have been obtained academically, but rather through experience. I think this is necessary also. In a democracy, the power ultimately belongs to the people. The selection process is more of a dictatorial type of government. Without people power Jesse Jackson would never have made the political gains that he has made at this point.

My other point of disagreement with Mr. Thornhill is that I do not agree that he should have become Mayor of the City of Lynchburg or Jesse Jackson the President of the United States because these positions would change their political identity. In too many instances the power structure through devious methods have robbed the minorities of their leadership by maneuvering them into either local or national leadership

positions in the power structure, leaving no one to bring about the changes necessary to get total participation of the total community. You cannot serve two masters and when placed in these national leadership positions you become so involved in doing a good job and trying to appease everyone yo forget who put there, also not having time to give the attention to your constituency that you did previously, therefore they desert you and leave the you out there all alone and you become one of the oppressors instead of one of the oppressed.

This is a sad commentary, but it is a fact. The white community does not have a particular person as a spokesman for the white community, but it is always expected of the black community. Every generation that I know of has furnished a person whom people look to in the black communities as the leader or spokesman for that community or communities. Some have said that this is a new day and a new way, but I say don't forget the history of the past. Let a second generation come forth and let a people loving freedom come to growth. To keep alive the dream of our founders of the NAACP, the SCLC and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Voters League the crusade of voters and the growth organizations of our people.

In March 1975 we had our Annual Life Membership Banquet. I was awarded the Tony Brown Award. That is the highest award given by the Lynchburg Branch of the NAACP.

Mr. L. Garnell Stamps, M.C.: At this time, the NAACP is prepared to make its coveted Tony Brown Award and if you will look in your program on the next page, those of you who are following, you will see the face of one of the most dedicated people in the United States, who has been here in Lynchburg, is a personal friend of Mr. Mangum and is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. We saw him out at the National Convention and he was wishing well whoever the recipient would be this year. At this time, I call to the microphone Mrs. Ida Anderson, a member of the Executive Committee of the Lynchburg NAACP to make the presentation of the Tony Brown Award. Won't you greet her, in her striking beauty.

Mrs. Anderson: To our dias guest, our honored President, to our Executive Board, to all our members and friends assembled, Good Evening. As all of you know, the person to receive the Award for the evening is a native of Lynchburg, Va; he is married; he has three children, two lovely sons and one daughter. But this is not why I came forward to give you his life history, not his educational background, nor his standards in society. My job is to tell you something about his work in the NAACP. Mr. Cardwell, as you all know has given a great portion of his life to mankind and to the services of his brothers. I think Mr. Cardwell said to me once - "even though I'm doing quite well and so are some of my constituents, I will not be happy until every brother has first class citizenship, until every brother is able to vote, until every brother can get a job on his merits, his qualifications and he will not be looked upon by the color of his skin. I would like for my brothers to know that I, O.C.

Cardwell, passed thru this life but once, and if there's any deeds that I can do or any kindness that I may show, let me do it now - for I shall not pass this way again." Mr. Cardwell, in my estimation, has accomplished all of these things. He is not physically able to do the things that he once did, and there is a saying "Lest We Forget". Let's not forget the things that he did do. Let's remember when he walked, when he marched, when the public was not too good to him and not too good to us at times. When we marched and knelt in prayer at the jails. When we went to the school to be sure that our children were protected. The first time we went to Washington, DC for Martin Luther King, he was there. Let's remember the time that he walked before the public, down to City Council and all of these places. This is what we are talking about, the accomplishments of O.C. Cardwell, Sr. We are proud of him and we know that you are proud of him as a friend, a very good friend. That I am proud of you and I want you to know, speaking on behalf of all the Executive Board, all of the members of the NAACP and your fellow members of the Fifth Street Baptist Church, and all of the citizens of Lynchburg, both black and white that have ever came in contact with you - You ain't climbed the golden stairs and life ain't been easy. But we want you to know that we do appreciate all of your kindness, all of your concerns and all of the many things that you have shared with us and let us share with you. So on behalf of the Executive Board, the members, the officers and the City of Lynchburg, we would like to present to you at this time the Tony Brown Award, Mr. O.C. Cardwell.

Mr. Cardwell: To Ms. Anderson, the Executive Board, Mr. Mangum, to my friends and family. I do rejoice over this Award tonight and thank all of you for giving it to me. But I do not feel that its due to my own efforts and personality. Nor do it belive it is the primary principles for which the freedom movement stands, for the justice of our cause. This coupled

with the previous efforts put forth by you and other sources, I just

(Applause)

Mr. Stamps: It was for the O.C. Cardwell's of this world that Longfellow said, "Lives of Great men, all remind us, we can make our lives sublime, if parting leave behind us, footprints that perhaps another surling or lifes sorrow made, if a lone and shipwreck brother, see it and take heart again, let us then be up and doing, with a heart for any fate, still achieving, still pursuing, learn to labor and to wait."

In 1972, I was elected President of the local Chapter of the NAACP, of which I had been a member for 22 years at that time. I followed the Rev. James I. Brooks, Pastor of the Court St. Baptist Church, as President. My last official act as President was on December 24, 1972 and I spoke to our organization saying:

I bring you greetings from the Lynchburg Branch NAACP, this is the last public meeting of our organization that I will attend as your President. I do not seek re-election for the coming year, 1977 & 1978, my doctor has advised me to cut back on my activities. It has been a pleasure serving as your President for the past six years and in various other capacities in the civil rights movement for the past 22 years. I have see many changes come about as a result of the civil rights movement in Lynchburg. Much has been accomplished and still much more is desired. The fight for political and economic freedom is far from

being over. Don't sit down, close your eyes and stop your ears up, thinking you have it made. This is not the time for complacency. Black people represent 11½% of the total population of the United States, an estimated 26 million people, yet we could not raise \$1 million without the help of the total population. Nevertheless, we drank 17% of the imported Scotch consumed in this country. We drive 15% of the Cadillacs sold in this country and black women own 3 pair of shoes to every 1 pair owned by white women. We control 1.25% of the economy in this country, and we consume 13% of the food sold in this country. We are eating up all the profits, therefore, we need to re-assess our values. Yes, we have made gains for a chosen few. In the City of Lynchburg there is 700 pieces of real estate for sale ranging anywhere from \$28,000 to \$60,000. FHA will not finance the loan unless your weekly income will average a monthly payment. Property values have increased over 100%, while wages in most instances remain the same. You either have to be rich or very poor in order to survive. This is not the time for complacency. We have retrogressed rather than progressed in the black/white ratio of employment. There are more black unemployed now than when the civil rights movement first began. Had it not been for the NAACP, where would we be. If you let us down we perish, we need everybody. We need the preachers and their leadership. We need the doctors and their medicine. We need the lawyers and their skills. We need the laborers and their labor. We need the businessmen and their experience. We need everybody. We need the little boys and the big boys. We need the little girls and the big girls. And we need the men and the women of the black race to stand up and be counted. This is not the time for complacency.

We wish to thank you, all of you who contributed to the Mississippi crisis and solicit your continued support to the only organ that will speak for you when you are afraid to speak for yourself. Again it has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served you as President of the Lynchburg NAACP and I solicit your support for the incoming administration".

I also in December 1977 announced my retirement from the Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company due to my health and received this letter from the Vice-President, Agency Director. Incidentally, I had been offered the Agency Director's job for the Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, but the position required moving to Richmond, because I would have been the Registered Agent for the Company and my residence would have to be in the City of Richmond, where the home office is located at 112 E. Clay Street. The letter that I received from Mr. W.T. Brown was as follows:

Dear Mr. Cardwell:

We are indeed shocked to learn that you are leaving the Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. after more than 30 years of service. Naturally, we prefer that you spend the remaining working years with us. But, we can clearly see your position and ask that you always remain a Virginia Mutualite.

I am not in a position to say just when I will be in Lynchburg at this time. My plans are to be there around January 11th or 12th and remain thru Friday. I am sure I will be there your last date of employment. You may rest assured that I will be there to send you

off in the proper manner.

Although you are deserting me when we need you most and when your future with Virginia Mutual is brightest.

Very Truly Yours,

W.T. Brown, Agency Director

After leaving Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, I was employed by the Lynchburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority in Lynchburg. My duties included the collection of rent, the renting of apartments, and representing the Housing Authority in court. I worked there for three years. When I went there the main problem was that being a low-income project, well not all of it was low-income, a percentage was of low-income and economically it was low-income. It was an integrated apartment project. The two locations at that time were Birchwood Courts off of Langhorne Rd and Dearington Projects on Chambers Street. It was in the section of town known as Dearington.

The main problem that existed then was Birchwood and Dearington Apartments, they had the highest crime rate in the City. At least more frequent police visitations were in the Dearington and Birchwood projects when I came and while I was employed there.

When I left the employment of the Housing Authority, the crime rate had been greatly reduced and was the lowest in the many apartment complexes existing in Lynchburg. I reported directly to Mr. Faircloth, the Executive Director of

the Lynchburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority. After being there for 2 years, I was approached by a member of the Housing Authority's Board of Directors and asked to take a position with the organization known as Co-MED. As a matter of fact, it had not been in existence until I was employed and originally the Co-MED (Community Organization for Minority Economic Development) was to be under the auspices of the City of Lynchburg and the Housing Authority.

I, being desirous to be able to get the participation of the minority community, approached Rev. Haywood Robinson, then Executive Director of Lynchburg Community Action Group, Inc. and asked him to sponsor the Community Organization for Minority Economic Development, because I did not think that the minority community would relate to the Lynchburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority.

Rev. Robinson went to work and Co-MED was born. He had his own ideas along with City and Housing Authority representatives and representatives from the Board of the Community Action Agency as to what would be involved so that we could get the most mileage out of the dollars that would be invested by the three entities. We were supposed to share in the finances or monies received from the Community Block Grant Program. Initially the Housing Authority paid the total share for a few months from the Community Block Grant Program. Rev. Robinson then applied to the Block Grant Program for funding for the coming year and Community Action received these funds and Co-MED was able to operate another year at that point. In the interim period of the operation it was divided into 2 components:

1. Business Development and;
2. Contractual Compliance Department.

I was the Director of the Business Development Component and Rev. William Dyson, who was a member of the Lynchburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority Board at that time, became Director of the Contractual Compliance Department. There was a great need for the Contractual Compliance Department, because it had been "set aside" in order to assure minority contractors that they would be able to get a piece of the pie, as far as federal contracts were concerned. The "set aside" was voted in by Congress and signed by the President of the United States. But it had no teeth in it and never was fully enforced. I guess that's due to the fact that the "set aside" was for minorities. But when President Reagan was sworn in as President, the 10% "set aside" somehow was sworn out. I was to deal with new minority businesses for blacks in the City of Lynchburg. We were able to establish about 15 different black businesses. I also was responsible for getting funding (financial assistance) for these businesses, packaging SBA loans, proper location and advertisement. In other words my responsibility was to take them by the hand and walk them thru the whole process of business development.

During those years Congressman Coldwell Butler, one of the great congressmen from the sixth district of Virginia, was a member of the judicial committee on small business. He had annual conferences throughout the sixth district geared toward improving the blight. I was invited to serve on the Advisory Committee and took part on the panels at numerous meetings. This was my job with Co-MED. After the interim period of Co-MED the Board of Directors saw the need for expanding our services because we were getting a very heavy workload. So an Executive Director was appointed, in the person of Junius Haskins, Jr., he took over the executive directing of both departments. Our titles were changed from directors to Contractual Compliance Specialist and my position was changed to Business Development

Specialist and we proceeded from that period on until we were denied refunding due to the fact that, according to one councilman, we had become an advocacy organization rather than a service agency. It is my belief that we were a threat to the majority of the community. We were receiving too many local, federal contractors. Nevertheless, we were not refunded and as a result of this, I lost my position.

I then organized the CIA Insurance Agency, namely the Cardwell Insurance Agency. Then I had to hire someone to run the company after I became totally disabled. Due to the fact that I could not find a black with proper credentials and license I had to hire a white person who did not do the proper things. I got in trouble with the Internal Revenue Services, because I was not there to run things on a day to day basis. As a result I had to dissolve our partnership.

In 1978, I received this letter from Ms. Louise Thumb, Editorial Director of Who's Who In America:

Dear Mr. Cardwell:

We are pleased to announce that the final selections have been made and that your biographical sketch will appear in the 16th Edition of Who's Who in the South.

On behalf of our entire editorial staff, may I offer our congratulations to you for your outstanding achievements that have led to your inclusion in this prestigious publication.

In 1979, I received an invitation to place my biographical record in the American Biological Institute in Raleigh, NC, I was nominated by the editorial board, Ms. Jane T. Phigers, Editorial Director. Also in that same year I received from the American Academy of Human Services of Chicago, IL, official notification and congratulations that I had been nominated by their editorial board to appear in the first annual edition of Outstanding Professionals in Human Services. The National Reference Directory to identify Who's Who in the Agency Institution and Organization of present Human resources for our

nation. This was signed by Abraham Renquist, Editor in Chief.

In that same year I also received a similar request from Who's Who in Virginia Lives. On July 1, 19 I received this letter:

Mr. Owen C. Cardwell,

To you who answered the call of your country and serving in its own forces, to bring about the perfect defeat of the enemy. I extend the heartfelt thanks for a grateful nation. As one of the nations own, you undertook the most severe task ever to be called upon to perform, because you demonstrated the fortitude with such calm judgement necessary to carry out that task. We now look to you for leadership and example to sever the lack in our country of peace.