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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

ATKINSON GATES CALLS FOR REFORMS AT UMC

Today Yvonne Atkinson Gates, candidate for County Commissioner criticized Commissioner William Pearson's failure to question the University Medical Center lease arrangement when he called for its approval in 1990.

Atkinson Gates was referring to a controversial agreement to rent the facility, which was built by private developers at a cost of \$14.5 million. The commissioners, with Commissioner William Pearson presiding as hospital chairman, agreed to pay \$19.9 million to rent the five-story center for 10 years. It could cost as much \$253 million to use the facility over a 50-year period, hospital officials have admitted.

"When this deal was approved, he conducted

a hearing on it and did not ask a single question. He also apparently asked no question when he signed consent documents on the lease last July. Now his only comment is to say he wasn't aware of the problems with the lease," Atkinson said. "As chairman of the hospital board he has a greater responsibility than other commissioners to know what he is signing and what is going on. He has to be held accountable for problems at the hospital."

She called on Pearson to seriously consider the recommendation of a Citizens Committee on Cost Reduction that the county now negotiates to buy the center. One member of the committee, retired building contractor Bud Clelland has said the lease is "the most beautiful thing in the world



YVONNE ATKINSON GATES
for any landlord"; because it puts no obligation on the landlord.



COMMISSIONER WILLIAM PEARSON
"Once again it appears that Commissioner Pearson has failed to do his homework on an important matter, and has been too quick to go along with whatever has been presented to him," she stated.

I hope voters are fed up with this good old boy go-along mentality which leads to excesses in government spending and mismanagement," she said.

Atkinson Gates said she toured UMC last week and was flooded with questions from employees about the operation of the hospital. "They know that this is not being properly run and they are frustrated because problems are not being addressed," she stated.

The candidate also said that concern for the high cost of running UMC was overwhelming on a survey she did of voters.

NAACP MEMBERSHIP PAYS TRIBUTE TO "BEN" AND FRANCES HOOKS AND TO THE "END OF AN ERA;" HOOKS ISSUES PROGRESS REPORT

NASHVILLE, TN— The reverend and Mrs. Benjamin L. Hooks were honored throughout the NAACP's recent 83rd Annual Convention by friends and supporters aware that this would be the last time the popular couple would officiate in their accustomed roles. Hooks retires in the spring of 1993.

It was during the Women in the NAACP's third annual dinner, however, that the heart-felt emotions—both the tears and the praises—ran highest.

Frances Hooks found it difficult to fully express her gratitude when presented a bouquet of roses, a golden crown and a bright, red cape.

Her husband, an expert at combining humor with the most serious of topics, urged the dinner guests to pay no attention to the uninformed media reports that the Association was doing nothing.

Hooks who became the NAACP's Executive Director in 1977, said that the Association recently issued a report, titled "Let The Record Show," which details NAACP accomplishments during the last 15 years.

The Women In The NAACP Dinner, has developed as a highpoint in the convention. The dinner focuses on the contributions of women within the Association and, in addition, it presents a fashion show that features NAACP members—both male and female—and also professional models. It has been underwritten since its inception by Philip Morris Companies Inc.

"This evening gives us mixed emotions," said



FRANCES AND BENJAMIN HOOKS

George L. Knox III, Vice President, Public Affairs, Philip Morris Companies Inc. "We wish Ben and Frances well as they leave the Association's leadership ranks but we also realize that we are losing two remarkable people within the NAACP."

Philip Morris also produced "Convention Highlights," video interviews and tapes of convention activities that were shown at the corporate exhibit and on the closed circuit station at convention hotels.

Hooks, during his address to the group, urged

them to get copies of the report on NAACP accomplishments from the NAACP national headquarters so that they would not be deceived by incomplete media reports.

Hooks said that the 500,000-member Association, with more than 22,000 chapters including (See Frances & Benjamin Hooks, Page 5)

MILLIONS GO ON STRIKE PROTEST CONTINUES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg, South Africa- Millions of blacks stayed home from work for the third consecutive day Wednesday, however, the huge protest was still not expected to force concessions from President F.W. de Klerk's government.

The African National Congress, headed by Nelson Mandela, which called for the strike to demand a multi-racial government, said it was a "true reflection of the mood" of the estimated 30 million blacks, who to this day, still are not allowed to vote.

Through Tuesday, the ANC had declared the relatively peaceful strike a "resounding victory", but on Wednesday, during a strike on the capital, Pretoria, led by Mandela, spurts of violence had broken out and close to six hundred strikers had reportedly been arrested.

Protesters marched in Soweto on Monday and held a rally in Krugerdorp Tuesday.

Despite the protests, de Klerk's government remains in full control, and the president stated that only negotiations will resolve the country's political crisis.

Police reports Tuesday said that eight blacks had been killed in overnight violence linked to the strike, bringing Monday's and Tuesday's death toll to 20. An additional 16 killings, not tied to the strike, have also been reported since Monday.

The ANC has estimated that at least 4 million of the country's 6 million black workers stayed home Tuesday, a few more than Monday's figure.

It has also been reported that the ANC is expected to return to talks within weeks.

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