

# City Council Kills Planned Road Link

By ROB CHRISTENSEN

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously Monday to kill the major portion of the proposed North-South Freeway because of damage it would cause to existing center city neighborhoods.

The council vote, made with little comment by council members, marks the end of a long fight by residents of the Oakwood and Mordecai neighborhoods near downtown to get the highway link removed from future city road plans.

The freeway would have connected U. S. 70 East to North Boulevard.

While the North-South Freeway was not planned to be built until an unspecified future date, the specter of the highway being constructed through the two old neighborhoods has hampered efforts by residents to renovate the area.

"It has hung over the heads of these people like Damocles' sword since 1967," City Councilman Thomas G. Bashford said at a council committee

meeting last week.

It was Bashford, an elderly minister of Oakwood's Fuller Mission Baptist Church, which would be in the path of the freeway, who led the fight to remove the freeway from future city plans.

Bashford campaigned last fall for the East Raleigh district council seat primarily on a platform opposing construction of the freeway.

Before the freeway can be officially removed from city road plans, it must be reviewed by an area transportation committee and state and federal highway departments.

But city officials have said it is highly unlikely that the freeway would be built by the state with opposition from the City Council.

The North-South Freeway was first proposed in 1967 as part of the city's Thoroughfare Plan for handling future traffic.

The freeway construction would have required removal

of 200 houses and several businesses, ruining the Oakwood and Mordecai neighborhoods, residents say.

Several city council members have said they thought the price of better downtown access was too high to pay for the destruction of several neighborhoods.

Both city traffic engineer James D. Blackburn and city planning director A. C. Hall have urged that a study be conducted on possible alternatives to the freeway before it is officially removed from future city road plans.

"No one has ever defined, even in general terms, an alternative to the North-South expressway," Blackburn said last week.

Monday's action came with little comment, and no councilman argued that the freeway should be retained in city plans.

Council members have said in the past that the use of Person and Blount streets as a one-

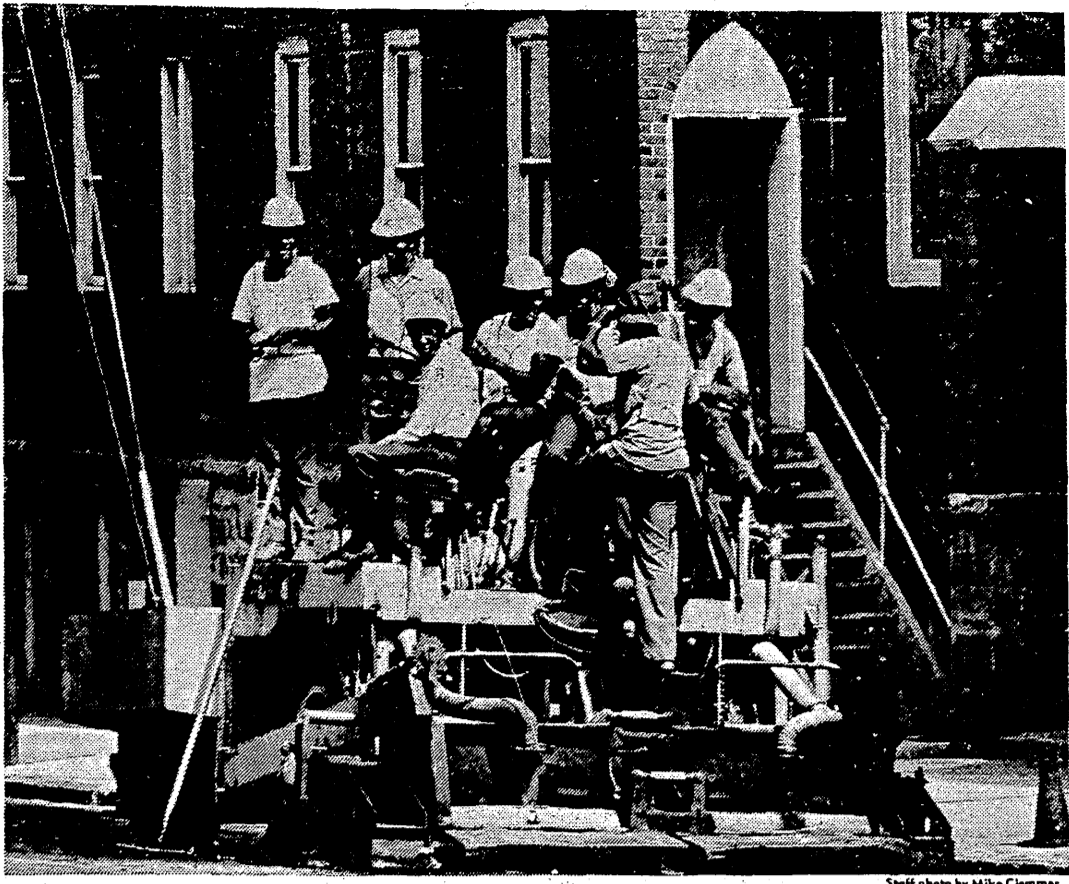
way pair could serve as an interim solution to the handling of north-south traffic through central Raleigh.

The City Council voted specifically to remove the part of the freeway plan that is north of the proposed Southern Beltline, or the larger portion of the freeway.

The council also voted to change the name of the remaining shorter portion of the North-South Freeway, to be located between the proposed Southern Beltline and south to U. S. 70 East. This minor portion would not cut through any existing neighborhoods.

In related action, the council authorized city officials to investigate possible alternative to the widening of other city roads that could disrupt the surrounding neighborhoods.

Councilman Oliver Williams suggested looking for alternatives to road widenings proposed for Lake Boone Trail, Glenwood Avenue, Dixie Trail, and Yaddin Drive.



Staff photo by Mike Clemmer

**MACHINE BUILT FOR SEVEN** — It doesn't really take all those men to run the street surfacing machine. Actually they were just waiting for more asphalt as they worked at Morgan and

Fayetteville streets in downtown Raleigh and climbed on the machine for a better view of passersby.

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### City Council Adopts Lake Rezoning Plan

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously Monday to adopt a rezoning plan for the Lake Johnson area after one of the most protracted zoning fights in the city's history.

The council approved a plan that will cut the potential population of the 1,600 acres surrounding the Southwest Lake Johnson reservoir from 30,000 to 16,821.

The adoption of the Lake Johnson zoning plan marks the first instance in the city's history of comprehensive land use planning, determining the amount and kind of growth to be allowed in a large area.

The zoning case has also led to the introduction here of the concept of transfer of development rights, a new planning tool designed to allow the city to preserve open space in developing areas.

The zoning fight, which has gone on in various forms for about a year and a half, has revolved around an effort by the West Raleigh Civic Association to restrict large scale apartment development in the area.

Landowners have opposed the homeowner's effort to restrict apartment development because of the smaller market value of land zoned for single family homes.

Under the plan adopted Monday by the City Council, much apartment development will be allowed, but not as much as under previous zoning laws.

Open green space will be preserved through the use of the transfer of development rights. Under the plan, areas deemed

poor for construction, such as creek bottomland and hilltops, may not be built on. In exchange, landowners can build more than would be normally permitted on other lots.

The last city Council, in its waning days in office, turned down a request by homeowners to restrict development in the Lake Johnson area. The old council also passed a resolution forbidding the rehearing of the Lake Johnson case for one year.

But, early in its term, the present council overturned the resolution and agreed to rehear the Lake Johnson case.

Monday, the Lake Johnson rezoning plan was adopted quickly by the council with no debate or discussion. Most council members had been involved in discussion of the case for months and at least two — Miriam P. Block and Oliver

Williams — had been interested in the Lake Johnson question for years.

Both Mrs. Block, as a community leader in Southwest Raleigh, and Williams, as a member of the Raleigh Planning Commission, were active in efforts to restrict development in the area. Both carried Southwest Raleigh precinct by large margins in last November's council election.

After the council approved the Lake Johnson rezoning, Hamilton Fish, president of the West Raleigh Civic Association, attempted to thank the council.

But Mayor Clarence E. Lightner cut him short, saying, "Hallelujah?"

Then Lightner asked apparently no one in particular, "How many years?"

— ROB CHRISTENSEN



Staff photo by Karen Tom

Mayor pro tem Keeter, Mayor Lightner confer

### CP&L and Official Charged With Lobby Law Violation

By GINNY CARROLL

Staff Writer

Carolina Power & Light Co. and a CP&L public relations employee were charged Monday with violating the state's lobbying laws by trying to influence legislation without first registering with the secretary of state.

Wake County Dist. Atty. Burrey B. Mitchell Jr. signed warrants against CP&L and Lester Branson Jr., an industrial development agent in the company's public relations office.

The warrants charge that about April 2 Branson "was employed as and acted as legislative counsel and agent to promote the passage by the General Assembly of legislation affecting the pecuniary interests of the corporation as

distinct from the interests of the whole people of the state."

During that time, the warrants say, Branson was not recorded as a lobbyist with the secretary of state as required by state law.

**Maximum Sentence**  
If convicted Branson could receive up to two years in prison and a fine up to \$1,000. CP&L could be fined up to \$1,000.

Mitchell declined to discuss details of the case or what specific bills were involved before the trial, scheduled in Wake County District Court on July 9.

However, about the date of the charge, the General Assembly passed legislation permitting utilities to use projected, future estimated figures in computing their data for rate

increase requests rather than relying on past figures.

The bill's consumer opponents charged that the legislation would make the North Carolina Utilities Commission more vulnerable to granting larger rate increases to power companies.

Among witnesses listed for subpoena in the CP&L case are two Wake County Democratic legislators, Reps. Howard F. Twigg and Wade M. Smith, who voted against the rate computation bill in roll-call votes.

Also listed as witnesses are Miss Melba Strickland of the office of the secretary of state, CP&L President Shearon Harris and the company's chief legal counsel, Sherwood Smith. Last month, Mitchell pro-

secuted a similar case against Duke Power Co. and a Duke vice president, John T. Hicks of Charlotte, which resulted in a not guilty verdict.

Mitchell called no legislators to the stand in the Duke case and Wake District Court Judge George F. Bason ruled that the state had failed to show that Hicks had actually tried to influence General Assembly members for or against pending legislation.

**Consumer Group**  
The warrant in the Duke case was signed by the North Carolina Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), a consumer action organization. It was reportedly the first charge ever brought under the 41-year-old

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By JAMES WHITFIELD

Staff Writer

An official of the state office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) warned Monday that tobacco farm operators may have to stand in long lines next week if they don't designate warehouses for the sale of their tobacco this week.

Pemberton Slade, chief of the Production Adjustment Division of the state ASCS, said in an interview that warehouse designations have been made for only one-third of the state's 115,000 flue-cured tobacco farms.

"The warehouse designation sign-up has been slow and over half the time for signing up has already expired," said Slade.

Flue-cured tobacco growers began designating on May 20 the warehouses where they will sell their 1974 crop. Final date for the designation is June 14. Price support will be available only on the portion of flue-cured quotas a farmer designates.

This is the first step in a new grower-designation system of marketing. The new system was initiated for 1974 in the hope of solving some of the flue-cured tobacco marketing problems of recent years.

The Flue-Cured Stabilization headquarters in Raleigh will computerize the warehouse designations by farmers.

A printout will be used by the Flue-Cured Tobacco Marketing Committee as the basis for making recommendations to the secretary of agriculture on opening dates and sales schedules.

In previous years, opening dates have been set by tobacco belts. This year opening dates will be based on crop maturity in flue-cured producing areas. When the secretary of agriculture sets an opening date, government inspection service will be provided.

Printouts also will be furnished to warehousemen, designating a complete list of growers and poundage assigned to each warehouse.

"The tobacco grower has an obligation to designate where he will sell his tobacco and the warehouseman has an obligation to work out details of selling time and sales date with the farmer," said Slade.

A flue-cured tobacco farm operator may designate any warehouse within 100 miles of the county seat where the farm is located. He may designate as

many warehouses as he wishes and up to 110 per cent of the farm's effective quota.

Growers may sell outside the 100-mile area without the benefit of price support, provided arrangements are made with the warehousemen.

Prior to the marketing season, all growers will be given warehouse cards by their local

ASCS office, showing the number of pounds designated to each warehouse. The grower and warehousemen then will be responsible for scheduling sales for individual growers.

B. C. Mangum, president of the N. C. Farm Bureau, joined in urging tobacco farmers to designate warehouses promptly.

### Warehouse Signups Are Reported Slow

### County Passes Building Curbs

Wake County Commissioners passed two ordinances Monday to stop construction on flood-prone land and control development that causes massive soil erosion.

Both ordinances were approved unanimously following months of preparation by the county planning and natural resources departments, the Soil Conservation Service and commissioners themselves.

The intent of the ordinance restricting development on floodplains is to stop construction which might be destroyed in a flood or which could obstruct floodwaters and drive them higher.

Principal speaker supporting the ordinance was Richard Sewell, vice chairman of the county planning board. Sewell called it "more than an ordinance. It is the result of a world of new knowledge, the lack of which has caused mistakes costing millions of dollars."

The ordinance will not go into effect until maps showing flood-prone areas are matched with tax maps showing property lines. This will take about six months, according to John Scott, county planning director.

The floodplain ordinance will apply only to those parts of the county that are zoned. That portion of Wake County east of the Neuse River is now unzoned.

The ordinance identifies flood-prone areas by reference to maps which show "alluvial soils," which are deposited by floods. Any structures which might impede or be damaged by floodwaters are banned in areas 50 feet horizontally or five feet vertically from alluvial soils.

The only opposition to the ordinance came from George

Willoughby, representing a developers' organization called Progress for Raleigh through Orderly Development (PROD). Willoughby argued that alluvial soils are not present in all flood-prone areas and said the ordinance should be based on land surveys.

Commissioners chairman Waverly F. Akins replied that the estimated \$2 million cost of such surveys was too high.

The soil erosion ordinance, which is effective Oct. 1, requires that any construction outside town boundaries include plans to decrease soil runoff.

These plans must include protective planting of newly stripped earth, impoundments to slow drainage from large construction projects and other measures to keep erosion below limits set in the ordinance.

Soil control plans must be approved by the county's Natural Resources Department before any building permit is issued and the department will conduct inspections to be sure plans are carried out. The department's decisions may be appealed to the county commissioners.

The commissioners approved the ordinance after Clyde Sawyer, district conservationist with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, described the dangers posed by soil erosion, including flooding from choked streams, increased runoff from stripped land and pollution of waterways and reservoirs.

No one spoke in opposition to the ordinance.

—BRAD STUART

### Through Rain, Sleet and Odell Mayo

Paul (Hardrock) Simpson of BURLINGTON writes: "I have never met Mr. Mayo of Hillsborough."

I reported a while back that he had raced Simpson three times and "whipped him three times."

Simpson, the 69-year-old Burlington mailman who was a nationally-known long-distance runner in the 1920s and '30s, has never raced Mayo, Simpson says in a letter to me.

But he is willing to. He writes:

"Although 24 years his senior, I will post \$200 against his \$200 that I can beat him at 20 miles; running, walking or both. The same applies to any other man from 45 years up in North Carolina."

I wish they would race, because I'd like to cover it. But darned if I would put up \$200 against a man who twice ran across the country and once out-lasted a horse. And those are only three of the amazing things Hardrock Simpson has done.

The professionally done article about sailing on the lower Neuse River in the May edition of "Yachting" magazine ("Blackbeard's River — North Carolina's broad and gracious Neuse") was written by a MOREHEAD CITY attorney, John



Paul (Jack) Simpson, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Paul E. Simpson of Raleigh.

Jack's wife, Gale, didn't mention it in her letter, but as far as I know, Jack Simpson is no relation to Hardrock (see above).

By George! I thought. The big sundial in front of the Morehead Planetarium in CHAPEL HILL is a quarter-hour slow! But, no. I was attracted to the place by the roses that fill the courtyard between the planetarium and Franklin Street — they were in full bloom. But it is kind of hard not to check a sundial when you see one that is 10 or 12 feet tall.

Jack Aulis

The shadow was just a bit past IX (9). My watch said it was 10:15 (X:XV).

I can understand that you would not try to re-set for daylight saving time a sundial that must weigh a ton. But how come the other quarter hour?

I started walking around the base with my head on sideways, reading the words on the edge of the big dial: "Today is yesterday's tomorrow." And: "It is always morning somewhere in the world."

And then I came to lots of small writing on bronze plaques. One of them carried a bunch of time corrections. If I happened to be looking at the sundial somewhere around June 1, it said: "Add 14 minutes." Which made it 10:15 (EDT).

Frightening. And they don't even have to wind the thing.

When I was up in OXFORD early last week, I stopped by to see how state Rep. William T. (Ole Billy) Watkins was bearing up under the strain of not being House majority leader anymore. But his office was closed.

I don't know what to think. I always thought Ole Billy was as North Carolinian as you can get but, I declare! What kind of Southern boy closes his business for Yankee Memorial Day?

### Beg Your Pardon

Due to an editing error, a table in Monday's News and Observer was described as showing typical electric bills paid by customers in 11 U. S. cities. Actually, the table showed what the typical Carolina Power & Light Co. residential customer — who uses about 940 kilowatt hours a month — would be paying for that electricity at the rates charged in other cities.

The News and Observer incorrectly reported in its Monday editions that Operation Solid Shield, a joint military training exercise in Eastern North Carolina, ended Sunday. The exercise will conclude next Sunday.

### Williams Calls for Hearing

Raleigh City Councilman Oliver Williams Monday called for a council hearing to consider whether two members of the Planning Commission have been involved in conflicts of interest.

Williams did not identify the commission members at the City Council meeting, but in an interview later said he was referring to commission members Thomas G. Coffey and Benjamin B. Taylor.

Mayor Clarence E. Lightner advised council members to consider what form the unusual hearing should take and be prepared to make a recommendation at a City Council work session June 13.

Williams said he is calling for the hearing because he is "concerned" about complaints of conflict of interest made in recent days against two commission members and said such a hearing could "clear the air."

"The citizens ought to know we (the council) haven't closed our eyes," Williams said.

Several members of the council recently questioned the