

# Butz resigns over racial slur incident

WASHINGTON (AP) - Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, embattled over voicing an obscene racial slur, resigned today.

Butz himself announced his departure after meeting with President Ford in the Oval Office at the White House.

"I have just submitted my letter of resignation to the President, and he has accepted," Butz told reporters in the press room.

"This was completely my own decision," he said. "It is what I and Mrs. Butz felt would be in the best interests of the President and his election campaign."

Butz declared that this was "the price I

Remarks said a "joke," Page 2

pay for a statement . . . used in a private conversation."

Before going to see Ford, Butz canceled a speaking engagement at Camp Hill, Pa., scheduled later in the day, according to Ford campaign aides in Pennsylvania. The speech was to be made instead by Assistant Secretary John Knebel, who would become acting secretary if Butz resigned.

Ford was quoted as telling some black plant workers today that Butz was "merely

telling a story" with the offensive language but had been punished "very severely" with Friday's reprimand.

Demands for Butz' ouster increased over the weekend. An aide to Ford said the President "would not be stampeded" into firing the Cabinet officer.

Carter said Butz' comments were "disgraceful" and said he "should have been fired a long time ago." Carter's press secretary, Jody Powell, charged that Ford was demonstrating a lack of leadership by not firing Butz.

Powell said, "The President's decision on

whether or not to ask for Mr. Butz's resignation appears not to be based on whether that resignation would be right but on what the polls show and on what the political reaction is."

A White House spokesman denied yesterday that Ford was waiting 48 hours to sample the political reaction to Butz' remarks. The White House said Ford severely reprimanded Butz before the matter became public. Ford said such remarks were "highly offensive to him and to the American people."

Earl Butz



## The Huntington Advertiser

# Monday Evening

Column

WEATHER — Sunny and warm today, high near 75 (24 C). Partly cloudy tonight, low near 50 (10 C). Increasing cloudiness tomorrow, high near 75 (24 C). Details on Page 3.

### Today's report

## Smith considered for NAACP post

Continued from Page 1

curred himself. To pay those off he's started Seafood House, a fresh fish restaurant and market in the 300 block of 8th Street. All profits from the new operation go to pay off debts on the farm, he said.

"I doubt that my family has ever had the kind of things they should have had if I would have done something different, if I hadn't been involved with people."

His work has caused several problems for his family, said the Rev. Mr. Smith. He and his wife, Lillie, have three daughters, Stephanie, 12; Debbie, 16; and Jacqueline, 18. His two oldest daughters are in college.

His children's attitude towards him has gone through several changes, he said. First there was pride in what he was doing. But that changed.

"I went through a real long stage of resentment. They hated my guts."

He didn't have enough time to spend with them as their father, he said. "I was in and out of town and they never knew I was gone."

His wife has accepted his life style, he said. But there have been problems.

"I think this was one of the things that bugged her most. Why did I stay here?"

Hostility in the community toward some of his actions hurt the family. That hostility is something he could wave off, but his wife and one of his daughters took it internally, he said.

He is extremely critical of many local black leaders now for not being able to face hostility.

He said he's backed off from his role as black leader here because of his other responsibilities. Local leadership has been passed to others, but few black leaders have been strong enough to take over.

"They're not willing to pay the price that I paid 10 years ago. That price means that many times you're going to be alienated by your own people."

For the past four or five years, the black population has been in a vacuum of leadership.

However, he said, that is a national trend, a trend he wants to turn around. It's one of the reasons he wants to become the next executive director of the NAACP.

The NAACP has a new job: improvement of economic conditions for blacks, the Rev. Mr. Smith said.

Some blacks made economic gains during the "War on Poverty" program of the mid-1960's, he said, but those who improved their financial condition were educated blacks who were able to fill administrative positions of the federal bureaucracy.

There have been no substantial economic gains for the mass of black people.

Economics is the most pressing concern for most blacks, he said. Issues like busing are important only to the intellectual and upper-middle class.

Along with the executive director's job, a position of assistant executive director also is to be filled by the board. However, he is seeking the top position.

"The number two slot has to be a master of administration, who can organize the office. But I think my greatest strength is as a leader — motivating people to get the job done."

Despite his statements about wanting the executive directorship and about what he believes he can achieve in the national post, he discounts the impression that he is ambitious.

"If I was a purely ambitious person I would have been out of Huntington a long time ago."

He came here as pastor of First Baptist in 1960. Before that he had been an associate pastor of his father's church, the Shiloh Baptist Church of Lexington, Ky.

In Huntington, he's been project administrator for Action, Inc., and interim director of Southwestern Community Action Council.

At church, besides handling Sunday worship services, he leads youth groups, directs other religious meetings during the week and directs the choir.

Then come his NAACP activities. Besides being involved with the local and state chapters, he serves on the national board of directors and several of its committees. Last year he coordinated the association's "March on Boston" to counter school busing opponents. Also, he's made 40 speeches in 15 states for the NAACP.

"I believe in the full utilization of time. If you really use your time, you'd be surprised at all you can get done."

All it takes is discipline, said the Rev. Mr. Smith. Even when he takes a break, he's working. For most of last week, he worked on the OIC budget for next year. For a break he worked on a mid-week church service.

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## Black pastor Rev. Smith fights hostility and 'Appalachia mentality'

By JOHN KOENIG  
Of The Advertiser staff

Charles Smith talks quickly during an interview, rushing through sentences, trying to make them fit into his hectic daily schedule.

Then, perhaps realizing he's two words ahead of schedule, he slows for a few seconds drawing out syllables.

His words are emphasized, not just by the speed with which he says them, but by his volume. He talks like a preacher. He is a preacher. He's the Rev. Mr. Smith, minister of the First Baptist Church.

He's also director of the Tri-State Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC).

But today, for this interview, he's a Huntington man who's a candidate for the executive directorship of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The present executive director, Roy Wilkins, is to resign next summer at the NAACP convention in St. Louis, Mo. Wilkins was supposed to resign this summer, but refused to give up the job, causing some association directors to be disgruntled.

Those board members are expected to select Wilkins' replacement late this year and the 45-year-old Rev. Mr. Smith is among those being considered.

"Hostility." The Rev. Mr. Smith emphasizes each syllable of the word. It's something he knows well. He's been active in dozens of community programs and issues since he came here 16 years ago. Not all of them were popular with blacks or whites. He's faced bitter confrontations.

His hostility has eaten at his wife and children, he says. He's shrugged off the rumors and gossip that go with it. That's the price of being a leader, he says.

With his shirt collar button undone and tie knot loosened, the Rev. Mr. Smith still looks neat. He's well dressed most of the time. He looks poised and confident, almost arrogant — not at all like the stereotype of a black Baptist preacher.

Perhaps that's what leads to rumors. He's a rich man, owns property all over, it's whispered around town.

He smiles when asked about that.

"I've never run into a mentality like I've run into in Appalachia. Any outsider who comes to town is automatically under suspicion. If he exercises any talent that is different he is run out."

"But I refused to go," cause I thought I was made of enough stuff to take it."

"I've been investigated for 15 years and to date, they've had to give me a clean report," he said in



Advertiser photo by Frank Altizer

"If I was a purely ambitious person, I would have been out of Huntington a long time ago"—Rev. Charles Smith

reference to Internal Revenue Service audits.

Despite his complaints about being under suspicion, he said, "The result is that I am a much stronger person."

His wealth is non-existent, he said. "I've made no investments."

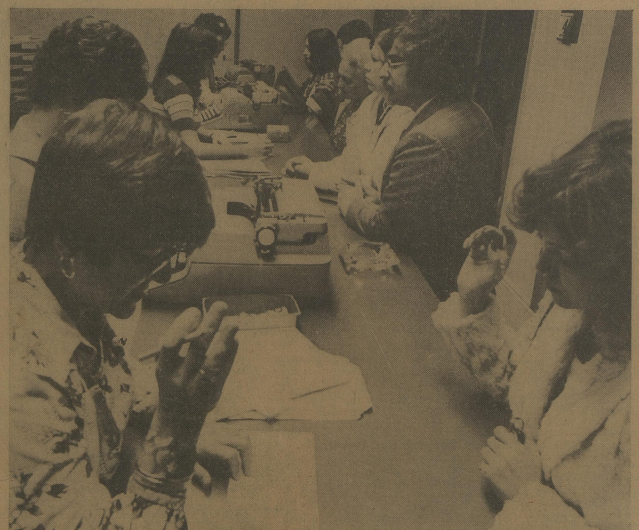
He added, "I've been here 16 years. Only six of those years have they (church officers) paid my salary." (His church salary is \$9,600, he said.)

"Money means nothing to me. It's merely something to have."

He is and has been involved in business ventures. Along with other members of his church, he started Fisherman's Wharf, a restaurant at 8th Street and 7th Avenue. It was a non-profit corporation, but it went bankrupt.

He said he assumed responsibility for the debts in-

Continued on Page 4, Col. 7



Advertiser Photo by Howard Cazad

### Registering to vote

If you haven't registered to vote in the November elections, you're probably too late. These people added their names to the voter lists at the Cabell County Courthouse this morning. Registration was to end at 4:30 this afternoon. Ms. Patty Runyon, deputy in charge of voter registra-

tion, said nearly 25 people were in line before 8:30 this morning and lines have been long all morning. Today marks the end of a week-long voter registration drive, in which Runyon estimates at least 5,000 people have registered.

## Suicide

A young mother throws children, self into river

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Fred Dixon, off in Korea with the Army, knew something was wrong with his wife, Melinda, but he feared she would kill herself if he took their two children from her.

On Saturday, she threw the children to their deaths in the Schuylkill River, and then jumped to death herself, police said.

"He loved her," said Debbie Dixon, 19, Fred's sister. "He couldn't see no one but her. . . . She would tell him all her problems and he'd tell her that she'd find a way."

Melinda's mother-in-law, Lillie Dixon, said she was a troubled young woman who had tried suicide last year and had tried to starve her children this August.

"She used to tell me that if everything got to the point where it was too hard, she would kill herself and the kids," Debbie said. "She used to do strange things. She would call to my mother, like he was down in the cellar or something, when he was really in Korea."

Dixon had left his wife in the care of his family in North Philadelphia when he joined the Army and was sent to Korea 11 months ago.

After the starvation incident, he took emergency leave and was awarded custody of the children by court order. But his family said he didn't take the children from their mother because he thought it might provoke her to suicide.

On Saturday, Melinda, 21, dressed 9-month-old Hazel and 2-year-old Frederick for an outing.

Police said they were alerted by telephone callers who said a woman was going to jump from the South Street Bridge. Passersby said they had tried to prevent Mrs. Dixon from jumping.

Persons on the bridge attracted the attention of a fireboat, which was on a training maneuver, after Mrs. Dixon had jumped.

The fireboat recovered the children's bodies. Their mother's body was found by rescue crews several hours later.