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Commission for Blacks Meeting Minutes November 25, 1986

Commission for Blacks

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Chair Context Committee
D. Ziegler

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Commission for Blacks

Commission Meeting Report

Mirley Harley
Commission for Blacks
Context Committee

On Tuesday, November 25, 1986 the Commission for Blacks held its monthly meeting. The focus of the meeting was how the Commission for Blacks could become more involved with the Black Knoxville Community. State Representative Pete Drew and County Commissioner Rudy Dirl were present at the meeting to help give the Commission some guidelines.

Representative Drew was concerned with what was going on in the community. He said that the black faculty members need to remain at UT but they also need to be more visible in the Black Community. He urged black faculty members to purchase homes in the black community. He stated that young black children need role models which the black faculty could provide.

Commissioner Dirl spoke on some things that were happening in the community that disturbed him. He was concerned with the unification of the school systems. He stated that the County Commission would be responsible for the funding of the school system and he wants to make sure that the city schools do not come out on the short end of the stick. Commissioner Dirl was also concerned over the loss of the small black businesses. He urged anyone with business management skills and expertise to help. Dirl also encouraged support for the local civic groups and urged people to attend the County Commission meetings.

The commission and community leaders agree that UT could take more of an active role in the community and jointly work to solve some of its problems.