

ally owned vehicles, transported Durham citizens to the polls during the municipal primary election. On May 13, 1967, Operation Breakthrough employees, using personally owned vehicles, transported Durham citizens to the polls during the municipal general election. On June 3, 1967, Mr. J. F. Steele Jr., prominent Durham resident and unsuccessful candidate for U.S. Congress in 1966, furnished a signed statement alleging numerous Durham citizens had complained to him that employees of Operation Breakthrough had engaged in wide-spread political activities during the Durham municipal general election, the Durham primary election and the voter registration days prior to these elections. Mr. Steele's statement is set forth in details. On June 2, 1967, Mr. William R. Pursell, Executive Director of Operation Breakthrough, stated Operation Breakthrough employees participated in a voter registration drive early in 1967. According to Mr. Pursell, he issued specific instructions that Operation Breakthrough facilities and vehicles were not to be used during the primary and general municipal elections. Mr. Pursell stated he had been in contact with OEO officials during the period of registration and election and that he was confident that activities of Operation Breakthrough employees were not improper and not in violation of either the Hatch Act or the Economic Opportunity Act. He explained that it is permissible to use community action facilities and vehicles in connection with voter registration drives and that it is not improper for employees to involve themselves in political activities in a non-partisan election.

According to Operation Breakthrough Council, Mr. Robinson Everett, the Civil Service Commission in 1955 ruled the Durham municipal elections were non-partisan and involvement by U.S. Government employees would not constitute a violation of the Hatch Act. Statements and photos obtained establishing Operation Breakthrough employee and agency vehicle transported Durham residents during voter registration. Statement and photos obtained establishing Operation Breakthrough employees, including Mr. Lawrence Kelly, Administrative Assistant to the Director, participated in transportation of Durham citizen to the polls during municipal general election. Mr. A. C. Sorrell, member, Operation Breakthrough Board of Directors, advised there is wide-spread concern in Durham regarding Operation Breakthrough's political activity. On May 13, 1967, during the municipal general election, he interviewed a girl at a Durham polling place. She stated she was a student at the University of North Carolina and that numerous students at the University of North Carolina and Duke University had been recruited by Operation Breakthrough employees to transport voters to the polls. Results of voting in ten precincts researched by Operation Breakthrough employees reflects candidates recommended on Durham Committee on Negro Affairs political brochure polled substantial margins. Mrs. Geoffrey Hamilton, Secretary to the Directors, Operation Breakthrough, advised she had distributed cards soliciting votes for candidate for Alderman, Mrs. R. O. Everett, on May 13, 1961.

The card illustration contained the following information:

"THE DURHAM COMMITTEE ON NEGRO AFFAIRS RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

"FOR MAYOR
 "(Vote for One)
 "FOR ALDERMAN WARD 2
 "(Vote for One)
 "FOR ALDERMAN WARD 4
 "(Vote for One)
 "FOR ALDERMAN WARD 6
 "(Vote for One)
 "[No designation appears]

"1A: R. W. Grabarek.
 "(x) 2A: Paul Hardin.
 "3A: Sidney Booth.
 "(x) 4A: Mrs. R. O. Everett
 "5A: Walter A. Biggs.
 "(x) 6A: J. Tom Freeman.
 "(x) 7A: Vance E. Fisher.
 "8A: Ollen M. Lane.
 "9A: Luther H. Barbour.
 "(x) 10A: C. E. Boulware.