

# Burten Scores Nader For Forbes Slur

By LARRY DIVINS

Councilman Lonnie L. Burten (D-12) stepped to the front of the class, so to speak, in defense of City Council President George L. Forbes (D-20) and lashed out at consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

Following Monday night's council meeting, Burten called Nader "a racist white man" who should "keep his butt in Washington and take care of the problems there."

Burten's attack on Nader was in response to Nader calling Forbes an "Uncle Tom" for big business. Forbes responded by labeling Nader an "ass."

"There's at least one councilman who will not tolerate some quasi-bourgeois, middle-class white person low-rating anybody black in the city of Cleveland," Burten fumed.

"Where I come from Mr. Nader has committed a grave crime. He has written a check with his mouth that his ass cannot cash.

"Further, he wouldn't know an Uncle Tom if one walked up and kissed him on the cheek. He should keep his white lips off the black constituents here. We can handle our own problems."

The Ward 12 councilman said he decided to respond to Nader's

remarks about Forbes because no one else had done so and he felt the comments warranted a reply from someone in the black community.

Meanwhile, Nader has refused a challenge from Forbes to debate him on Cleveland's financial situation. Nader said he would only debate Brock Weir, chairman of the Cleveland Trust Board, whom Nader called the "emperor" of big business in Cleveland.