Campaign '82 Leaves Blacks With More Questions Than Answers

Analysis

By Milton Jordan

Executive Editor
It's over, but Campaign '82 was local politics at its best or its worst, depending upon your viewpoint.

It certainly had all the elements, ranging from money to mudslinging, from rumor to embarrassing reports and from expectations to disappointment.

The central issues locally were the \$10.5 million bond vote for a downtown civic center, and the candidacy of "Mickey" Michaux for the 2nd District congressional seat. The civic center, pushed over the top with a strong black vote, won at the 11th hour following long rounds of negotiating that got the Hayti Development Corporation a one-year city contract to be involved in the development of a barren urban renewal district.

Michaux lost a hard fought campaign, but haunted the congressional campaign to the end on the basis of a fairly strong write-in effort.

And though the smoke has cleared, the jury is still out on the success of the two political moves.

It remains to be seen just how much real and significant input the development black will have in group Hayti's redevelopment. Hayti is a former black community, razed more than a decade ago by the city's urban renewal program.

It is also too early to really determine just what impact the write-in had on the black community's relationship to the local Democratic Party.

Reactions have been

Willie Lovett, chairman of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, believes the fact that Durham's black voters gave the write-in effort more than 7,000 votes with just two days of preparation "proves that we can do it, and thus this becomes a tool that we can use if we have

But city councilman Ralph Hunt terms the write-in effort an example of futile protest for protest's sake. "I don't believe it

serves our interests," he "to be cutting said, ourselves off from the established channels of political power."

Of course, Durham Committee was right in the middle of all of the action.

In the county commission race, the Committee played a big role in electing Mrs. Becky Heron,

Daye

(Continued from Front)

of the state university system. Many with those types

of concerns believe tha Daye would be a natural for the post of chancellor. He is a Central graduate, he is an active participant in groups and organizations that work in the interest of blacks and he is accountable.

Others want Daye to stay at the law school. Said one administrative aide: "I could not stand another change in leader-ship. This (his leaving) would be a bit much.

"At least we have a dean that we can sit down with and talk to," said one female thirdyear law students. "I do not agree with many of his decisions and I really don't like him, but I know that I can communicate with him. That is very important and there is no guarantee tha we will get someone else like him if he doe leave.

"This law school is many different people, experiences, beliefs," said one faculty member. "Daye, has been able to hold things together and make a few things work. That takes a special kind of person

has shifted the commission's power balance.

On the other side of the ledger, the Committee was also right in the middle of some vicious in-fighting.

In the sheriff's race, for example, according to one source, the Com-

mittee was practically tricked into endorsing incumbent Bill Allen, as part of a deal that would have exchanged the Committee's support of incumbent District Attorney Dan K. Edwards, for a promised promo-

when Edwards lost, even ty flap, with the overwhelming The s support of black voters, and All found himself in a runoff against Rol' a Leary.

But according to the source, the Committee, on. The deal fell through created a major credibili-

The sheriff's race really got nasty before it was all over.

A deputy got busted for improper conduct, and several city police officers actively camagainst

And

analysis, Campaign '82 boils down to the following questions:

Will the black community to be able to turn its support of the civic center bonds into real progress in a redeveloped Hayti?
Will local black

Will local black Democrats be able to

the congressional race?

Finally, there's a ques year? tion in the aftermath or It

Campaign '82 that will

negotiate a stronger posi-tion with the local and Will local blacks state party following some rather vicious their flexing of muscle in political bickering long enough to mount · Will hopes for serious and successful change in county govern-ment materialize? strategy in the local vity council campaign next council campaign next

> It all remains to be seen.



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