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Words Of Wisdom
So act that your principle of action might safely be made a law for the whole world.

—Kant
Kindness in words creates confidence, kindness in thinking creates profoundness, kindness in giving creates love.
—Lao-Tse

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History and Depression

Spark Opening of N.C. Gen'l Assembly

By Jocelyn Daniels and Milton Jordan

RALEIGH — The 1983 session of the Carolina General Assembly opened Monday on two notes: one depressing and the other historic.

The depressing note, an observation shared by almost everyone, is the state's budget. The question is how to get enough money to keep running the state now has, give teachers and state employees a raise, balance the budget and not increase taxes.

The historic note is that for the first time in the state's history, a dozen black legislators are in the General Assembly along with the problems. There are 11 blacks in the House of Representatives and one in the State Senate. Last year there were three blacks in the House and one in the Senate.

The new legislators join five women in the Senate and 19 in the House, and are the first four new Senators and 25 new Representatives who have never served in the General Assembly to make this session the most diverse in its makeup in its history.

Despite this diversity notwithstanding, this session of the General Assembly is likely to be one of the toughest, if not the toughest, in the last decade.

The budget will be right at the top of the agenda of tough and controversial issues that must be handled.

"It's going to be a hectic session," said Sen. C. Creecy a Northampton County Democrat who is returning for his second year. He was one of four blacks in the last session. "It seems to me that we're going to give the teachers and other state employees a little raise. But it's going to be a fight trying to do that without cutting or raising taxes."

The problem is rather simple to explain.

The state's unemployment is hovering close to the double-digit mark across the state, though there are areas in the state better off than others. North Carolina gets most of its money from the state income tax, and with fewer people working, revenues just have not increased at the projected rates.

But the state must balance its budget, so the lawmakers and the governor must decide what the state should do with the money it has.

The answer is no where near that simple to explain.

One possible alternative is to increase taxes.

"I don't think that's a viable or practical answer," explained Edwards. "I think we will have to take serious and hard looks at other sources of revenue."

Edwards, one of two blacks elected last November from Cumberland County, mentioned the state sales tax and user fees as ways the state could possibly increase its revenues without increasing the income tax.

Though this session of the General Assembly, stormy though it might be, is not likely to see many black-white issues come up, at least one is expected to surface.

All of the black legislators interviewed said they expect someone to introduce a bill to outlaw North Carolina's second primary.

The second primary is perceived by many blacks as being a method of reducing the number of blacks who hold elective office. The second primary works this way:

In a party primary for statewide or national office, a candidate must poll at least one vote more than 50 per cent of the vote cast to be an undisputed winner of the party's nomination. If a candidate leads the field, but polls less than a majority, then the second place opponent can call

for a runoff, or a second primary as it is officially called.

In the case of black candidates, "first" primaries often have one black candidate pitted against two or more white candidates. In the runoff primary, however, it is often the black candidate and a white candidate. Records show that in most of these confrontations, blacks vote for the black candidate and whites vote for the white candidate.

A recent case in point was the 1982 2nd Congressional District race in which H.M. "Mickey" Michaux led a field of three candidates in the first primary, but failed to poll a majority. I.T. Valentine who finished second called for a runoff. The traditional voting patterns prevailed. Michaux lost.

"I think that we will see a bill introduced to eliminate the second primary," said Rep. Edwards, "and I am prepared to support it."

These aren't the only tough issues likely to come up this session. Others include:

- * A proposed rewrite of the state's drunken driving laws, and item high on Gov. Jim Hunt's legislative agenda.
- * A proposal from the legislative study committee to increase the state's emphasis on monitoring civil rights compliance in agencies that receive state money.
- * A proposal from another legislative study committee that would drastically change the way teachers are hired and fired in this state.

Despite this, many legislators expect the 1983 session to be relatively short. Sen. Craig Lawing (D-Mecklenburg) and Speaker Pro-Tem of the Senate, expects the session to end by May.

Whether long or short, the General Assembly's new members will get an interesting baptism by fire.

The black members of the legislature are:

(Continued On Page 6)

HONORED — William A. Marsh, Jr., (l), a Durham Attorney and Ben Ruffin, special assistant to the Governor, were both honored Sunday by the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People. Marsh was given the Committee's Special Service Award, while Ruffin was named Citizen of the Year. (Photo by Mayfield)



SPEAKS — Willie Lovett, chairman of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, told the organization that 1982 had been a good year, but the group faced an even harder job working for local blacks in 1983. (Photo by Mayfield)

Anti-Klan Network Launches Major Campaign

ANTANTA, GA. — The list of nearly a hundred violent racist and anti-Semitic acts — including death threats, destruction of property, shootings, bombings, even murder, the National Anti-Klan Network has announced a national campaign to press for swift prosecution of Klansmen, Nazis and other committing such crimes.

The group wants to make 1983 a year known as the "Year of the End of the Klan." said Rev. Vivian, chair of the network. January 1, 120 years since the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation and it

seems that regard for black life in America still stands no higher than that of chattel."

The Network, now 3 years old, has launched the 1983 campaign in order to create public pressure on federal authorities to crack down on racially-motivated and anti-Semitic violence. "Those who murdered the 5 in Greensboro, who shot John McCollum in Alabama, who shot the 5 women in Chattanooga, who tried to assassinate Mrs. Evelyn Lowery, those who poured gasoline on the interracial couple in St. Louis — all of these Klansmen, Nazis and other criminals are still out walking the streets,"

said Vivian, who was a top aide to the late Dr. Martin Luther King.

Highly critical of the tiny number (less than 20) prosecutions taken by the U.S. Justice Department in contrast to the nearly 500 documented incidents of Klan violence and nearly 500 more of what they term "random racist violence", the Network hopes that its campaign will make stopping such violence a "top priority on the Nation's agenda."

The rationale for such a low prosecution rate by Justice Department officials, says the Network, is that they only claim jurisdiction in cases if the victim is actually engaged in what the Feds

Durham Committee To Highlight Political Accountability In '83

black people do not have a 'federally protected right to life' then every other civil right stands in grave jeopardy. The posture of the Federal government is tantamount to condoning Klan violence."

The Network's 1983 Campaign will consist of a mass petition drive to collect thousands of signatures demanding immediate federal action. It began January 1 and will continue through the end of July. The petitions will be dramatically delivered to President Reagan and Attorney General William French Smith during the 20th Anniversary activities for the historic 1963 March on Washington in August.

One focus for campaign organizers will be on generating public awareness. Many Americans seem unaware of the magnitude of such violent incidents and stories from its victims rarely reach beyond local or state boundaries.

Network educational programs will include active participation and distribution of information during Black History Month in February, 1983, continued work at getting schools to teach the new curriculum on the Klan developed by the NEA and others, and intense work with public information news agencies so that more complete, in-depth coverage appears in the media.

Through its work since the violent events in

The Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People will concentrate on developing ways of making elected and appointed officials more accountable to the black community in 1983, according to the organization's chairman.

Speaking at the group's annual meeting Sunday, Willie Lovett, recently reelected to a second consecutive two-year term, told the group that the Durham Committee will develop a formal method of monitoring voting patterns and other actions by persons who hold public office, either by election or appointment.

In other action at the meeting, held at Union Baptist Church, the committee's civic subcommittee named Ben Ruffin Citizen of the Year. Ruffin, special assistant to Gov. Jim Hunt, chairman of the Durham Housing Authority, is also first vice chairman of the Durham Committee.

The Committee gave its special service award to William A. Marsh, Jr., a Durham attorney. Marsh is a past chairman of the Durham Board of Elections, and has also served on the State Board of Elections.

Reporting on the Committee's work for 1982, Lovett emphasized the group's successful efforts to work closely with other organizations. In his speech, Lovett highlighted three major areas of the Committee's

involvement last year. They included economic development, monitoring utility rate increase requests along with other regulated services, and political activity.

Lovett said the organization had been effective in each of these areas, particularly in working with other organizations.

"This idea of working together, with no question of who takes the leadership role or gets the credit, is a major thrust of our organization," Lovett said. "We are saying that there is a job to be done, and we must all work together to do it. There is both enough work and enough credit to go around."

The Durham Committee, as it is often called, was organized more than 40 years ago to give blacks in Durham a stronger voice in local politics and other community affairs.

It has long been recognized as one of the area's most powerful black organizations, principally because of its historical success in marshaling the power of the black vote.

Recently, the Committee has come in for rather severe criticism for everything from how it operates to what priorities it sets.

But in recent weeks, Lovett has reported that the organization is instituting new programs of self-evaluation, designed both to monitor

A Dozen Blacks In Legislature

By Jocelyn Daniels
RALEIGH — North Carolina's 120 legislators now include 12 blacks for the first time in the state's history.

They were elected in 1982, following a hard fought battle over how to run the state's legislative session after the 1980 census, the

12 new lawmakers bring a double challenge to their posts.

On the one hand, they represent the people of their particular districts, and on the other, are members of district delegations. For example, Kenneth B. Spaulding of Durham is one of three representatives for the 16th Legislative District. Herman Gist of Guilford is part of a 7-member delegation that represents the 23rd District.

On the Senate side, each county has two state senators. There is only one black in the State Senate this session. He is William Martin of Guilford County.

By the same token, these 12 elected officials also represent the state's 1.3 million black citizens.

One of the toughest tasks these officials are likely to face is how to walk what will sometime be a thin tightrope between the interests of blacks and the interests of a district constituency.

In order to work more effectively together, the 12 new lawmakers met during December and formed the N.C. Legislative Black Caucus. According to caucus chairman, Spaulding of Durham, the senior black member of the General Assembly, the group is designed to help black legislators be more effective in representing the people who elected them.

"There will be some things that we will speak on as a group," Spaulding said, "but there will be some other issues that have to be handled on a district basis."

Following are short biographical sketches of most of the black legislators. Sen. Martin of Guilford, as well as Representatives Luther Jerald, Cumberland; Phillip Berry, Mecklenburg; Mrs. Annie B. Kennedy, Forsyth; and Sidney Locks, Robeson could not be reached by deadline.

(Continued on page 2).

Correct Times
This space every week, The Carolina Times will correct errors, typographical mistakes, and other miscues that appear in this newspaper. If you see any error, drop us a line and we will correct them.

On page 2 last week, in the caption of the photograph of the installation of the statue at Cox Memorial, the name under the picture should have been Rev. Marshall K. ...

The Times regrets the error.