

# We want justice From Page A4

Mayor Wilson Goode, the city's first black managing director at the time, with the help of community activists, succeeded in calming angry residents before the rebellion got too far out of hand or approached the kind of anger sparked by the Miami incident.

And so, the city's black community waited patiently for four years for justice to take its proper course. What occurred last Saturday was, in essence, a mockery of justice.

A predominantly white jury (11 whites and one black) allowed Ziegler to walk out of court a free man even after the prosecutor had managed to reduce the charges to third-degree murder.

Some critics who closely followed the trial of Ziegler contended that District Attorney Ed Rendell failed to have his office put its best foot forward in a very significant case. Rendell's best prosecutor was not assigned to the case, one critic told the *Tribune*. Whether that would have brought the desired results remains to be seen. But those critics would have felt much better knowing that Rendell's ace prosecutor was in charge, not allowing the more experienced criminal attorney, A. Charles Peruto, to make Rendell's assistant look like a first-year law school student.

There is no sense in crying over spilled milk. The youth's family has obtained the services of Center City attorney Lewis Small to bring civil actions against the police department. In addition, the U.S. Attorney's Office informed the *Tribune* that it has already begun its own preliminary investigation to see if the U.S. Justice Department can press charges on possible violation of William Green's civil rights.

That's all well and good. But, from past experiences, the process could take many more years before justice is realized. In the meantime, blacks and other fair-minded citizens must insist on keeping Ziegler off the city's police force.

The obvious racist mentality that every black is a criminal, guilty until proven innocent, makes it almost impossible for justice to be meted out on an equal basis. The Ziegler mentality, which prevails on inner-city police departments -- to shoot first and ask questions later -- is now being endorsed by white jurors. The verdicts

in Miami and Philadelphia are clear testimony to that widely-accepted viewpoint in minority communities.

The Zieglers of this world must not be allowed to be judge, jury and executor in their functions as law enforcement agents. And lily-white juries must not be allowed to sit in judgment when the Zieglers and Alvarez are forced to answer for their illegal and abusive actions against blacks and other minority citizens.

The family of William Green Johnson does not argue with Ziegler's mandate as a police officer to bring their son to justice and let him have his day in court. But what the family vehemently protested, and we concur, is Ziegler's fatal use of force in which he claimed to be properly discharging his duty.

"We're going to fight this case until the last person," said the slain youth's mother, Mrs. Alberta Johnson, 36. "We're going to stick with it until the end."

So is this newspaper, whose fervent hope is that the same black community that was so angered in August 1980 will provide the kind of support necessary to ensure that the Johnson family get justice for the death of their son.

They didn't give this city's black community any kind of justice when that jury allowed Ziegler to walk out of the courtroom a free man. Now it's incumbent upon the black community to see that justice is done.

## Agenda From Page A4

development programs and job-creating initiatives.

That's a broad-brushed sketch of the outlines of an industrial policy of the sort that's needed. We can no longer afford those back-to-back recessions that have left such deep scars on our people, especially on the most vulnerable Americans -- blacks, Hispanics and the poor.

The 21st century is just around the corner and if we want to get there in one piece we'll have to do some serious policy-making to assure our industrial future.

*John Jacob is president of the National Urban League.*

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VOTE  
MAY 8

ELECT

## EDMISTEN GOVERNOR



RUFUS EDMISTEN FOR GOVERNOR

### Commitment To A Progressive Future

- ✓ **THE CABINET:**  
I am committed to appointing blacks to cabinet and sub-cabinet level positions.
- ✓ **THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF:**  
Blacks on my staff will have meaningful positions. There will be no "window dressing."
- ✓ **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**  
Through the appointment process, I will increase black representation on State boards and commissions with an emphasis on major policy making bodies.
- ✓ **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:**  
There will be no retreat from progress made under the current administration. Recognizing that meaningful and substantive affirmative action efforts provide avenues of entry and career progression, I am committed to implementing a strong affirmative action program for all branches of State government.
- ✓ **INCREASING BLACK BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES:**  
At the State level, I will direct all State departments, agencies, boards and commissions to substantially increase the amount of business with black firms. Further, particular attention will be devoted to strengthening the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce in its efforts to promote assistance and training for minorities in small businesses.  
I intend to support legislation designed to permit local government to create a minority business enterprise program which allows minority business enterprises to participate in city and county contracts. I will also encourage local units of government to trade with minority businesses in a meaningful manner.
- ✓ **PRESERVATION OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:**  
In view of the significant contributions made to our society by North Carolina Black colleges and universities in producing an abundance of talented citizens, I am committed to working for the preservation and improvement of these institutions. As Governor, I will do everything in my power to insure that these institutions remain viable and identifiable as black schools.

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