

# Knox's black supporters

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his candidate and will do like any other Democrat in November.

"We are gonna do like the rest of the citizens," said Johnson. "We are gonna wait until Nov. 6 and go vote our own conscience."

"I don't know why people are so concerned about the Knox supporters," Johnson said. "We got out and worked for our man."

Because Johnson's father has been ill, he has not had the time or interest to work actively for the Democratic Party, he said.

"I also have not been asked to work for anybody," Johnson said. "Nobody has asked us to do anything, other than the (Gov. Jim) Hunt (senatorial) campaign. You don't just jump out of the clear sky and start doing things. I haven't been approached by anyone."

But the lack of a personal invitation hasn't been the reason Wilson has refrained from publicly endorsing and working for Edmisten.

"My thoughts haven't changed overnight," Wilson said. "I didn't like Rufus before he ran for governor and I don't like him now. I supported the best man for the job and I would support him again if he ran."

Regardless of her personal feelings, Wilson

said, her sense of loyalty to the Democratic Party will force her to stay with the party in November.

"I'm a Democrat and I support who I want to support," she said. "If I want to support them publicly, I will. If I don't, I won't."

During the primary campaign some said the differences between Edmisten and Knox on the issues were so small that it made no difference which one you chose to support.

"That's not true," Wilson said. "There is no way you could say that. They were two different individuals."

Wilson said Edmisten's refusal to show more support for the Wilmington 10 and Joan Little and to speak out against the Klan after the Nov. 3, 1979 shootout between Klansmen and Communist Workers Party members in Greensboro were reasons she decided to support Knox. Wilson said she also supported Knox because she felt he would appoint more blacks to his cabinet.

"That's not being racist," Wilson said. "If I was racist, I wouldn't vote for anybody. But I want to go with somebody who will give the black race something."

Like Wilson, Newell said she also saw a wide range of differences between Edmisten

and Knox.

"I'm a little cautious of a candidate that makes a whole lot of promises," said Newell. "And I've got to talk with our representative about those promises."

At best, the feelings black Knox supporters have for Edmisten seem to be lukewarm, but all agree that, while they are not overly enthusiastic about the Democratic Party's gubernatorial nominee, they will support him.

"I'm going with the party; now, there's no doubt about that," said Beaufort Bailey, vice chairman of the city-county school board.

Larry Womble, one of Edmisten's local organizers, said he has no problems believing the Knox people will work with Edmisten because many of them, including Richard Archia, Evelyn Terry, James Reeves, Vic Johnson, Mazie Woodruff and Annie Brown Kennedy, have already pledged to support him.

One reason, Womble said, that it may be perceived that the Knox people are quiet is because the Edmisten campaign is in the midst of "housekeeping."

"We're not doing anything right now," said Womble. "We are gonna wait until after Labor Day to go full force."



Having A Yard Sale

Deciding that it was a perfect day for a yard sale, Chris Thomas, Meki Thomas and Toni Guess recently pulled out their old goods to peddle to their neighbors in the Easton community (photo by James Parker)

# The 'cold war' quietly rages

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For the past week, Hairston said, the NAACP has resumed a consumer education project hoping people will heed the organization's call to stop shopping at Food Lion.

But Hairston also said the NAACP is planning some type of coordinated nationwide action against the chain.

To date, McKinley said, Food Lion has noticed no "appreciable" difference in sales since the boycott started.

"The total company has seen no significant decline in sale," McKinley said. "We have not seen anything we would attribute to a boycott. As we see it, there has been minimal impact as far as sales are concerned. In fact, we have picked up some customers in Winston-Salem who have said they want to support Food Lion."

But, during the three days when the Winston-Salem NAACP picketed the Waightown Food Lion store, McKinley said, the company did notice a "softness in sales" at both the Waightown and Claremont Avenue stores.

"We saw some softness in sales in those two stores and some softness in other stores," he said.

That softness, said McKinley, is only a slight decrease in sales that could be attributed to the boycott but could also be attributed to other factors.

"Some of the competition said they had off sales too," McKinley said. "There was a fifth week in the month -- an off week when people didn't have money."

Waverly Martin, the black manager of the Claremont Avenue Food Lion, said the "softness in sales" resulted in decreased hours for some of his store's employees last week while the picketing occurred. One employee, who asked not to be identified, said her hours were

cut from 35 hours per week to 20.

"It was slow while they were picketing," Martin said. "But there was an extra week in the month. So it's hard to tell why."

On Monday afternoon, Martin said, sales were back to normal

and he could tell no difference in the number of people in the store then and before the boycott was called.

"I don't think it (boycott) will have that much impact because of my location," Martin said. "I don't think the store will be affected that much."

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