

T. Willard Fair

From Page A1

a white couch, black carpet and deep-red curtains, Fair, a bearded, shaven-headed Isaac Hayes look-a-like, was at home.

Fair said his branch of the Urban League is considered a "step-child" by the national office. For example, two years ago, The Miami Urban League was put out of the National Urban League for refusing to pay national dues.

According to Fair, he couldn't see sending money to New York and not getting any services in return.

A year later, the national office changed the rules.

The Miami Urban League was reinstated.

"We challenged the system," said Fair. "We went all the way."

Going all the way is more the rule than the exception for Fair. For 22 years Fair has headed the Miami Urban League and for 22 years he and the organization have been one and the same.

"The Urban League tends to take on the disposition of the president," said Fair. "If he is humble and meek, the institution will be humble and meek. Historically, the Urban League has been an institution of White America to keep Black America in its place. Most presidents refuse to give the institution any form. Most should be closed tomorrow. They serve no purpose."

Fair continued: "The Urban League is the conscience of White America. The Urban League is a nice institution; it's not militant. White America said 'Let's help them. They walk like us, they talk like us ... What better institution than the Urban League?'"

But despite what Fair calls an unfortunate beginning for the Urban League, he refuses to continue to be guided by white corporate dollars.

"I'm not looking for White America to underwrite the pro-

grams of the Miami Urban League unless it's on our terms," said Fair, flashing one of his customary, full-mouthed smiles. "In Miami, we are not depending on white folk to keep the Urban League alive. We lose money, but money is not important because it can be replaced."

Fair's stance has not won him many friends. In 1968, a study was commissioned in Miami to see who would be the most likely person to start and stop a riot. Fair was number one on both lists. But during the May 1980 riots, Fair said he was at the golf course.

"White folk expected me to be out there to stop the riot," said Fair. "I resented that."

Fair's relationship with his own board of directors has been strained, too. For instance, Fair was chastised by the Jewish members of his board for sitting on-stage with Louis Farrakhan when the Muslim leader came to Miami. And he said he's been fired more than 300 times.

Fair's relationship with Vernon Jordan, the former National Urban League head, often resulted in heated exchanges.

"In the early '70s I told Vernon Jordan that the movement would self-destruct," said Fair. "Nobody listened. Now CORE is dead and the NAACP is on its last leg. We are not prepared to take the risks required to wake up black Americans to support us. What is required to make a black person become a member of the NAACP is contrary to what the RJs and Haneses want to hear. White America doesn't want to hear the truth."

Fair said he does and says what he does and says because somebody has to be willing to stand up.

"If it's right, it has to be said," said Fair. "If it's wrong, it has to be challenged. And if it's in the best interest of black folk, you have to be willing to die for it."

Fair's comments often have invited death threats. Just last year, he had to hire bodyguards after numerous threats from the Miami Cuban community.

Fair credits his spunk to his environment and his upbringing. His father, he said, was known as Crazy John Fair.

"He refused to me anything but a man," said Fair. "He commanded and demanded respect. He was labeled crazy by white folk. My father was well-respected in the black community. He was a Mason and all the brothers wanted John Fair to say the last words over them. What I am, I picked up from my environment."

As Fair talks, it seems evident that, despite his smile and friendly manner, a fire rages inside. Fair conceded that the fire burns deep, but he added that it's not a destructive flame.

"I'm angry as hell," said Fair. "Any black man who says he isn't is either dishonest or a damn fool. How can you not be? If the Jews can't forget the Holocaust, how dare anybody suggest I forget slavery. That's not a human reaction. Generation after generation was robbed and raped and you suggest that I not be bitter."

Fair said that his bitterness is not akin to the bitterness of a Klansman or Nazi.

"I refuse to allow people to confuse my pro-blackness with being anti-white folks," said Fair. "I'm not anti-white folks. I don't labor on my hate, but I won't forgive them. Unlike a Klansman, it doesn't bother me that we exist in the same space. What bothers me is when they tell me how I should exist in my own space."

Fair writes a column for the *Miami Times*, a well-read, respected black weekly. "I make somebody mad every week," said Fair. His writings, he said, ad-

dress black problems, and, as might be expected, don't mince words.

For example, Fair said he didn't jump on the South Africa bandwagon in his column.

"Protesting in Washington was nothing but a joke for the National Urban League," said Fair, commenting on the League's decision at its national convention to protest the conditions in South Africa.

"The issue is a year-and-a-half old. When does a nigger have to get an appointment to go to jail?"

"Besides, it's not our cause. Part of our problem as black people ... is the practice of universal brotherhood based on color. Where were the Africans during the black civil rights struggle?"

On economic set-aside programs, Fair is equally maverick in his stance:

"Ain't no white man gonna put you in business," said Fair. "That's a joke. I don't want 2 percent. I want access to 100 percent. I refuse to allow you to have two sets of rules. Once I get the rules down, don't do me no favors. I want to go after the whole pie."

After 22 years years away, Fair said he would one day like to return home. But he's not sure home wants him back.

New registration policy

From Page A1

within seven days of the date the person registered.

In the past, the NAACP has used more than 100 special registration clerks. The clerks are used to conduct voter-registration drives at shopping malls, churches and night clubs, Marshall said.

Not having the additional clerks may limit the number of new registered voters, he said.

"They are trying to make it hard for people to register," said Marshall. "The board is supposed to be in the business of making registration easy like it should be. We tried to cooperate with them (the Board of Elections) and told them to tell us if there were any problems. But they didn't."

The Board of Elections has approved 24 special registration clerks for the NAACP and the League of Women Voters. Because of a change in a state law, the number of special registration clerks for each party has been increased to 100.

The county already has approximately 600 special registrars, said Graham. He said registrars can be found at each of the city-county high schools, each library and colleges. In addition, 100 names have been submitted by the Republican and Democratic parties, Graham said.

"We don't want everybody and their brother out registering people," said Graham. "Some people won't do it right no matter how many times you tell them."

"If we see we need more, we will get them. We don't need thousands of them out there."

Marshall said Graham told him to take any further complaints to District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale.

THIS LITTLE AD CAN BRING YOUR LITTLE GIRL A BIG SURPRISE!

She'll love joining the Tinkerbell Fan Club.

- * Tinkerbell will send her: Tinkerbell membership card * Tinkerbell wall certificate * Tinkerbell's Bill of Rights *
- * Newsletter from Tinkerbell * Tinkerbell poster * Tinkerbell button * Tinkerbell stickers * Tinkerbell's good grooming tips * and more!

Just send \$5.00 plus your little girl's name, address and age to: Tinkerbell Fan Club, P.O. Box 1090, Radio City Station, New York, New York, 10101. Send check or money order in U.S. dollars only. Do not send cash or stamps. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

TINKERBELL MAKES GOOD GROOMING FUN!



A Very Good Reason To Come To The Rock— Me

You know Prudential. The Rock. Now I'd like you to get to know me. As the new Prudential agent in your area, I am trained to offer you professional service for virtually all your insurance needs... Life, Health, Auto and Homeowners.

And I'm backed up by the vast resources of the largest insurance company in the country—Prudential.

So if personal, professional service is important to you, contact me. I'm now here to help.



William J. Elcock
Suite 301 Westridge Building
175 Charlois Boulevard
Office: (919) 765-9650
Residence: (919) 377-2581



© 1984 The Prudential Insurance Company of America Newark, N.J.

bobby teague

APPLIANCE AND TV CENTER. CALL 768-8540

1403 S. STRATFORD ROAD, ONE BLOCK FROM HANES MALL

Panasonic.

just slightly ahead of our time

The Microwave that still gives you "Good Ol'-Fashioned Cooking!"

5-Yr. Warranty ... Parts & Labor
Touch Ovens Starting At

\$199.95

90 DAYS SAME AS CASH

NO PAYMENT 'TIL DECEMBER

Johnny Harris invites you over to Bobby Teague's this week for a good price on Panasonic Microwave Ovens. Also come by to see our large selection of refrigerators, freezers, washers/dryers, TVs, VCRs and other appliances.

WE'LL MEET OR BEAT ANYBODY ELSE'S PRICE

CALL 768-8540

Pick Vic Johnson

Democratic Candidate for the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen

NORTHEAST WARD

Victor Johnson Jr.
Winston-Salem native

*** Vote Vic Johnson — Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1985**

- Graduate of Atkins High School; B.S. degree earned at WSSU and master's from N.C. A&T
- Resident in the Northeast Ward 23 years
- "I believe it takes progressive thinking and initiative to have the growth and development Winston-Salem needs as a whole and the Northeast Ward particularly needs."

— MAJOR CONCERNS —

- Jobs for Local People
- Reduce Crime Rate
- Decent, Affordable Housing
- Equal City Services Throughout City

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT VICTOR JOHNSON

Leadership in the best interest of all people