

From My Point Of View

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"He lost contact with the community, and that's what got him there (into office)," Furqan said. If Little had chosen to run again, someone strong "would have definitely beat him," Furqan said.

Still, Furqan said he would have supported a Little re-election bid "unless somebody ran against him who I thought could do a better job."

When asked if that somebody might have been him, Furqan simply smiled.

Fallout

An irate reader called the other day and bent, folded, spindled and mutilated our circulation manager's ear concerning our endorsements in the Northeast Ward.

Poor guy, our circulation manager. Somehow, say the other people in our office, I always tend to be somewhere else when the irate readers call.

Endorsements are seldom easy, especially in a race as evenly matched and hotly contested as World War Two and One-Half between incumbent Vivian Burke and Victor Johnson Jr.

In some camps our newspaper is considered anti-Burke because we have said so when we've disagreed with the Northeast Ward's two-time alderman.

In other camps we're considered anti-Johnson because we've similarly criticized the challenger when we felt he needed to be criticized.

Now we've been intimidated by Mrs. Burke, say some Johnson supporters, into supporting her.

Had we supported Johnson, some of Mrs. Burke's supporters probably would have said it's because we've never liked their candidate anyway nor have we ever given her a fair shake.

I guess that puts us somewhere in the middle, which is where we ought to be. But which also makes it hard sometimes for our

circulation manager to sell subscriptions -- and makes me wonder whether I should take my vacations after endorsements rather than during holidays and summers.

Tidbits

• Patrick Hairston told a friend Monday afternoon that he planned to kick his opponents where the sun don't shine in the North Ward Democratic primary -- although he used slightly more direct language. And he did just that, running away with more than 70 percent of the vote.

Republican nominee James Knox better cover his rear.

• Victor Johnson supporter Mrs. Louise Wilson, executive director of the Experiment in Self-Reliance Inc., said Tuesday night that she's still ribbed by friends concerning a reporter's reference to her as "St. Louise" when discussing her stature in the black community.

Mrs. Wilson, who is a Catholic, said her priest recently told her: "You know, you're not canonized until you're dead."

So she said she thinks she better drop the "St. Louise" business for now.

Mrs. Wilson also said she probably won't ever seek political office herself.

"I think you can do a lot more sometimes on the outside," she said.

• Southeast Ward Alderman Larry W. Womble, on why he planned to spend Election Night at home with supporters rather than at the Board of Elections: "The Board of Elections didn't elect me."

• The two-party system was not kind to Diana Williams-Henry, a black woman who was beaten soundly by James Knox, a white man, in the North Ward Republican primary, although she clearly seemed to be the better candidate.

Ms. Williams-Henry unofficially totaled all of 21 votes.

Hunt Defense Committee

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Hunt trial

Both men and their alleged victims are black.

The connection both incidents have to the Hunt case and the district attorney's subsequent actions are no coincidence, said members of the defense committee. Gray got a payoff for his testimony against Hunt, and Hall may get a medal for shooting Mitchell, whose name was mentioned more often in the Hunt case than Hunt's, said Alderman Larry D. Little.

"The district attorney's office is insensitive to black-on-black crime," said Little. "But on the other hand, the DA went out of his way to railroad Darryl Hunt. This is like a signal that it's open season for blacks to attack blacks."

Charges against Gray were dropped, said Assistant District

Attorney Howard D. "Buzz" Cole, after investigators talked with Al Morrison Kelly, whom Davis said was also involved in the robbery. Kelly said in a Sept. 16 statement that Gray did not rob Davis.

Kelly, who was listed as a potential witness for the state in the Hunt trial but was never called to testify, contends that a man named "Smith" robbed Davis.

"As for the possibility that the suspect may have been Johnny Gray, I know that is not true," said Kelly in his statement. "I have been acquainted with Johnny Gray for about a year and a half and know him well enough to know that he was not present when the robbery took place."

According to a police report, Davis said a man whom Kelly introduced to him as "Gary

Smith" robbed him. But when shown police pictures of a Gary Smith, Davis said that wasn't the right man.

Although Davis still says that Gray was the attacker and picked his picture out of a line-up, Cole said he could not make a case against Gray because of Kelly's statement and because evidence shows that Davis had been drinking the night of the robbery.

However, Officer D.B. Parker wrote in a report on the robbery that Davis was "sober."

"This is a real contradiction," said the Rev. John Mendez, chairman of the Hunt Defense Committee. "We believe promises were made and we are seeing the fulfillment of those promises now."

When Gray was arrested on March 12 and charged with robbing Davis, he was placed on a \$50,000 bond. The jacket of Gray's warrant includes a handwritten note that Gray could not be released without notifying the district attorney's office. Gray was released from jail on his own recognizance with a \$5,000 unsecured bond the day the jury began deliberations in the Hunt case.

The case was scheduled to be heard on April 2 but was postponed. The case was continued several times more until the charges were dropped last week. The decision to drop the charges against Gray were not

made in open court, but were made in a hallway, said Davis.

As for the charges against Hall for inflicting bodily injury on Mitchell, Little said Hall should be charged with "attempted murder." Mitchell was shot five times, the most serious wound in the back. Mitchell, said Khalid Fattah Griggs, a member of the defense committee, did not provoke the shooting.

In addition, Little said he feels the district attorney will play the role of a defense attorney in the Mitchell shooting case.

"... They may give him (Hall) a reward for shooting Mitchell," said Little.

"What the district attorney is doing is selective prosecution. This is sending a very wrong signal to the community."

But Little and the other members of the defense committee said they won't be calling for any new investigations of the police department or the district attorney's office.

They requested such investigations during the Hunt trial and Alderman Vivian H. Burke has instructed City Manager Bill Stuart to study whether the police acted properly in several instances involving the Hunt case.

Meanwhile, Hunt awaits an appeal.

"The Justice Department will eventually have to review this whole mess (Hunt case)," Little said.

Incumbents

From Page A1

the people, and they were talking to me."

From the moment precinct tallies began to trickle in at the Board of Elections, Mrs. Burke was a clear winner. In an unofficial *Chronicle* exit poll at the Carver High School precinct, the ward's largest, voters were picking Mrs. Burke 2 to 1 Tuesday afternoon.

"They know what Vivian has done; they have her record," said Black Political Awareness League President Naomi Jones as she handed out campaign literature at the Carver precinct. "People want good government. People will vote for good government. And so they voted to continue with good government."

Similarly, Hairston was a clear winner in the North Ward. Armed with the endorsement of present North Ward Alderman Larry D. Little, who chose not to run for re-election, Hairston won every precinct in the ward. His widest margin came at Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, where he tallied 87 percent of the vote.

Unofficial final totals for the ward show Hairston with 1,016 votes. Eugene Bailey placed a distant second with only 135, or 10 percent, of the vote, Ansel Rakestraw, the only white Democratic candidate, third, with 97 votes, or 7 percent, and Ghuneem Furqan fourth with 69 votes, or 5 percent.

Only 17 percent of the registered Democrats in the ward voted.

At Martin Luther King Recreation Center, black teen-agers passed out literature for Rakestraw Tuesday afternoon, but urged voters to support Hairston. Rakestraw paid the poll workers between \$50 and \$60 for a day's work, some of them said.

In the only Republican primary, Knox beat Diana Williams-Henry 51 votes to 21. Knox won four of the six precincts.

Hairston was introduced at his campaign headquarters Tuesday night as the next North Ward alderman. He said he will take a few days off for rest and then put his campaign machinery into motion for November.

Knox said he will be spending the time between now and November making sure the people know who he is and what he has to say.

In the Southeast Ward, it was smooth sailing for Womble, whose 965 votes carried all but one of the ward's precincts. Womble's closest competitor -- restaurateur Ernest Shaw -- totaled 198 votes. Donald Phillips was a distant third with 17 votes. Eighteen percent of the ward's registered Democrats voted Tuesday.

Womble's biggest win came at the Easton Elementary School precinct, where he won 91 percent of the vote.

Womble faces no Republican opposition.

East Ward Alderman Virginia Newell sat out Tuesday's election. Mrs. Newell, who had no Democratic opposition, will face black Republican Richard Rowell in November.

The winner of the South Ward Frye-Wilson runoff will face Republican Gregory Fountaine in November.

Mrs. Wood faces Republican Brian Miller, and Southwest Ward Alderman Lynne Harpe faces Republican Ronald Pegram in November.

Like the mayor, West Ward Alderman Robert Northington, a Republican, has no opposition, either in the primary or the general election.

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