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"You can't judge a man by one case. He's helped too many black people to be judged by one case."
- Attorney Michael A. Grant

Tisdale: Ripe to be beaten?

Profiles of the candidates appear on A14.

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale, who ran unopposed in 1982 after winning the Democratic primary, is ripe to be taken, say his challengers.

Tisdale faces three Republicans, a Democrat and what seems like one controversy after another as he seeks a fourth term. He has lost the public's confidence, his opponents say, and may well lose the election, too.

"The animosity of the black community against Tisdale was not as great in 1982 as it is now," says Republican F. Mickey Andrews, who received a majority of the black vote as a Democrat in 1982 and narrowly lost to Tisdale in the primary.

"I think the time is right to replace him."

At least publicly, however, Tisdale seems unimpressed. He will be district attorney for a fourth term, he matter-of-factly told the predominantly black Greater Winston Kiwanis Club recently, smiling.

But Dwight H. Nelson, a Rural Hall attorney who is also seeking the Republican nomination, agrees with Andrews.

"Don Tisdale is more vulnerable to be defeated than any time in the last nine years," Nelson says. "He and the people in his office have been just plain rude to everybody. There's no reason for them to be so ugly to people."

Tisdale's opponent in the May 6 Democratic primary, attorney W. Warren Sparrow, says the district attorney faces "an equality of treatment issue" while Joseph A. Gatto, who resigned as a District Court judge last month to pursue the Republican



District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale: They'll have to drag him out of office (photo by James Parker).

nomination, says Tisdale's problems are "a matter of public record."

"The public is smart enough to look for themselves and see what he's done," says Gatto, whom many consider the district attorney's most serious challenger.

Most leaders in the black community consider Tisdale an unnecessary evil.

"He (Tisdale) has been totally insensitive to the needs of the public," says NAACP President Walter Marshall.

"He has gone against all the rules of the office. He probably has done some positive things but they are overshadowed by the way he has done things."

Tisdale also has been criticized for using a tactic called peremptory challenges to arbitrarily eliminate blacks from juries and for dragging his feet in the hiring of black assistant district attorneys.

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GRAMM-RUDMAN

Much-debated bill could 'devastate' local programs

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

This article is the first in a two-part series.

The controversial Gramm-Rudman balanced-budget bill could radically reduce city programs and services -- especially for the poor, the handicapped and the elderly -- if it is implemented in April, say local agency and city officials.

David L. Thompkins, director of the Winston-Salem Housing Authority, which manages low-rent public housing, said Gramm-Rudman could devastate his budget.

"I would urge everyone to talk to their congressman to get it reversed," he said. "That's how much we oppose it. We even urge our tenants to call their congressman and get involved with these housing cuts."

Other agency heads share Thompkins' concern, saying job training, relief to the poor, public transportation and some economic development programs will be felled by Gramm-Rudman's axe.

The bill, authored by Sens. Phil Gramm (R-N.H.), Warren B. Rudman (R-Texas) and Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.), forces a 4.3 percent cut in many portions of the fiscal year 1986 federal budget for domestic programs. It also requires the president to look for deeper cuts in the next fiscal year, and establishes a radically changed federal budget process designed to reduce the \$3 trillion federal deficit each year by predetermined amounts in order to achieve a balanced budget by 1991.

The bill says Congress and the president must agree on a budget with the spending reductions by April 1, or Gramm-Rudman will take effect.

The Supreme Court is now reviewing a lower-court ruling that declared an aspect of the bill unconstitutional.

Ann G. Jones, budget analyst for the city's Budget Evaluation Office, said if enacted, Gramm-Rudman will affect four major areas in the city's allotment of federal funds.

"In general revenue sharing, the city will lose about \$200,000 in 1985-86," she said, "and close to \$2 million in 1986-87." The 1986-87 fiscal year starts July 1.

Funds from revenue sharing are used to finance capital projects, such as the relocation of the Winston Lake YMCA from Patterson Avenue.

She said more than \$600,000 will be lost from the \$1.9 million budget of Community Development Funds. The funds, provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, are used to benefit low- and moderate-income individuals and neighborhoods through rehabilitation, ur-

WHY NEAL VOTED FOR GRAMM-RUDMAN



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ban renewal and relocation.

Ms. Jones said mass transit funds would also be decreased. There would be no immediate effect on local programs because of a surplus of state funds, but in 1988, she said, decreases of \$1.1 million would be felt in the city bus system, the Trans-Aid shuttle program for the elderly and handicapped.

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Group: Homeless mostly white males

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

A new report by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Task Force on the Homeless citing 150 to 300 "chronically homeless" people in the city and county drew mixed reactions at a Tuesday morning press conference.

After the group presented its findings on the plight of the homeless, a volunteer for an organization not included on the panel wondered aloud if the study had received enough grassroots input.

"I maintain that the deciding

factor about how to deal with the homeless has to come from within the community," said Lee Faye Mack, a member of People Are Treated Human, an organization formed by Alderman Patrick T. Hairston to house the homeless. "I maintain that they have to include people other than the agency people. All I see is another committee. The talk has to end and the action has to begin."

Mrs. Mack also said grassroots organizations such as PATH, which particularly deal with the homeless in the black community, were omitted from the task

force. She said the group should have been contacted.

"We were never contacted about the task force," she said. "They said they didn't even know we existed. But efforts like this have got to be concerned with working with the people who are in contact with all parts of the community. They didn't even count the number of the homeless in the black community. The black homeless don't always go to shelters. They didn't even consider the housed homeless people who don't have a home but are overcrowded in a

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Mayor W. Wilson Goode

Goode: Voters will decide

By LEE LINDER
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA -- Mayor W. Wilson Goode, fighting for his political life since the release of a scathing report on the May 13, 1985, MOVE battle, said last Monday that he doesn't expect to be indicted.

The mayor, speaking at a news conference, also ruled out once more the possibility of resignation.

"I am content to let the people speak for themselves," he said. "The people, in the end, will make a fair judgment on what my

responsibilities were, on the mistakes that I made, and overall assess me as their mayor."

Goode called the news conference to respond to the MOVE commission report accusing him of "grossly negligent" conduct during the armed siege that left 11 people dead and 61 homes destroyed by fire.

The panel, appointed by Goode, called for a grand jury investigation of the "unjustified homicides" of five MOVE children in a fire touched off when police dropped a bomb on the radical group's headquarters.

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Proposed changes in the housing code would force landlords to repair run-down housing units (photo by James Parker).

Commission proposes a tougher city housing code

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Tenants would be allowed to withhold rent from negligent landlords if one of several proposed changes in the city's housing code is adopted.

The city's Human Relations Commission met for two and a half hours last Thursday to fine-tune the proposals, submitted by Ellen W. Gerber, chairman of the Assistance to Low-Income Families Subcommittee of the commission's Fair Housing Task Force. Her subcommittee has been studying the matter for six months.

Commission Chairman David A. Logan said Friday that the legality of the rent-withholding provision is still being discussed.

City Attorney Ronald G. Seiber said last Wednesday that the provision is against the state's landlord-tenant law.

"We will be meeting with the city attorney and the housing services director to see if we can come up with a package that satisfies all," Logan said. "We're looking at several proposals. We just want the landlords to comply with the law."

"We want a united front on how to bring about the proposed changes. We want to resolve the matter to everyone's satisfaction."

When landlords don't fix unsafe dwellings, Logan said, the city has but one recourse: to condemn them. Logan said there is need for less extreme measures.

"We are trying to give the housing authorities less than they have

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