

Thornburg, 'I'll be a 'hands on' governor'

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Winston-Salem and the Piedmont area may soon participate in a crime prevention conference designed to tackle the crime and drug problem that exists in the black communities by getting to its "root causes," according to Attorney General Lacy Thornburg.

Thornburg, democratic candidate for governor, said the conference, which was initiated by the attorney general's office, was first held in Fayetteville at the request of minority businessmen and leaders in the community. Due to the overwhelming response, Thornburg said his office is now working to develop a similar conference to the Triad area and other communities throughout the state.

"The program was initiated through my office, through and with the help of several minorities, to set up a crime prevention conference that would get to the root causes of crime. It also dealt with equality of education, equality for state and local contracts for minority contractors and business people, community policing and family involvement," he said during a visit to the Chronicle on Friday.

Thornburg said equal education and job opportunity play a significant role in the problems currently facing minority communities.

While the conference is not part of his campaign efforts, Thornburg said he too has set up a minority affairs advisory group that will advise him on problems facing the communities on a weekly basis.

"My campaign has its minority focus," he said. Thornburg said as governor he will push for more minority contracts and availability for bank loans for minority businesses who wish to expand or develop a new business.

Thornburg said he also will work on "providing earlier intervention for children at the 3-and-a-half year old level that will provide day-

care-type facilities" so that single mothers could receive training and educational opportunities. "While providing job training for the mother, at the same time it will be helping their children," he said.

Job opportunity, he added, and good education programs will help eliminate much of the crime problems.

Thornburg said he will also try to restructure the school testing system. "(Testing) needs to be based on achievement and competence rather than grade levels. Those changes provide a more equal opportunity for those at a young age, so they can enter the school system with the same competence as others," he said.

One phrase Thornburg uses to describe his leadership abilities is that he is a "hands on" person.

"I plan on getting in there and working with my staff and my people around the state and seeing that the programs are actually carried out," said Thornburg, who has served as attorney general since 1984.

"The people in North Carolina are tired. They want to see action. That's why it is important to put a new leader to improve the education system, to work with industry to get more jobs, to protect our environment, to develop health care programs and to move ahead with these programs. We don't need someone whose going to sit back and point the finger," he said.

Another issue Thornburg's campaign will address will be environmental protection. "We have to manage our waste. First by preventing it. Then by reducing it, then recycling it, and reusing what's there."

Issues he will run under will include: putting North Carolina back on sound fiscal ground without increasing current taxes by setting new priorities and streamlining state government; improving the state's educational system by cutting unnecessary programs and channel-

ing the funds to the classroom levels; and ensuring community safety by getting criminals off the street and requiring prisoners to work.

In his declaration of candidacy, Thornburg states that he will fight to reform the prison system; stating that the "revolving-door" prisons are turning into a dangerous criminal loose for everyone that goes in. He states, "when we put criminals back on the streets we have just that... criminals on the streets."

Thornburg states as governor he will try to see that prisoners work to earn their keep, in a prison industry or on the roads. Also draining the state, he added, is the massive amount of money spent on welfare programs.

"Poverty is no crime", the declaration reads, "and we must have compassion for people who can't work for legitimate reasons. But North Carolina has reached the point where the people who do work can't afford to pay for those who won't work... as governor, I intend to see that every physically able adult be required to work for their welfare or to participate in training to qualify them for gainful employment."

As attorney general, he has worked to fight crime in North Carolina, by increasing cooperation between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. He also brought the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program to schools and initiated the R.I.C.O. (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) law that allows the



Attorney General Lacy Thornburg

state to seize the illegal profits from drug dealers. He graduated from Mars Hill College and the University of North Carolina and received a law degree from UNC in 1954. Lacy and his wife Dottie, an English teacher, then moved to Jackson County where he began his law practice.

12 District contenders Continued from page A1

Larry D. Little

Education: B.S. Winston-Salem State, M.S. UNC-G, law degree from Wake Forest School of Law.

Experience: Alderman (north ward) 1977-1985. Record of community involvement and social activism includes programs he helped lead through the Black Panther Party in the 70's including free breakfast, free ambulance service, and senior citizens transportation service. In 1982, led the effort to create a business-financed fund for affordable housing. Chaired alderman public works committee.

Personal: Married to the former Glenda Wharton. Two children. Member Dellabrook Presbyterian Church.

Melvin L. Watt

from Yale University School of Law.

Experience: Served as N.C. Senator 1984-86. In the Senate, he fought to create a housing trust fund for the poor, he spoke out in favor of legislation that would eliminate federal funding for abortions, and voted against a bill that would let small loan companies make mortgage loans (at high interest rates).

Haitians

Haitian Information and Documentation Center, which helps immigrants with paperwork for work permits and other legal matters.

"We are sure those people are not coming for economic reasons. Maybe 10 years ago some people were. But not today. I am very, very, very worried."

"We don't like it at all," said Edward Lewis, director of the Haitian Community Center in Brooklyn. "A lot of these people who go back are going to be hurt — some of them not, but most of them will. Most of them are political refugees. But Haiti is a black republic, so they are not given the same treatment as the European community."

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Brooklyn, Thomas V. Daily,

Managed Harvey Gant's bid against Jesse Helms for U.S. Senate in 1990. Served on boards including Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers, Legal Aid of the Southern Piedmont, NCNB Community Development Corporation, Family Housing Services.

Personal: Member of Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church. Grew up in a single-parent home without running water. Decided to leave state politics until his children graduated from high school. His youngest son is now a freshman at Yale University.

H.M. Michaux Jr.

degree from N.C. Central University.

Experience: Currently serving as N.C. representative for district 23 in Durham County. Elected 1972, '74 '76, '84, '88 in district 23 of Durham County. First black U.S. Attorney in the South (served North Carolina's middle district in 1977-81). Ran strongly in a congressional primary against Rep. Valentine in the 2nd district in 1982. Served on many committees, including: corrections, courts and judicial districts; chairman of constitutional

amendments; chairman of higher education; chairman of public safety and insurance; chairman of administration. Currently chairman of court, justice, and constitutional amendments and referendum; vice chairman of congressional redistricting.

Personal: One daughter, graduate of Howard University School of Law. Brother and law partner Eric, graduate of Duke University School of Law.

Earl F. Jones

law degree from Texas Southern University

Experience: Completing his tenth year as Greensboro city councilman, former assistant attorney for Legal Aid in Greensboro. Served as volunteer legal counsel for the Greensboro NAACP. His suit against Greensboro city and Guilford county initiated redistricting which resulted in black representation on city council and county commissioners. Founded and supervises Guilford Community Action, an anti-poverty program.

Personal: Married to the former Adria-Anne Donnell, assistant English professor at N.C. Central. Member of Shiloh Baptist Church.

any other."

A few dozen Haitians held a protest in Times Square Monday afternoon. One protester, Eddie Michaels, 27, an airline ramp worker, said "a lot of Haitians are willing to go back to Haiti once Aristide is back. Then they'll be more than happy to go back."

Haitian exiles in Miami are also upset about the repatriation, said Jacques Despinosse, president of the Haitian-American Democratic Club.

"Way back in 1939, when we sent the Jews back to Poland, Hitler didn't kill them right away. I don't think anybody can claim those people are safe," Despinosse said Monday. "The Bush administration clearly does not care."

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also condemned the government's decision.

"I am anguished by the forced repatriation of the Haitians who sought asylum in our country," he said in a statement.

"It was not for frivolous reasons that they fled their homeland. They left in desperation because of intolerable violence and oppression. I pray for a dramatic and swift change in our policy toward these long-suffering people."

Mayor David Dinkins called on Bush to "rescind this inhumane and irrational policy which is inconsistent with what this country stands for."

Asked whether he thought the reason for the repatriation was racial, he said. "I can't find

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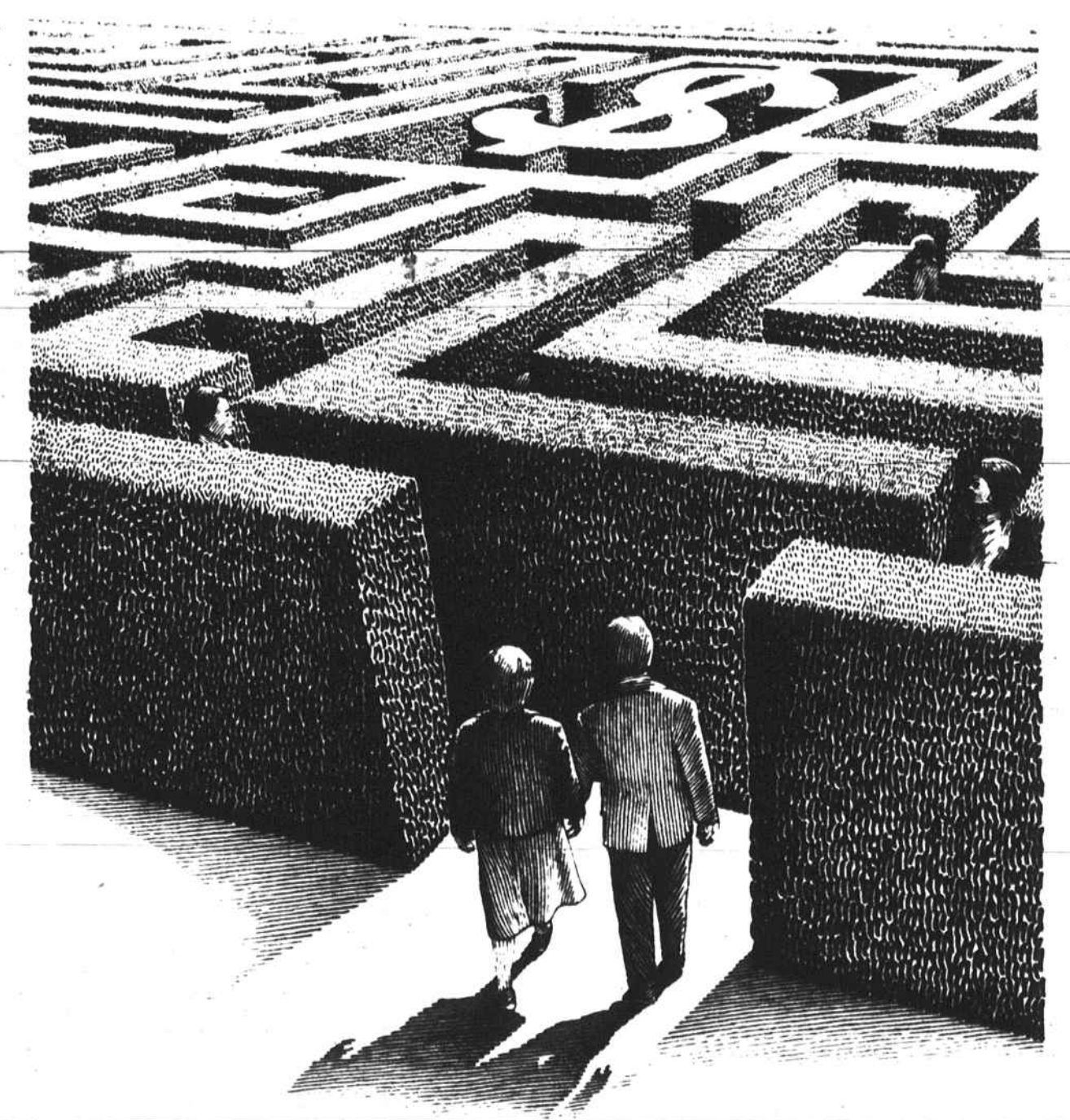
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