

Tison: Improve Black Equity

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

"Blacks will always be employees instead of employers, unless something is done to improve black equity," stated Ben Tison, a Democratic candidate for 9th District Congress.

Tison informed some lending institutions are giving money to people who really don't need financial assistance, while many blacks who do need money to invest in business ownerships are being turned down. Tison believes the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other government agencies which can be beneficial in assisting minority business people "need to push a little harder."

Over all, however, the congressional candidate commented the country is making progress in civil rights. His primary concern is the budget deficit. "Unless we keep a strong policy, we stand to jeopardize social programs," Tison stated. He feels that the deeper the country gets in debt, the higher the chances of wiping out food stamps, and other social benefits.

"It's frightening people right here in the 9th District," Tison revealed. According to the 12-year



Ben Tison
...Congressional candidate

legislature, the nation is already \$1.5 trillion in debt. "We've got to stop spending," the candidate urged. "We can't afford to spend like we have in the past."

Tison noted Congress has proposed to spend \$305 billion on the military budget for 1984-85. "I'm anxious to make sure the country can defend itself, but there are other priorities which need to be attended." One of these priorities which Tison spoke of was the social benefit program.

He feels much of the money spent for defense is actually spent for weapons which overlap in the purpose. "We need to increase dialogue with the Soviet Union about a nuclear

freeze and back off a cold war."

Despite these kinds of arguments which Tison has presented for nearly 12 years, he stressed he isn't tired of government involvement. "I enjoy the work and the people I represent," Tison assured. "My job poses a great challenge."

Recently endorsed by the Best Candidate Committee, Tison has served in the State House for 10 years and the Senate for two years. "I've also been associated with every segment of the community and state," he informed.

He added he was recently ranked as high as seventh on a 120-member panel of representatives. "One-third of the vote came from the House; one third from the media, and one-third from lobbyists," Tison commented. He described his record in the General Assembly as one that came around his performance rather than his promises.

Tison is vice president of Industrial Development for North Carolina National Bank (NCNB). He was a member of N.C. 2000, a commission on the future of the state. Tison, 53, is a Mecklenburg County native.



The Jennifer Payne Marathon for Sickle Cell was kicked off Saturday at Marshall Park. Many well-wishers came to send her off on her run to New York. Her purpose, to raise money for Sickle Cell Anemia research will be appreciated by those afflicted or touched by the disease. Accompanying her on the kick off day were William Payne, her

husband and coach, Charles McComco, S.C., Health Education, Dorothy Triplett, Sickle Cell Family Service Coordinator, State Alexander, WPEG, Jennifer, Dr. George Lowe, Chairman of the Board of S.C., Peggy Beckwith, S.C. Director and Sandy Foster, Director of the Marathon. (Photo By Cal-Du)

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D. G. Martin Attracts Support From Black Community

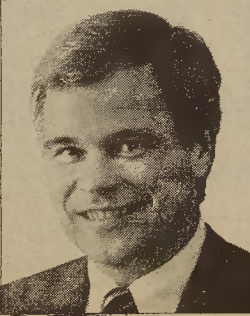
By Adam Bernstein
Special To The Post

The ties that bind Democratic Congressional hopeful D.G. Martin to the local black community are strong and well-established as evidenced by a brochure being circulated by his campaign staff that contains endorsements of his candidacy by 19 prominent black citizens. The brochure also gives the reasons why each one supports D. G. Martin for Congress.

Martin's history of involvement with various predominantly black organizations in Charlotte over the past 15 years is outlined in the brochure by these black leaders. That long-standing commitment, Martin said, affords him a broader perspective on minority affairs, and thus a better understanding of the issues that most concern the black community.

"My experience in the black community makes me the uniquely qualified candidate for Congress to address those issues that are vitally important to the black citizens of our district," he said.

The candidate has served as an elder and Sunday School teacher at integrated Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church for 15 years; a moderator of the Mecklenburg Presbytery; a member of the N.C. Central Law School Board of Visitors; co-chairman of the Board of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and as the first white member of the McCrorey Branch YMCA Board of Managers.



D.G. Martin
...Gets black support

His experience has spanned every facet of the black community, which makes Martin particularly sensitive to the most important issues facing its citizens.

"I have lived, worked, talked and prayed with the people of Charlotte's black neighborhoods for many years, not just over the past six months of this political campaign," the candidate said. "I understand what their needs are because I've been there."

Martin emphasized that "the doors in Washington need to be kept open to all people," and commented in the brochure that in Washington, "I will need black people in leadership positions on my staff."

The district is rich in black cultural and civic growth, he continued. "For that reason, I am honored to be able to participate and contribute to that significant part of the community's development."

The list of black leaders endorsing Martin's candidacy includes Melvin Watt, lawyer with the Charlotte law firm of Chambers, Ferguson, Watt Wallace &

Adkins. Watt was the campaign manager for Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt.

Willie Stratford, Sr., a long-time Democratic activist and former candidate for City Council, also endorsed Martin, as did Thomas Moore, a popular singer, TV personality, and child advocate, and Shirley Farrer, former director of the Afro-American Cultural Center, also set forth in the brochure why they support Martin.

The black religious community is also well-represented. Among those endorsing Martin are Rev. Retoy Gaston, pastor of Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church; Rev. Warren McKissick, pastor of the Greater Galilee Baptist Church; Rev. Smith Turner, III, Presiding Elder, Charlotte District of the AME Zion Church and Rev. Larry Hill, pastor of Catawba Presbyterian Church and Moderator of Catawba Presbytery.

Others making statements in the brochure as to why they support Martin for Congress include: teacher and businesswoman Alice Diamond; realtor Rachel Hall; former professor Howard Barnhill; homemaker Mary Davis; Zoel and Esther Hargrave of the N.C. Legal Defense Funds; retired Johnson C. Smith professor C. D. Rippe; community leader Dot Crockett; youth worker Richard Campbell; Bertha Crawford of the Mecklenburg Volunteer Lawyers Program and Michael Hill, a Sunday School teacher at Mr. Martin's church.

In Gubernatorial Race

Gini Ingram's Understanding

Is John's Greatest Asset

By Karen Parker
Post Staff Writer

Gini Ingram's political understanding is probably the greatest asset for her husband's gubernatorial campaign.

Gini and John were married in September, 1954, when he was a lawyer. Since that time, the couple has gone through 11 statewide campaigns. "All those years include primaries, runoffs and general elections," Mrs. Ingram pointed out with as much enthusiasm as she probably had when she first became devoted to politics. She claimed those 11 years is more time in political office than all the other candidates for (N.C.) governor combined.

When the Ingrams are on the road boosting the campaign, they don't always get to travel together. She is in one part of the state, while he is in the opposite direction. Sometimes Mrs. Ingram will leave their



Gini Ingram
...Busy campaigner

home on a Monday, and not return until Friday. "I've been doing that for nearly five weeks," Mrs. Ingram noted. "It's a hard pace, but I like it because I like people," she continued.

Most of the time Mrs. Ingram is accompanied by Mrs. Elsie Nuckles and Mrs. Mary Howell. Besides being good friends of the Ingram family, they also coordinate "Women For Ingram" programs and ap-

pearances.

Mrs. Ingram covers many subjects when she discusses her husband's qualifications for serving in Raleigh. She is well aware of the number of women and minority appointments her husband has made in the office where Ingram is serving his last term as the Insurance Commissioner. The first black and the first female deputy insurance commissioner was appointed by Ingram in 1976.

Armeta McPherson continues to oversee the life, accident and health division.

Mrs. Ingram also talks about her husband wanting to lower utility rates by electing the Utilities Commission.

In a campaign pamphlet, Ingram talks about avoiding another PCB crisis in the state. "As chairman of a national task force on hazardous wastes, I understand GINI On Page 15A

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