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Mayor Ford Visits ECSU

"The hell with Watergate when we have people in this country who are literally starving, need better housing, and our little children need better education," Johnny Ford, Black Mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama said as he addressed the Moore Hall Auditorium audience, at Elizabeth City State University Sunday, September 9, 1973.

Mayor Ford was welcomed to the University by Chancellor Marion D. Thorpe and to the City by Mayor John Bell. Mayor Ford told the students that politics is the game to be played and as blacks we must play it well.

Ford elaborated on the situation in which decisions will be made and funds spent on local levels, and expressed the need to elect blacks and

Because of his pragmatic

sensitive whites to "the decision-making positions." He warned that "Our black communities and minority communities in this country are going to be left out, because in most instances we do not have adequate and equal representation in the decision-making process at the local level."

As co-chairman of the National Committee for a Two-Party System, along with Floyd McKissick, Ford indicated that the purpose was to "bring together black Republicans and those whites who are concerned about the common problems facing blacks and poor people in this country." Ford also stated, "We don't have time to get hung up on whether I am a Democrat or a Republican."

Dr. Thorpe Elected To ECS Policy Group

Dr. Marion D. Thorpe, Chancellor, Elizabeth City State University, has been elected to the Steering Committee of the Education Commission of the States (ECS). The election represents an elevation for Dr. Thorpe, since he was first appointed to the Commission, in 1969.

As a member of the ECS policy-making body, Dr. Thorpe will be closely involved in the search for answers to many of the crises confronting

philosophy, a firm belief that politics is business. Ford cited the dividends of his political strategy where in his city and Macon County received "approximately \$60 million a year in federal resources," the highest federal support per capita of any county in the country.

This program was sponsored by the Student Government Association with president Edna Hathaway presiding. It provided some practical insight into political campaign strategies, the kind of planning and organization that won for Ford the support of whites and the "grass-roots elements." The speaker pointed out the impact of student involvement in his campaign, and of the resources at Tuskegee Institute.

Because of the vast changes that are taking place in Tuskegee, marked by expansive physical, social, economic and educational developments, Mayor Ford expressed the firm belief that "the South is the new frontier in this country."

In Memory Of John Spencer

John Spencer was born July 20, 1949 in Ransomville, North Carolina to John and Juanita Spencer. The religious aspects of his life began at an early age; in which he became a member of Holly Grove Disciple Church, Belhaven, North Carolina.

John attended school in Belhaven and was considered an outstanding student from the first to the twelfth grade. Because of his academic achievement he received a two-year scholarship to Elizabeth City State University.

He always had a thirst for knowledge and continued his studies at Elizabeth City State University for two years, after which he entered the Job Corps for one year. He returned to "Viking Land", became a ranking student among Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, and graduated with Honors. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science. He served several years on The Compass Staff and became a member of Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity in which he held the office of

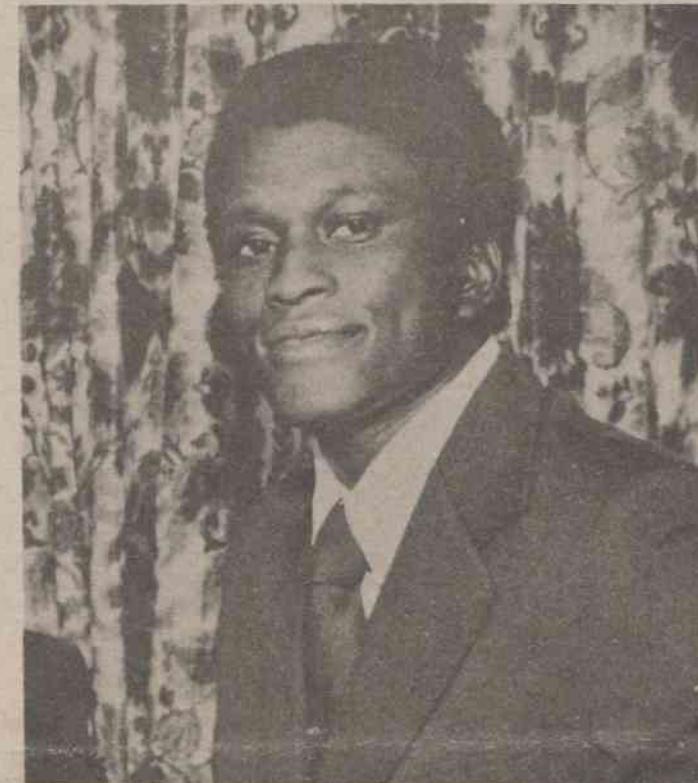
secretary for one year.

John taught a half semester at Elizabeth City Junior High School in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and one year at Chocan Junior High School in Glen Burnie, Maryland where he was residing when death occurred.

To those who knew him, he was considered a friendly individual, speaking no harm to anyone. He was always willing to lend a "helping hand".



JOHN T. SPENCER



Mayor Johnny Ford

A Salute To ECSU's Future

by Alma Jenkins

A grand salute to the class of '77, of Elizabeth City State University! According to the Office of Admissions, there are approximately 300 students enrolled in that class. These students are from all sections of North Carolina, predominantly the northeastern section, and from up and down the Atlantic Seaboard. They accepted the sacrifice and challenge which a college education affords and these young people responded to that challenge at ECSU. They further guarantee the existence of ECSU.

August 19-26 was observed as being Freshman Week. Beginning Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., student personnel registration was held in the University Center. The day progressed with a reception for parents and students, after having assembled in Moore Hall for words of welcome.

The days following were busy days as registration got under way. It was academics all the way, as ECSU's future pledged their minds as they had their hearts to the cause, the pursuit of education.

Classes began, but there was the question of books. The key was to get there twice as early as the next guy, or it was "going to the end of the line" for books. Nevertheless, with the patient labors of our

bookstore manager and some student assistants, everyone was serviced as soon as possible.

The chairmen of the various departments were contacted and asked about their freshmen enrollment. The Social Sciences Department reports 68, Biology 11, Music 16, Health and Physical Education 52, Art 10; where are the others, Business Department, may be?

As for the class of '77, What were their individual reasons for becoming Vikings? What were their first impression? What are their goals? Well, these questions were asked in a random survey of members of this class for the Compass.

Questions:

- A. Why did you come to ECSU?
- B. What was your first impression?
- C. What are your goals? (not asked in all cases)

Answers ranged from:

- A. "It was closer to home and financially better. One day when the high school seniors and parents could come, I was impressed."
- B. "Positive"

TO

- A. "I heard a lot about it and I guess my brothers and sisters had something to do with it (they came here)... and I thought it was a pretty good school"
- B. "I liked it."

- TO**
- A. "In a black school I feel that I can get more of a background as well as go on, under less pressures than I have encountered previously elsewhere."
- B. "Neutral"
- C. "Nursing"

TO

- A. "Because I was suppose to get a full Football Scholarship"
- B. "Positive"
- C. "To teach Black History in a style it's never been taught before."

TO

- A. "To get far away from home and meet new friends."
- B. "Negative"

TO

- A. "Because I was convinced by a couple of friends to come here."
- B. "Figured that I would like it."
- C. "Business Administration"

TO

- A. "To get a good start in Business"
- B. "Positive"
- C. "Go to law school"

Many had similar reasons for coming, most had favorable first impressions, and as for goals, ECSU welcomes the future teachers, administrators, doctors, lawyers, therapists and other pre-professionals among the class of '77. As the new Vikings strive to make a dream a reality, what about you?