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Black Officials Quietly Wield Power In Raleigh

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

RALEIGH--When Dr. John R. Larkins, the governor's special assistant for minority affairs, first began working for state government in 1942, there were only 26 black state employees in non-menial jobs.

They bore such titles as "consultant on Negro welfare, Negro subject-matter specialist" and "advisor to Negro schools

on health affairs". Those who worked in Raleigh, despite working for several different departments, were housed together in a building several blocks from the main state government complex.

Dr. Larkins now has an office in the State Capitol, a few feet from the governor's office and only yards away from where legislators used to greet him with, "Well, what can I do for you, boy?" He can point to

an improved climate for black state employees.

"We've made a great deal of progress," said Larkins, brandishing a long list of blacks currently in high-level state posts.

The most conspicuous examples of progress are Howard N. Lee, secretary of natural resources and community development, and Judge Richard W. Erwin of the N. C. Court of Appeals. Lee is the first black in the state Cabinet,

and Erwin is the first black appeals judge.

However, there are a number of other blacks strategically placed at high levels of state government in such non-traditional agencies as the State Bureau of Investigation and the Commerce Department's Energy Division.

To a large extent, these black officials labor outside the public limelight, yet some are able to wield influence unheard of when

Dr. Larkins first joined the state.

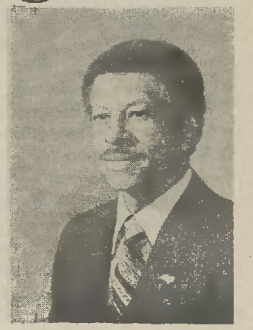
A good example is state personnel director Harold Webb, who holds probably the most powerful job outside the Cabinet offices. His office sets policy for pay, hiring, promotion, leaves, training, etc. for more than 72,000 state employees and 14,500 county employees paid for by the state.

As a visitor sat in Webb's office, the personnel director

or picked up the phone and dialed a Cabinet member. It only took a "This is Harold Webb" to get Webb connected immediately.

"It feels good to be able to get through like that," said Webb afterwards. "It's a recognition of the power of your office. If he wants to reclassify one of his employees, he's got to come through me."

Webb makes no bones about how he got such an



Harold Webb
...calls answered
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Dr. John Larkins
...called him boy

City Worker Charges Bias

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

Despite the city's claims of progress in affirmative action, a black city employee has filed a complaint with the EEOC charging discrimination.

Curtis Dixon, who has been in city government for years, has been one of the blacks most frequently mentioned as "good promotion material" by critics of city government.

Dixon, a senior systems analyst, was recently transferred to the budget department, along with the other members of the evaluation staff. The director of evaluation Allen Joines was promoted to public safety coordinator, while Thomas Fredericks, former budget officer, became director of evaluation and budget.

In all the reassigning, Dixon was the only evaluation employee who was not promoted. He was moved "laterally," without increase in rank or salary.

Dixon will not discuss the details of his complaint or what compensation he is seeking.

Dixon is a magna cum laude graduate of A&T presently working toward a Ph.D. in administration. Dixon is an Air Force veteran and a former employee of the Experiment in Self-Reliance--credentials

See Page 2



Star-Crossed Lovers

Shelia Blanchard and Myron West starred in a very unusually production of Romeo and Juliet at N. C. School of the Arts. See story on page 9.

Aldermen Displeased

City's Hiring Policy Evasive

By Yvette McCullough
Staff Writer

The Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen finally received an opportunity to review the city's Affirmative Action program Wednesday night.

Deputy City Manager and Personnel Director Al Beaty, presented the city's hiring and promotional policies at the meeting. The meeting was held in compliance to a previous request by the City Manager Orville Powell.

Black members of the board expressed dissatisfaction of the policy, saying it lacked specifics.

"You can make statistics do exactly what you want them to," Alderman Virginia Newell said. "You still need to zero in

on where we (blacks) are, in the city government."

Newell said that the policy was not impressive because a high percentage of blacks (77.19) are still on the lowest rung of the ladder.

"What we need is a radical departure from tradition and all it takes is courage," Newell said.

Alderman Vivian Burke said that the plan looked good but she wasn't pleased with it. She requested an additional breakdown of the number of minorities employees paid with federal funds. She also requested a breakdown of minorities employed in each department.

Burk's request and a handout, that she passed to other board members,

set off a touchy discussion on legality. The handout, which was not made available to the press apparently contained a breakdown of minorities employed in each department.

Alderman Little said he had problems with the goals that the city had set for minority employees and that they should re-evaluate the goals.

According to the city's report blacks represent 33.84% of the city's work force. 10% are employed in administrative, 17% in professional, 16% in Technical, 14% in protective service, 22% in clerical, 47% in skilled craft and 77% in service maintenance.

Business Confab Assesses Needs

By Sharyn Bratcher
Staff Writer

"Soul City will not fail," Floyd McKissick assured his audience. "Because you can't fall of the mountain."

McKissick, a former National Director of CORE and the founder of Soul City, was the guest speaker at a workshop on the "State of Minority Business" sponsored by the Mid-West Piedmont Area Business Development Organization.

The workshop, held Thursday July 20 on the campus of Winston-Salem State University, featured a program of short talks from business specialists on various aspects of minority business.

John Mickle, a vice-

president of Northwestern Bank, discussed the financing of a business. Richard Davis, an accountant, advised businessmen not to "do it all themselves," but to hire an attorney or an accountant to perform specialized services requiring expert knowledge.

Dr. Marlene Simpson, a professor at Winston-Salem State University, noted that many businesses never get out of the "infancy" stage. She urged businessmen to have written goals for their organization.

Ernest Pitt, editor of the *Winston-Salem Chronicle* discussed the necessity of advertising in business.

"Black businesses need to advertise more than anybody else because the com-

petition is high. "Pitt said, your market segment is smaller. Most of us (who are retailers) can only sell to other blacks. When you have other black businesses and white businesses competing for the same dollar, the business that communicates to the potential consumers best will get the dollar. Here again is where media strategy becomes important. You have to pinpoint your segment and select a media that keys in on them."

The afternoon portion of the program was devoted to small workshop sessions in which businessmen could discuss problems with group leaders.

John Duncan, founder and director of Mid-West

Piedmont Area Business Development Organization, served as master of ceremonies for the program.

Floyd McKissick addressed the group at a luncheon held in WSSU's Kennedy Dining Center.

"The only time we had full employment was in slavery," he told the group.

McKissick stressed the value of knowledge in creating a free and successful black economy. "If they gave blacks New Jersey, if they didn't have the expertise to run it, they'd still have to call in consultants."

"If people keep knowledge from you, you're already in slavery."

The purpose of the con-

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Floyd B. McKissick

Women Who Have Abortions

Victims Of Circumstance

By Yvette McCullough
Staff Writer

Most Americans believe that under some circumstances abortion may be the "right" choice for a woman, and motherhood may be the "wrong" choice. The following women chose abortion because they felt motherhood was the "wrong" choice for them.

Bess, was not an inexperienced school girl, but a 29 year old mother of four when she had her abortion. Her husband didn't have a job and hadn't had one for years when she found out that she was pregnant.

"I was working full time at a good paying job. I was supporting my husband and my kids and I knew we couldn't afford another mouth to feed," Bess said. "I didn't tell my husband I was pregnant because he wouldn't have understood how I felt about having an abortion and I wasn't about to take the chance of being talked into having another child. I was thinking

of the four kids I already had, I didn't want them to end up on welfare or something, if I couldn't work."

Bess went to her private physician and told him that she had been bleeding a lot and he admitted her to the hospital.

for two days and the insurance paid for it," Bess said.

At the time Bess had her abortion it was illegal, and if her private doctor hadn't cooperated she would have probably resorted to a back alley abortionist.

Her youngest child was less than two years old when she found out that she was pregnant again. She had had a difficult pregnancy with her last child, and she didn't want to take the risk of it happening again.

"I had just found a good job and had gone back to work, when I found out I was pregnant," Wanda said. "After my last child was born my husband and I decided three children were enough. I was going to have my tubes tied, but I was sick after my baby was born so I decided to wait."

Wanda said she and her husband both decided that she should have an abortion.

"I called the clinic for an appointment and the woman asked me if I was sure that this is what I wanted to do. I told her it was. She said that they were only performed on Wednesdays and Saturdays, by a licensed gynecologist. When you go, they take a blood sample, then you go into a room, undress and wait your turn."

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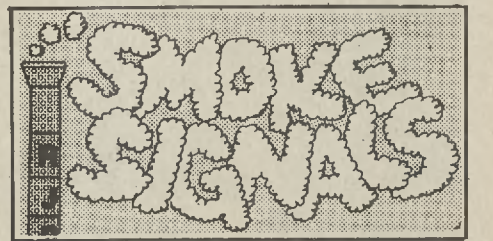
"I don't know if he knew I was lying or not, but he performed a DNC (Dilation and Curettage). The DNC was like having your teeth pulled. I stayed in the hospital

"I think abortion should be left up to the person," Bess said. "You know more about yourself than anyone else does."

Wanda is the mother of three children.

all for you

- A top state education official is critical of proposed alternatives to diplomas. SEE PAGE TWO.
- Winston-Salem's Richard Erwin tells what it's like to be a judge on the state's second highest court. SEE PAGE THREE.
- The Chronicle invites congressional candidates Neal and Horton to begin discussing the real issues. SEE EDITORIALS, PAGE FOUR.
- The "Man with the Plan" is the new director of the local Urban League. SEE PROFILE, PAGE SEVEN.
- VIBES features coverage of "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope" and "Romeo and Juliet" plus the return of ROOTS to prime time TV. SEE PAGES EIGHT, NINE.
- Chronicle Consumer features recipes and buying tips. SEE PAGE SEVENTEEN.
- Robert Eller talks about the dissension-ridden Yankees in Black on Sports. SEE PAGE THIRTEEN.



RALEIGH--He spoke calmly and without a trace of bitterness as he told of the racial slurs he endured as a pioneer among blacks working for the state of North Carolina.

He told of having to go back to his office, to close the door and to cry after a tongue lashing about the failings of "-----rs" from the speaker of the N. C. House of Representatives. He had merely requested the speaker's support for a home for delinquent Negro girls.

The speaker was Dr. John R. Larkins, the governor's special assistant for minority affairs and a 37-year veteran of state government.

The pain of racial discrimination no longer hurt the 63-year-old Larkins as he sat in his Capitol office with a visitor, but the hint of another kind of bias--age discrimination--brought his blood to a boil.

Earlier this year, Gov. Hunt appointed a second black special assistant, Durham activist Ben Ruffin, the former state human relations director. The appointment fueled speculation that Dr. Larkins was thought to be "over the hill," too out of touch with the black leaders of today.

However, both Ruffin and Larkins deny that was the case. They are working together effectively, each using his own network of contacts in the black community statewide. "I couldn't do this job alone," said Larkins. "I welcomed Ben coming aboard."

The Larkins-Ruffin situation, however imaginary, points to a real dichotomy occurring to some extent in the black community.

To an extent, there is a generation gap between older blacks and younger blacks, particularly many of the

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