



Carolyn Coleman, the successor to the venerable Charles A. McLean as state field director of the NAACP picks up a few points from McLean during the state conference convention in Greensboro last week.

## NAACP Seeks Confab On Violence In State

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO--NAACP state president Kelly Alexander Sr. has called for a state-wide conference on extremist violence in the wake of the killing of five anti-Klan marchers here just days before the NAACP opened its annual state conference convention.

During the meeting, the conference passed a resolution critical of police handling of the Nov. 3 incident which also offered condolences to survivors of the slain and prayers for those accused in their murder.

However, the conference nor the local branch took no official role in the funeral march held by the Communist Workers party to memorialize the dead CWP members.

After two hours of delays while

officials bargained with march organizers, the procession moved from the Cosmos restaurant to a city cemetery.

Two top NAACP national officials, labor director Lewis J. Carter and voter education director Joseph E. Madison attended the march as observers.

Alexander's call for the conference, to be called by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., reflected an NAACP attitude that official silence on the rise of the Klan and other anti-black groups has contributed to their increased militance over the past year.

Earl T. Shinoster, NAACP southeastern regional director, said the association is calling upon President Carter to call a White House conference on civil rights "to certify that the federal government is still going to protect the constitutional rights of people."

## 'Devil' Makes Blacks Vote

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO--New Birmingham, Ala. mayor Richard Arrington probably owes his narrow victory to white policemen who shot a black woman, in the back, weeks before the Nov. 6 election.

Angry black voters turned out in record numbers to elect Arrington although he only received 12 per cent of the white vote, notes Joseph E. Madison, national voter education director of the NAACP.

To Madison, who observes black voter campaigns all over the country, anger is the most effective way of turning out black voters.

"We've been able to fight voter apathy by using a phrase from Plato: 'find the Devil and expose him,'" said Madison in a Chronicle interview during his visit to the state conference of the NAACP here last weekend.

"We've been fortunate in finding devils," he added. Madison cited an 80 per cent black turnout in Philadelphia to defeat an amendment which would have granted Mayor Frank Rizzo the right to run for a third term, a big turnout in Cincinnati to defeat councilmen who voted to allow police to use .357 magnums with hollow core bullets and the election of two black city councilmen in Lexington, Ky.

Madison said NAACP branches were active in voter registration and getting voters to the polls during each of those campaigns, including Arrington's win in Alabama as the city's first black mayor. His office supplies funding to branches seeking to hold voter education projects.

Such funds were supplied to the Winston-Salem branch of the NAACP for its campaign against the \$33 million arena bond referendum.

Madison speculated that the same anger effect was instrumental in the lop-sided margin by which black voters rejected the proposal.

The problem, he said, is getting voters to turn out for something. "We have to develop a policy that puts as much emphasis on the incentives for voting," said Madison.

"For instance, in Philadelphia, after the 80 per cent turnout, less than 50 per cent turned out to actually vote for the new mayor," he said.

The biggest effort ahead for Madison is registering more black voters in the 18-21 age range, whom he said "have the worst voter participation rates of their peers anywhere." NAACP officials are high on their deputy voter registration program to make high school principals official registrars so graduating seniors can be handed a registration card and a diploma at the same time.

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## Branches Tutor Failing Students

By John W. Templeton  
Staff Writer

Eighty NAACP branches across the state have conducted special tutorial programs to aid children in danger of failing the competency test, reports Mrs. Willie Mae Winfield of Roper, state education chairman.

"We have tried to help get the kids prepared," she said in a Chronicle interview, "while we decide how to get it repealed."

"Something is wrong with the test with the very fact that so many of our kids are failing it," she said. "We want to get rid of the whole thing."

During the state conference convention here last weekend, delegates voted to continue the conference's opposition to the test, calling on the General Assembly to repeal it.

Currently, the state education task force is awaiting the results from the latest round of testing.

"We're going to do a comparative analysis of the results, along with last years," said Winfield. "We have to have the facts on which to file a challenge."

NAACP national education director Gerda Steele told the convention that the overturning of Florida's competency test by a federal judge enhances the prospects of a successful suit in North Carolina by the NAACP.

Steele also pointed to a California case which struck down the use of IQ tests to determine placement in educable mentally retarded classes.

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