

Johnson

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"The name of the game in politics is knowing somebody," said Johnson, who waged a hard-fought, often bitter campaign against Mrs. Burke. "You can't go down there (to Raleigh) and sway any votes unless you have some friends. You have to be able to mean something yourself, and then you can get something for your constituents."

Burke was director of transitional services in the state's Department of Human Resources.

Johnson said he harbors no animosity toward the Burkes, but is just being a realist.

"We have to elect people who can do the most for us," he said. "We don't need chatterboxes."

Burke denied Johnson's remarks and labeled them "garbage."

"I am unemployed by choice," Burke said Tuesday. "I have had offers, but I am not looking for a job."

Burke said he considers himself "semi-retired."



Burke

He said he has 27 years of experience as an educator and state employee. His Department of Human Resources job ended in



Tisdale

September when Gov. James G. Martin's administration took over.

"I have not gone back to work because I am running for office," Burke said. "I have the financial means to support myself and my family."

He also said he has lobbied in the state Legislature for budgets and sat in on hearings. "I'm no stranger to state government," Burke said. "I know my way around."...

District Attorney Donald K. Tisdale raised the ire of NAACP President Walter Marshall last Thursday when he said at a candidates forum that he is "less interested in being fair than going after the criminal."

Tisdale specifically referred to the murder of Deborah B. Sykes in August 1984 as an example of



Newell

his concentrating on convicting the criminal rather than on public outcries of injustice.

He said no one has produced evidence to prove Darryl E. Hunt, who was convicted last June, innocent of the crime. Mrs. Sykes was white, while Hunt is black.

Marshall asked Tisdale why he is so overly concerned "to go after the criminal" in that case rather than in several unsolved murders of black people in predominantly black East Winston.

Tisdale said he meets regularly with investigators to discuss the cases and keeps up with their progress.

The forum, which included all of the candidates for district attorney, was sponsored by the Forsyth County Jaycees and was



Marshall

held at the Main Public Library.

... East Ward Alderman Virginia K. Newell was among the first to make known her support of district attorney hopeful W. Warren Sparrow. Sparrow is the lone Democrat facing Tisdale in the May 6 primary.

Mrs. Newell is attending Sparrow campaign meetings and has been a big help, Sparrow said Wednesday.

"I appreciate her support, and it's important to my campaign to have the support of someone of her stature and experience," he said. "She does the type of things for this community that I hope that I can do. She's interested in the welfare of the entire community, and I hope to demonstrate the same concern as district attorney." ...

Senate race

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black if they can't deliver what the people need," said the Rev. John Bee Moore of First Baptist Church in Weldon, one of Harrington's two opponents in 1984. "If Frank's elected, he'd be nothing but a freshman senator. Monk's been there a long time. He knows a lot of people, and he knows how to get things done."

A Winning Gesture

Moore knows at first hand. When he told Harrington he wanted a state health agency as a tenant in a dwelling his evangelistic association is building in Weldon, the senator put him in touch with officials from the state Department of Human Resources.

The meeting did not end in an agreement. But Harrington's gesture was enough to win Moore's endorsement.

"I've always gotten along well with the blacks and loved the blacks as I did the whites," Harrington said. "That's just my platform. It's just that damn simple."

Putting It On The Map

In 1984, when legislative

districts were redrawn, map-makers joined parts of eight rural counties to create an amoeba-shaped 2nd District in which blacks made up a majority of the registered Democratic voters.

Harrington, the president pro tem of the Senate and a 24-year Senate veteran, thought he saw the writing on the wall and announced that the 1984 campaign would be his last. But he won easily that year, with 58 percent of the vote against two black opponents. So now he's running again.

"A year is a long time," Harrington said. "And all people change their minds, so that's no big hang-up."

Haves Versus Have-Nots

Ballance, who was first elected to the House in 1982, has campaigned on the theme that Harrington looks out for the haves in a district made up mostly of have-nots.

For many blacks in a district where shacks remain a common sight and where the number of families living in poverty is nearly twice the state's 16.7-percent average, Ballance's humble beginnings as the son of a tenant

farmer have as much appeal as his message.

"He came up the hard way," said William Young, a black activist in Littleton. "He knows how the people are suffering."

Hard Work, Fond Memories

Ballance said he has fond memories of a childhood spent shaking peanuts, gathering corn and setting tobacco on tenant farms in Bertie County.

"But we had to work hard," he said. "We couldn't afford to hire anybody, so the family did all the work. And that meant staying out of school at certain times."

In 1959, Ballance won a scholarship to North Carolina Central University in Durham, later earning a law degree. He opened a law practice in Warren-ton and won local fame as an NAACP leader and as the attorney for residents fighting the dumping of hazardous wastes near their homes.

Harrington, who grew up in the district and who inherited a farm machinery plant at age 30, is now retired and "able to devote most of my time to political life."

Entertainment

Academy is called racist and heroic following 'The Color Purple's' loss

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES -- The NAACP said recently that "The Color Purple's" failure to receive one Academy Award despite 11 nominations smacked of racism, but a loose-knit group of black professionals called the slight an act of courage.

Willis Edwards, head of the Hollywood-Beverly Hills branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said last Wednesday that he planned to organize a letter-writing campaign to protest "The Color Purple" shutout.

He said he suspects racism was behind rejection of the film by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which gave out its prestigious Oscars last Monday night.

"We feel the Academy membership should be more responsible," Edwards said at a news conference. "We feel that they did not understand the acting ability that was in the movie."

But Legrand Clegg, president of the Coalition Against Black Exploitation, known as CABE, said last Wednesday night:

"The Academy demonstrated rare courage and keen sensitivity to the concern of broad segments of the black community who found the movie to be odious, degrading and an inaccurate portrayal of black history and culture."

He said CABE, a 2-year-old group with about 30 members, "commends members of the Academy for their election not to grant Oscar awards to 'The Color Purple.'"

CABE members picketed the December premiere of "The Color Purple," protesting the way

black men were portrayed in it.

NAACP members also criticized the characterization of black males in the film at the time, but Edwards said that issue should have nothing to do with the judging of individual performances in the movie.

A Motion Picture Academy statement issued last Wednesday called the protest "surprising," saying that it overlooked the honor of 11 nominations, voted on by the same Academy members who chose in their secret balloting to pick other nominees as winners.

"The Color Purple," a film about a rural black woman's struggle for self-worth, had the same number of nominations as "Out of Africa," which won seven Oscars, including best picture.

The shutout, despite such a high number of nominations, was not unprecedented. The 1977 film "The Turning Point" also had 11 nominations and received no awards.

On Tuesday, the branch said that the failure of "The Color Purple" was "a slap in the faces" of producer-composer Quincy Jones and director Steven Spielberg.

Edwards said that his NAACP chapters will seek to raise the consciousness of Academy members about black actors and that he believed a public opinion poll would back nominees for "The Color Purple" over the Oscar winners in various categories.

He said he would meet with other black groups to urge them to write additional letters to the Academy protesting the awards.

"The Academy finds the NAACP's charge a little surprising. 'The Color Purple' is one of only a handful of films in the

history of the Academy to receive the extraordinary total of 11 award nominations," said the Academy's statement.

"The winning of even a single nomination has long been recognized as an enviable accomplishment," the statement also said.

Clegg said Edwards' accusations of racism were aimed at the wrong target.

"It is regrettable that a prominent spokesperson of a local chapter of a national organization has taken it upon himself to impugn the integrity of the Academy in the specific instance, by accusing it of racism," he said.

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