

To endorse in the primary or not to?

By L.A.A. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Endorsements are hard to come by these days in politics. While candidate forums abound, many of the groups sponsoring the forums go out of their way to make it clear that they do not hand out endorsements.

The Baptist Ministers Conference and Associates of Winston-Salem and Vicinity, for example, held its forum over the weekend. More than 30 candidates running for practically every office in Forsyth County

on an individual basis. Our endorsement is more one-on-one." Drayton said the last time the conference gave endorsements was in 1980.

Post-Watergate changes in the election law seem to have cut down on the number of groups giving endorsements, according to Supervisor of Elections Cathy C. Cooper.

Having to register, fill out a lot of forms, and account for money raised has made the process more difficult and has caused a lot of groups to shy away, she said. "Before, the groups did not

Tisdale is exposed as much as any politician since Richard Nixon," he said. "But we're letting it be known, still, that his record is bad."

Marshall would not say which of the other candidates for district attorney his organization looks favorably upon.

In the race for the seat representing the predominantly black 67th State House District, Marshall said his organization has no choice but to support Logan Burke. Burke, a black man, is running against Sears manager John D. Clark.

"We don't have much choice but to support the black candidate," he said. "The opportunity is too great to let it slip by."

Marshall said that there are four good black candidates for the school board in Evelyn A. Terry, William H. Tatum, Beaufort O. Bailey, and Naomi W. Jones. He also said that Mazie S. Woodruff and John Holleman were strong candidates for county commissioner.

Holleman, he said, has been very objective as a school board member and is very deserving of support.

In the race for U.S. Senate, Marshall said his organization is looking closely at the candidacy of Fayetteville realtor Ted Kinney.

"As opposed to jumping head over heels for Sanford or Belk, we need to look at who will best represent us," he said. "It may be hard for him (Kinney) to win, but if we can get behind him, he may make it into the second primary."

"The second primary will pro-



Drayton



Jones



Marshall



Terry

bably destroy him, but we may be able to get some bargaining chips."

The Black Leadership Roundtable is or was another group that gave endorsements. Whether the organization still functions is not clear.

Marshall, who was one of the 25 members of the group, said the members still communicate, though they have met only once in the past six months.

Some former members say a split of support in the 1984 governor's race between Democrats Eddie Knox and Rufus Edmisten doomed the group. Others at-

tribute the breakup to the fact that so many of the Roundtable members ran for office in 1984.

Roundtable members included Patrick Hairston, Bill Tatum, Ghuneem Furqan and Victor Johnson, among others.

The Black Political Awareness League, also known as BPAL, is chaired by school board candidate Naomi W. Jones. Organized in 1976 primarily through the efforts of Alderman Vivian H. Burke, Mrs. Jones said the group has given endorsements on only one occasion. The group is not planning to endorse this year, she said.

"We're an awareness group," she said. "We just try to make citizens aware of candidates' stands on different issues. We're a non-partisan, non-profit organization. We've been listening to candidates and have not decided yet who is saying the right things."

Newspaper endorsements are yet to be handed out, but many of the candidates have been interviewed by the various area newspapers.

Most of the endorsements from newspapers will be announced during the final days before the primary.

Election Year '86

came out to give a short talk about their candidacy and field questions from the audience.

The Rev. Jerry Drayton, the conference's Political Action Committee chairman and the moderator for the forum, made it very clear before the candidates spoke that no endorsements would be forthcoming.

But Drayton and the Ministers Conference are not alone. Most groups, including others in the black community, have taken similar positions.

With the exception of the Central Labor Union, an umbrella group for all AFL-CIO divisions in Forsyth County, and the Forsyth Association of Classroom Teachers/Political Action Committee for Education (FACT/PACE), no groups have announced endorsements.

Drayton said that his organization used to give endorsements, but changes in the election laws have made it more difficult.

"We used to endorse candidates, but in 1981, some Republicans threatened to pull us in as a political action committee," Drayton said. "That would have changed our method of doing things."

The conference, he said, is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Registering as a PAC would have changed that status, he explained.

"We are not a political action committee in the sense of the election laws," he said. "If we were to endorse as we have in the past, we would have to register as a PAC."

"Our committee gives guidance but lets the conference members decide whom to support

have to file," she said Wednesday. "Now there are a lot of forms and paperwork, and they must identify where the money is coming from and specify the amounts of the contributions from individuals."

If the group raises money for candidates, it must register. If the group does not raise money, it may give endorsements, and it does not have to register, she said.

Still, most groups do not endorse to avoid the legal hassle.

Local NAACP President Walter Marshall said his organization has never given endorsements, but he said that it does provide useful information.

"Because of our non-profit status, we can't give endorsements," Marshall said, "but we give information so that people can make a good choice."

Marshall, who frequently attends forums all over the city as a spectator, said research is the key in how the NAACP analyzes candidates.

"We research their record, we get background information and look at their record of involvement with the minority community," Marshall said. "We also interview candidates to find out what we can expect if they are elected."

Marshall said the NAACP has sized up some of the key races.

In the race for district attorney, Marshall said that some things are crystal-clear.

"The record of (current District Attorney Donald K.)

Betty Lyons dies at nearly 120

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Staff Writer

Betty Lyons, who would have celebrated her 120th birthday on June 1, died Monday of natural causes at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. She was 119.

Her funeral will be Thursday at noon at New Hope AME Zion Church in Lewisville. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

"I just got will power and faith that keeps goin'," Mrs. Lyons said in an interview with the Chronicle in March 1984. "I ask the Lord to help me, but I don't sit and wait for him - I git on up. I ask him to help, not to do it all."

"I think Mrs. Lyons lived a beautiful life," said Ann G. Rogers, the administrator at Rogers Family Care Home,

where Mrs. Lyons lived.

"She was blessed to live as long as she did," Mrs. Rogers said. "She was very sweet lady whom I will miss very much."

Mrs. Lyons is survived by her sister, Naomi Hill Williams of Winston-Salem; a daughter-in-law, Ester Hill of Winston-Salem; three granddaughters, five grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, five nieces and three nephews.

If the U.S. Department of Social Security has calculated correctly, Mrs. Lyons was born in 1866 in Lewisville. She lived to see the airplanes, railroads, telephones and television arrive in Davie County.

"She was very easy to get along with," Mrs. Rogers said. "Others should try to follow in her footsteps."

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Ron Barker

For Sheriff

Who Is Ron Barker?

Ron Barker started work at age 7, carrying newspapers, and the money he earned was used for family expenses. At the age of 13, he became head of the household while still attending school. During high school he worked the evening shift at a hosiery mill and was the sole provider for his family.

Ron Barker volunteered for the U.S. Army after graduation, and volunteered for transfer to Korea during the Korean conflict. While there, he saw the plight of Korean youngsters who were homeless and without clothes. A letter to his high school teacher resulted in an entire city working together to collect and send clothes to these orphans.

Ron Barker returned from Korea and married his wife, Pat. When their oldest son, Mike, was two years old, he enrolled at Wake Forest University and worked at night in order to gain a B.S. degree. After teaching school for seven years, he became a deputy sheriff under Sheriff Ernie Shore. At present he is Chief of Detectives.

Why should this man who adopted an orphanage be Sheriff of Forsyth County? Well---now it's time to elect a man who already has proven he is concerned with other people.

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