

## ELECTION '86

## Mrs. Woodruff: No regrets

From Page A1

"I don't expect any repercussions from the Democratic Party because I won't accept any," Mrs. Woodruff said. "Politics has never made any enemies for me."

Mrs. Woodruff would not say whether she plans to run for public office in 1988.

"There is no telling what I am going to do," she said. "But I will never get out of politics."

In other county elections, the majority of black voters in Winston-Salem remained loyal to the Democratic Party.

U.S. Rep. Stephen L. Neal retained his 5th District congressional seat by defeating Republican challenger Stuart Epperson. Neal received 54 percent of the county's vote to Epperson's 46 percent.

Neal received more than 85 percent of the vote from the predominantly black precincts, even though Epperson campaigned heavily in the black community.

"There was no reason for blacks to support Epperson," Wells said. "Nobody is going to be fooled by anyone who comes into their community to solve the drug problem with guards around him."

In July, Epperson announced the creation of a drug abuse task force in the Happy Hill Gardens

public housing project; he was accompanied by a police escort. He participated in a human chain on the same corner in October to protest drug use in the neighborhood.

"I would deny that it (the anti-drug effort) was a political move on his part," said C. David Kepple, chairman of the county's Republican Party. "He has a sincere interest in eliminating drugs in the black and white community."

Neal won 311 votes at the Winston-Salem State University precinct to Epperson's 13. Residents from Happy Hills voted at that precinct.

"Neal has been a friend in the black community," Wells said. "They know that he is looking out for their interests."

Neither Neal nor Epperson could be reached for comment.

In the 67th House District race, Democrat Logan Burke received 83 percent of the vote from the black precincts in his victory over Republican Diana Williams-Henry, who totaled 17 percent.

For example, Burke collected 199 votes at the East Winston Library precinct, Ms. Williams-Henry nine.

Ms. Williams-Henry defeated Burke in only one precinct, Old Town Elementary School, 367 to 267.

Burke said he won the election because he was supported by black and white Democrats. "There were not too many people who crossed over and supported her," he said.

Efforts to reach Ms. Williams-Henry Tuesday were unsuccessful.

Most of Ms. Williams-Henry's support came from white precincts, Marshall said. "She didn't get enough support from blacks or white Republicans to make a difference," he said.

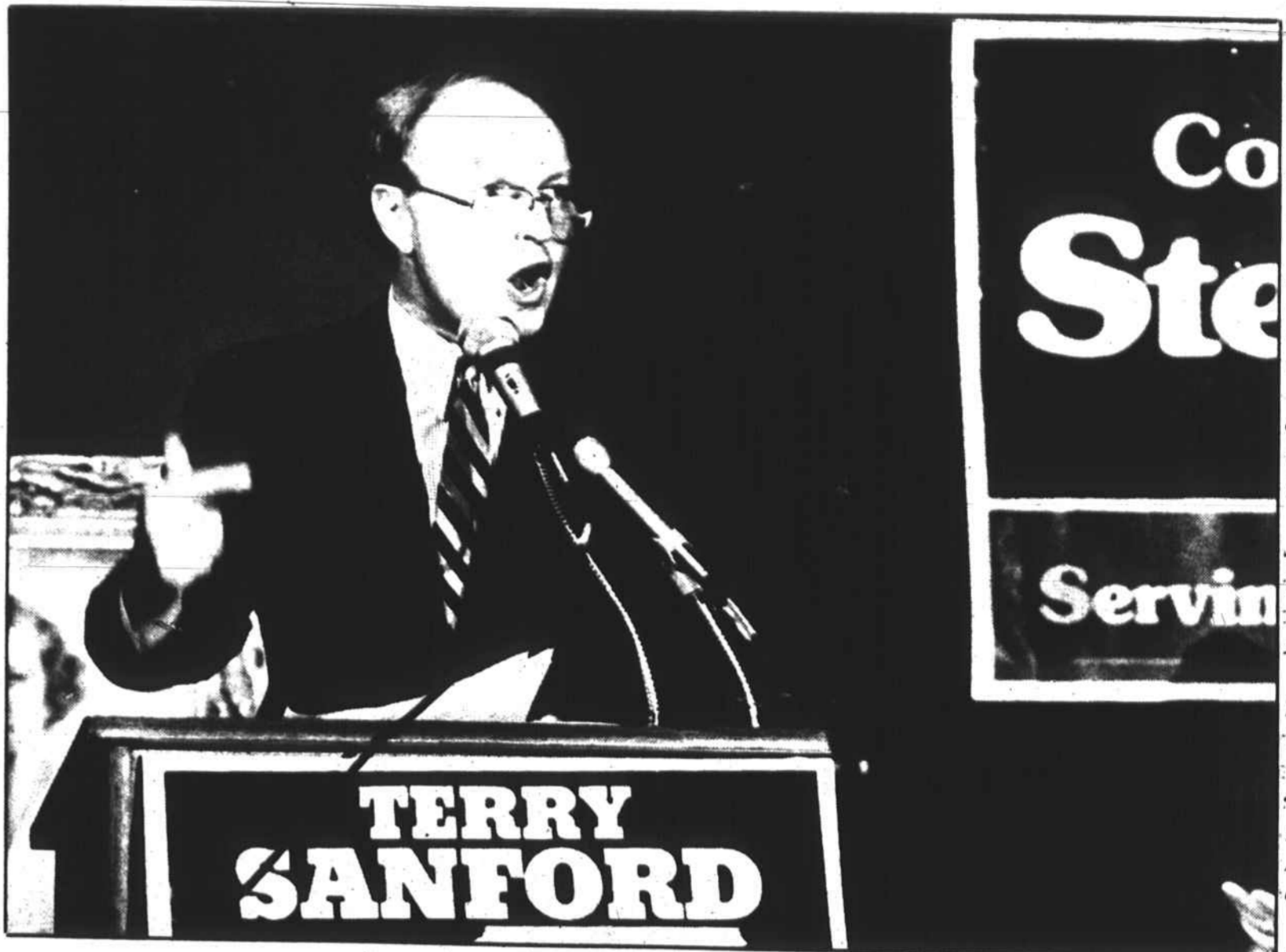
Kepple said Ms. Williams-Henry made a credible showing in the election.

"I thought it was unlikely that she would receive many black crossover votes because the Democratic Party has a stranglehold on the black vote," he said.

Democrats Ted Kaplan and Marvin Ward won the two seats in the 20th State Senate District, receiving 87 percent of the vote from the black precincts. Kaplan and Ward defeated Republicans E.M. McKnight and Roger Rollman.

At the 14th Street Recreation Center, Ward tallied 657 votes, Kaplan 583, while Rollman could only muster 14, McKnight nine.

"We (Kaplan and Ward) have an awful lot of friends in the black community," said Ward, a



Stephen Neal, above, swept black support, despite Epperson's appeals to black voters (photo by James Parker).

former superintendent of the city/county school system. "We have supported the black community."

No predominantly black precincts participated in the 39th State House District election, to the dismay of white Democratic candidates there who used to rely heavily on black votes to win. Republicans Ann Q. Duncan, Theresa H. Esposito and Frank E. Rhodes defeated three Democrats for the second straight election, even though the district is majority Democratic.

Several black Democratic precincts were removed from the 39th House District when the largely black 66th and 67th House districts were created. It is difficult for Democrats to be

elected in the 39th House District without black votes, Wells said.

But Wells and Kepple said the bipartisan delegation from Forsyth County should be able to work together in the N.C. General Assembly in Raleigh.

Added Ward on the Republicans: "I will be able to work with them, but I will not agree with them."

## Black votes provide edge

From Page A1

## A Mississippi first

COLUMBUS, Miss. — U.S. Rep.-elect Mike Espy, the first black Mississippi congressman in this century, pledged Saturday to further the ideals of slain civil rights leaders and improve conditions in the poverty-stricken 2nd District.

"As I look in this room I see the faces of so many friends, colleagues and supporters, and I am filled with happiness. Because of you we did it," Espy, 33, told members of the state NAACP at their convention. "Because of you and our Lord, on the second Tuesday in January, I'm going to stand in the Capitol of the United States of America and pledge to support and defend the Constitution."

Espy credited his faith, hard work and helpful supporters for his victory over incumbent Republican Rep. Webb Franklin in last week's general election.

He said last Tuesday's gains by Democrats in the Senate are significant.

"In other words, we won't have to take things from the White House that we don't like anymore," he said, referring to the Democratic majority that will take over the chamber in January.

The Yazoo City lawyer said the public should also celebrate the victories of Martin Luther King Jr., Medgar Evers and other civil rights leaders because they paved the way for his own win.

"It was through the efforts of these great men and women who promoted the efforts of the NAACP that we had a victory on Nov. 4," he said.

Referring to the district he will represent, Espy said the situation is bleak but not hopeless.

"The 2nd District is based in agriculture, and we have seen 30 percent of our farmers lose their farms to bankruptcy," he said.

Espy said that half the adults over 25 in the district do not have high school educations. One-fifth of the housing in the area is substandard, and unemployment is at 15.2 percent, the second-highest rate in the country, he said.

"We have 26.8 percent of our people in the 2nd District living below the poverty level," Espy said.

Espy pledged that his term in Congress would not be an idle one.

"You will never regret doing what you did last Tuesday," he said. "With the help of the NAACP and the Lord, I'm going to be the best congressman this state has ever had."

## Black treasurer

ALBUQUERQUE — State Treasurer James Lewis says he might be the first black ever elected to a statewide political office in New Mexico.

Lewis, 38, was named to the post in December 1985 and won election to a full term in last Tuesday's general election. A Democrat, Lewis defeated Republican Paul Donisthorpe 203,742 votes to 146,801.

"From everything I've heard, I'm the first one," said Lewis. "I'm very appreciative that the voters gave me a chance."

The Joint Center for Political Studies in Washington, a non-profit group that serves black elected officials, said Lewis is one of six black elected state officials nationwide and in the Virgin Islands.

Lewis is a native of Chaves County.

Since assuming the position of state treasurer, Lewis has been credited with computerizing the office and supporting the divestiture of state stocks invested in companies with South African ties.

## Anti-MLK vow

PHOENIX — Governor-elect Evan Mecham says he'll rescind an executive order honoring Martin Luther King Jr. as his first order of business.

Speaking with reporters the day after defeating Democrat Carolyn Warner and independent Bill Schulz, Mecham also said he plans to begin voluntary drug tests on some state employees.



Walter Fauntroy won another term in the U.S. House (photo by James Parker).

Mecham, a Glendale automobile dealer, said he had no plans to fire any current state employees and was not ready to say whom he would appoint.

He also met with Gov. Bruce Babbitt and Republican legislative leaders last Wednesday as he laid the groundwork for a transition to the state's first Republican governorship in 12 years.

## Barry wins again

WASHINGTON — Mayor Marion Barry Jr., who won his third four-year term, says he may have his shortcomings, but he is still the best person for the job.

"I may not be perfect, but I am perfect for Washington," Barry said last Tuesday, after a closer-than-usual 2-to-1 victory over Republican challenger Carol Schwartz.

Final, unofficial returns showed Barry receiving 61 percent of

the votes, while Schwartz garnered 33 percent, the best showing Republicans have had in the heavily Democratic city since general mayoral elections began in 1974.

Barry, 50, focused his campaign on a downtown development boom and improvements in city services while he has been in office.

Ms. Schwartz, a city councilwoman, accented allegations of corruption and mismanagement in city government. She said the results indicated discontent with the Barry administration.

Meanwhile, Democrat Walter Fauntroy easily won re-election as the city's non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives, a job he has held since 1971.

## MLKIII wins seat

ATLANTA— Local elections

around Georgia placed the son of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in a county commission seat but left an all-white school board in former President Jimmy Carter's home county.

Martin Luther King III, 28, took 61 percent of the vote in his race against Republican Ted Speaker for a Fulton County Commission post last Tuesday. It was his first bid for public office, but he said before the race that he hoped it would be the start of a long political career.

Elsewhere, blacks failed to place their candidate on the Sumter County school board despite winning a six-year legal battle to improve their chances of electing a black board member.

Eugene Cooper, the only black who entered the race, lost to incumbent Billy Hodges, the board's chairman, 235-178.

The legal battle ended last month when U.S. District Judge J. Robert Elliott approved a district election system for the Sumter County school board. Blacks had contended that the old at-large system of electing board members made it impossible for a black to win a seat.

Sumter County, which includes Carter's hometown of Plains, is 44 percent black, but no black has ever served on the school board.

## Bradley falls

LOS ANGELES — California Gov. George Deukmejian, elated at his landslide victory, said last Wednesday that it will be hard to forgive and forget the "smear campaign" waged by his opponent, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley.

"It will be quite difficult for me to forget the major smear campaign undertaken by the Bradley campaign," the governor said at a news conference. "They spent millions of dollars attacking my personal integrity. ... I think it is most unfortunate that they engaged in that kind of a campaign strategy, and obviously it didn't work for them."

At a separate news conference, Bradley declined to analyze his defeat. He also repeated an offer to help Deukmejian, but refused

to retract charges made about his opponent during the campaign.

"I said a number of things," he said. "I meant what I said."

Asked about Bradley's offer to help, Deukmejian said, "I can think of one place he could be helpful -- in our efforts to site a state prison in Los Angeles."

With all votes counted, Deukmejian totaled 61 percent of the vote.

On Bradley's home turf, Los Angeles County, Deukmejian led 53 percent to 45 percent.

Bradley, 68, lost narrowly to Deukmejian in the 1982 race, which ended with Bradley losing by fewer than 94,000 votes.

## Lucas reflects

DETROIT — He scoffed at the odds and flirted with history. But William Lucas' bid to become Michigan's first black governor was, in the end, only a prelude to his first political defeat.

"I had hoped to do better, of course," Lucas said as he circulated among supporters last Tuesday night, about an hour after conceding the election to incumbent Democrat James Blanchard.

"I don't think I would have expected him to have had that big (a margin) of support, but I have to abide by it," Lucas said.

But the Wayne county executive, who missed a chance also to become the nation's first elected black governor, told his supporters that being allowed to run at all was a victory in itself.

"This campaign has been, for me, a tremendous success," he said.

"Many people did not believe that a black man could be welcomed into the Republican Party."

Lucas, a former Democrat who is a fiscal conservative, was wooed and won over by the Republicans in May 1985.

Running for governor was the realization of "the American dream," he said.

"The people of Michigan and the Republican Party have given me that chance. They have given me far more than I could have dreamed growing up as a young boy in Harlem."