

Robinson

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campaign finance committee, who each have pledged to raise \$1,000 apiece," said Robinson.

On the campaign trail, Robinson is expected to support increased economic development, more educational opportunities for students and the repeal of multi-member legislative districts and runoff primary election laws.

Robinson said that Winston-Salem is currently undergoing an economic transition, such as the loss of the RJR Nabisco corporate headquarters, and needs to start bringing more "high value" industry to town.

"The legislature doesn't create jobs in your community and neither does Congress," said Robinson. "Jobs don't come from Raleigh. Jobs come from folks who support or create small businesses concerns in their community."

As the former chairman of the Triad Buy Freedom Campaign, which encouraged Afro-American businesses to give quality services and products at reasonable prices in return for community support and purchasing, Robinson said he will continue to support Afro-American and small businesses.

As a candidate, I'm committed to Buy Freedom," said Robinson. "I'm going to make sure that a lot of my campaign spending is done

with black vendors. It's not a question of just having (black) folks on your staff. Where are the dollars going?"

Improving the community's educational system is needed to help bring in new industry and jobs, said Robinson.

The community also needs to find a way to "empower parents" to control the educational destiny of their children, said Robinson.

"I'm not so sure that our folks have control of their educational destiny right now," he said. "There's no elementary school in the eastern part of the city right now. The ranks of black teachers and administrators have been decimated. The people are retiring and they're not being replaced."

Despite his community work with such organizations as the NAACP, Winston Lake YMCA and Buy Freedom Committee, Robinson knows it won't be easy for an Afro-American Republican in Forsyth County to get elected. However, he doesn't see party affiliation as an obstacle.

Robinson added, "I would hope that I will be judged on how I stand on the things that are of concern to the people of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, and not judged by party affiliation or other irrelevancies."

Jacob

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credit, which rebates money to poor families to compensate for payroll taxes they have to pay.

State and local governments should follow that lead. There should be a major push to remove poor people from their tax rolls. It would be easy to do and not reduce total revenues by enough to matter much.

One way would be to establish an income floor below which no taxes would be collected. That floor should be above the poverty line,

which is unrealistically low. And it should include a mechanism for rebating sales taxes, much as the federal earned income credit operates to rebate payroll taxes.

Beyond that, states should seek to replace reliance on regressive sales taxes with broad-based, progressive income taxes, thus reducing the total tax burden on moderate-income families.

John E. Jacob is president of the National Urban League.

Chavis

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mitment must be not to forget, because too many of us have amnesia. Too many of us forget too quickly what has been done to us ... We are in a life-and-death struggle - but we must make it more a struggle for life than death. For we are tired of going to these kind of funerals."

This must be our promise to

Yvonne Smallwood - and to all the Yvonne Smallwoods throughout this nation. We must translate our remembrance of them into concrete action for change. If we do this, they will not have died in vain.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is executive director of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ.

Brown

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Also drug-related: Among Afro-Americans between the ages of 20 and 24 there are only 45 "marriageable" males for every 100 females, largely because of unemployment and incarceration.

It is my belief that so many young Afro-Americans are being destroyed because they simply don't believe they can cope. And they don't believe because they have learned to hate being Afro-American.

A white child may fail because of low esteem due to sexual, physical or psychological abuse, but not because he or she is systematically taught that being white is a burden.

Many Afro-Americans are failing in white institutions (seven out of 10 Afro-Americans at white colleges never graduate) largely because they are not culturally equipped by a love of their own heritage to adapt emotionally and intel-

lectually.

The clear exceptions among Afro-Americans are West Indians and followers of the Islamic faith. Both of these groups overachieve because they are steeped in a pride system.

Muslims, for example, because of abstinence from alcohol as well as illegal drugs, obviously stay out of many of the other ancillary categories: unemployment, homicides, AIDS, etc.

Culture works. It even works within the culture. And for those who work against it, it works against them.

Tony Brown is a syndicated columnist and television host, whose program, "Tony Brown's Journal," appears at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, on channels 4 and 26.



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