

History offers legacy

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sparking a massive influx of Afro-Americans into the city from all parts of the South. In 1930, 52 percent of the Afro-American workforce was employed at Reynolds.

In 1943, the Rev. Carl Watson, an Afro-American labor advocate, organized Local 22, which is credited with unifying Afro-Americans and opening the door for their right to vote in local elections.

"I think it all goes back to Local 22 that unified the black community and from there we moved on," said the Rev. William R. Crawford, who succeeded Dr. Williams as alderman, serving from 1951-60.

Local 22 fought discrimination, city segregation ordinances and increased Afro-American voter registration in the city from 300 in 1944 to 3,000 in 1946.

"As a result, in 1947 city Negroes elected Rev. Kenneth Williams to the Board of Aldermen, reputedly the first such occurrence in modern southern history," Tise

said. "With the election of Williams, the Negro community gained a permanent seat on the Board of Aldermen."

In addition, Mayor Kurfees appointed Afro-Americans to city posts and had biracial representation on all city boards. He also encouraged the launching of urban renewal projects aimed at destroying ghettos.

"The primary cause of the early return of Negroes to political participation in Winston-Salem was the relatively high socio-economic position gained under the auspices of the Reynolds Tobacco Company," Tise said. "In all respects (economic, social, educational, etc.) the city's Negro stood among the first five in Southern cities."

"These factors, combined with the high status of Negroes in the Democratic Party, made school desegregation, integration of public and private facilities and the implementation of urban renewal projects

a smooth process."

Afro-Americans weren't as interested in becoming political figures as there were in trying to find a way out of bondage during the 1940s, said Dr. Williams.

"Political power back in the 1940s was practically an unknown entity due, of course, to the heritage of black people not only in Winston-Salem but in the entire South," he said. "It was a new ball game and we were trying a number of different things as a solution to a number of different problems black people had. Many of us felt one viable solution was to gain political strength."

Dr. Williams remembers knocking on every door in his third ward -- composed of East Winston, bounded by the Boston and Kimberly Park communities. He also remembers being rejected, not by whites, but by some members of his own race.

Five years after Dr. Williams

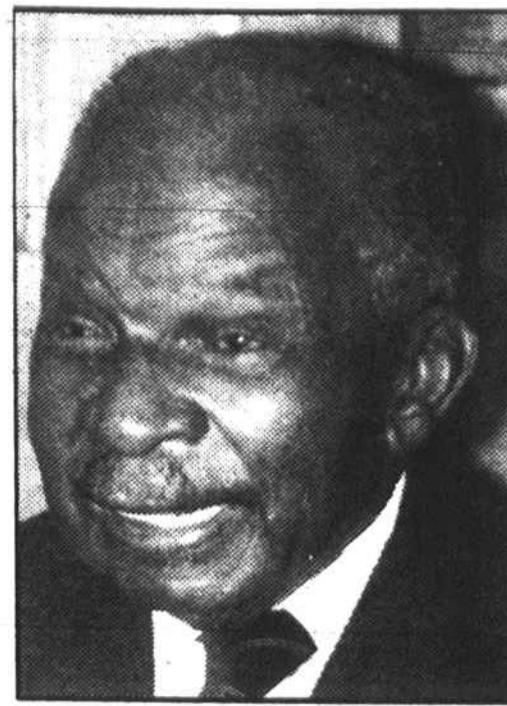


Photo by Sam Greenwood

"I think it all goes back to Local 22 that unified the black community and from there we moved on."

-- The Rev. W.R. Crawford

left the office of alderman, a national civil rights movement was in the

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Racial harmony high on Coble's agenda

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is proposing that five to six areas of major interest be identified which would lead to the "achievement of all students and especially the average child and minority students."

"I think we've got to be honest with ourselves and say the admission and identification of problems may be easier than quickly resolving the problems, but I still think recognition of the problem is a useful first step," said Dr. Coble.

Because the public perception -- coming from segments of the Afro-American and white communities -- is that the public schools aren't doing the best job possible, identifying problems, formulating solutions and later evaluating the effectiveness of those solutions is a good way for school administrators to be accountable to the community, said Dr. Coble.

"We've got to have some agreement as to what the community will accept as evidence to our improving the school system and how much time they'll give us to prove that our solutions are effective," he explained. "If we identify the achievement of black students, dropout rates, the achievement of the average child, that's probably five years worth of work."

Dr. Coble announced early last month that he plans to re-organize the city-county school system. He will do that after reviewing the findings of a four-member study-team headed by L. Linton Deck, director of education and non-profit applications for the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro -- a private non-profit education group.

He had his first meeting with the study team Wednesday, and they were given the resumes of all central office employees in "management" positions, Dr. Coble said. The resumes are only to provide the team with information so the members can decide which employees they wish to talk with, he added.

"My first impression is that we are not organized at central office in a way that will allow us to maximize our delivery of services in support of the schools," Dr. Coble said. "I want to see us identify prob-

lems and channel resources to the problems, offer support and work toward resolving them."

There will be some restructuring of responsibilities of administrative personnel at the central office, Dr. Coble said, adding that that doesn't

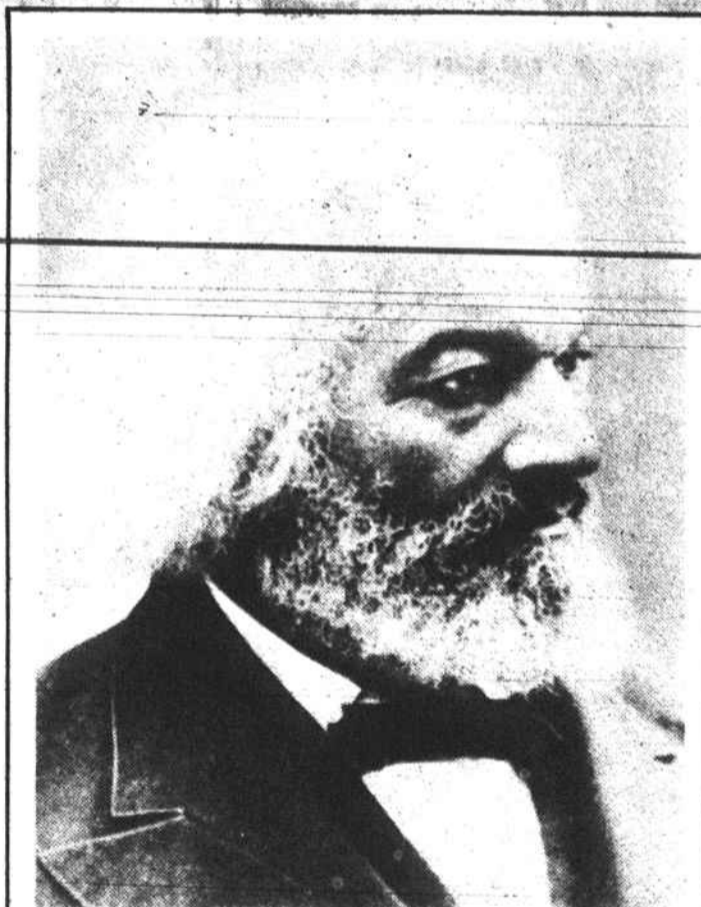
necessarily mean promotions or demotions.

"What I hope to be able to do is identify what are our needs and staff according to the strengths of the people on board and fill in voids with other personnel," he said.

"Some people will remain in the role they are in and some will take on new responsibilities. Some may opt to retire or seek employment somewhere else, but it's too soon to really draw those kinds of conclusions."

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

CONGRESS shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the Freedom of Speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.



Frederick Douglass



Langston Hughes

Saluting The Black Press

Guardians Of Our Birthright

When the U.S. Constitution was first written, our founding fathers believed that freedom of the press was so important that it was written and guaranteed in the very first article in the Bill of Rights.

From the founding in 1847 of The North Star newspaper by Frederick Douglass to the writings of James Baldwin, newspaper reporters, authors, poets and playwrights have protected, recorded and taught black history to each successive generation.

Freedom cannot function without the free expression and communication of ideas. We salute the men and women of the Black Press and their noble profession. Perhaps Langston Hughes said it best...

"There's a dream in this land with its back against the wall. To save the dream for one, it must be saved for all."

Langston Hughes



Philip Morris Companies Inc.

Philip Morris U.S.A.

Philip Morris International Inc.

Kraft General Foods Group

Miller Brewing Company

Philip Morris Credit Corporation

Mission Viejo Realty Group

Hunt

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on trial, but it is on Sparrow and the entire judicial system downtown.

"If Sparrow is for truth, if he has backbone, he has no other choice but to dismiss these charges and to go out and launch a full investigation and find the murder or murderers who killed Deborah Sykes."

Mr. Little said he visited Mr. Hunt Sunday and, "Darryl felt very good when I went to talk to him thinking that this could turn things around for him. But our DA (district attorney) is caught between a rock and a hard place. If he tries the case the black community will be mad at him. And if he lets him go he'll have other people mad with him."

"Martin Luther King Jr. once said when you're going to catch hell no matter what you do then you ought to do the right thing. The right thing is to free Darryl Hunt."

Sparrow is not expected to make a decision until late May, at the earliest.