

# NAACP urges rejection of district lines

DURHAM (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department should reject North Carolina's legislative redistricting plans because they don't ensure enough minority voting districts, the state branch of the NAACP says.

The plans dilute the voting power of blacks and Indians, NAACP officials said Friday at a news conference during the group's 48th annual meeting in Durham. The convention continues through today.

"It is our hope that a lawsuit won't be necessary," said Kelly M. Alexander Jr., president of the organization. "But we are prepared to do what it takes for minorities to get adequate representation in the state of North Carolina."

The American Civil Liberties Union, acting on behalf of the state's black voters, asked the Justice Department to reject the plans last month.

The NAACP argues that the plans, adopted by the General

Assembly earlier this year, fail to create a congressional district in the southeastern part of the state with a majority of black and Indian voters. That would give the state two congressional districts in which ethnic minorities would make up the majority of voters.

The group also says at least nine additional minority state House seats could be created from counties in the southeastern and south-central part of the state, and from urban areas around Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Charlotte.

And in the state Senate, the NAACP says, redistricting could create three more minority seats — again representing blacks and Indians — than it did.

"The legislature took the position that there is no political cohesion between those groups," said Samuel L. Walters, assistant general counsel to the NAACP. "We argue that while there is no a long-standing coalition, it's beginning to emerge."

Meanwhile, the minister who delivered the convention's opening speech said blacks such as Clarence Thomas have sold their birthright for political power.

"Thomas seems to have forgotten that he was helped," said the Rev. Percy High of Mount Vernon Baptist Church. "Some of them have become so disillusioned that they have divorced their black wives, married white women and moved into white neighborhoods. I call it TBS. Token black syndrome."

The NAACP opposed Thomas' nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court primarily because of his opposition to affirmative action. Thomas was confirmed to the nation's highest court by a 52-48 vote in the U.S. Senate Tuesday.

His confirmation came after the nation spent a weekend riveted, watching and listening to charges of sexual harassment made by a former employee in the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission,

which Thomas once headed.

"The would-be kings have sold their birthrights to be called conservatives," High said Thursday.

"They have discovered that it is popular to be called conservative and they see this as their chance to become king," he said. "The NAACP is the watchdog. We are going to continue to counter the kooks, who have their degrees from Harvard and Yale, declaring themselves uppity blacks."

About 80 people attended the first day of the convention. More than 500 delegates are expected to attend through the weekend.

Organized in 1909, the NAACP's first goal was to eliminate segregation laws.

The organization was at the forefront of school desegregation in 1954 and has been a powerful advocate of civil rights. The North Carolina branch was formed almost a half-century ago.

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## Opening homes

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counselor and supervisor.

She is the former family services division chief in Wilson, North Carolina.

In that job, she administered social service programs and child support programs for the entire department, supervising six unit supervisors and 41 line staff. She received several awards and certificates for her work with elder abuse prevention, adoption, and family support programs.

"Mable brings a strong background in her work with families, children, and private as well as public agencies," attests Rosemary Martin, director of Catholic Social Services. "She has a lifelong history of fostering the welfare of youth, and that really is Mable, that's not just work. She gives herself to the betterment of the community."

### Families helping families

Host Homes is a pure example of a community helping itself: families helping families. According to Stevenson, the typical child who needs placement is nonviolent, frightened, and feels very much alone. Tension and disharmony at

home have escalated to a point at which the child feels the only solution is to run away. But often, says Stevenson, all they need is a short term separation from each other.

When the child cannot stay with a relative or friend, Host Homes places the child with a family in an effort to prevent the exploitation that besieges children in the streets.

Host home families are asked to provide room and board for several days, 30 days maximum. At a critical juncture in a child's life, the host home family has the opportunity to offer a nurturing environment, a caring attitude toward the child and his or her situation. Specialized training and 24-hour support are provided for the host home family.

"Working with these kids gives my life some perspective," said one host home father. "I've gained far more than I've given." If Mable Stevenson has her way, it won't be too long before quite a few families will be able to make that statement.

### From Spanish translation to adoption

Catholic Social Services is a

non-profit agency funded by the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and local grant-making organizations.

The agency networks with community agencies and resources to provide a number of programs to the Winston-Salem area.

Pregnancy support services include counseling, medical and housing referrals. Catholic Social Services is licensed by the North Carolina Department of Human Resources to place children in foster homes, and is a licensed adoption agency.

The Wee Care Shoppe on the premises provides free, new and used baby clothes from infant to toddler sizes.

Individual, marital and family therapy is provided to the community with fees based on a sliding scale according to ability to pay. Hand-to-Hand is a mentor program for pregnant and parenting teens. Catholic Social Services also employs a bilingual social worker, Pedro Castillo, who translates documents, assists Hispanics in receiving basic social services and negotiates them through legal systems, including applying for migration status.

## 49ers Plus Senior Citizens celebrate 24th

On Wednesday, October 9, at 1 p.m., the 49ers Plus Senior Citizens held their 25th anniversary with a Chit-Chat Fellowship Tea at the Rupert Bell Recreation Center.

Mrs. Emma Trigonis gave the prayer. Mrs. Mildred Batchelor, the committee chairperson and mistress of ceremony, gave a history of the club.

Club members displayed arts and crafts and fellowshiped with friends.

Games were played, gifts were presented, and refreshments were served.

Remarks were made by the president, Mrs. Helen Peters.

## Mt. Zion Child Development Center elects new officers of Parent group

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Parent Organization for the Mt. Zion Child Development Center. They are:

Janet Washington, President; Gloria Frost, Vice President; Linda Glenn, Secretary; Alice Scott, Asst. Secretary; and Alexander Richardson, Chairman.

### Classroom Representatives.

Classroom representatives are: 2's - Jamie Salley, and Reginald and Linda Glenn; 3's - Burnetta Evans and Victoria Roseboro; 4's - Alice Scott, Sandra Brown, and Julene Ward; and 5's - Gloria Frost and Sherderica Banger.

Gloria Jones is the Center Supervisor.

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