

Fauntroy: End harassment of black officials

▲ Former U.S. Congressman addresses NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
Chronicle Staff Writer

"Please don't be offended. I have not come to meddle," former U.S. Congressman Walter Fauntroy warned the audience. "I've come to Winston-Salem when it is time for us to get up and get back to basics. It's a time when our black elected officials are being harassed. Those whom we have chosen have been a target for harassment by the government. It seems that they spend more time investigating black officials than they do the drug cartels," he told the audience attending the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet on Friday.

"The politicians may have changed, but the methods are all the same; and the motives have been to preserve white privileges," said Fauntroy, the guest speaker.

The banquet room at the M.C. Benton Convention Center echoed the applause of 800 guests.

The theme of this year's banquet was "Struggle for freedom—Back to basics." Winston-Salem State University's Coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines received the Charles McLean Community Service Award, sponsored by Sara Lee Corporation. The NAACP President's Award was given to Lucille Ramsey, coordinator with the city's housing authority.

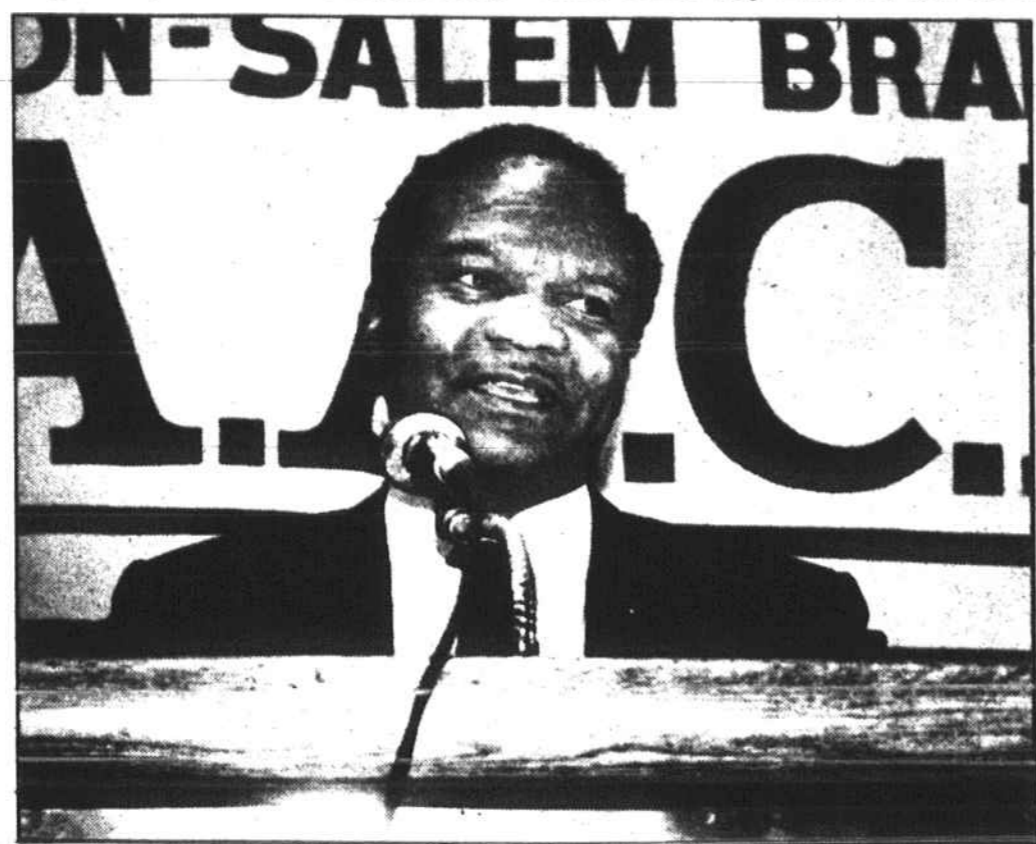
Fauntroy is a retired U.S. House of Representative who completed his tenth term in office as the delegate for Washington, D.C. While in office, he served as the second ranking Democrat on the Housing Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee and as chairman of its subcommittee on International Development, Finance, Trade and Monetary Policy.

"Politics is a process of determining who gets how much, what, when and where," he said. "It begins

with discrediting our officials with rumors and then it triggers biased inflammatory coverage from the media. It continues on with criminal inquiries, IRS investigations,

Freedom. He also served as the coordinator of the Selma-to-Montgomery March in 1965.

During his tenure on Capitol Hill, Fauntroy also served as a



Former Congressman Walter Fauntroy, guest speaker at the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, encouraged the audience to vote in the upcoming elections.

surveillance, further news stories; and the higher the office, the higher the implications," he said.

The purpose, he continued, is to detach the constituents from the leader and to promote the myth that black leaders are not trustworthy.

As a native of Washington, D.C., Fauntroy began his public career in 1959 as pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church, where he continues to serve.

During the civil rights movement, Fauntroy was appointed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as the director of the Washington Bureau of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He served as the D.C. Coordinator for the historic March on Washington for Jobs and

member of the select committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control; chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (97th Congress); and chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Haiti.

He is currently chairman of the board of the Southern Leadership Conference and vice president for Government Affairs of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, Ga.

Also attending the event were Alderman Vivian Burke, Alderman Virginia Newell, 12th Congressional District candidates, Larry Little and Melvin Watt.

Fauntroy's speech on the harassment of black politicians turned to the importance of voting

and was joined by shouts of "Amen" and "All-right" from the audience.

"We have a choice in 1992 to vote. Do not be turned off that your vote will not mean anything. We have got to vote for the living, the dead and the unborn," he said.

Fauntroy said a vote for the living will take us out of drugs, violence and the decrease school dropout rate. "We have to challenge those who want to take us back. Those who are stripping us of our young men. It's time to get up," he preached. "It's time to be involved when there are more of our young men in jail than in college," he said.

Fauntroy continued: "And if you don't want to vote for the living, then vote for the dead. Let's travel back . . . what was it like to be stripped of all support of life? What was it like to be in that darkness? What was it like for a mother or father to hear the cries of their babies but couldn't tend to them? Maybe that's what [our forefathers and mothers] meant when they sang, 'I'm going to lay down my burdens,' or when they sang, 'Nobody knows the trouble I've seen, nobody knows my sorrows.'"

"I think they heard us in the 1960's when we were singing, 'Ain't gonna let nobody turn us around. I think they heard us,'" he said.

"We owe them a great debt. We owe it to Crispus Attucks, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King and Mickey Leland."

"We stand on their shoulders. We owe it to the dead," he said.

"And the best way to pay them back is with the future. We owe the unborn who deserve a better future," Fauntroy said.

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Protest at WXII postponed . . . for now

By YVETTE N. FREEMAN
Community News Editor

A community protest rally that had been scheduled to take place at WXII last Thursday because of the station's alleged biased coverage of the Winston-Salem Four trial was canceled at the last minute in the wake of a meeting between the organizer of the protest, Rasheed Bey and the station manager.

The meeting is supposed to take place Monday, April 20 at 10 a.m. at the station, between Bey and about five other African-American community leaders, and WXII's general manager, Reynard Corley.

"Sometimes it takes a protest to spur a meeting with these people. It just so happens that Mr. Corley appears to be a civilized, decent human being and he wanted dialogue on this thing," said Bey, who stood outside of the station on Thursday to inform unknowing protesters of the cancellation.

"And then if nothing fruitful or productive comes out of that, then we'll go on and continue with the boycott and also have a protest." WXII officials have denied that their coverage of the Winston-Salem Four, which refers to Alderman Larry Womble, former alder-

man Patrick Hairston, Minister Lee Faye Mack, and political consultant Rodney Sumler, who face federal racketeering and extortion charges, has been biased in any way. And Bey stated that if Corley can persuade him and the other members of the panel, that the station's coverage has not been biased or one-sided, he will publicly apologize to the station.

Organizations that were scheduled to protest included the Awakening Giants, the Nation of Islam, the Grassroots Alliance and friends and supporters of the Winston-Salem Four.

Although Bey and Corley had set up the meeting the night before the protest was to have taken place, some station employees were unaware of the last minute decision. Bey who arrived alone at the station at noon was greeted by a mounted police officer who stated that he was there to make sure the protesters stayed within a designated area, and a station employee, who demanded identification of Bey and anyone who parked on the station's property, citing that any protesters would not be allowed to park on the property.

As of presstime, Corley could not be reached for com-

ment. Bey, however, is optimistic of the outcome of the upcoming meeting.

"Hopefully, what we would like to do is maybe develop some type of community-public relationship, specifically targeting and marketing the African-American community. And maybe as far as possible having some type of issues and answers type of forum," he said.

Bey also stated that he hopes better coverage of the African-American community will be a result of the meeting. "We're talking about fair coverage of the African-American community as a whole, on things that happen there. And the consensus that we've been getting from people is that there hasn't been a fair coverage. There's always been a one-sidedness represented by this station, not just on the Four, but in other instances," he continued.

In addition to WXII, the organizations are also boycotting the *Winston-Salem Journal* for its alleged biased coverage of the trial also. Bey stated that "the *Journal* hasn't been in touch with us. They haven't said anything."

Efforts by the *Chronicle* to reach officials at the *Winston-Salem Journal* were also unsuccessful.

Affirmative action baby

Continued from page A1

job in the temple. For him, there was no affirmative action. For him, there was no equal opportunity.

Equal Opportunity Led to His Death

His ideas were routinely rejected not only by those who didn't know him, but by those who often knew him best. He was denied by even his closest friends during some of life's most critical moments. Betrayed by men who had pledged their allegiance. Rejected by the same crowds for whom he had come to offer a chance to be equal in life now, and life in the hereafter. In fact, of all the things He had to say, it was the idea of equality that eventually wound up getting Him killed. Ironically, by the very people who would benefit from having such an opportunity.

His message was very much like that of a major company today declaring to all of the people in American, "we don't care about your background, your education, your lineage, your house, or your car; you

don't have to belong to a country club and drive a black Mercedes; you don't even have to wear nice clothes, or speak with perfect diction, have nice hair, pretty eyes, or be six feet tall; We simply want to come just as you are."

What a revolutionary idea to say that "you don't have to be black or white to get in." No quotas, no goals, no nothing. Just be whoever you are.

For this one idea, He was willing to lay down his life. Of course, He really knew who we were.

We All Need Affirmative Action

If only we could see each other in that way. Not in terms of what we have or where we live, or who we think we are, or who our friends are, or where we work, what we do, or how we dress, or how much money we have, or what office we hold, who our grandparents were, or where we come from . . . if only we could see each other in terms of who we really are . . . spiritual beings made in the image of God.

This is the wonderful message about Good Friday and Easter morning. It is God's way of saying to us that we are all equal — forget about the past, forget about what you used to think, or the way you used to be, or even the things that you just finished doing, whatever . . . Easter Sunday is for you, too. It is the same for the preacher, deacon, and the harlot.

We are all standing in need of affirmative action — one way or another. All of us are in need of grace. All of us are in need of someone to look out among the great mass of humanity and say, "yes, you, I am talking about you. I want you to come join me. Accept the opportunity, accept the gift of life now, and in the hereafter!"

Perhaps we would all do better to think of this Friday as the day when Jesus died to establish the first and truly only equal opportunity for life.

Jesus, the original affirmative action, equal opportunity employer.

EARTH WEEK 1992

"EXPLORE THE WORLD OF RECYCLING"

APRIL 20-25

Get ready to explore the world of recycling! Beginning April 20th, we'll be celebrating Earth Day, April 22, with a whole week of recycling activities sponsored by the City of Winston-Salem, WXII and 107.5 The Eagle.

APRIL 20-24

Watch WXII for special recycling information each evening on the 6:00 o'clock Evening News. And, listen to The Eagle for Earth Week activity updates.

APRIL 20, MONDAY

GREEN BIN DELIVERY STARTS
Recycle Today's curbside program gets ready for citywide pickup. All single family homes not included in recycling phases I or II will begin receiving recycling bins. Watch for your green bin!

APRIL 21, TUESDAY

BUY RECYCLED!
Visit your favorite grocery store today and look for a special promotion on recycled or recyclable products.

APRIL 22, WEDNESDAY

EXPLORE THE NEW RECYCLERY
Visit the Recyclery and learn what happens to your recyclables after they are collected. See how recyclables are processed and used again. While you're at the Recyclery, check out the Education Center's environmental displays and videos, enjoy refreshments and participate in the Earth Week prize giveaway! The Recyclery is open year-round for tours. Large groups should call BFI in advance, 724-0842.

APRIL 23, THURSDAY

HOME COMPOSTING DEMONSTRATION
Feed the landscape, not the landfill. Learn how easy it is to do home composting by visiting the compost demonstration site of the Cooperative Extension Service and Old Salem. They will demonstrate several different methods of home composting. Call the Cooperative Extension Service at 767-8213 for more information.

APRIL 24, FRIDAY

RECYCLING ART CONTEST
The Grand Prize Winner of the Earth Week Art Contest will be announced. Visit Hanes Mall all week and see the art work entries. Then, come to Hanes Mall's South Center Court at 6:30 p.m. for the art contest award ceremony.

APRIL 25, SATURDAY

COMMUNITY-WIDE RECYCLING DAY
Bring your recyclables (glass, aluminum, newspaper, magazines, plastic milk jugs and soft drink bottles, cardboard and used car batteries) to the Midway of the Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Old clothing will be accepted and used by Goodwill.

107.5 The Eagle and the City of Winston-Salem will be giving away Earth Week prizes throughout the day and Earth Week t-shirts will be on sale while supplies last. For more information call Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful at 727-8013.



For more information about Earth Week activities, call the RECYCLE TODAY program at 722-BINS (722-2467).