

Editorials & Comments

Meaning Of Walton's Defeat

by Hoyle H. Martin Sr.
Post Editorial Writer

Last week's issue of THE AFRO-AMERICAN carried an editorial entitled "The Brooke Defeat." With the exception of a few words and phrase changes, and the substitution of the name "Bob Walton" for Edward W. Brooke, here is the major portion of that editorial:

"We could see the defeat of Commissioner Walton coming - but we never got fully prepared for its actuality.

The handwriting was on the wall in Mecklenburg County. We saw him drowning in a rough seas of trouble stemming from his split with Commissioner Liz Hair and the messy involvement with Peter Foley and Bill Booe which led to many Hair supporters turning against him. This was quite evident in the Nov. 7 election.

We recognized this right off the bat. Yet we could not get ready for it. We could not get ready for the hard, cold fact that a Walton defeat meant that not a single black face will be among the five commissioners when they convene in December.

There was also real difficulty in bringing ourselves around to the realization that the defeat meant that we were not moving ahead - but losing important, hard earned ground."

Then came the most agonizing question: Would we have to wait as long for the election of another black

commissioner as we waited for the election of Walton and his immediate predecessor Rowe Motley? The rise of Motley and Walton took a long, time. They didn't make it until 1973 when Motley became the first black member ever of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners.

Yet, as hard as it is, we must confront some hard facts and learn a lesson from the tragic Walton defeat. First, we must admit that it was Commissioner Walton who largely defeated himself. This fact should serve as a strong reminder to our other political leaders. That reminder is that they - if they are to remain afloat - must learn and practice the art of compromise.

Walton's apparent failure to initiate a compromise with Liz Hair, a proven vote-getter among both blacks and whites, gave him a short-term victory as vice chairman of the Commission but a long term loss to those desiring his public office leadership and contribution.

However, Commissioner Walton's outstanding record as a fighter for justice and fair play should not be forgotten by the citizens of Mecklenburg County. In particular, we should be thankful for the courageous positions he took on many highly controversial issues. Walton's articulate and skillful presentation of the issues will be missed, but we hope for not more than one 2-year term.



In Heart Disease Risk

Black, White Children Differ

Special To The Post
DALLAS-Inherited biochemical factors may account for white American men being more likely to have coronary artery disease and a heart attack and black men being more likely to have high blood pressure and suffer strokes. According to two reports today to the American Heart Association's 51st Scientific Sessions, these differences relate to body chemistry and they begin to be expressed early in childhood.

Three UNC scientists-H. Alfred Tyroler, M.D., Gerardo Heiss, M.D., and Richard Mowery, M.S.-were involved in research reported by Charles J. Glueck, M.D., professor of pediatrics and medicine and director of the Lipid Research Clinic, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. The other scientists were Bobbe Christian, Ph.D., University of Texas; Peter O. Kwitovich, Johns Hopkins University; and Ida deGroot, M.P.H., University of Cincinnati.

Working with the collaborative Lipid Research Clinics (LRC) program in Chapel Hill, Baltimore, Houston, and Cincinnati, they matched 740 black children from LRC prevalence studies in these cities by age, sex, and total cholesterol levels with 740 whites-1480 in all. These children were further divided into two groups: 412 pairs randomly selected from pediatric population groups by virtue of elevated blood levels of cholesterol or triglycerides, two types of blood fat.

Cholesterol is not soluble in water; therefore it is carried in the bloodstream within three major "packets" which

are called high density lipoprotein (HDL), low density lipoprotein (LDL), and very low density lipoprotein (VLDL). Triglyceride is primarily carried by VLDL. HDL is believed to mobilize cholesterol, including that deposited in arteries; LDL and VLDL are associated with deposition of cholesterol in arteries and the development of coronary heart disease.

Each pair of children was compared for levels of triglyceride and for cholesterol contained within the three lipoproteins, statistical measurements that Dr. Glueck and his associates designated HDL-C, LDL-C, and VLDL-C.

The difference between black and white children was marked in those whose total cholesterol was elevated. The black children in this group had higher HDL-C levels (a difference of 7.9 milligrams per 100 milliliters for boys and 7.6 for girls), and lower levels of VLDL-C (4.6 less for black boys, 4.9 for girls). Triglycerides were also much lower in this group (a difference of 23.4 for boys, 23.5 for girls).

The differences for the randomly selected group were not quite so pronounced, but showed the same significant trends: black children had higher HDL-C levels and lower triglyceride and VLDL-C readings. Dr. Glueck said that the LDL-C levels were slightly, though not significantly, lower among black children.

These differences were similar to those seen in adult males, Dr. Glueck said, and "may be related to the higher incidence and prevalence of coronary heart disease in white males than black males, which may be mediated through higher HDL-C choles-

terol in blacks and higher triglycerides and VLDL-C cholesterol in whites, on both. The collaborative LRC program using identically standardized laboratories allowed the pooling of data from children having broad demographic diversity."

In the second report, A.W. Voors, M.D., D.P.H., associate professor of preventive medicine at Louisiana State University Medical Center, explained that all the school-age children of the biracial community of Bogalusa, La., were examined as part of the Bogalusa Heart Study, a large epidemiological survey. A sample of 278 children, divided into groups by blood pressure level and matched by age, sex, and race, was re-examined a year or two after a first observation.

The results suggest that the kidneys of blacks and whites handle chemicals in slightly different ways, at least among children in the higher blood pressure group. For instance, among black children in this group, there was a positive correlation between blood pressure and sodium in the urine. That is, the higher the blood pressure, the more sodium was excreted. White children with high blood pressure did not have increased sodium excretion. At the same time, the black children excreted less potassium than did whites, though both groups apparently took in about the same amount. Both sodium and potassium influence blood pressure. The black children also had lower levels of renin activity. Renin, an enzyme released in the kidney, controls the activity of angiotensin, a hormone that constricts blood vessels and raises blood pressure.



Election Drifts To The Right

The 1978 election shows that, seen in the long perspective of history, much has changed. In 1963, Medgar Evers was murdered in Mississippi. In 1978, his brother won a fourth of the state's vote for the Senate seat held by an old-line segregationist.

In 1963, Strom Thurmond was riding high as the champion of Dixie racism. In 1978, he was an equal opportunity employer and he was kissing black babies and campaigning in black districts for votes.

But black voting power is still more of a potential weapon than a real one. The black vote elected Jimmy Carter in 1976, but in 1978 it demonstrated its effectiveness in only several contests.

It is absolutely imperative to maximize black political participation. Low voter turnouts deprive us of one of our basic weapons of self-defense.

At the same time, candidates who lost because they expected black votes to help them should not complain about low turnout. In many cases, they did very little to excite the black community, to campaign in it, or to make a real effort to get out the black vote.

Too often liberal candidates refused to go after the black vote for fear of alienating more conservative white districts, and the inevitable result was that black voters could not believe that the professed liberal who ignored them in the campaign would suddenly become interested in their problems after the election.

Where blacks had a major stake in the outcome of the election, they voted heavily, as in Philadelphia where they were instrumental in destroying Mayor Rizzo's plans for a third term.

Black voters again demonstrated that they are not wedded to a single party. They demonstrated that the Democratic Party could not count on their votes when the Democratic candidate was perceived as being against black interests or when the Republican candidate had a track record of fighting for civil rights.

This was most obvious in Massachusetts where black voters supported Republican Senator Edward Brooke's losing effort to keep his seat and also voted in large numbers for a liberal Republican running against a conservative Democrat. And in Illinois, Republican Senator Charles Percy was re-elected with the help of many black votes the Democrats counted on.

Elsewhere in the nation, black either voted for Republican candidates perceived as being more favorable to their interests, or simply abstained from voting for Democrats who refused to actively seek their ballots.

The most disturbing thing about the election of 1978 was that the political center of gravity appears to have shifted slightly to the right, a shift that was evident not only in the results of the election, but in the campaign itself.

The boundaries of the electoral debate were set by those who wanted to cut taxes, cut government, cut social programs that help the poor, and cut programs that enhance equal opportunities.

Supporters of an activist, socially responsive government were on the defensive. Most of them muted their liberalism. They accepted the wrong ground rules, and joined in the attack on government spending and inflation without also stressing the need for full employment and for urban revitalization.

The People Speak

Last week, the City Council conducted two days of Public Hearings to allow citizens of the nine Community Development Neighborhood Strategy Areas (NSA) to express their concerns and interests in the CD preliminary plans for the next three fiscal years.

In addition to requests from about 20 social services agencies for nearly \$1.4 million in program funds, numerous requests were made for public improvements such as street lights, the opening of some cut-through streets and storm drainage.

Considerable concern was also expressed about the poor and unsafe housing conditions of many residents residing in City-owned property. Residents, particularly from the West Morehead NSA, were very vocal in their concerns about the slow pace of their relocation into better housing.

Particular concern was expressed about the Community Development Department's housing relocation

program. Of the approximately 225 relocations made each year, CD administrators pointed out that it takes 120 days to relocate 60 percent of these and 240 days to relocate 40 percent. Council members as well as

Other speakers, numbering about 22, told the Council they wanted more in the way of job training programs, employment for youth, assistance for the battered women's program and more economic development activity particularly in the Third Ward NSA. The degree to which these services were made available would determine crime rates, some said.

The concerns stated at the Hearings will be reflected in the 3-year preliminary plan being prepared by the CD staff.

The people have spoken and challenged the City's Community Development Department to develop a creative plan that will reflect their interest, concerns and needs.

We wish them well in this effort.

Something On Your Mind?

"Something on your mind" is the name of a column devoted to you-the young at heart readers of this newspaper-as long as it relates in

some way to young people, regardless of age.

Or any other subject you want to write about, let us hear from you.

Our New Day Begun

Black Education Progress

by Benjamin L. Hooks
Special To The Post

In recent years, reports the National Advisory Committee on Black Higher Education, black college attendance has been outstanding. The committee, however, at the same time warned that this progress has been "insufficient" and "fragile."

For those who have been abreast of civil rights progress over the years, from time to time, received information about the increasing number of blacks in higher education. Indeed, we have also been aware that even before Allan Bakke's challenge to the special admissions program at the University of California, Davis Medical School, a decline had already started in the number of blacks in such programs as medicine and law at white institutions.

This observation, of course, is not in any way meant to diminish the importance of the work that has been started under the chairmanship of Dr. Elias Blake, Jr., the highly respected president of Clark College. On the contrary, the commission's first annual report which was prepared for the Federal Office of Educa-



Benjamin L. Hooks...NAACP executive director

tion signifies the beginning of a long overdue, detailed analysis of black achievement and the immense hurdles that are yet to be overcome in black higher education. One reality that the report helps to make clearer is the abysmal gap that exists in the participation of blacks in technical and natural science fields. This is a problem that every black organization and institution must keep to address immediately.

In a highly technological society such as ours, no group of people can reasonably expect to progress without a serious involvement in these

areas. Such an involvement must include not only the teaching of science-related disciplines but also professional pursuit of careers in such areas as computer sciences, aerospace, electrical, petrochemical engineering, biology, chemistry and mathematics.

Even among technicians, however, we find an absence of blacks. Yet, these are areas where large numbers of jobs are to be found, even in this day of high black unemployment. The committee underlines the historical reality of black higher education: "There is little diversity in the majors selected by black students." In 1974, for example, 19 percent of undergraduates and 50 percent of graduate students chose education as their major fields of study. What has been happening is that an unusually large portion of these students, upon competing undergraduate studies, have been switching over for varying reasons from such fields as business management and the hard sciences to education.

Although the report does not make this point, we have known all along that many

graduates of black colleges have had difficulty gaining acceptances outside of these institutions on the graduate level. So, in reality, they have

Admissions Program For Whites

Black Lawyers Approve Rutgers

Special To The Post
WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The National Bar Association has announced its support of the recommendation made by the Rutgers University Faculty that the Special Admissions program be retained and extended to include economically disadvantaged white students.

The Rutgers University faculty voted 34 to 3 for the retention of the Special Admission program. The program will extend its special admission population to 30 percent from 25 percent.

"The vote culminated months of cooperative effort between Rutgers' students, faculty and concerned citizens from the Newark community. We hope this joint effort is evidence of the direction other university communities can take as they attempt to resolve affirmative action questions in this post Bakke era,"

But, given the nation's declining birthrate and the increasing competition for teaching jobs, especially in

Black Lawyers Approve Rutgers

said Junius Williams, President of the National Bar Association.

NBA recognizes the clear constitutional legitimacy and necessity for the continuation of affirmative action programs. These programs attempt to increase opportunities in education and employment for victims of past discrimination. In light of the ongoing judicial question of how to be more equitable in the enforcement of admission criterion, the Rutgers decisions is a giant step toward the resolution of this issue.

However, the NBA will remain vigilant to the implementation of the extended admissions program to assure that the inclusion of disadvantaged whites will not be to the detriment of minorities who historically have been disproportionately excluded from

the large urban centers, education would seem to be one of the few areas in which an enterprising student would want to specialize at this time.

Black Lawyers Approve Rutgers

educational and economic opportunities, William points out. "We will look to the administrators of the Special Admissions program for evidence that they will not use the extension as a means of letting more white students into the university, while at the same time reducing the number of blacks and other minorities admitted," said Williams.

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