

# An Exclusive Interview With Mayoral Candidates

by Eileen Hanson  
Special To The Post

Charlotte voters will choose a new mayor when they go to the polls on Tues. Nov. 6. In separate interviews The Charlotte Post asked candidates Eddie Knox (Democrat) and Barry Miller (Republican) their views on ten issues facing Charlotte in the 1980's. Here are their replies:

POST: What is the main issue in this campaign?

KNOX: Transportation. Growth will come to our city, even if we don't want it. The capacity to move people across town is critical.

MILLER: The quality of life for our people is number one.

This means safe neighborhoods, better transportation, less pollution, more housing.

POST: State your position on scattered site Public Housing?

KNOX: I subscribe to a totally integrated community. Society shouldn't segregate poverty. We need scattered site housing.

MILLER: I support it. We must promote easy access to health, safety and welfare services for residents of public housing. We must put people first. Undue stresses are created when people are in an environment unfamiliar to them.

POST: What solutions do you see to the housing shortage?

KNOX: We must involve the private sector in housing development. The Third Ward Rehabilitation Program is a good example of private and public involvement. I would make low income housing an important priority. If you don't have a decent place to lie down at night, you can't be happy.

MILLER: Our main problem is the loss of current stock housing. We need private funds for rehabilitation, at a cost of one-third less than public funding. Neighborhood groups, like the Wilmore Association, can make a major contribution to increasing community pride, involvement and a competitive spirit that will help maintain our neighborhoods. I would also support a bond issue to raise housing revenue.

POST: How do you view District Representation?

KNOX: I'm for it. I chaired the sub-committee on District Representation. The public has a good feeling about it; they believe it's an open way to City Hall. It can work. The challenge is to make it work.

MILLER: District Representation benefits people. I signed the original petition and worked for it. When neighborhood interest increases and people get together, the quality of life improves. Many benefits have already been noted - wider membership on city committees, greater density, successful bond issues.

POST: How would you deal with the City Workers' Union efforts?

KNOX: We have a devoted group of city employees. If you pay a decent wage and give access to elected officials, you can have good rapport with city workers without an outside group such as a union. Employees can represent themselves. The law says they can join a union, but in the public sector there is no "supply and demand" rule as in the private sector. If the lines of communication are open and we are reasonable in handling problems, we won't have unions.

MILLER: Unions are legal. The city should take a positive attitude towards the psychological and physical needs



Dr. Barry Miller  
...Republican candidate



Eddie Knox  
...Democratic candidate

of its workers, but should not negotiate with any unions. The public needs city services on the street. I favor instead "participative management" where employees meet in groups with each layer of management. Then you wouldn't need a grievance system.

POST: How would you have handled the recent Sanitation Workers' Strike?

KNOX: I would be open to listening to complaints and be more patient. In this case I think the workers should have had a better cause. (The issue was a better grievance procedure.)

MILLER: I would get the workers more involved and tell them how much we appreciate them. A police of-

ficer is the most important person in our community, and the sanitation worker is second. A higher moral would reduce labor turnover and workers would be happier with their jobs.

POST: What do you think of the state's "RIGHT-TO-WORK" law?

KNOX: I support it. It has worked well in this state. Wages aren't what they ought to be, but legislation has increased the minimum wage and new industry will bring higher wages.

MILLER: I think we must have it to create an atmosphere where people can use imaginative approaches to management. If you involve workers in their own man-

agement, they don't need outside parties. Let's get right down to the individual workers.

POST: What can be done about Low Wages in our area?

KNOX: I see more involvement of the private sector in job training and referral. The Chamber of Commerce could be a clearing agency for low-income youth looking for jobs. I think the competency tests will remove that final obstacle that has especially held back black youth. We must make youth competitive to be able to demand decent wages. When youth are qualified, there will be no excuse for them not getting jobs. This transition period may be traumatic for some, but in the long-run it will work.

MILLER: Our main problem is underemployment. We need to upgrade people's skills, train them on more sophisticated equipment. This means more colleges and vocational schools. I was a founder of the CPCC Foundation which provides scholarships and programs of continuing education. I am committed to upward mobility of our people.

POST: What can be done to improve Public Transportation?

KNOX: I would computerize the signal lights to move traffic smoothly through town, and encourage merchants to offer bus tokens, which is cheaper than the parking tokens many now provide. The media should offer free space to encourage bus ridership. I favor satellite circulation between shopping centers and more express buses to certain

areas. I would create a citizens' task force devoted to the certain areas. I would create a citizens' task force devoted to the bus system.

MILLER: The challenge is to move the most people in the most efficient and dependable way possible. I would ask the state legislature to create a mass transit authority, a dedicated group of citizens to plan our transit system into the late 1980's. We need more imagination to make the bus a real alternative. We should post schedules at each stop, use electronic equipment to monitor performance, use more part-time drivers for peak hours. I also propose a beltway around the center city. Regular buses would bring in passengers to four beltway transfer points for shuttle buses to the downtown and to medical facilities. This would reduce pollution and congestion and also save energy.

POST: What other issues do you want to bring before the black community?

KNOX: The black community gave Harvey (Gantt) an excellent vote and we expected that. But I consider it was a vote for Harvey and not against me. I have a history of fairness in job programs and have campaigned regularly in the black community. Now I'm asking for your help and support.

MILLER: We need to involve our youth in programs that give achievement and pride. Recognition is a great motivator and encourages upward mobility. Young people are our greatest resource.

## Better Look Out!

## GHSP Launches

## 55 MPH Campaign

Special TO The Post

RALEIGH—A new statewide campaign designed to increase voluntary compliance with the 55 mile per hour (MPH) speed limit by North Carolina motorists was announced here Friday.

State Secretary of Transportation Tom Bradshaw and Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety Burley Mitchell announced the launching of the campaign. Results of an opinion survey of the state's drivers, which was used to develop the campaign, also were released.

Next week, the Governor's Safety Program (GHSP), an agency of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, in cooperation with other state agencies, will begin the new effort, using the theme: "I Believe In 55," according to GHSP Coordinator Edwin Guy.

"It will consist of public service announcements on radio and television and in newspapers. Outdoor advertising, posters, bumper stickers and other promotional material also will carry the message," Guy said.

Mitchell said the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety "strongly supports the 'I believe in 55' campaign."

"We have been involved in the development of this campaign and will assist in carrying out some features of the program," Mitchell said. "The State Highway Patrol and other law enforcement agencies are doing an excellent job enforcing the 55 mile per hour speed limit, but it is simply impossible to have enough officers to apprehend all the violators of this law. That's why compliance must be voluntary and why increased cooperation on the part

of the driving public is absolutely essential if we are to reduce speeding in North Carolina."

Bradshaw said that the 55 mph speed limit "has proven to be of great benefit, saving both lives and fuel."

"But there is another reason why increased compliance with the 55 mile per hour limit is important to North Carolina federal funding of highway improvement projects," he said.

The transportation secretary explained that recent federal legislation established a graduated system of compliance standards to measure the effectiveness of state speed limit programs and imposes financial penalties for failure to comply with the new criteria.

The new standards increase the lowest acceptable level of compliance from 30 percent of drivers obeying a posted 55 mph limit in 1979 to 70 percent in 1983 and beyond. Last year in North Carolina, 45 percent of all drivers obeyed the 55 mph limit, according to speed checks conducted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation in accordance with specifications of the Federal Highway Administration.

"Many North Carolina drivers know the advantages of the 55 mile per hour speed limit," Bradshaw said, noting that the opinion survey, conducted by North Carolina State University Survey Research, found that 43 percent of those responding to the survey said it saves lives and reduces injury; 34 percent feel it saves gas; and 20 percent believe it makes driving more relaxing.

The lower speed limit has saved 1.5 billion gallons of gasoline a year since its introduction, according to U.S. Department of Energy estimates.

## Letter To The Editor

### Health Care Bond

Senior Citizens for better Health Care  
1000 Baxter Street  
Charlotte, N.C. 28204  
Phone: 332-3049  
October 25, 1979

Letter to the Editor:

On November 6th, the Health Care bond referendum will be placed before Charlotte-Mecklenburg voters.

Passage of this bond issue is of critical importance to the future of Charlotte Memorial Hospital, to its ability to adequately respond to the health care needs of the community, and to its ability to continue providing high quality medical care to Charlotte-Mecklenburg and the surrounding area.

Representing "Senior Citizens for Better Health Care," our group has met on several occasions with Memorial staff regarding specific problems in the clinics and the emergency room that needed to be addressed. The staff has always been attentive to our group and expressed willingness to review and act on our concerns.

Some of these problems have already been addressed: improving the availability of wheelchairs and walkers for in-coming patients, new signs covering the federal Hill-Burton program which are now visible and readable, and also improved staff attitudes toward patients. Even with these changes, there is much more that can be done.

Memorial serves not just elderly but a broad cross section of the population in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. It has an obligation to serve ALL people with the best possible medical care and to do so in a responsive manner. While problems may exist, Memori-

al does need the support of its community. It has shown its willingness to listen and act on problems expressed by the community. Now we need to respond. Voting YES on November 6th for the health care bond referendum is a step that we all need to take as responsible citizens and voters in Mecklenburg County.

Sincerely,  
Johnnie Evans,  
Spokesperson



City councilman Harvey Gantt gives his at-large city council race. (photo by Eileen Hanson)

## Black Elected Officials

## Support Marnite Shuford

By Eileen Hanson  
Special to the Post

Harvey Gantt and five other black elected officials threw their weight behind Marnite Shuford's campaign last week in her bid for an at-large seat on city council.

Gantt says he fears the black representation on council will be reduced unless the black community comes out in force for the Nov. 6 election. On the present council, three of 11 members are black-Gantt, Charlie Dannelly and Ron Leeper.

After five years as an at-large member, Gantt is leaving the council after this term. He chose instead to run for mayor, but lost to Eddie Knox in the Democratic primary.

Other endorsements for Shuford's campaign came from Phil Berry, chairman of the school board; Rev. George Battle, school board member; State Senator Fred Alexander; City Councilmen Leeper and Dannelly; and former County Commissioner Robert Walton. All are Democrats, as is Shuford.

The only other Black running for an at-large seat is Republican Rudy Hendricks.

Also speaking for Shuford were community leaders L.C. Coleman, Carrie Graves and Rev. Coleman Kerry.

"We have a very good chance of winning, but it all depends on the turnout of black voters," said Shuford, a lawyer and native of Charlotte. "We could lose a seat on

council if blacks don't vote."

There will be a benefit jazz performance for the Shuford campaign on Sunday, Nov. 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Excelsior Club, 921 Beatties Ford Rd. Lee Freeman and Zoom, Magic and other groups will perform. Refreshments will be served. There is a 10 dollar donation at the door.

## First Black Football

## Coach Keeps His Cool

Willie Jeffries tries to ignore the fact that at 41, he is the first Black man named as a major college football coach. He also tries to ignore the possibility of the extra pressure that position could bring.

"I do believe there were a lot of people with doubts in their minds," he said slowly, his face screwed up in thought about Dec. 28, when he was named to replace Jim Wright at Wichita State University. "This is a first. But we've established a really good rapport with the community. We haven't any type of that problem."

"People nationally (will be looking at me racially) more

so than those locally. I think my staff and I have been accepted by the community."

But Jeffries - who led all black South Carolina State to five bowl appearances, in five conference titles and the 1978 Black national championship during a 50-13-4 six years as head coach for his alma mater knows he has other problems to concern him at Wichita.

He is working from a 4-7 1978 WSU record, faces a schedule that starts off at New Mexico State and includes road games at Oklahoma State and Alabama and will be starting a freshman walk-on at quarterback.

# WINTER SIDING SALE!

## "10% DISCOUNT"

Here's A Chance To:

- \* Save \$100 to \$1000 On Work Done Between November 1, 1979 and January 31, 1980
- \* Protect Your Home Through This Winter
- \* Beautify Your Home Before The Holiday Season
- \* Say Goodbye To The Paint Brush

NO PAYMENT DUE 'TIL SPRING!

Aluminum or Vinyl Siding Wide Variety of Colors Expert Workmanship 40 Year Guarantee 100% Financing	CHECK THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU	Roofing Gutters & Downspouts Storm Doors & Windows Attic Fans Insulation
---	--	--

FOR FREE ESTIMATE  
CALL STEVE LUNDBERG

## Cyclone Roofing and Siding Co.

SINCE 1935  
615 Fugate Ave. Charlotte, N.C.  
375-4476

## The Affordable 80's

The 1980 automobiles are better than ever before. Enjoy the advantages of their greater gas mileage and improved efficiency with a new car loan. We'll give you an emergency kit absolutely FREE, while they last, for your driving safety, because with us

You're Somebody Special

## MECHANICS & FARMERS BANK

Located Statewide In:

101 Beatties Ford Rd.

2101 Beatties Ford Rd.

951 S. Independence Blvd.

DURHAM  
RALEIGH  
CHARLOTTE