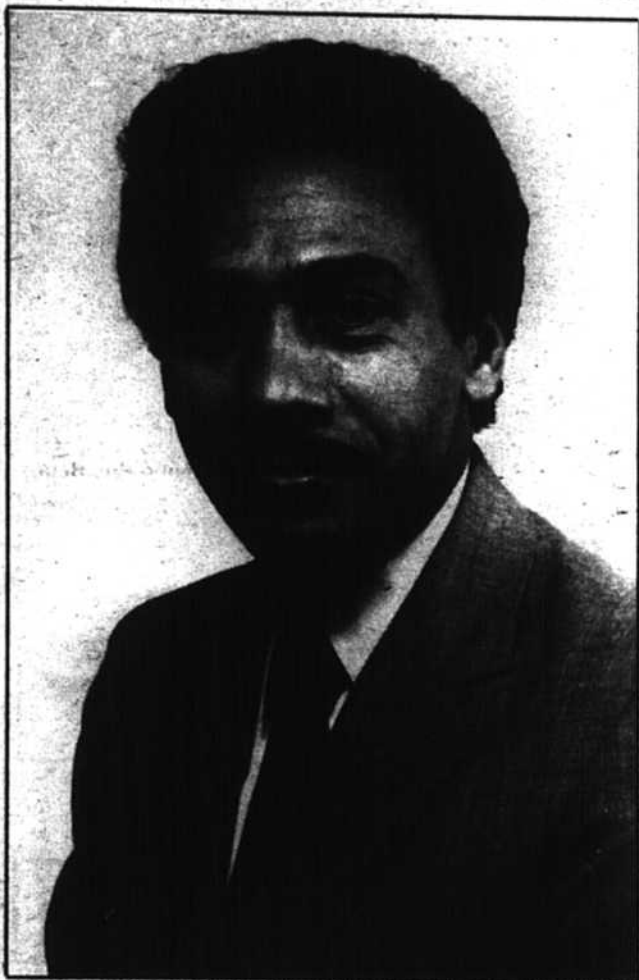


# Respected Senator Has A "Different Priority"

By Audrey C. Lodato  
Post Staff Writer



Mel Watt  
.....Noted attorney

past," he said. "To the extent that attitudes are changing on a local basis," he would agree that local control can probably achieve better results.

Senator Watt is a native Charlottean who graduated York Road High School in 1963. He earned a B.S. in business administration from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and a law degree from Yale University School of Law.

He is a partner in the law firm, Ferguson, Stein, Watt, Wallas and Adkins, P.A.

Watt served as campaign manager for Mayor Harvey Gantt. He is a former member of the Executive Committee of the 26th Judicial District Bar Association and of the boards of Legal Aid of the Southern Piedmont and Family Housing Service. He is a member of the North Carolina Public Education Forum and the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Watt commented, "I try to live life one day at a time. I try not to take myself too seriously. This world was doing fine before I got here and will continue after I'm gone. I try to do the best I can but not put so much pressure

on myself that I can't enjoy life."

He continued, "You have to stop and spend time with those people who are important to you. This is what led to my decision to get out of the legislature."

Eulada Watt, the senator's wife, is principal at TAPS (Teen-Age Parent Services).

The Watts have two children, Brian-17, a senior at West Charlotte High School; and Jason, 12, who attends Piedmont Middle School.



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Well-respected single-term state senator Melvin L. Watt, who is not seeking reelection, said he's learned a lot during his time in the state capital.

"It's an important position," he stated. "I'm not getting out because I'm disenchanted, but because it came at a time of my life when I need to have a different priority."

Watt was asked to fill the vacancy created when Phil Berry died just prior to the 1984 election.

"I think I have been able to make some difference," he continued. "It's been a challenge. You never make the kind of impact you would like to make because of the number of people involved."

A lot of give-and-take and compromise is required to get anything accomplished in the legislative process, he pointed out.

Senator Watt noted that the trend away from federal control to governments closer to home is not necessarily bad. "It probably is the best way if it can be done equitably," he remarked. Noting however, that government and people are far from perfect, there is cause for concern.

"Historically, blacks are leary of transferring power to the local level because of what has taken place in the

## Paul Robeson: "Man Of Conscience" To Air

"Paul Robeson: Man of Conscience" profiles the controversial international star whose dedication to racial justice led to a career of tragedy and inspiration. The biographical film, airing at 10 p.m. on Friday, February 28, over the nine channels of The University of North Carolina Center for Public Television, chronicles Robeson's life as an athlete, scholar, concert singer, stage and screen actor and an early activist against racial injustice.

This special presentation consists of the half-hour

Academy Award-winning documentary, "Paul Robeson: Tribute to an Artist," narrated by Sidney Poitier, as well as subsequent comments and recollections of an invited audience of Robeson's friends and colleagues, gathered to view the film. Introducing the documentary and conducting the audience's commentary is Paul Robeson Jr., who speaks eloquently and knowledgeably about his father's special place in black history.

The senior Robeson's career began in the early

'20s. Eugene O'Neill's play, "The Emperor Jones," in which Robeson starred in the title role, was the springboard to his performance career. Acting was a way for

Robeson to pay his law school tuition.

In a previously-recorded interview segment of the documentary, Robeson discusses his portrayal of "Othello" on Broadway.

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