

Editorials

Assignment Plan Affected Election

Underlying the two major aspects of Tuesday's 1986 Primary Elections were the invisible hands, or better still, the philosophies of two personalities not on the ballots and living in two widely scattered worlds. Nevertheless, these personalities, one on the winning side and one on the losing side, had the joint impact of giving victory to tradition.

In more specific terms, it was the long standing support of traditional Republicans for Jim Broyhill that enabled him to defeat Jesse Helms' Congressional Club protégé David Funderburk. In a somewhat similar vein, it was the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board candidates who most clearly identify with the policies of outgoing Supt. Jay Robinson who were the top vote getters. These were, in the order of their vote totals - George Battle, Ashley Hogewood and Karen Gaddy.

Few would disagree that Dr. Robinson's policies have resulted in substantial academic progress, improved morale among parents, teachers, students and school board members within the context of a fully integrated school system. Incumbents Battle and Hogewood have been assured school board seats by receiving 18,292 (61.8 percent) and 16,590 (55.7 percent) of the vote, respectively.

For one of the two remaining school board seats, third place finisher and incumbent Karen Gaddy with 14,276 votes (48.2 percent) may have to face a run-off election with Sharon Bynum, Arthur Griffin Jr. and Arthur Joye.

Griffin, the fourth incumbent with 10,940 votes (37 percent), finished in fifth place behind Bynum a self-styled conservative Christian who received 13,183 votes (44.5 percent). Joye, a new comer, was the sixth place finisher with 9,668 votes (32.7 percent).

Elections Supervisor Bill Culp attributed Griffin's lower vote total to "a very low turnout in the black community..." Considering that the other black candidate, George Battle, was the top vote getter, we think Culp's assessment of Griffin's support is wrong.

Since the undercurrent issues on the school board election centered around busing, the pupil assignment plan and school-based health clinics, we believe these issues had some impact on the vote totals. For example, Arthur Griffin and Harvey Sadoff's vote call on the school board last month for a freeze on pupil

assignments until the whole issue could be re-examined, probably brought Griffin more name recognition. However, the somewhat controversial source of that recognition - the freeze - may have upset some voters and have been a factor in his relatively low voter support. The school board vote on the pupil assignment freeze failed.

Our viewpoint on this issue appears to be supported by the fact that all three voter front runners - Battle, Hogewood and Gaddy favor the current pupil assignment plan.

Dr. Robinson was a factor in another way in this election. The school board will be selecting a new superintendent sometime next year. Thus, the voters have confirmed at least in part that they want as their chief school administrator someone who will continue in the tradition and policies of Jay Robinson.

Returning to the statewide tradition victory or victories, Rep. Jim Broyhill, a leading figure of the centerist position of N.C. Republican Party for 23 years, stopped something bigger than his opponent David Funderburk. The low-keyed Broyhill, who refers to himself as a conservative, put a significant dent in Jesse Helms' so-called New Right political machine, the N.C. Congressional Club with, in his own words, "a landslide victory." Yet, immediately following the election, Broyhill refused to make any comment about the Congressional Club or David Funderburk. The election is significant too because it demonstrates the Club and Jesse Helms are one and the same and that it can be defeated in the political arena.

The third victory for tradition was the sweep of Democrat U.S. Senate candidate and former Gov. Terry Sanford in over 20 years. Sanford received 363,821 votes or 60 percent of the total. He far outdistanced his nearest rival John Ingram with 97,620 votes or 16 percent of the vote. Former Mecklenburg County Commissioner Fountain Odom came in a distant third with only 46,951 votes or eight percent of the total. Sanford was initially elected Gov. of N.C. in the early 1960s and more recently retired as president of Duke University.

Thus, it was tradition that won for our local schools, and tradition that won for both Democratic and Republican party U.S. Senate hopefuls. Only the general election in November and what these forces of tradition do in the years to come will determine whether the voters have really won.

particularly in football.

A member of the NCHSAA since 1967 and joining the Rocky River 2A conference in 1972, Catholic's football record is 75-16-1 in league play and 111-36-1 overall. Petty jealousy and some anti-Catholic redneck attitudes were apparently behind the entire ousting effort. Thank God that justice has prevailed once again.

Miller Says:

Will Racist Tainted Nominees Cost Control Of Senate?

By Sherman N. Miller
Special To The Post

Another Reagan administration questionable nominee for a federal judgeship, U.S. attorney in Mobile, Alabama, Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III, is perpetuating the myth that all white conservatives are racist. The Pittsburgh Courier reports, "During Senate testimony, Sessions admitted that he once said the anti-black Ku Klux Klan was an 'okay' organization. The nomination of Sessions is part of the administration's effort to appoint as many conservatives as possible to federal judgeships."

Sessions' nomination is clearly an affront to the black community. It may also hurt some Republican U.S. senatorial candidates' chances of grabbing black votes in the 1986 General Election. On the other hand, there are many white conservatives, who are not racist, that publicly espouse equal opportunity for blacks.

John Dolton, former conservative governor of the state of Virginia, gave me his feelings toward black American upward mobility. I asked him if the current conservative tide that per-



Sherman

vades the nation is slowing black socioeconomic progress.

"No! No!" declared Dolton. Since Dolton was very positive in his response, his feelings were sought on what is really happening to blacks.

"I think that blacks are becoming better educated. They are getting better jobs. They are getting in the mainstream, more so, than ever in my life time. I think the future is very bright for them."

The question that immediately comes to mind is, "What perceptions do white conservatives have of black Americans?"

ANGER! FRUSTRATION!



Wanted... JOB

CMS Desegregation Plan Springs Controversy

Sabrina's column will return next week.

By Gerald O. Johnson
Special To The Post

Once again the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System's desegregation plan is the topic of controversy. Once again we are hearing that the plan doesn't work and it should be abolished. As usual the same issues as to the shortcomings of the plan are on the front burner. As usual it is School Board election time.

However, what is unusual about the issue this time around is that more and more of the opponents of the plan are black. This is somewhat scary, consequently, I must speak out. I feel that it is of paramount importance that we not lose sight from whence we came. We cannot lose sight of the struggle that so many believed in and some died for.

The primary points concerning black folks are these:

The masses of blacks were better off under the segregation plan.

The School System was better under the segregation



Sabrina

plan.

Blacks are bearing the brunt of the burden of inconvenience of the desegregation plan.

The Plan just doesn't work. I would like to discuss each of these points.

The masses of blacks were better off under the segregation plan. Poppycock!! This point stems from the low self esteem many underprivileged blacks are perceived of having by being placed in an integrated environment. Having received

an all black education from this CMS system some 20 odd years ago, I can assure you that this problem existed back then. This is not an integration issue. It is an issue for special educational programs being developed to help those who are not in a position to be exposed to many educational experiences outside of school.

The School System was better under the segregation plan. This is a true statement. However, the reasons are not due to desegregation of the schools. When I was growing up in Charlotte, I noticed that college degree blacks that did not specialize in the legal or medical professions had two alternatives: Teaching of postal service. This created a wealth of talent for our black school system back then. The cream of the crop from the black community ended up teaching in black schools. Now that Corporate America has integrated, blacks have more job opportunities than ever before. Hence, since teacher pay is far below the norm of Corporate America, the teaching profession cannot attract the calibre of blacks if once did. Therefore, even if we digressed to a segregated school system today, the results would be far worse than you could imagine. Moreover, school administrations are swamped with paperwork that is unrelated to education. Hence, more time and money are being spent to comply with regulations that have nothing to do with instructional education. Therefore, the school systems can't help but be in worse shape today than they once were.

Blacks are bearing the brunt of the burden of inconvenience of the desegregation plan. This is true. But again, this is the consequence of a non-school board issue. Because of housing patterns that have persisted over the years, the predominantly black neighborhoods are becoming less densely populated as south-east Charlotte becomes more densely populated. Economically, it makes more sense to build schools closer to the populace. Why build or maintain a school in an area where you would have to bus thousands of kids many miles when you can build one that would require minimal busing fewer miles.

you are seeing the same kind of progress."

Dolton's comments did not fit the stereotypic model that many blacks expect from a governor of a formerly Confederate state. I felt compelled to ask him if he expected a black to become governor of the state of Virginia.

"I certainly think so," replied Dolton. "We have just elected a black Lt. Governor. And certainly the people of Virginia did not penalize him for being black. That wouldn't have happened 20 years ago - 25 years ago. But things have changed."

Dolton went on to point out what blacks in his Party had done in Virginia.

"Twenty-five years ago you wouldn't have made a mayor of the city of Roanoke, black, and he is a Republican. My home town, Radford, I think we had four or five percent black in Radford, and we elected a black mayor in the 70s. I don't think necessarily being black is the handicap it was 25 years ago. People today are voting for the man or the lady."

"I think the conservative people in America see blacks as having opportunities," said Dolton. "If they are willing to work hard and be educated, today, they have the same kind of opportunities that whites have."

An inordinate number of blacks drop out of mainstream colleges and universities yearly; however, Dolton highlighted the importance of a mainstream calibre education in the acid test for peer acceptance.

"He needs to get educated. But today, we've got the same opportunities for blacks as we've got for whites in the public schools. And with scholarships, they are getting educated. The old prejudice that you had - 30, 40, or 50 years ago - is disappearing."

Dolton argued strongly that if blacks are given the same opportunity as whites they will perform just as well.

"I think that blacks who have the same opportunity level as whites are going to do as well as whites," proclaims Dolton. "The problem is in the past blacks have not had that same opportunity as whites. But given the same kind of opportunities, I think

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