

# Administration Vows To Fight Equal Employment

**BY JILL LAWRENCE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER  
WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Reagan administration said Tuesday it opposes a House bill that would require federal agencies to document their efforts to comply with equal employment laws.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Chairman Clarence Thomas said the proposed "Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Reporting Act" would deprive his agency of the flexibility it needs to help different departments eliminate barriers to the hiring and promotion of minorities and women.

"You can't have the same set of rules for the Defense Department as for the EEOC," Thomas told the House Education and Labor subcommittee on employment opportunities.

Thomas also said any legislation regulating affirmative action in government should apply to the 38,000 people employed by Congress.

"We are called on the carpet about a 500-employee agency, but you have an entire section of the government that is exempt" from civil rights laws, Thomas said.

The legislation sponsored by subcommittee chairman Matthew Martinez, D-Calif., says affirmative action has not been given a high enough priority to eliminate the effects of past and present discrimination in federal jobs.

It would require federal agencies to file reports with the EEOC on their compliance with the equal employment act, including analyses of applications, hiring, training and promotions

as well as goals and timetables to correct any problems that are revealed.

Martinez accused the EEOC of undermining civil rights laws and gutting its own regulations. He said the Reagan administration has rejected goals and timetables even though the Supreme Court has upheld such means of achieving a balanced work force.

"The federal government

should be a model of integration. It should not live under different rules than the private sector," said Martinez, referring to the reporting requirements, standards and efforts expected of private employers.

According to testimony from the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, private employers regard as "indispensable management tools" analyses of the makeup of

their work force and reasonable goals and timetables to correct imbalances.

The lawyers group said affirmative action plans and monitoring efforts "have become second nature to American business" and it is difficult to understand why the administration opposes them.

"If Congress does not pass legislation providing an effective prod to the government, many

federal agencies will continue to drag their feet," the group said.

Thomas acknowledged that discrimination exists in the federal work force and said goals or timetables may be appropriate in some cases. But he said the Martinez bill is not needed because EEOC already is working with department heads to identify problem areas and eliminate inequities.

## Reassignment Plan

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more to do with reducing overcrowding than with maintaining racial balance.

"For the most part, the changes were because we had too few kids or it related to capacity," he said.

Prime examples of the underutilization of class space are Charlotte's inner city schools, which are located in black communities.

Irons said administrators, who researched the assignment plan, made a conscious effort to preserve those schools and lighten the burden blacks bear in the busing equations.

"The more schools you've got in the minority community, there's a shorter bus ride to the center city schools," Irons said. "You don't have to count up miles and minutes to see that."

Irons said school officials are committed to preserving center city schools, and although they weren't able to satisfy everyone, the plan represents an effort to keep schools in the black com-

munity.

"We said when we started we wanted to make use of center city schools and make bus rides more fair," he said.

The county also plans to upgrade those facilities by refurbishing buildings and offering courses that can assure full classrooms.

Irons believes that a lot of the negative reaction to reassignment stems from parents' belief that the changes force students to move for no apparent reason.

The plan, however, allows for the opening of the new schools, which are being built to eliminate overcrowding due to growth in the southeast.

"We're opening schools," he said. "There's no sense in opening schools if you're not moving kids."

On balance, Irons said, reassignment in a system that is considered a national model of school integration should strengthen the concept.

"If you look at the features on balance, you see more fairness."

## Barnett Defends Anti-Walton Campaign

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said. "It would be too time-consuming. But if we have to go to jail for that, then maybe that's what it'll take."

Informing the board of elections of the group's activity is a ploy of Walton supporters to eliminate opposition to their candidate, Barnett believes.

"One of Bob Walton's supporters just wants to stop us," he said.

The campaign is shaping up to include the black church as a central issue in the District 2 race, with ministers lining up as anti- or pro-Walton supporters. Barnett, like Walton, is a minister.

Religious leaders generally have considerable influence in

the black community, but not necessarily in this race, Barnett believes.

"There's a code of ethics in the black community that you don't go against ministers," he said. "But there are a lot of educated people out there who can think for themselves and aren't going to just go on what their minister says. (Walton's supporters) want to stop us, but if we have to go to jail to tell people what's going on, that's what we'll do."

Barnett said his group isn't against Walton personally, but they plan to make his character a campaign issue.

Some ministers have defended

Walton since he was convicted of assault last year in a sexual encounter with an 18-year-old male. Barnett isn't one of them, however, and is critical of those who want to see Walton reelected.

"How can you say he was forgiven when you don't say what he was wrong for in the first place," Barnett asked. "We can still love Bob Walton but we don't have to put him up as a role model. We shouldn't be trying to push him off on the black community."

"The whole world will be looking at us May 3. We as black folks need role models more than any other people."



Walton

## Robeson Tries To Solve Its Racial Woes

**LUMBERTON, N.C. (AP)** — Blacks, whites and Indians in Robeson County must work to repair racial injustices that led to the Feb. 1 siege of a local newspaper by two members of the Tuscorora tribe, officials said Saturday.

"It's time for the people of Robeson County to shed their focus on color and join together as one group to solve the county's problems," Rep. Sidney Locks, D-Robeson, told about 100 people at a public forum sponsored by the Tuscorora tribe of North Carolina.

The meeting was called after Eddie Hatcher, 30, and Timothy Jacobs, 19, both of Pembroke, were charged with holding 19 employees of The Robesonian hostage for 10 hours. The men said they were seeking an investigation into what they called racial injustices in the county's criminal court system.

"There are some deep-seated wounds in this county, wounds that have been present not for years but for decades," Locks said. "Blacks have let other blacks and whites turn us against Indians. Indians have let other Indians and whites turn them against blacks. It's time we joined together as one group and put color aside. That's the only end to this problem."

Locks said he did not condone the use or threat of violence.

"What we need is not bullets. What we need is ballots," he said. "If we would register, then vote our convictions, we would elect those people who are right for us. We don't need guns. We need guts to stand up and express our feelings as many of your are

now."

Julian Pierce, a Pembroke attorney who has filed for Superior Court judge in the 16th district, said part of the county's problem is the lack of cooperation from its elected officials.

"When I look around and think about the events of the past several days, one question comes to mind. Where are our elected representatives?" he said. "... If they are concerned, where are they?"

Pierce said that of 13 elected Robeson County officials, two are black and the rest white.

"Indians, you don't have anybody," he said. "How do we get respect when we're not sitting at the policy-making table. If we don't look at the situation and get out and vote, we'll never solve the problem and we'll never be able to have trust in our judicial system."

Adolph Dial, who has filed for a seat in the North Carolina House, said he agrees there is a great need in Robeson County for cooperation.

"I'm not apologizing for anything that happened recently," Dial, a Lumbee Indian, said. "Sometimes people make great

sacrifices. Sometimes people break the law for things to happen. There's a great need in this county for a lot of cooperation."

Connie Brayboy told the group a committee had been formed to organize defense efforts for Hatcher and Jacobs. She said the panel was calling on the government to drop charges against the men and was asking county blacks and Indians to unite against Joe Freeman Britt, a district attorney running for Su-

perior Court judge, and Sheriff Hubert Stone.

Velma Clark, Hatcher's mother, said she is very proud of her son.

"I taught him one commandment, love, and he did what he did because he loved the people here," she said. "If he were here today, he'd say, 'Let's join together and get things right.'"

## Presidential Candidate To Visit Winthrop

Rock Hill, SC - Republican presidential candidate Pat Robertson will speak at Winthrop College at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, in Tillman Hall Auditorium. Robertson's appearance is sponsored by the Young Republican of Winthrop College.

Robertson's appearance is free and open to the public.

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## Apartheid's Right

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moderation ..."

"The media has just done an absolute hatchet job on South Africa and I think the reason, very frankly, is because the left wants to see South Africa fall. They don't want a free government," he added.

Robertson stressed the strategic importance of South Africa.

"Our long-range interests are at stake," he said. "We must have the minerals of southern Africa available to the West. If they fall into the hands of the Soviet Union, we will become vassals of the Soviets. It's a very important strategic matter that apparently our people just ignore."

Asked by the interviewer what the United States really wants from South Africa, he said it was hoped that there would eventually be racial equality.

"To begin gradually to bring into the political process the blacks in your country so that

ultimately you have a time where there is equality before the law, equality of justice and equality of civic opportunity and that is essentially what we want," he said.

"What I want essentially is a free South Africa. I want South Africa as a friend of the West and a bastion of capitalism," said Robertson. "It would be tragic if South Africa was plunged into a blood bath, if the Marxist-led members of the African National Congress could gain control."

Robertson said that those who favor sanctions and disinvestment as a means of putting pressure on the South African government to end apartheid are "knowingly or unknowingly allies of those who favor a one-party, Marxist government in South Africa."

The interview was broadcast on the nightly news program Network.

## N.C. Highway Named For Black Woman

Raleigh - The North Carolina board of Transportation today approved the naming of a 5.2 mile section of US 70 in Guilford County the "Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial Highway."

Brown, a native North Carolinian, founded Palmer Memorial Institute in Sedalia in 1902 and served as its president for over 50 years. A high school and junior college, Palmer became one of the earliest high schools for blacks in North Carolina to be accredited by the Southern As-

sociation of Secondary Schools and Colleges.

Ten years after Brown's death in 1961, Palmer Memorial Institute closed its doors.

However, on November 7, 1987, the state's Department of Cultural Resources opened and dedicated the "Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial State Historic Site" -- the first state historic site honoring a black and a woman. This site is located on 40 acres of the former campus of Palmer Memorial Institute on

Highway 70 in Sedalia, 10 miles east of Greensboro.

The "Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial Highway" extends along US 70 from the intersection of US 70 and Birch Creek Road eastward to the intersection of US 70 and NC 100.

Bill Buchanan, who represents Highway Division 7 on the Board of Transportation, said signs designating the new name will be placed along the section soon.



Photo By Calvin Ferguson

Westside businessman Nasif Majeed, right, was out shaking hands and greeting present and future voters Saturday as he opened his campaign headquarters. Majeed is running for the Democratic Party nomination for District 2 Mecklenburg County Commissioner against incumbent Bob Walton and James Baldwin. Majeed told supporters he intends to provide voters with an alternative to Walton by stressing his community service, accomplishments and portraying himself as a role model for young people.

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