

Republicans Outdo Democrats

Continued from page 1A.

Instruction, 0.1; Insurance, 1.3; Justice, 2.6; Labor, 1.11; Secretary of State, 1.2; State Auditor, 26.0; State Treasurer, 0.4.

The figures troubled some Democrats.

"I certainly think we should be doing better than that," Attorney General Lacy Thornburg said. "We are doing considerably better than that in hiring practices."

"I just think that shows we've got a long way to go," said Rep. Thomas C. Hardaway, D-Halifax, who introduced legislation that set the 4 percent goal for all state agencies last year. "There is clearly a need to do more to expand the number of businesses that are doing business with the state."

North Carolina has chosen to set goals rather than set a mandatory percentage of sales to minority businesses, as some states have done. Under the North Carolina program, there

is no penalty for failing to reach the 4 percent goal.

Instead, the emphasis has been on making sure state agencies are aware of businesses operated by minorities, women and the handicapped that could have something to sell to state government.

There also has been an effort to educate those same businesses on the methods of doing business with the state.

For purposes of the 4 percent goal, a minority business is defined as one in which 51 percent is owned by a minority, woman or disabled person, and such people are active in day-to-day management.

Nathan T. Garrett, former president of the N.C. Association of Minority Businesses, said he'd like to see more minority businesses move into the economic mainstream.

"We have seen a good faith effort, but it has not been uniform," he said.

The effort may be crimped somewhat this year after legislators cut \$50,000 from the budget that would have been spent on educational seminars to teach minority businessmen and businesswomen about state purchasing practices.

Some officials, however, argued that finding minority suppliers was difficult.

Insurance Commissioner Jim Long noted that the Democrat-controlled agencies are generally smaller than those in the Martin administration. That makes it more difficult to find minority businesses that can supply what is needed, he said.

"It's been a tough challenge," Long said, noting that his agency only spends about \$3 million a year in non-personnel costs. Much of that during the last year -- \$1 million -- was for computer equipment, which was purchased from large suppliers.

"We have to fight to find minority-owned suppliers," he said.



Mrs. Elizabeth Randolph (l), member of The Charlotte Chapter of the Links, Inc., presents a check for \$500 to Joseph A. Lipe, chairman of the Housing Authority Scholarship Fund. The check was presented on July 31st at First Baptist Church-West. Hayden Renwick (c), special assistant to the chancellor of Fayetteville State University was the speaker for the occasion.

March On Washington Celebrates First

Washington, D.C. - On Saturday, August 27, 1988, more than 500,000 supporters of civil rights will assemble at the Lincoln Memorial to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1963 great march on Washington when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" message.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King and Dr. Joseph Lowery, co-convenors of the August 27th march, said "An urgent call has been issued to all people of goodwill to reaffirm their support for civil and human rights by participating in the massive mobilization."

Mrs. King the widow of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is president of the MLK, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, and Dr. Lowery is president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which was founded by Dr. King.

A major goal of the rally is to focus national attention on three issues: poverty and joblessness, world peace, and responding to the worsening conditions in South Africa.

The New Coalition of Conscience, representing more than 700 national organizations has joined Mrs. King, Dr. Lowery, Dr. Benjamin Hooks-NAACP, Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy, Congressman John Conyers, Dr. Dorothy Height-National Council of Negro Women, Mr. Dick Gregory, Mayor Marion Barry, Mayor Andrew Young, the coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Hospital & Health Care Employees National Union, Union Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Ms. Rosa Parks and many other civil rights organizations in sponsoring the march.

Mrs. King and Dr. Lowery said,

"We urge all American citizens to join us on Saturday, August 27, on the eve of what could be one of this country's most important presidential elections and at a time when we can have some impact upon the future direction of our country at home and abroad."

A national mobilization office has been established in Washington, D.C., headed by Stony Cooks, for years a close advisor

to Atlanta Mayor and former congressman Andrew Young. The office is located at 610 Fourth Place Southwest, Washington, D.C. 20024.

Cooks said all organizations interested in joining the coalition of sponsoring organizations should call the mobilization office. He said local groups were organizing chartered bus trips to Washington in numerous cities.

Tour For New Teachers

Continued from page 1A.

Superintendent Peter Relic will kick off the festivities at 1 p.m. on the Education Center porch where teachers will be treated to refreshments. At 2 p.m., they'll board buses for a two and one half hour tour of Charlotte by Charlotte Visi-tours.

The school system expects to hire more than 300 new teachers for 1988-89. They will attend special workshops at Randolph Junior High August 16-18 at 8:30 a.m.

Current teachers will begin returning to their schools Monday, August 15.

Insurance Companies Bilk Blacks

Continued from page 1A.

policy holder smoked, had high blood pressure or was overweight.

A spokesman for Charlotte Liberty told the News and Observer of Raleigh the company had 5,482 of the policies still in effect in North Carolina, representing total annual premiums of \$134,547.

But the spokesman could not say immediately what, if anything, would be done about those policies.

R. Douglas Pennick, senior vice president and chief actuary for

Durham Life Insurance Co., said he did not know how many of the policies his company still had in force.

"I wouldn't think it would be too many because they are so old," Pennick said. "The very newest ones are 20 to 22 years old. Realistically, most policies that old have been terminated."

The survey was spurred by a complaint last year from a Delaware resident whose grandmother had paid premiums for more than 20 years.



NAACP LEADER RETURNS TO SCHOOL. Veronica Alexander of Charlotte, North Carolina, attended the NAACP National Membership Leadership University held in Baltimore at the National Headquarters in June. Ms. Alexander was one of close to 70 volunteers who received training on how to organize a radiothon on the local level in preparation for the Association's nationwide Radiothon set for September 24, 1988.

N.C. Black Leadership Caucus Gets Corporate Sponsor

WINSTON-SALEM, NC -- The North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus held its annual convention in Winston-Salem the weekend of July 4, and officially became partners with a new corporate sponsor, McDonald's. Large numbers of citizens and leaders from business, political, and social communities were in attendance, as well as from the community at large. Now in its 12th year, the Caucus represents the interests of

blacks throughout North Carolina and provides a forum for black leadership development and economic planning in communities across the state.

At the convention, North Carolina McDonald's operators donated \$3,000 to the Caucus and sponsored a banquet for Caucus members, with a performance by the winning Gospel choir from the McDonald's-sponsored "Carolina Gospelfest '88" com-

petition.

Isaac Howard and James Grace, co-chairmen of the Caucus Convention Committee, praised McDonald's for its involvement, emphasizing that its sponsorship of the Caucus "helps blacks move into the economic mainstream of the state."

The North Carolina Black Leadership Caucus meets annually around the state and expects next year's meeting to be held in Charlotte.



Photo: CALVIN FERGUSON

The Math and Science Education Network (MSEN) sponsored by UNC Charlotte has expanded into Mecklenburg County. Junior high school students enrolled in the program get advanced training in

math and science in addition to hearing motivational messages by prominent individuals. One hundred and nineteen students are enrolled in MSEN, with an average attendance of 95 per day.

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