

Blacks Should Dismiss Party Labels, Grear Says

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Yet both support the idea of blacks utilizing ticket-splitting --- the process of a voter who's registered with one party voting for one or more of the candidates of the opposing party --- for a purpose. Says Hughes, "To vote for a candidate based on that candidate's party affiliation is not necessarily in our best interest."

"My overriding interest in politics is to improve lives in the black community. Being a Democrat, is not my main objective in life," she adds.



Garner

Case in point, both Grear and Hughes have pledged their support to Edward Garner Jr., a black Republican running for the office of State Auditor.

"We characterize this as the most controversial race," says Grear, who claims, "a lot of mainline black Democrats plan to support Garner."

"A lot of people do not support this bi-partisan initiative," says Grear. "But the fact is, many black Democratic leaders are abandoning the best interest of black people for the best interest of the Democratic Party."

"I think that's sad. I think we should have black candidates in both parties and all elections."

"My objection is we are voting for people who have no commitment to our survival and growth."

"Part of the reason we want Garner showcased at the rally is so he can be judged on what he stands for --- not on party credentials."

Through the hoped-for election of Garner, Grear and Hughes see the opportunity of

integrating the N.C. State Council for the first time, "which has been exclusively an all-white, male group," says Hughes.

Nevertheless, it remains that ticket-splitting is untried territory among black voters and the black electorate's strong allegiance to the Democratic Party will be a hard nut to crack.

Grear maintains that allegiance, nonetheless, is based on a lie. "A lot of Democratic, black and white, candidates have expressed to the black community that we are not capable of splitting the ticket. They say it's too complicated. That's a lie and it is insulting and humiliating. Twenty-five years after the Voting Rights Act and they are still saying to blacks that we are too dumb to split-tickets."

"Yet, blacks have been involved in ticket-splitting for years. Single-shot voting is a form of ticket-splitting. You hear no protest from black Dem-

ocrats about that, because it is self-serving.

"At the rally we must dispel the notion that blacks can't split the ticket. As a result of the debate generated by the whole scenario, black people will be better off," says Grear.

Even though Grear, Hughes and the NCBLA, plan to introduce the use of the controversial practice of ticket splitting to N.C.'s black electorate at the rallies, they maintain that their purpose remains to unify the black vote. "We're trying to avoid conflicts within the black community in regard to the activities we'll be involved in up until November," says Grear.

"After November, regardless of the outcome, we want to still be united as the black community."

The NCBLA was organized in 1976 as a statewide organization which would consolidate the civil rights gains of the past into a new and different thrust for black political influence.

Justice System Failed Ex-Doctor: Brother

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hampering the release of court transcripts. Wayne Mallory feels those records hold the key to a new trial.

"The way I've heard it, it may be three weeks or three months" before the transcripts are released. "We feel there are enough inconsistencies (for a new trial to be ordered)."

Organizations like the Ministerial Alliance in Fort Valley and the Philadelphia Christian Alliance, based in the Mallory family's hometown, have raised money to help with legal fees, which are expected to top \$100,000. Blacks have also taken to the streets, protesting the outcome of the trial and the long wait for an appeal.

The strain of the ordeal has been most difficult for the family, especially Vincent's parents, Vincent G. and Mamie.

"It's taken a heavy toll on the family," Wayne Mallory said. "It's been hard on everyone. It's been a mental and financial strain



from the beginning."

Wayne Mallory said Vincent has held up well and is visited frequently by relatives who come in from Philadelphia. Wayne visits at least twice a month, with the most recent last week.

Vincent was "in pretty good

splrits," Wayne said. "We talked about general stuff, how the family's going, how the job's going and just a little bit about the case."

In the end, people from Fort Valley to Philadelphia have rallied to aid Vincent Mallory be-

cause they feel that he had no motive to kill Fields.

"A person like him wouldn't have a reason for killing someone," Wayne Mallory said. "He was a successful black in the area. It wasn't like it was for money or anything like that."

Contributions to Vincent Mallory's appeal effort can be mailed to the Philadelphia Christian Alliance of Third Christian Church Defense Fund, 6639 Wayne Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19119.

Town Meeting With Black

Elected Heads

The Black Elected Officials will hold a Town Meeting, Sunday, September 11, 1988, 4:00 P.M. at Faith C. M. E. Church, located at 457 Wellington Street.

The Town Meetings are held in order to allow citizens to interact with Black Elected Officials and be informed by them of information, legislation, government policies and other areas of concern.

We urge all concerned citizens, who want to be more informed, to attend and participate.

For more information call Clara Williams at 399-2274.

Blacks Scarce On Congressional Staffs

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Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., has none on his 38-person staff. With Sen. Terry Sanford, D-N.C., blacks hold eight of 36 jobs.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., has three blacks on a staff of 50. Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., also has three on a staff of 31.

Hollings, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, also has a committee staff of 51 members that includes 15 blacks. Among them: Staff Director Ralph Everett, the highest-ranking black in the Senate.

While blacks head the staffs of two of the Carolinas' 21 lawmakers --- Rose and Rep. Robin Tallon, D-S.C. --- other top-level positions are rare.

For example, Rep. Alex McMillan R-N.C., has a staff of 14 that includes two blacks. Both work in the 9th District, where one is an office manager and the other handles constituent services.

To some extent, the number of black staffers reflects demographics.

In the sprawling 5th District of north-central South Carolina, blacks make up 29 percent of the population. They also make up almost a third of the staff of Rep. John Spratt, D-S.C.

In North Carolina's western Piedmont, blacks make up less than 10 percent of the 10th District's population. None serve on the staff of Rep. Cass Ballenger, R-N.C.

Ballenger's top aide, Max Veale, says it's because none have applied. "It's not because we discriminate," Veale said. "I'd be tickled to death if we had a black."

Renee Carter, Tallon's press secretary and one of seven blacks on a staff of 15, said the Carolinas "don't fare unfavorably when you consider the rest of the country. Their hiring records are probably comparable to hiring records all across the country."

Critics like Amelia Parker, executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus, call it "an institutional problem." She argues that staffs should reflect their member's constituency.

"Just as the electorate represents the diversity of our community, so should the staff," said Ms. Parker, a Charlotte na-

tive and graduate of Johnson C. Smith University.

"Clearly it is an important ... to have advocacy within an office It's important that there are people there who represent the spectrum of issues and perspective of those whom you serve," Ms. Parker said.

Second Congressional Black Caucus Meets

Special To The Post
By Frazier Blackwell

The 2nd Congressional District Black Caucus convened Saturday, August 22, in Oxford, NC. President Frazier Blackwell presided.

The honorable Mickey Michaux Jr. challenged the group to keep Dr. King's dreams alive. He compared the black vote to the slingshot that the Biblical David used to slay Goliath. He urged black voters to use the ballot to slay the monster of racism which is currently holding back the fulfillment of the dream.



Michaux

Michaux informed the group that Governor Jim Martin and the Republicans are filing suits in court to deprive ten blacks of opportunities to be elected to judgeships. He also pointed out that Gov. Martin and the Republicans are claiming to be reaching out to black voters while they are refusing to release \$2

million appropriated by the short session of the N.C. Legislature to stimulate the black economy.

Senators Frank Ballance and Ralph Hunt spoke about the political gains and the many black elected officials in North Carolina. They also emphasized the need to use the newly gained political power to bring about economic growth and a better way of life for the black citizens in North Carolina.

Mr. Willie Lovett, chairman of Black Affairs in Durham, NC, was adamant about the fact that some Democratic Party officials are taking the black voters for granted. A special committee was appointed to take the concerns of the Black Caucus directly to the Democratic leadership.

Caucus co-chairman Bruce Lightner, and Central Regional coordinator Charles Dunston explained the programs for getting more black registered to vote.

The district Caucus will hold its next meeting October 8, at the Central Children's Home in Oxford, NC, at 10 a.m.

Leaders from other black districts around the state will be invited to attend this meeting.

Black Firefighter Wins Bias Suit Against Waynesville Department

WAYNESVILLE, N.C. (AP) --- Town officials disagree with a federal ruling that Waynesville discriminated against a black firefighter fired last year, but say the town will negotiate a settlement to prevent further legal action.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission agreed last week with Carl Bryant's claim that he was dismissed from the fire department because of his race. The EEOC is seeking Bryant's reinstatement and more than \$7,000 in back pay.

Town officials say Bryant, a firefighter since 1984, was fired in January 1987 because of unjustified absences. His dismissal followed a 10-day suspension for absenteeism that Bryant did not appeal.

"Mr. Bryant was repeatedly talked to by the town manager for his failure to come in on

time and stay on the job," town attorney Frank Queen said Wednesday. "The fellow just didn't come to work."

Bryant says he presented doctors' excuses to account for his absences, something white employees often failed to do.

The EEOC agreed, saying in an Aug. 18 letter that Waynesville "discriminated against the charging party by harassing him and discharging him because of his race in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964."

Queen acknowledged that the town's seven other firefighters sometimes failed to account for their absences, but said Bryant was absent much more "with fewer good excuses."

Representatives of the EEOC from Charlotte will meet with Queen in the next month in search of a solution agreeable to both parties, Queen said.

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Evans Kick-Off Rally, Sept. 8

Yvonne Mims Evans, candidate for District Court Judge, will hold a rally to kick-off her fall campaign on September 8, 5:30 p.m., at the Afro-American Cultural Center, 401 N. Myers St.

This is also a volunteer recruitment meeting. Everyone is invited to attend.