

N.C. representatives support motion on Pledge of Allegiance

By ERIC GRIBBIN
Staff Writer

On a roll-call vote to require the U.S. Congress to recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily, N.C. Reps. David Price and Jamie Clarke were among only seven Democrats to join 161 Republicans in support of the motion last week.

Recital of the pledge has been a source of political controversy lately, and Democrats charged that House Republicans were trying to continue that controversy last week with the motion.

The motion was ruled out of order because it would require a change in House rules, and that ruling was sustained in a 226-168 vote. Speaker of the House Jim Wright said later that Tuesday's and Wednesday's House sessions would begin with the pledge.

"Mr. Price voted the way he did because he felt that the calling for the vote was essentially grandstanding on the part of the Republicans, who were trying to make it a campaign issue," said Rachel Perry, Price's congressional press secretary. "He saw it as a symbolic vote, so he voted for the pledge. He certainly supports the Pledge of Allegiance."

"Any vote by an incumbent can be made into a campaign issue," Perry said. "He (Price) would feel it unfortunate if this were made into a campaign issue."

While Price's opponent in the November election, Tom Fetzter, supports the pledge, he may not have made it a campaign issue, said Bob Harris, Fetzter's press secretary.

"It was a partisan move by the Republicans to put the Democrats on record as to their stand on the Pledge of Allegiance," said Dennis Clark, press secretary for Rep. Clarke. "Mr. Clarke felt strongly about it and he voted for it."

"I'm sure it was planned and calculated and based on Mr. Dukakis' veto of the pledge in Massachusetts in 1977," Clark said.

The controversy over the pledge began when Republican presidential candidate George Bush attacked Democrat Michael Dukakis for vetoing a 1977 Massachusetts law requiring teachers to lead the pledge, according to Kenan law professor Daniel Pollitt.

"The question was whether or not teachers had to lead it," Pollitt said. "Ordinarily, there must be a case or controversy, but in Massachusetts the (state) Supreme Court can give an advisory opinion to the governor. The Supreme Court advised the governor (in a 7-2 vote) that it was unconstitutional, so Dukakis vetoed it. Then the Massachusetts state legislature overrode the veto, but the state attorney general refused to enforce it because it was unconstitutional."

Pollitt said he opposed Bush's adamant support of a mandatory pledge. "I feel strongly about it," Pollitt said. "I feel that people who take an oath to uphold the Constitution must do so. I feel that it is just terrible for him to accuse Dukakis of something bad because he vetoed a bill that was unconstitutional. What would Bush have done? He would have had to veto the bill."

Dukakis proposes new loan policy

By CHRIS LANDGRAFF
Staff Writer

Michael Dukakis' recent proposal to allow gradual paybacks of student loans will provide students who cannot afford to assume huge debts upon graduation the opportunity to attend school, a campaign spokeswoman said Monday.

The proposal would allow students to receive government-guaranteed loans from institutions, as they do now. Under the Dukakis plan, however, students would pay the loans back gradually through paycheck reductions, similar to social security reductions.

Dukakis' opponent, George Bush, has not been highly critical of the recent proposal. "If this is a workable program which will benefit the educational system, I'm sure it is something George Bush

will work with," said Bill Graham, chairman of the Bush-Quayle campaign in North Carolina.

This proposal is one of a three-part plan to improve the American educational system, said Amy DeHart, communications director for the North Carolina Dukakis-Bentsen campaign.

"Dukakis plans to make teaching a more respected, better paid profession, help solve the illiteracy crisis, and provide a college loan program which does not prevent students from receiving a college education," DeHart said.

"The tuition plan would complement existing loan programs, but would reach beyond the college loan program which has been crippled by the Reagan administration," she said.

The program would be self-

supporting, costing the government nothing, she said.

The loans would not be interest-free, and would not be paid by the federal government. Rather, they would be paid back throughout the borrower's career through paycheck withholdings. Borrowers also would have the option of buying out of the loan or paying the money back in one piece.

The program should decrease the amount of defaults on student loans, because students would not be saddled with immediate debt, DeHart said.

Access to money is important because applicants have no prior credit record, but increased grants are also needed, said Eleanor Morris, director of student aid at UNC.

"Increased access to money is

important, but without increased grants, this program sounds only like the creation of a huge bureaucracy," she said.

The program would put a huge burden on graduates with low-paying jobs and favor those who have high-paying jobs, she said.

But DeHart disagreed, saying the slower payback plan would keep low-salary workers from being overwhelmed by payments. Professions such as teaching and nursing would also become more popular because students would no longer fear large debts, she said.

Cooperation with the banking and business communities is essential to the success of the program, but Dukakis is working with these groups and is confident that an agreement will be made, DeHart said.

Candidates exchange volleys of criticism

From Associated Press reports

Democrat Michael Dukakis charged Monday that an unsteady George Bush botched his assignments in the battle against drugs and terrorism, while the Republican nominee challenged Dukakis to state his views on the U.S. strike against Libya and invasion of Grenada.

Bush also named a panel of national security advisers including former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig as well as Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was former Democratic President Jimmy Carter's national security adviser.

Dukakis, launching a three-day counteroffensive against the Republican, charged he would cripple American defense and foreign policy,

and told 200 supporters at a union hall in Philadelphia that Bush was "disastrously and unforgivably wrong" for not warning President Reagan against selling arms to Iran in an attempt to free hostages.

Dukakis said he would restore respect for America, which he said had been undermined by Reagan-Bush failures to combat terrorism; come to grips with the trade deficit; and stop "the avalanche of drugs ... pouring across our borders."

"In each of these areas, George Bush has failed," the Massachusetts governor said.

"I want to beat our foreign competitors; he's willing to settle for second best. I want to crack down on terrorism; he knuckled under to the ayatollah. I want a real war on drugs; his answer to drug kingpins like (Panama leader Manuel) Noriega is J. Danforth Quayle," Dukakis said.

Bush, at a news conference in Washington and later at a rally before 1,000 flag-waving Cuban-Americans in Union City, N.J., cudgeled Dukakis on defense and foreign affairs as well as the economy.

"I will readily admit that I am having trouble pinning down the liberal governor of Massachusetts on his defense," Bush said in New Jersey.

Bush demanded that Dukakis spell out whether he supported the 1983 U.S. bombing raid on Libya and the invasion "to free Grenada from its Cuban masters."

"I would support those things.

Now, does he support them? Let's ask him that question," said Bush. If the answer is no, he said, Dukakis would show himself to have "veered outside the bipartisan mainstream" on national security issues. He also asked whether Dukakis would admit "that your support for a nuclear freeze was a mistake."

Film

"I object to people making protests against something they haven't seen," Hartsell said.

Protesters who have not seen the film may be reacting to their fears of an increasingly complex world with no clear-cut answers, he said.

"I think more and more people are getting really intimidated with the direction the world is taking," Hartsell said.

There has been a conservative "drift" toward stressing the effects of media on morality since the 1970s, and the political strength of this movement is evident in the controversy surrounding "Temptation," said Peter Kaufman, a UNC professor of religious studies.

The strength of conservative religious groups of today is not exceptional and is much like the atmosphere of the 1950s, Kaufman said.

"There's kind of a break in that (pattern of conservative religious political power) in the late '60s and early '70s," he said.

Conservative religious groups

Dukakis had his own questions for Bush, ranging from the Iran-contra affair to why the Reagan administration cut funds for the Coast Guard and aid for state and local drug agencies while it put "General Noriega on its payroll." Noriega is under indictment for drug trafficking charges.

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Pope begins African tour with visit to Zimbabwe

From Associated Press reports

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe — Pope John Paul II preached peace and reconciliation Monday during an open-air mass in Matabeleland, a province where tribal warfare ended only four months ago.

"No more training for war," the 68-year-old pontiff told 50,000 people at Ascot horse track in Bulwayo, the provincial capital.

"Hammer swords into plowshares, spears into sickles and nation will not lift sword against nation," he said.

John Paul, who is on the first leg of a five-nation, 10-day pilgrimage to southern Africa, flew to Bulwayo from Harare.

He was welcomed at the track by bishops in cassocks and African drummers, dancers and singers dressed in animal skins. The pope was met at Bulwayo's heavily guarded airport by Joshua Nkomo, former rival of President Robert Mugabe and now a senior minister in the socialist government.

In December, Nkomo and Mugabe signed an accord that merged their feuding political parties. As a result, nearly eight years of fighting between armed dissidents loyal to Nkomo and government troops in Matabeleland ended in May.

John Paul — speaking in English,

Latin and the two main African languages of the Shona and Ndebele tribes — lamented that the minority Ndebele people of Matabeleland did not find peace after independence from Britain on April 18, 1980.

But he prayed that their newfound peace and reconciliation would hold.

"It is only eight years since your struggle for national independence was brought to an end," the pontiff said from a red-carpeted rostrum festooned with lilies. "Even after that, many people in Matabeleland did not find true peace ... the civilian population continued to suffer from guerrilla warfare and other forms of violence."

Before the mass, John Paul was introduced by Swiss-born Matabeleland Bishop Henry Karlen who in 1984 accused troops of committing atrocities against the Ndebele, traditional foes of Mugabe's dominant Shona tribe. Mugabe denounced Karlen at the time for fabricating the charges and siding with terrorists.

Among hundreds of civilians slain in the conflict were 10 Catholic missionaries, one of whom was killed on April 19 just hours after Mugabe announced a general amnesty for rebels as part of the accord.

"The people of Matabeleland have suffered much during the liberation

war," Karlen said, referring to the seven-year guerrilla war led by separate armies under Nkomo and Mugabe against white minority rule. Matabeleland continued to suffer after independence through drought and violence, he added.

"The blood of 10 missionary martyrs of the diocese of Bulwayo has flowed into the soil," Karlen said. "May this blood bear abundant fruit."

The pope's visit to Matabeleland came four months after 113 dissidents left their bush hideouts under the amnesty, and there have been no reports of rebel-related violence since then.

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