

REP. PRICE

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The Fourth District is one of the most diverse areas of North Carolina, Price said. "This district includes everything from farmland, textile mills, small manufacturing plants, professional communities and cutting-edge technology facilities," he said. "But there is a common thread. Everyone shares the concerns of average Americans, and consumer issues—especially affordable housing and education—have been the cornerstone of my first term."

Price said he'll continue working for affordable housing, education and workplace literacy in the next two years. "To make government work for the people of Wake County, we need to make affordable housing available to everyone, make college more affordable and prepare our young people for the high-tech workplace of tomorrow."

One of Price's first moves this year was the introduction of a bill, along with Rep. Martin Lancaster, to restore income tax deductibility for interest paid on student loans and to eliminate taxes on scholarships and fellowships. "With the cost of a college degree increasing and the administration cutting federal financial aid, more students are relying on loans, scholarships and fellowships to pay their way through school," Price said. "This bill represents a small but important step in easing that debt burden."

Price also introduced legislation recently to lower the downpayment on FHA-insured mortgages for first-time homebuyers. The home ownership bill would let the Federal Housing Administration insure 97 percent of a home's value for first-time buyers, reducing the amount normally required for a downpayment by about 30 percent. Price is optimistic about the bill's passage as part of a comprehensive housing package.

"In Wake county and across the district, young families can't buy a home because they can't afford the downpayment," he said. "I hope this bill will put affordable housing back in the grasp of many young families. Home ownership should be a reality—not just a dream—for everyone."

Housing will be a major focus for Price this year, since he serves on the Housing Subcommittee of the House Banking Committee. "We'll be hammering out a comprehensive housing package for the 1990s," he said. "The housing crisis we're facing must be resolved. We need to raise the quantity and quality of affordable housing, to alleviate overcrowding and unfit conditions and increase the rate of home ownership."

Workplace literacy is the third legislative initiative Price plans in the 101st Congress. As co-chairman of the Congressional Sunbelt Caucus' Literacy Task Force, Price released a report last year on workplace illiteracy in the South. "The report took the vital first step by gathering data on workplace literacy and the economic implications for the South," he said. "But it was only a first step—a plan of action—and now it's up to us to implement that plan."

This spring, Price plans to introduce legislation to improve basic and vocational education programs. "He and his staff are working closely with literacy groups, foundations and other members of the Sunbelt Conference on the bill. "The federal government must be the catalyst in developing a legislative solution to the workplace literacy crisis," he said. "But at the same time, it's important that state and local governments heighten public awareness of existing literacy programs. In the Fourth District, for example, only five percent of the high school dropouts are enrolled in existing adult education programs."

"It's clear that we have not adequately prepared our young people for the offices and factories of tomorrow," Price said. Dropout rates are on the rise in two of the district's five counties, he said. At the same time, some local employers say future entry-level jobs will require not only a high school diploma, but post-secondary training.

On the top of Price's list for Wake County is serving as an advocate for the agricultural community. "We must maintain a viable agricultural program that benefits the small farmer," Price said. "Given the federal deficit and the budgetary climate, Congress needs to make sure farmers don't get the short end of the stick."

"I'll also be working with the Farmers Home Administration and other agency officials, bringing to their attention problems unique to North Carolina's small farmers," Price said. "Our concerns differ from those of larger farming operations in other regions, and should be addressed differently."

Wake County's infrastructure needs will remain a top priority in his session, Price said. "With the country's booming growth, its need for water and sewer service, efficient treatment facilities and better highways becomes even more critical. I'll be pushing hard to make sure that Wake County gets its fair share of the federal dollar."

BLACK CAUCUS

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stitute of Government in Chapel Hill. Peterson has coordinated and established working relationships

with staffs of state agencies and governing boards including the Advisory Budget Commission, the General Assembly, the federal government, and the board of education in several counties. Peterson also brings to the caucus vast experience in working with various departments in state government including the Department of Correction, Human Resources, Transportation, Community Colleges and the Department of Public Instruction.

Today, the caucus boasts a statewide membership of more than 1,200 with members in every county in the state. In 1984 and '88 the organization's membership formed the core for the historic Jesse Jackson presidential campaign. Bruce E. Lightner of Raleigh, Jackson's North Carolina state campaign manager, said, "Our experience with the Black Leadership Caucus has been very productive over the years. If it had not been for the caucus we would have had great difficulty in organizing an effective statewide campaign. We remain indebted to the bold leadership and vision this organization continues to provide."

Outgoing chairman, attorney Peter Grear of Wilmington, concluded, "All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win... is for enough good men and women to do nothing. We in the caucus have a Democratic wing and a Republican wing, but it takes two wings to fly."

Annual membership in the Black Leadership Caucus is \$10 per year. For more information or to join contact NCBLA, P.O. Box 244, Rockingham 28379.

NEWS BRIEFS

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inoculations and must display a dog/cat tag.

NCSU WOMEN IN THE ARTS

"North Carolina State University Women in the Arts" will be the theme of the eighth annual Susan B. Anthony birthday dinner at NCSU Monday, Feb. 20, scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the University Student Center Ballroom.

On the program at the dinner will be Phyllis Vogel of the Music Department faculty and Lee Smith, NCSU's writer-in-residence.

INSTALLATION BANQUET

The Young Democrats of Wake County will hold their annual installation banquet on Friday, Feb. 24, at the N.C. State Faculty Club. Social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. D.G. Martin, Jr. will speak at the banquet. Martin is the secretary of the University of North Carolina and a past candidate for the Ninth District congressional seat.

JUSTICE SYSTEM

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tion. Thirty-five years after Brown vs. Topeka, Kan., School Board decision, the most charitable black consensus is that America's schools are as segregated as ever. Meanwhile, America's black prison population and the numbers of black bodies stacking up daily in the nation's morgues have dizzyly risen.

This cacophonous chorus is singing one irrefutable tune: justice for the black man in America is an elusive thing, and forecasts a dire future for Americans of sable hue, no matter their attainment. Like the zany but on-target insight of that mad genius, Richard Pryor, who went to the courthouse seeking justice, "and all I found was just us," blacks of eminent stature are beginning to seriously question the entire sweep of the American system of justice.

In a bull session in a Washington, D.C. hotel lobby, a group (they shall be nameless) of prominent men, idling about between seminar sessions, raised the Judge Hastings question. Said one, "They're getting ready to lynch Judge Hastings, sure as shooting."

"Yeah," hotly agreed another, "unless we get busy and start writing our congressmen."

But, I sputtered, they've got the goods on him. Why two black congressmen—Reps. John Conyers, Jr., who chaired the Congressional Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, which held the pre-impeachment hearings, and George Crockett, Jr., who was a committee member (both are of Michigan and have impeccable credentials)—have said so.

"That's not quite true," another barked. "Conyers, who wanted to become chair of the House Government Operations Committee, was co-opted. George Crockett is a little more troubling. His head is on pretty straight, however. Remember, as a Detroit judge, he convened a post-midnight court after white cops raided that black church service and arrested all the parishioners. He issued warrants of habeas corpus, queried the prosecutor in each case in respect to individual charges and one by one cut them absolutely loose on personal recognizance. He knew these white cops would not have dared to go into a white church and arrest its members on such flimsy charges, and he acted accordingly."

"Crockett also dismissed the first 16 charges against Hastings as

phony, and agreed the final charge may have merit and, if so, the judge was just too dumb to be a federal judge," he added.

"The fact of the matter is," chimed in another man, "Judge Hastings had been cleared by the criminal court of all charges and a Justice Department ethics probe into all charges, including the last flimsy one about tipping off that Florida mayor that an FBI probe was zeroing in on him. If he had been a white judge, as Rep. Crockett points out, the criminal court finding in the so-called bribery conspiracy case would have been the end of it."

"But no," asserted another. "Hastings was a smart-assed nigger who castigates President Reagan in his speeches, so [former] Attorney Gen. Edwin Meese wanted him got. And they got him."

Snarled another, "We can't let Meese get away with it. I don't buy this bull that impeachment trials have different rules and objectives. This trial imposes double jeopardy on Judge Hastings. There is no smoking gun. Black America must come out strong in his defense."

"Even if he's guilty?" I asked.

"He is not, but even if he is guilty," one quickly responded.

What about our system of justice? I asked. Just because we believe the white man is an SOB where it comes to fair play for blacks do we want blacks to become SOBs?

"Yep," chorused this small black group of intelligent, middle-class, upper-middle-aged, college-trained (some with post-graduate degrees) professional, business and family men, who are ordinarily sturdy, level-headed, mature and wise individuals—the salt of American earth.

"Yep," they repeated. "We must begin to protect our own. To hell with all else. If we don't, who? That's the way the other side does."

COUNTY PLANS

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sioners will also have their regularly scheduled meeting at 9 a.m. at Millbrook High School. Following lunch at the school, the county commissioners will attend the Student Commissioners' Meeting at 2:30 p.m. at the Commons Building, Wake County Office Park.

Following the conclusion of the day's student activities, the Board of Commissioners will dedicate and open to the public the newly constructed Southeast Regional Library located in Garner.

To cap the week's observance, on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 8 a.m. at the Commons Building, the board will host a breakfast meeting for the former members of the Wake County Board of Commissioners. This meeting is in recognition of the contributions which all members of the board have made over the years to the growth and development of Wake County.

Commission Chairman M. Edmund Aycock indicated that County Government Week is a good time to let citizens know about new services or facilities. "It's a very good opportunity for the public to become more familiar with the facilities and services described in our annual 'Report to the People' which was recently distributed county-wide."

County government has evolved throughout the state's history to meet a growing number of needs. In recent years, counties have become more involved in providing libraries, environmental protection, planning, funding for water and sewer services, zoning, watershed protection, and economic development. Just a few years ago, these were primarily municipal responsibilities.

"Counties have become very powerful partners in the governmental structure, particularly in North Carolina," Dossenbach said. "County government derives much of its strength from the fact that it is a level of government closest to the people."

AIDS

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tivities on the part of local, state and federal government to control the spread of AIDS through drug use. "Drug treatment programs should be available to everyone" who wishes them.

While providing people with accurate information is the logical starting point for any health campaign, information alone is unlikely to be sufficient to change behaviors that involve strong and fundamental urges and addictions, the committee concluded. In order for people to change, they "must be motivated, they must believe that the changes being proposed will do some good, and they must believe they have a reasonable chance of successfully accomplishing those changes."

JUDGES' BENCH

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The measure also would block convicted drug traffickers from earning credits toward early release from prison.

The General Assembly in 1986 approved a bill allowing a panel of judges to convene a special grand jury to investigate alleged drug trafficking rings, but the measure will expire Oct. 1 unless legislation is approved to extend it.

BILL FOR PRISONS



BABY CONTEST—Raleigh Chapter No. 27, National Beauty Culturist League held its annual Baby Contest at the YWCA on East Hargett St. Pictured from left to right (Front Row) are First prize winner: Baby Lynette Robertson and Mother, Mrs. Debra Robertson, sponsor was Mrs. Janie Young; Second prize winner was Baby LaQuawn Farrar, Mother, Mrs. Betty Farrar. The sponsor was Mrs. Helen Minter. Third place went to Baby Bridget Armstrong, Mother, Mrs. Paula Armstrong. Mrs. Maggie Lucille Clark was the sponsor. Other participants were (Back Row—left to right): Baby Angel Jones, Mother, Mrs. Pauline Jones;

Japan Reduces Trade With Racist South Africa As Import Partner

BY CHESTER A. HIGGINS, SR. NAPA News Editor
WASHINGTON, D.C.—The embassy of Japan in the nation's capital announced in late January that Japan's trade with South Africa

(total imports plus exports) "has declined by 14 percent."

Japan had become racist South Africa's leading trading partner.

The embassy reports, "According to customs clearance trade statistics for 1988, Japan's trade with the Republic of South Africa declined by 14.7 percent on a yen base (to 509.5 billion) and 3.5 percent on a dollar base (to \$3.98 billion) compared with the previous year."

The report said, "These figures affirm the seriousness with which Japanese business and industry have heeded the government's call for self-restraint in their trade with South Africa." Japan had come under heavy world criticism for its earlier apparent unrestricted trade with that racist/terrorist country.

Meanwhile, the Nissan Motor Corp.'s distributor in this country, Nissan USA, has agreed without admitting wrongdoing to pay \$605,600 in back pay to settle a case of race and age bias involving 92 workers, the Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission announced. The agreement ends an investigation that began in 1984 to determine if Nissan USA violated American laws against racial and age discrimination at its Carson, Calif. headquarters and distribution and sales offices.

EEOC Chairman Clarence Thomas hailed the agreement as "significant because Nissan has committed to providing increased opportunities in high-level sales and management positions for blacks, Hispanics, women and persons covered" by U.S. anti-discrimination laws. Nissan USA agreed to revise recruitment and hiring procedures, eliminate college degree requirements for most sales and management positions; conduct annual training for management on anti-discrimination laws, and submit compliance reports to the EEOC.

PLANNER I

The City of Raleigh is seeking applications for the position of Planner I. Researches, investigates, and prepares written reports on planning policies and issues of the comprehensive plan. Collects and analyzes data for specialized plans. One to three years experience of a plan. Collects and analyzes data, particularly in neighborhood or small area planning. Bachelor's degree in planning or related. Ability to establish and maintain effective public relations and working relationships with officials, employees, and diverse community groups. \$23,472. Applications must be received or postmarked on or before 2/24; resumes cannot be accepted in lieu of applications. City of Raleigh, Personnel Dept., 222 W. Hargett St., Raleigh, NC 27602. EOE/M/F/H.

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