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Gov. Martin Says "Committed"

N. C. Minority Business Climate Improving

NEWS BRIEFS

NEA DIRECTOR



In the statewide race for National Education Association director, Eddie Davis, III was victorious in a very close race. A teacher at Hillside High School in Durham, Davis has just completed a term as NEA alternate director. He will take office on the national board, as North Carolina's representative, for a three-year term on Sept. 1. Davis defeated Yvonne Hart, a Haywood County junior high teacher, by 752 votes. The totals were 12,948 for Davis and 12,196 for Hart.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

In a landslide victory, Julia Kron has been elected to a second term as NCAE president. She will serve as state president in 1989-90 beginning July 1; and again as president in 1990-91 beginning July 1, 1990.

RINGS FOR 6-PACKS ENDORSED

The rings that hold together six-packs of soft drinks and beer would have to be biodegradable under a bill approved by the House Basic Resources Committee recently. Rep. Ray Fletcher, D-Burke, said the two manufac-

(See NEWS BRIEFS, P. 2)

The climate for minority-owned businesses in North Carolina has improved in recent years, but Gov. Jim Martin says more must be done to enhance the economic success of businesses owned by blacks, women, Indians and the handicapped.

The Martin administration says it remains committed toward increasing the number of minority-owned businesses receiving state contracts and the governor has established a four percent goal for his administra-

tion for awarding state contracts to minority-owned businesses.

"While I am not in favor of rigid quotas and set-asides, I am in favor of working to achieve better participation by minority firms in doing business with the State Of North Carolina," Gov. Martin said. "We will keep working until we get more new people involved in the system."

In January, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a law in Richmond, Va., requiring that 30 percent of city

public works funds go to minority-owned construction companies. The state will not be adversely affected by the Supreme Court's recent decision on affirmative action, Gov. Martin said.

"That ruling affects set-asides and rigid quotas in minority hiring and awarding of state contracts," the governor said. "We have goals—not quotas—so our state should not be affected by this ruling."

Last year, minority-owned com-

panies profited from the administration's goals program. As a result, these businesses received greater support from North Carolina's industry and banking leaders.

"Over the past 3½ years, the climate in North Carolina for minority business is better than ever," William W. McGee, president of the N.C. Association of Minority Businesses, told a Raleigh newspaper.

He said Gov. Martin's four-percent

goal has "been not only talk, but commitment."

An example of this commitment was a report completed last August by the Division of Purchase and Contracts recognizing that seven cabinet departments exceeded their goal of awarding state contracts to minority-owned businesses.

"You don't have to make speeches (See ECONOMIC, P. 2)

NAACP President "Disgusted"

Drug Suspect Dies In Custody

Grand Jury Decision Closes Case

GOLDSBORO (AP)—Two white police officers placed on inside duties after a black drug suspect died in their custody earlier this year may go back on patrol, Police Chief J.P. Morgan said.

But Dorothy Whitted Hardy, president of the Goldsboro-Wayne County Branch of the NAACP, said letting the officers resume their normal activities would pose a danger to the public.

A Wayne County grand jury ruled recently that no charges were warranted against the officers in the death of Washington, D.C. native James E. Swan.

Swan was declared dead in a police car at the Wayne County magistrate's office on the evening of Feb. 1. He earlier had resisted arrest during a drug raid. In addition to the two officers, several other officers, both black and white, were required to subdue him and place him in the car, according to police.

An autopsy released in April ruled Swan died from anoxia, or lack of oxygen, due to neck compression.

The grand jury, made up of three blacks and 15 whites, returned its decision after meeting three days in special session.

The purpose of the NAACP is to assure civil rights of all citizens are protected, according to the statement. "For this reason, we cannot allow the verdict of the special grand jury in the James Earl Swan case to

(See POLICE DUTIES, P. 2)



MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION—Activities like this one at the Vietnam War Memorial on the state capitol grounds were repeated all across the country as people gathered to celebrate Memorial Day and honor America's military veterans. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

Quality Of Life For Children In N. C. Reported On Steady Decline

A recent study by the North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute reveals that the quality of life for North Carolina's 1.6 million children has dropped in the past year.

The institute's 1989 Children's Index looked at 30 indicators. The study

found that nine had improved, 10 remained unchanged and 11 showed a decline in the quality of life for the state's children.

Most of the positive changes were the result of public policy, says Ar-buckle. For example, 1,000 more

children received mental health services in the past year, largely as a result of legislative funding of the state's child mental health services plan.

Legislative action also permitted 6,800 more children under six years of age to receive health care through the Medicaid program.

The 1989 index shows just as clearly the impact of bad policy on the state's children, says Margaret Arbuckle of the institute. For example, she adds, new paperwork and monthly income reporting requirements added by the state to the food stamp program appear to have had a hand in cutting 13,000 poor children from the program, a drop of 6.9 percent.

The study revealed that the number of children participating in the state's subsidized child care programs dropped by almost three percent from

(See WELFARE, P. 2)

Aggressive Participants

New Strategy Urged To Fight Racism

BY ALLIE M. PEEBLES

Contributing Writer

NAACP members from more than 124 branches across the state of North Carolina met at Raleigh's Civic Center recently to witness the crowning of the Mother of the Year by the national board chairman, Dr. William F. Gibson of Greenville, S.C. This Freedom Fund rally was started more than 30 years ago by the late Kelly Miller Alexander, Sr., longtime state president. A musical program

set the tone for the rally.

Participants in the program were the Martin Luther King Children's Choir of Raleigh the Erskine Lowe Youth Choir of Spring Lake, and the Youth in Christ Choir of Garner.

The reigning queen, Ms. Deloris Lindsay of the Fayetteville Branch, led the mothers and their escorts in, following the invocation given by Rev. H.B. Pickett, president of the Raleigh-Apex Branch. After all of the mothers were introduced, greetings

were brought by Ms. Mary Perry and Janess F. White. Presiding over the event was Melvin "Skip" Alston, first vice president, who announced that the state president, Kelly M. Alexander, Jr., was ill. The second vice president, Milton Dove, was asked to introduce the other state officers.

Ms. Florine Robinson, president of the Durham County Branch, introduced the guest speaker, Dr. William F. Gibson. Dr. Gibson's topic was "Our Time Has Come, But Our

Day Has Not Yet Arrived." He used the analogy of the Israelites when they fled from Egypt headed for the Promised Land. They wandered and some lost faith and hope. Gibson reiterated that blacks were led out of slavery, but we have not made up our minds. Are we willing to pay the price? Some of us are, but some of us are not willing. The walls have tumbled, but bigotry and racism are still around. The Promised Land isn't completed.

"What class am I?" asked the speaker. "I know what race I am." Gibson made many references to the Reagan administration and to the present one. Of the 340 federal judges appointed by the former president, it is interesting to note that only four of them were black. "Racism is still alive," continued Gibson.

Blacks need a new strategy. We need an agenda. We need to stop thinking of ourselves as grasshoppers who cannot win. First, we need to believe in our cause. "God is not going to do it all." Our plan to complete the civil rights agenda must be one in which we love one another and one in which we must be aggressive participants.

Following the speech, Riddick Wilkins, the state treasurer, announced that Ms. Judy Musgrave was the winner of the Mothers' March with a total of \$9,321.18. She was crowned by Dr. Gibson. Runners-up were from Charlotte, Durham and Catawba County. Chairperson of the state Mothers' March was Ms. Ann Shipman of Fayetteville. Assisting her were several members of the Raleigh-Apex Branch.

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THE CHALLENGE—Dr. William F. Gibson, speaker for the NAACP's recent "Mothers' March," emphasized the civil rights struggle is not over during the crowning of the

Mother of the Year, Ms. Judy Musgrave from Fayetteville, was crowned queen of the North Carolina Conference of branches of the NAACP.



IRVING CONGRATULATED—Atty. Clyde A. Douglas, chairman of the Annual Memorial Day Service sponsored by Raleigh Post Number 1 of the American Legion congratulates Charles G. Irving for his years of attendance at these services at the National Cemetery. Irving, a veteran of World War I celebrated his 93rd birthday on May 26, 1988. A former Vice-Commander of the North Carolina Department of the American Legion, he has served as Post Commander, Adjutant and Service Officer of the Charles T. Norwood Post No. 157 of The American Legion, Raleigh, N.C. In the background is Mr. Leon Murphy, Director of the National Cemetery, Raleigh.