

BLACKS FARE WELL IN 1970 ELECTIONS

WASHINGTON -- Of more than 300 black candidates who ran for political office in the South in the November 3 elections, 114--or more than a third of the total--won races to give Southern blacks their greatest gains in any campaign year since Reconstruction, the Joint Center for Political Studies reported.

Across the Southern United States, black candidates were elected to such varied positions as probate judge, school board member, mayor, prosecutor, city councilman, alderman, state representative, state senator and Congressman, according to the Center, a non-partisan research, information service program co-sponsored by Howard University and the Metropolitan Applied Research Center (MARC).

JCPS assessed the gains for South's blacks based upon data it gathered in a state-by-state, post-election survey of the voting. Information available at the center shows that black office-seekers of the South, while comprising almost half of all the 650 or more black candidates in the nation's 1970 elections, scored precedent setting victories that matched the dramatic advances the ethnic group registered at the polls throughout the U. S. in November.

A black was elected to Congress from the South for the first time since Reconstruction. Democrat Parren Mitchell of Baltimore, college professor at Morgan State, earned the distinction when he finished as the frontrunner in the race for the seat from Maryland's 7th Congressional District. Two blacks were elected as state legislators in Alabama, also the first for the group since Reconstruction. In South Carolina, three blacks won seats in the state legislature, where Negroes had not had a representative since 1901.

Cotton Plant, Arkansas, a town with a mixed population of 1800, elected a black, Emmitt J. Connelly, as mayor, marking the first time in history a Negro was voted into that office.

In other Southern races involving blacks, four of them were elected a sheriffs, eight as county commissioners, 20 as school board

members, 39 as state representatives, ten as city councilmen, four as aldermen and four as county councilmen.

Blacks also won election to some lesser offices in the South, such as county clerk, county coroner, circuit court clerk and supreme court clerk.

Results of the elections indicate that there was an increased activity at the polls among blacks with an estimated 50 per cent of those registered to vote having turned out to cast ballots in races involving black candidates. Where the 114 blacks emerged victorious in the 11 states of the South is shown here: Alabama (21); Arkansas (4); Florida (3); Georgia (30); Maryland (10); Mississippi (10); North Carolina (10); South Carolina (14); Tennessee (9); Texas (2); and West Virginia (1).

Off-year elections were not held in the remaining three Southern States--Kentucky, Louisiana and Virginia.

Black candidates in the South fared best in political races at the state level, JCPS disclosed. As a result of the elections, the number of blacks in the lower houses of the Southern states increased from 37 to 51--a gain of 14 seats or an overall 7 per cent hike. Increased also was the number of black state senators in Southern legislature with the breakdown as follows: Georgia (2); Kentucky (1); Maryland (2); Tennessee (2); Texas (1); and Virginia (1). Today, 11 blacks have been voted the right to sit in the upper chambers of the South's state houses.

The 1970 elections saw the emergence of a new political pattern: Blacks running for offices on black third party tickets in the South. While most black candidates followed tradition and ran as major party nominees on the Democratic or Republican ticket, several others campaigned as mavericks. In Alabama, the third party blacks were impressively successful, winning 12 races. One of them -- Thomas Reed, a nominee of the National Democratic Party of Alabama--won a seat in the state

legislature (the other black elected legislator in the state is Democrat Fred Gray, an attorney). NDPA candidate William McKinley Branch became Alabama's first black probate judge with his election victory. Elected as sheriffs were two blacks who ran on the NDPA ticket: Thomas Gilmore (Green County) and John Hulett (Lowndes County). Three school board offices were won by NDPA candidates John Head and Ersie Chambers of Greene County and Clinton Thornton of Bullock County. In races for coroner, NDPA nominees won in Bullock County. (Reymond Allen); Green County (Abner Milton); and Lowndes County (Willie Ed McGhee). Wadine Williams, an NDPA candidate, was elected as circuit court clerk in Lowndes County.

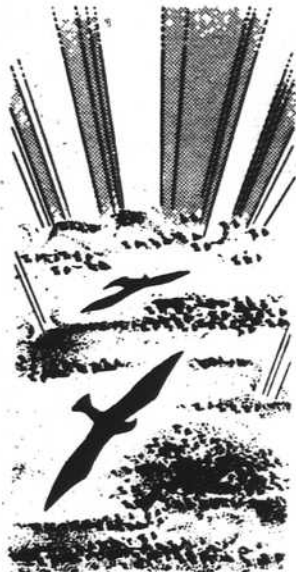
Overall, 21 blacks came out first in elections in Alabama. Among them were incumbent Sheriff Lucius Amerson of Tuskegee; and Red Williams, first-time elected sheriff of Bullock County.

Eleven other blacks who ran on third party tickets in the South were not so successful as they competed for offices that have been considered "safely white" in Southern states since Reconstruction. In Alabama, Dr. John Cashin, a black dentist who campaigned as the nominee of the state's National Democratic Party (NDPA), finished second to George Wallace in the race for governor. In South Carolina's gubernatorial contest, black candidate Thomas Broadwater of the United Citizens Party ended up third behind Democrat John West, who won the election; and GOP nominee Albert Watson, the runnerup. Two black third-party candidates ran losing campaigns for lieutenant governorships in the South; Isaiah Hayes III in Alabama and Robert McTeer in South Carolina.

A black independent candidate named William R. Thompson opposed U. S. Senator John Stennis of Mississippi but could not unseat the veteran Senate leader.

Of seven blacks who lose races for Congress in the South, six of them were third-party candidates; Eugene Carter (Mississippi); and

(See Blacks page 15)



SPALDING MORTUARY

310 FOREMASTER LANE

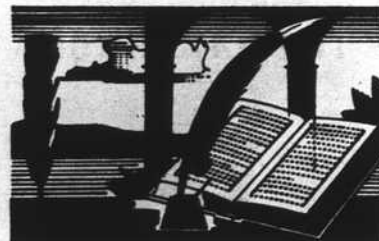
ONE CALL HANDLES EVERYTHING

384-9642



JOE W. SPALDING
NEVADA'S 1st. AND ONLY BLACK
LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTOR

FIND SOLACE
FOR YOUR
SORROW
THROUGH ...



**YOU ARE INVITED TO BRING
YOUR CLERGYMAN WITH YOU**

LET
JOE W. SPALDING
BE
**THE MAN YOU LEAN ON
IN A LONELY HOUR**

What makes it lonely is not just the suddenness, the sense of loss, the grief. It is also the bewilderment, the strangeness, the wondering what to do.

Your own need then...at once...is someone to lean on. Someone who can replace confusion with calm, doubts with certainty, questions with answers. Your own need then...is someone who knows what to do...and goes about doing it quietly, gently, sympathetically, with efficiency and dignity.

This is what I have been trained by education, apprenticeship and experience to be...and to do. This is my mission. To be an island of calm. To counsel. To help. To reassure.

My experience and understanding make it easy for you to make the decisions you alone must make about the type of service, where it will be held. Putting at your disposal the facilities of the funeral home and taking care of an almost unbelievable multitude of necessary details.

But beyond all the necessary physical things doing what the family invariably remembers and treasures most is that here, in their lonely hour, was a man they could lean on, depend on.