

GREEN SUPPORTERS GET ROUGH TREATMENT

Gray, along with C. Delores Tucker, Bowser's campaign manager, were called to task by the convention for their endorsement of Bill Green before the convention process. Delegates reminded Tucker that less than two months ago she was telling the Black community that a vote for Bill Green was a vote for Rizzo. The attempts of Gray and Tucker to defend their actions were rejected with boos by the convention, which led to Gray's premature departure from the convention.

Another indication of the thrust toward independent politics was the vote received by Consumer Party candidates. At Phase II of the BPC no Consumer Party candidate got more

than 10 votes. However, in Phase III, three Consumer Party candidates, Lee Frissel (Comptroller), Max Weiner and Ralph Wynder (both for Council-at-large) got majority votes. Had the 2/3 majority rule been suspended, as in Phase II, they would have made the Human Rights Slate. Nevertheless, their vote total was a clear indication that independent politics is on the agenda for the Black Community.

COMING OUT OF THE CONVENTION

The first task is to develop a campaign structure for the endorsed candidates. Currently, activists are meeting to form a "Committee to elect the Human Rights Slate" which would be the campaign organization for the endorsed candidates. This would not

preclude candidates from having their own organizations, but will help facilitate a team concept to centralize tasks such as the production of literature, fundraising and volunteer coordinators.

At this point the Human Rights Slate consists of Blackwell for mayor, Valerie Lane for City Commissioner, John Anderson for Council at Large, and Lucien Blackwell, David Fattah, and John Street for City Council in the 3rd, 4th and 5th councilmanic districts respectively. This leaves a large number of slots where no candidates have been endorsed. Many convention activists feel that efforts must be made to put forward more candidates for council and row offices, including support for those who received significant support at the convention but failed to gain endorsement because of the 2/3rds majority rule.

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The following article was contributed to the Organizer by a journalism student in attendance at the Black Political Convention. The Organizer welcomes opinion, analysis, and news articles from its readers.

Councilman Lucien Blackwell, who is also president of International Longshoremen's Association, Local 1332, has accepted nomination as a third party candidate for mayor in November.

Minutes after being endorsed by the Black Political Convention Phase III, in which Bill Green was barred from speaking, Blackwell told a group of reporters, "Blacks and whites are capable of making their own decisions. If I run, I'll not only be a Black people's candidate but a poor people's. . . This system gives poor whites a little bit and gives Blacks nothing."

Several delegates of the 116 organizations registered, including John Street, raised the question of funding for the endorsed independent. "Anyone who thinks we can elect an independent candidate without money is a fool", said Street, "we need to take a long, hard, serious look at this thing."

State Representative Milton Street, who had on the previous day endorsed Republican David Marston for mayor, added that if the endorsement were not followed up by cash and community sup-

port, then, "they've put this man up here for nothing." Street also warned the delegates, "If we run an independent and we lose, don't expect me to deal with them." (the two majority parties)

The last statement by Street drew boos and cries of indignation from the crowd. Delegates made it clear to Street that as an elected official, he is responsible to the community and that he is obligated to keep "dealing with them".

After Street spoke, Blackwell stated, "I'm not worried about the consequences right now. We have always supported the two major parties and what have they done?" He also warned the convention against thinking it must match the corporate structure "dollar for dollar" in any political endeavor. "It's not the money, it's what you do out there in the fields. If I decide to accept, then I'll accept the consequences." Blackwell said that he considered himself "another instrument they (poor people) are using to free themselves."

Earlier in the evening, delegates passed a motion disallowing Democratic candidate Bill Green from speaking because of his failure to sign the convention's four-point pledge for all candidates.

Several delegates addressed the convention, blasting Green for what they considered his lack of respect and his failure to take the convention and the

Black community seriously. "A vote for Green is a vote for the Rizzo machine!" shouted one delegate. "If the Democrats or Rizzo had asked him to sign the pledge, he'd sign the pledge," said Milton Street.

Following discussion, the delegates voted by more than the two-thirds majority needed to bar Green from speaking. When it was made official that Green would not speak, the audience shouted "Go Home, Green."

The section of the pledge that Green objected to required candidates to "constantly act out of my accountability to the manifest virtues of the Black community as revealed at present through the Black United Front and whatever interest the Convention will establish."

Green said that to sign the pledge was to give the Black United Front a "blank check". Green knew in advance that he would be barred from speaking because of his failure to sign the pledge. His supporters tried unsuccessfully to pass a motion allowing him to speak anyway.

State Representative David P. Richardson, who has a long record of struggling for the community, was also drafted by the convention as a third party candidate to oppose incumbent Joseph Coleman in the 8th councilmanic district. Although he supports the Human Rights Slate, Richardson has chosen not to run.