

Racist former governor hammers away at Carter

ATLANTA — Lester Maddox, an old-style racial segregationist who preceded President Carter as governor of Georgia and then served under him as an adversary lieutenant governor, was in an expansive mood.

"There's not a better campaigner in the world than Jimmy Carter but he's not heavy enough to do the job," said the former international symbol of resistance to the civil rights movement.

"Carter is a lightweight," said Maddox, grinning, enjoying an opportunity to say that the president is "mean and vicious."

"He has an ugly attitude. He's cold. He's dishonest. A lot of this has come out during the campaign."

Maddox, a Democrat, said before the election he would vote for Republican Ronald Reagan.

It probably also should be said that nobody much listens anymore to Maddox, now 65, ailing and down on his luck.

Things were different in 1966 when racial confrontation put the colorful and controversial restaurateur in the governor's chair.

The balding bicyclist, who did a lot of public pedaling before anyone talked about an energy crisis, was sworn in just two years after American television viewers watched with outrage or approval as he brandished a pistol and chased three black ministers from his downtown Atlanta restaurant.

The self-described "watchdog for the little people" leased his restaurant — at a loss of \$500,000, he said — rather than integrate it.

To his critics, Maddox was the silliest man ever to sit in the governor's chair. To his supporters, he was a fiery advocate of personal and states' rights.

Things went wrong for Maddox after his stint as lieutenant governor. He was defeated in two subsequent political ventures and in a couple of attempts to get back into selling his skillet-fried chicken.

Despite a heart attack two years ago that almost killed him, he even tried show business with a night club act dubbed "The Governor and the Dishwasher."

His partner in that venture was a black ex-convict named Bobby Lee Fears.

"I think Bobby Lee's back in jail now," Maddox said in an interview at his real estate office, which was empty except for the interviewer and the former paper boy and factory worker who became governor.

"I was happiest when I was a successful businessman," said Maddox, a non-smoking, teetotaling staunch Baptist. "In those days I had plenty of time for my family and my church."

He said he has no plans to get back into politics or the restaurant business.

"I left public service owing more than \$60,000 in campaign debts," he said. "That was more than my salary in the job."

Of his financial situation now, he said, "It's still terrible."

He laughed when he said it and added, "Things are picking up a little now. Business comes in spurts."

Maddox said his views on race have not changed over the years.

"People ought to have the right not to integrate if they choose not to integrate," he said, but he boasted that he had appointed more blacks to state posts than any of his predecessors.

Maddox said Carter gained strength in the South "by telling people Lester is a friend of mine."

Maddox is disappointed that his friend, former Alabama Gov. George Wallace, supported Carter and endorsed the Democratic platform.

He said that although Wallace should have known better, "George will always be a friend of mine."

"Carter has surrounded himself with smart alics rather than smart people," Maddox said. "Reagan is

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sincere, for real, but he's really not an in-depth thinker. But I think he's willing to admit mistakes and call on others to help him."

Maddox said his health still is good enough to walk to the capitol to visit with old friends, which he said was a seven-mile round trip from his modest real estate office.

"I'm still welcome up there," he said.

While he was in the governor's mansion, Maddox's oldest son was arrested for burglary.

"It was a painful thing," Maddox told newsmen with tears in his eyes. "I turned him over and I could see his little old head sitting up in the back of the (police) car as they drove off."

The poignancy of that remark moved even some of those who believed Maddox was the silliest man ever to sit in the governor's chair.

Since Maddox has no plans to get back into the fried chicken business, he was willing to share a secret.

"You have to pan fry it," he said. "Don't deep fry it. Each piece has to be put in the pan — skin side down first. Never submerge the chicken in the fat. You have to fry each piece by hand. It takes more labor and fuel than these fast-food methods, but it's worth it."

The phone rang only twice during the interview. Neither caller wanted to buy any real estate.

Mistrial ruled in murder

WICHITA FALLS — A Wichita County prosecutor said Wednesday there would be no strategy changes in the retrial of a woman who claims she was insane when she carved the heart out of her 4-year-old daughter.

District Attorney Tim Eysen said he spoke with Judge Keith Nelson about a retrial but no date was set.

Patricia Ann Frazier, 25, who said her daughter was possessed by demons, was returned to the county jail after a seven-man, five-woman jury Tuesday concluded 14½ hours of deliberation by ruling it could never unanimously determine if she was insane when she killed her daughter.

After a 10-2 vote in favor of conviction, Nelson declared a mistrial.

"I don't have any idea when the

case will be reset," Eysen said. "I guess it would be the first of the year."

"It's doubtful that we (prosecutors) will do much different. We've talked to some of the jurors and we're satisfied with the way the trial went."

Frazier was charged with the slaying and mutilation of her daughter, Khunji Wilson, who was found on the front seat of a car in February. Her heart had been cut out and was found nearby, wrapped in a washcloth.

Lerew said Frazier was insane, that she had killed her daughter in an exorcism rite believing demons lived in the child. Eysen told jurors that the insanity claim was a ruse because Frazier wanted to be free of the child.

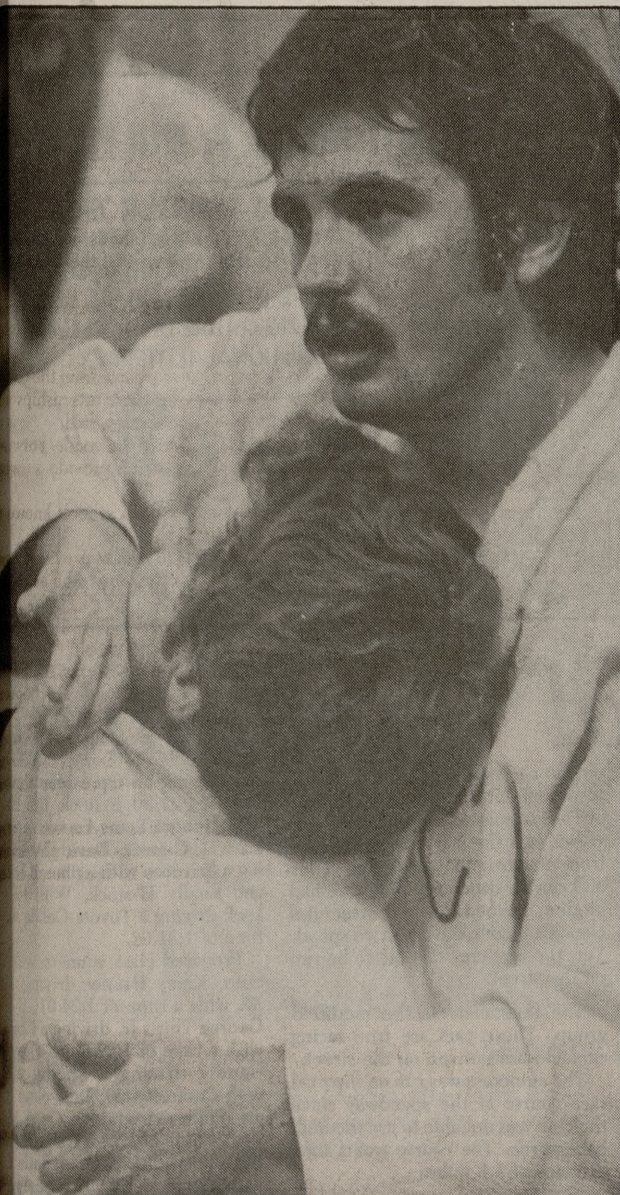


Photo by Pamela Eades

The neck bone connected to ...

Larry Kapitan, a physical science graduate student from Kentucky, demonstrates a judo hold on Michael Leggett, a junior electrical engineering major from Wisebaden, Germany. The demonstration came during a Free University class Monday night.

Bomb threat delays GOP win celebration

AUSTIN — The Republican celebration at the Sheraton Crest interrupted during Ronald Reagan's victory speech Tuesday night by a bomb threat that sent crowds of otherwise happy Republicans into the hotel's parking lot for about 20 minutes.

"Everybody shrugged it off," said Gary Hoitsma, Texas press coordinator of the Reagan campaign.

Hoitsma said a hotel employee notified the master of ceremonies at the victory party in the main ballroom that there had been a bomb threat and everybody should leave the room immediately.

He said the same thing happened

at the Reagan victory party after the primary election. That time, Hoitsma said, he took a call at the Villa Capri Motel from a person with a foreign accent who told him, "you'd better leave the hall or you'll be blown to bits at 9:30."

On that occasion, and again Tuesday night, the victorious Republicans left the party for a short time while the ballrooms were searched. In neither case was there a bomb.

Mark Heckmann of the Reagan campaign said, "I wouldn't begin to speculate about the political affiliation of who did it. I wouldn't accuse the Democrats and I wouldn't accuse anybody else."

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