

McPhail: We discovered what happened because we did a recount. Otherwise, we would never have known. They literally stole the election. They added people's names to poll books, for whom there is no application to vote, which is outright voter fraud. They made up ballots for people who didn't vote, and they were seen doing it, and I have a witness who saw them doing it. They did something with the absentee ballots, in addition to adding names. They transferred votes of mine to another candidate in order to lift his numbers.

EIR: When you say "they," who are you talking about?

McPhail: I'm talking about the clerk's office, the people who work for the city clerk, and there's not many of them involved, there's just a few. But they are pretty careless, and they were observed doing it.

EIR: This is the City of Detroit?

McPhail: Yes, the City of Detroit is one, but there were problems all over the county. Two-thirds of the election could not be audited, could not be recounted, because of tampering with locks and seals on the ballot boxes.

EIR: What was the actual vote? How much did you lose by?

McPhail: Eleven thousand votes.

EIR: And you found evidence that would invalidate that election?

McPhail: It should. If it doesn't, I don't know what would invalidate an election. But, let me tell you, there's no way it's going to happen, because the people who would have to do it are all in the pocket of the guy who supposedly won, Mike Duggan.

EIR: Is Mike Duggan in office now?

McPhail: No, Jan. 1. So there's actually time to do something about it.

EIR: Do you have documentation?

McPhail: I have the last page of the poll books, where they added the names, and the county canvass actually showed that they had added names. The canvassers were ordered in the poll books, but they didn't canvass every precinct, like they're supposed to. So you see there are only some where you're going to find what the county canvass turned up. The only way you can discover that people's names have been added to the poll books, is that you have to check the poll book names against the applications to vote, which people sign when they come in to vote. They do that in every precinct; they just spot did it. On the ones where they did it, they found all these names and no applications to vote.

So, in looking at the poll books in the recount, we found a number of them, and I've got copies of those. I've got pages of the transcript of the recount hearing, where the Board of

Canvassers said that there was no way to get a fair recount, that we didn't get one, and that we *couldn't* get one, because the election was so screwed up and mismanaged. They just outright said that.

EIR: Will you have to go into court to get the election overturned?

McPhail: Within seven days of the recount, I had to do that.

EIR: Do you think you would have won, had there been a legitimate vote?

McPhail: Yes. People are pretty outraged, as outraged as people around here get, about this, but they just don't do anything. I think it's a feeling of helplessness that takes them over.

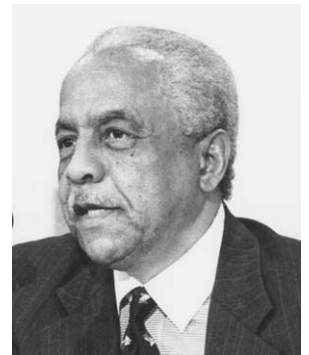
EIR: Well, we've certainly seen that on the macro front. People see a stock market crash and a collapse of the financial system going on all around them and continue to say that everything is fine. So, their not reacting on this is not so surprising. Combined with what's going on in Camden and the school case, it's important to get this kind of picture out.

McPhail: That's what's going on, and we're just fighting.

Interview: Ed Vaughn

Rights Are Being Repeatedly Violated

Rep. Ed Vaughn (D-Detroit) first served in the Michigan Legislature during 1978-79. He was elected again in 1994, and currently serves as Minority Vice-Chair of the Constitutional Law and Ethics Committee, and is a member of the Committees on Economic Development, and Regulatory Reform. He formerly chaired the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus, and is currently the First Vice-Chair. Under term-limit legislation, Representative Vaughn will lose his seat in January 2001. He ran a challenge for president of the Detroit chapter of the NAACP in the Nov. 9 election, where



Rep. Ed Vaughn

he made a key part of his campaign the issue of last year's takeover of the Detroit city schools. He discussed this campaign with EIR on Nov. 1.

EIR: You're running for president of the Detroit NAACP?

Vaughn: The Detroit branch of the NAACP, which is the largest NAACP branch in America.

EIR: Why are you running?

Vaughn: I'm running because the Detroit branch has not addressed itself to the needs of the people of Detroit. Their constitutional, civil, and human rights have been repeatedly violated in the city. The NAACP says nothing, because it has, through its president, sold out to the special interests. His name is Rev. Wendell Anthony.

EIR: As I understand it, you're running, at least in part, because you were fighting the takeover of the Detroit city schools. Are you still doing that?

Vaughn: Oh, yes. We're fighting to get our schools back, and this campaign is very much a part of that. The NAACP said absolutely nothing when our schools were taken.

EIR: This school takeover fits a pattern. I wonder if you'd comment on this. You have, in Camden, New Jersey, the takeover of the city council of a largely black and Hispanic city. You have the threat in Philadelphia of the takeover of its schools with large minority populations, and already, schools have been taken over and privatized in the largely black Philadelphia suburb of Chester. Inkster schools have been taken over, as I understand it.

Vaughn: That's right, by the Edison Institute.

EIR: They want to bring in the Edison Institute in Philadelphia and Chester, Pennsylvania, too. How do you see this pattern playing itself out?

Vaughn: I think it will continue, and I think what they're doing is raiding black communities, sucking up as much of the money as they possibly can, in the name of a better education for black children, but that is not the issue. The issue is that they want to suck up all the money.

EIR: Have you seen a better education for black children?

Vaughn: It has not happened, it will not happen, it *can't* happen, because the community is not involved in the school schemes that they have. We have a voucher issue on the ballot in Michigan, Proposal One. The governor has set up a whole plethora of charter schools. The Edison Institute is raiding everything. I understand the Detroit Public Schools now has offered to give them all of the "bad" schools. It is a sad situation. They are raiding, all in the name of education for underprivileged children, but what they really are doing is just stealing money. They're stealing the wealth of these communities, and I think it's a tragedy that they're doing it, and it's

a tragedy that all of these disparate forces are jumping into bed together to do it.

You've got the Mayor of Detroit, the Governor of Michigan, the UAW [United Auto Workers union]—all jumped into bed together to take our school system.

EIR: If you were president of the NAACP in Detroit, what would you do?

Vaughn: The first thing I would do now is join the lawsuit against the Deform Board—we call it the Deform Board—with Sharon McPhail and George Washington, the attorneys who are pushing that lawsuit, Black Parents for Quality Education, and a lot of the children are part of that lawsuit. The NAACP should join with it, because it is a violation of our constitutional rights. I thought that's what the NAACP was supposed to be about.

I would speak out on the police brutality, and work with the people in the city who are trying to develop a program to deal with the police brutality issue, the Citizens Against Police Brutality, headed by Ron Scott. I'd join in with them to deal with this issue.

The present NAACP president is very much a part of the [Detroit Mayor William] Archer Administration. He kowtows to them. He's almost like a spokesperson for them. The city gave him some land, so I suppose that's why he has never said anything against the city's participation in the violation of the civil rights and human rights and constitutional rights of the citizens. He gave him some land for his church, so I guess that's why he's happy about that. But he says nothing.

In fact, he was very much a part of the school takeover effort. He held a meeting of black-owned corporations in the city to try to show that these corporations were not getting qualified workers and had a need for qualified workers. The reason they said they were not getting qualified workers was because Detroit schools were so bad, which was a bigger lie than Chicken Little told. But that's the lie they told, and the NAACP called for that meeting.

EIR: If you're the president of the Detroit NAACP, you would presumably have a little say in the way the NAACP is run nationally, which has been not all that different from what you just described in Detroit, i.e., in bed with the Gore machine in the Democratic Party. Would you like to see a change in the national direction of the NAACP?

Vaughn: A major criticism of Reverend Anthony here, is that he is too closely tied to the Democratic Party politics, and has turned the NAACP into a partisan organization. He was the first person to put his arms around Joe Lieberman at the debate that they had in the Carolinas. He was the first one to run up and hug Lieberman. He's very actively involved in the Gore campaign. That's his right and that's his privilege, but he has put the NAACP squarely on that side, but at the same time, he doesn't join the campaigns to eliminate those who would violate the civil rights in the city.