THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

For 119 Years, The South's Standard Newspaper

Copyright © 1988 The Atlanta Constitution

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1988

SPORTS FINAL

Eaves guilty of taking bribes;

Lomax, Young call it 'tragic'

25 CENTS

'I ask myself, how is it that so many neighborhoods are continuing to fail, while so many lending institutions are continuing to pass?'

— Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.), chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban **Affairs Committee**



A test that few banks fail—in federal eyes

Regulators say 98% obey lending law, but skeptics say communities shorted

By Bill Dedman

Each year the U.S. government grades America's 17,000 banks and savings and loans on how fairly they serve their communities, including workingclass and minority neighbor-

hoods. Across the country last year, 98 percent of the lenders passed. In the South, 99 percent passed, according to federal agencies.

Supporters of working-class and minority neighborhoods suspect grade inflation.

"Regulators seem to think we all live in Lake Wobegon. Like the children of that fictional village, U.S. lenders are all above average," said Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.), chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee.

Besides the annual exams, regulators are required by law to consider lending patterns when a bank applies for approval of a special action, such as opening a branch or buying another bank.

In the past 10 years, regulators have denied eight of 50,000 special applications because of unfair lending, according to federal agencies.

"I wish I had graders like that when I was in school," Prox-



mire said. "And I ask myself, how is it that so many neighborhoods are continuing to fail; while so many lending institutions are continuing to pass?"

Although applications are rarely denied, the law does allow for delays while regulators consider citizen challenges of a bank's record. A delayed merger can cost a bank a bundle in lost profits. Increasingly, community groups are filing such chal-

Banks resent the pressure. "They're a pain in the neck, and as far as we're concerned it's pure ol' blackmail, and I think we are going to see a lot more of it," Edward Crutchfield, chief executive officer of First Union Corp., said in a speech to a bank marketing convention shortly before First Union moved to Atlanta in 1986.

> "They said we did not have LAW Continued on Page 14A

WALTER STRICKLIN/Staff

A. Reginald Eaves (center) walks down Mitchell ter his conviction in federal court on three of Street surrounded by some of his supporters af- four counts of extortion.

Official convicted on 3 of 4 federal

By Gail Epstein and Gary Hendricks Staff Writers

A federal jury Monday found suspended Fulton County Commissioner A. Reginald Eaves guilty of accepting \$35,000 in FBI cash in exchange for his zoning votes, and many county officials said they were saddened by the verdict and hoped they could restore public confidence in county government.

The nine-woman, three-man jury — which included one black man - returned its verdict after nearly 21/2 days of deliberations, finding Eaves guilty of three of the four extortion charges against him. The evidence included 20 audio tapes and four videotapes of secretly recorded conversations between Eaves and government witnesses.

Eaves showed no emotion as the verdict was read in a packed courtroom. One of his defense attorneys, Jack Goger, reached over and patted him on the knee.

Outside the courtroom, some 50 of Eaves' supporters greeted him with loud applause and cries of "Reg-gie, Reg-gie." They broke into gospel songs as they escorted him out of the courthouse, and one woman held up a sign saying, "We shall overcome."

Eaves smiled, but defense attorney David Walbert said he had instructed him not to make any public statements.

Walbert declined to say whether Eaves would appeal the verdict. "There's not much we can say, obviously," he said in an interview. "We were very hopeful. We thought we put up a good defense."

Eaves faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine on each count on which he was found guilty. U.S. District Judge Orinda Evans set sentencing for June 27, and U.S. Attorney Robert Barr said the government would make a "very strong recommendation" to the court.

"It is fair to say that we were outraged at what was shown in the tapes," Fulton Commission Chairman Michael Lomax said after the verdict. "That is not how business is conducted in this courthouse and not the way business should be conducted in this courthouse."

EAVES Continued on Page 16A

United Methodists soundly defeat proposal to allow gay clergy

By Gustav Niebuhr Religion Writer

ST. LOUIS — United Methodists dealt decisively with one of the most explosive issues facing their church by rejecting a proposal Monday that they ordain homosexuals as ministers.

By a vote of 676-293, delegates to the Gen-

eral Conference, the church's legislative arm, defeated an attempt to rewrite the church's bylaws by eliminating a ban on homosexual

Shortly thereafter, by an even larger margin, the delegates voted to retain a statement that "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching" and should not be condoned by Methodists.

The debate before both votes was sometimes emotional, occasionally deeply personal, as when one Iowa delegate said he had been raped as a teenager by a bisexual man The delegate, the Rev. Donald Carver, spoke for ordaining homosexuals, saying he had come to terms with the trauma through the

understanding shown him by a homosexual

After the votes, the proceedings were briefly interrupted when a group of about 50 gay Methodists and their supporters mounted a singing protest: "We are gentle, angry peo-

GAYS Continued on Page 16A

Reagans used astrologers, book claims

First lady allegedly set schedule by the stars

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON - First lady Nancy Reagan consulted astrologers regularly to determine the timing of presidential speeches and announcements, former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan says in a soon-to-be-published book, informed sources said Monday.

While Regan attributes to Mrs. Reagan most of the responsibility for the astrological consultation and its effect on President Reagan's schedule, an administration official said of the president, "He is definitely aware of it; he approved of

The official said the consultation of astrologers by the Reagans to determine the presidential schedule was "a very, very, very closely held secret" because aides "feared the public might misunderstand." The official said only a handful of aides were aware of it.

A source close to the Reagans ASTROLOGY Continued on Page 16A

INSIDE TODAY

VOL. 120, NO. 225 D 88 PAGES, 8 SECTIONS

Sunny and warm

It will be mostly sunny in the Atlanta area today, with a high near 80. Tonight will be fair with a low around 50. Details, 10F.

BUSINESS	SECTION
METRO & STATE	SECTION
NATION/WORLD	SECTION
PEOPLE	SECTION
SPORTS	SECTION
ABBY	7F HOROSCOPE

1E MARLETTE BRADLEY 6F MOVIES BRIDGE **4D** NEWSMAKERS CLASSIFIEDS 9F OBITUARIES COMICS 9F SCIENCE CROSSWORD DOONESBURY TEEPEN 18A TELEVISION EDITORIALS 6F WILLIAMS HELPLINE

TO SUBSCRIBE, CALL 522-4141



North calls charges 'badge of honor'

Retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North on Monday told graduates at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., that charges against him in the Irancontra scandal are 'not a brand, but a badge of honor.'

Sports agent's penalty: Week in hotel

Bloom to wash police cars, testify against ex-associate

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Sports agent Lloyd Bloom will spend one week in a hotel and wash police cars as part of an unusual deal he struck Monday with Alabama officials for his solicitation of former University of Alabama basketball player Der-

After negotiations by his Los Angelesbased lawyer, M.L. Trope, Bloom pleaded guilty in Tuscaloosa County Court to one count of deceptive trade practice, a misdemeanor. He received a reduced one-year sentence and agreed to testify Monday at the trial of former associate Norby

rick McKey.

Another part of the deal is that Bloom

will not serve his sentence unless Walters

is convicted.

Alabama Assistant Attorney General Don Valeska told Circuit Court Judge John Karrh of the deal Monday afternoon after Bloom, 29, had pleaded not guilty to three charges involving McKey and former Alabama teammate Terry Coner.

Karrh accepted the arrangement and passed the sentence on Bloom, who will spend a week in the hotel of his choice and report to the Tuscaloosa sheriff's office at 7:30 a.m. daily, where he will wash "state troopers' cars" on a nine-hour shift, according to Valeska.

"I've never washed a police car, just a few Rolls-Royces and a few Mercedes," said Bloom, laughing.

He is free to do what he wishes in his spare time.

BLOOM Continued on Page 16A

Fulton medical examiner investigated for alleged carelessness, mismanagement

By Cynthia Durcanin Staff Writer

Fulton County police have completed an internal investigation into complaints of careless autopsies and mismanagement in the Fulton County medical examiner's office.

Neither Police Chief Clinton Chafin nor County Manager Sam Brownlee would discuss the findings of the investigation into the of-

fice supervised by Dr. Robert Stivers, the chief medical examiner.

According to knowledgeable sources. Brownlee received complaints that sloppy office procedures were hindering prosecution of cases and that autopsy reports prepared by Stivers were frequently late, incomplete and unreliable.

Asked about the allegations, Stivers told a reporter, "I'm afraid

that's very wrong." He dismissed suggestions that he might resign.

Investigators were told that bullets that were considered crucial evidence in several homicide investigations were not removed from the victims, and autopsy reports in other cases showed bullet wounds in the wrong places, court and po-

lice sources said. Stivers, 53, onceded that not all

bullets are removed in cases where multiple bullets are involved. "There's no reason why we should do it," he said.

bullet that killed a homicide victim was removed but two other bullets were not. "If you're going to have to disfigure a person in order to recover a bullet, we're not going to do it. At least, I'm not going to do it," Sti-

Brownlee, who confirmed that he called for the investigation last month, said the county's Finance In one case, Stivers said, the Department conducted a separate internal audit at his direction. He declined to discuss the findings of either investigation, but said they focused on "money matters and

EXAMINER Continued on Page 16A

Eaves

From Page 1A

He said that he accepted the decision of the jury, but called the result "sad and tragic" for the community." It is not a happy day for me," he added.

Commissioner Lee Roach, who testified in the trial that Eaves told him he had been paid on a rezoning matter unrelated to the indictment, expressed relief at the verdict, saying he had "been on the hot seat."

"This whole episode is like surgery," Roach said. "It is painful to go through it. But it if you don't go through it, you're worse off."

"We're going to be O.K.," County Manager Sam Brownlee said, adding the rest of the commission must now restore public confidence in county government. "I can tell you that the government is not going to break down."

Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, who had expressed concern that the federal government was singling out black elected officials for prosecution, said after the verdict, "The whole situation has been very painful. ... I was hoping he'd be found innocent."

But he added, "A jury of his peers, a jury his lawyers help select, found him guilty. It's a tragic day in many ways."

Barr, in a courthouse press conference after the verdict, said the convictions of both Eaves and former Fulton Commissioner Chuck Williams, "will point out to the citizens and government officials of this district the need for constant vigilance to guard against corruption.

"Zoning and rezoning procedures carry a high potential for abuse, given the amounts of money involved and the pressures on government officials to constantly make decisions in such matters, Barr said. He added that vigorous enforcement of federal anti-corruption statutes will ensure that citizens "enjoy the impartial, honest and open representation by their elected officials that our Constitu-

tion guarantees." Williams pleaded guilty earlier to one extortion charge stemming from the same four-year undercover FBI sting called "Operation Ves-

pine." He will be sentenced May 13. Both were charged with violating the Hobbs Act, which prohibits



WALTER STRICKLIN/Staff

U.S. Attorney Robert Barr (right) and Eaves' prosecutors, William Gaffney (left) and William McKinnon at news conference.

public officials from using their office for private gain.

Last October, Eaves was ac-. cused in a four-count indictment of accepting \$43,000 from a developer and an FBI undercover agent posing as a developer, in return for the commissioner's vote to rezone two Fulton land tracts.

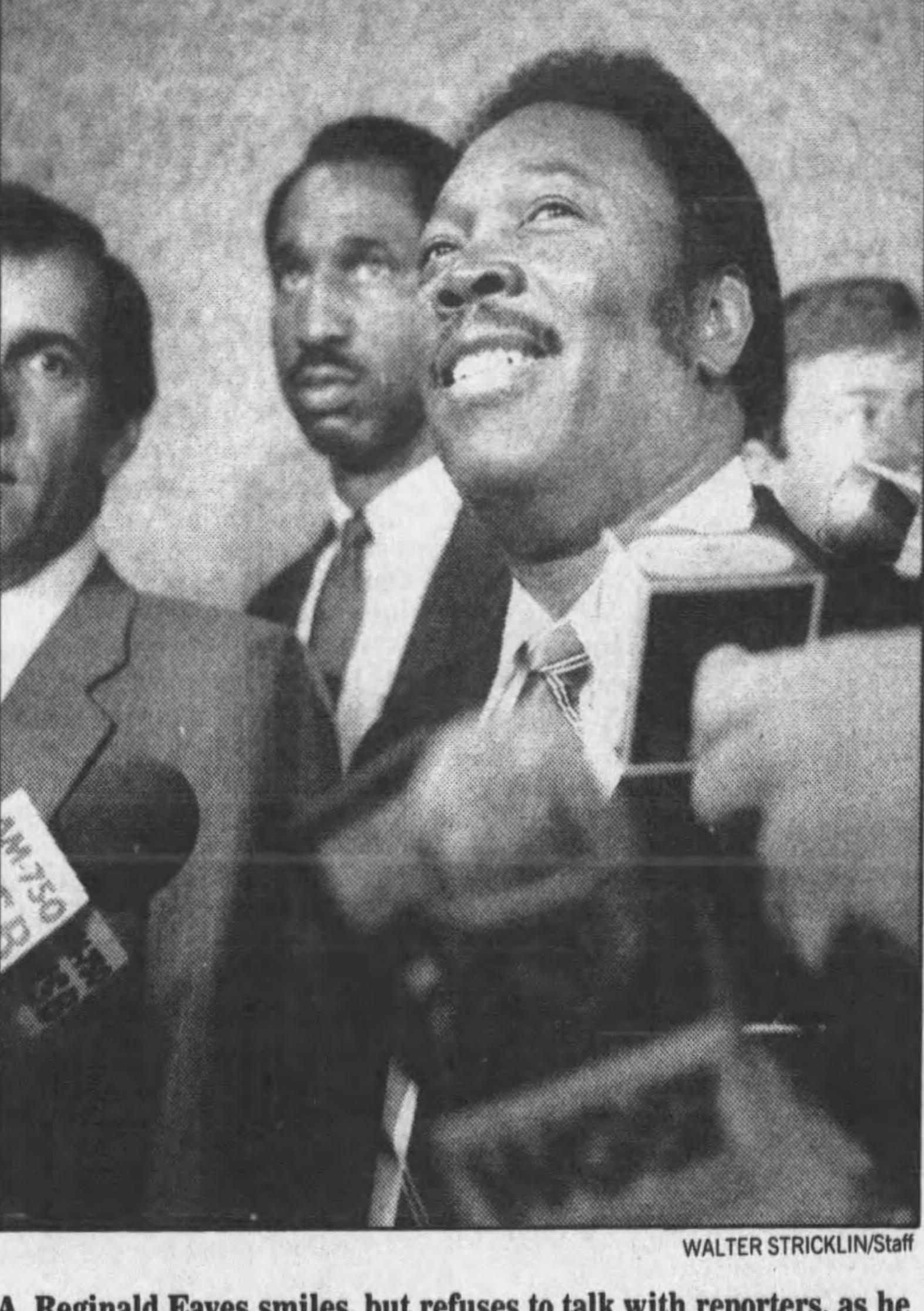
The jury found him guilty on two charges of taking payments of \$20,000 and \$10,000 in 1987 from FBI undercover Agent Clifford Cormany, who testified that he paid Eaves the money to win the commissioner's votes on a north Fulton land rezoning. Eaves testified that the payments were consulting fees for services rendered outside Fulton County.

The jury also found Eaves guilty on one charge of accepting \$5,000 in 1985 from Duluth developer Charles "Eddie" Wood, who cooperated

with the FBI investigation in exchange for immunity from prosecution. Wood testified that he paid Eaves the money to win the commissioner's vote to rezone a south Fulton land tract. Eaves denied ever receiving the money.

Eaves was acquitted on a fourth charge accusing him of taking \$8,000 from Cormany two days before a crucial commission vote that kept alive the south Fulton rezoning case. Eaves acknowledged accepting the money but testified that it was a loan, not a bribe. He testified that he never repaid the cash because he thought Cormany wanted to invest it in a house-moving business.

After hearing 12 days of testimony, the jurors began deliberating Friday morning and had another all-day session Saturday without reaching a verdict. They told the judge they had reached a decision



A. Reginald Eaves smiles, but refuses to talk with reporters, as he leaves courthouse after his conviction on three counts of extortion.

at 11:10 Monday morning.

The prosecutors, Assistant U.S. Attorneys William Gaffney and William McKinnon, said they felt good about the verdict. They complimented the FBI for its handling of the investigation that led to the indictments.

Barr, asked if he anticipated more indictments, said he could not talk about grand jury matters, but he added, "We are continuing the investigation and anticipate further

Federal sources have said that DeKalb County Commissioner John Evans also was investigated by the FBI during its undercover probe. Secret recordings played during Eaves' trial contained numerous references to Evans and his wife, Ina Evans, a member of the Atlanta School Board. During several conversations with government witnesses, Eaves recommended that they make campaign contributions to Mrs. Evans to win John Evans' support on zoning issues.

Eaves' supporters stood in groups outside the courtroom after the verdict, hugging each other and some of them crying.

Michael Langford, brother of state Sen. Arthur Langford, who testified for the defense, said, "I'm disappointed. I don't think the outcome reflects the information they [the jurors] were given."

John Lewis Sr., another supporter, said the verdict "stinks," and blamed it on jurors who live in isolation "in the other little towns, that don't know nothing about bigcity life."

G. Douglas Dillard, a lawyer who represents many of the biggest developers in the metro area, said the verdict was "certainly not good

for local government."

"It certainly grieves me, because it leaves a bad taste in people's mouths," he said, adding that in the heat of rezoning fights, people will accuse developers of paying off local officials.

The conviction "will not change the way we do business (with Fulton), because we never have done business that way."

If something good can come from the verdict, he said, it could be a change in the zoning process. He called for a method that would keep developers and opponents of rezoning from having contact with the local officials before rezoning decisions are made.

Fulton Commissioner Gordon Joyner, the interim commissioner who will hold Eaves' seat until any appeals are decided, declined comment on the verdict but said, "I will continue as long as I can to work as hard as I can for the citizens of the 5th (commission) district." Eaves had represented the district since

Williams, whose seat will be filled by a special election June 14, said Monday that it was not "appropriate for me to make a comment" on Eaves' conviction, other than to say "I'm very disappointed for him."

Two other commissioners who testified during the trial expressed relief that the trial was over.

Commissioner Martin Luther King III said the charges against Eaves and Williams, and grand jury questioning of himself and fellow Commissioner Michael Hightower had left the "appearance" of racial motivation by the government. "It is my hope there was none," he

Hightower called the verdict "difficult" for himself and other

commissioners. Both commissioners said that they would work to restore public confidence in government. "I have a mission of some kind, and it is that I be the best possible public servant as I can be," King said.

Vice Chairman Tom Lowe declared the Eaves verdict would have no effect on him.

"I have not felt any diminishing of confidence people have for me personally, other than some jokes and snide remarks," Lowe said. "I don't think it rubbed off on anyone. If it had, I'd probably quit tomorrow."

Staff writers Tracy Thompson and Larry Copeland contributed to this article.

Bloom

From Page 1A

Walters will stand trial on charges that he violated three state laws - commercial bribery, deceptive trade practice and tampering with a sports contest — when his company, World Sports and Entertainment, signed McKey and Coner during the 1986-87 Alabama basketball season.

forfeited university \$250,000 in NCAA tournament winnings because of the agents' dealings, and McKey lost his senior season of eligibility.

Though Bloom consummated the deal with McKey and Coner, handing over \$2,500 to each as an initial payment in January 1987, Valeska said the state will seek prosecution of Walters to help obtain full restitution for the university.

"Obviously, the money man is Walters," Valeska said.

Walters and his attorney, Donald Stewart of Anniston, Ala., reacted with disbelief to the news of Bloom's deal.

"It's ridiculous," Stewart said.

"The whole proposition is silly. I've never heard of anything like it in my life. It is reflective of how flimsy the state's case is. If you have a good case, you have a good case. What does this deal say to that? It's rather obvious."

Walters, contacted in New York, said, "That's incredible. It's ... wild. I mean, it's absolutely incredible. This is a laugh. Lloyd won't even do the hotel time because I'm not going to get convicted."

Valeska said Bloom's plea enabled the state to broaden its prosecutorial power against sports

agents. Valeska said Walters will not be offered a similar deal. He defended the punishment, saying someone serving time in an Alabama county jail would perform services such as washing cars.

truthfully, which is what I would have done if I had stood trial," he

As part of the deal, Trope negotiated an amended indictment returned on Bloom so that it did not specify any facts, only that Bloon had been indicted for deceptive trade practice. Trope sought to prevent the indictment from being used against Bloom in a pending investigation in Chicago against the two

If convicted of all three charges involving McKey and Coner, Bloom faced a maximum of six years in prison and \$6,000 in fines. Walter faces those penalties if he is convicted.

"It was the question of a possibility of six years in jail, as opposed to seven days in the hotel of Lloyd's choice," said Trope, a former sports agent. "We've also got no downside risk; if Norby Walters gets acquitted, Lloyd can 'walk' without even doing the seven days."

Trope said Valeska wanted him to plead guilty to tampering with a sports contest, "but Lloyd would have been committing perjury if he made that plea because he did not have the intent to alter any sports contest."

Of his pending one-week stay in Tuscaloosa, Bloom said, "I'll lose a little weight. It's going to be great. It'll be like a country club. I get to stay in Tuscaloosa's top hotel, eat good food and mingle with some locals. The fine folks of Tuscaloosa are going to have me for a whole week. God bless, and amen."

Bloom indicated that his plea may have been influenced by what he described as an unpleasant visit to the Tuscaloosa County Jail for his booking.

"It was incredible," he said. "It

sheriff's face all the way to the inmates' faces. It was straight out of a loom said he still represents a few football players but has focused

was like central casting — from the

"It's all show biz, one way or another," he said.

actresses.

his recruiting efforts toward

Astrology

From Page 1A

said the first lady was "motivated by security concerns" and turned to astrological consultation for some of her guidance after the president was wounded in an assassination attempt March 30, 1981.

A former administration official said Mrs. Reagan sometimes would oppose scheduling an event for a particular date because "the timing was not right," but the official said she never mentioned astrology. Although Mrs. Reagan's role in influencing the president's schedule has long been known, her reliance on astrology has not.

Regan's assertion that the first lady frequently relied on astrological consultations was described as "the bombshell of the manuscript"

by a source familiar with its contents. Mrs. Reagan played a major role in a long and bitter effort to force Regan out of the White House early in 1987 when the administration was demoralized by the Irancontra affair.

Excerpts from the book, which will be published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, are scheduled to appear in Time magazine May 16. Newsweek made reference to the astrology aspect in its issue published Monday, and NBC News reported it Monday night.

The president has acknowledged only a passing interest in astrology. In his 1965 autobiography, "Where's the Rest of Me?" Reagan referred to Los Angeles astrologer Carroll Richter as "one of our good friends" and said, "Every morning Nancy and I turn to see what he has to say about people of our respective birth signs."

Richter, whose column was syndicated in 166 newspapers, died Sunday at 88.

A source said Mrs. Reagan consulted with more than one astrologer and did not rely principally on Richter after Reagan took office. Another source suggested that more than one astrologer was involved.

After Reagan was elected governor of California in 1966, he decided to be sworn in at the unusual hour of 12:10 a.m. on Jan. 2, 1967, an action that various astrologers as well as the incumbent Reagan defeated, Democrat Edmund "Pat" Brown, said was determined by astrology. Reagan denied it through an aide and moved the inauguration up by nine minutes, to 12:01 a.m.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, asked Monday night about Regan's claims, said, "I don't know anything about it."

Examiner

From Page 1A

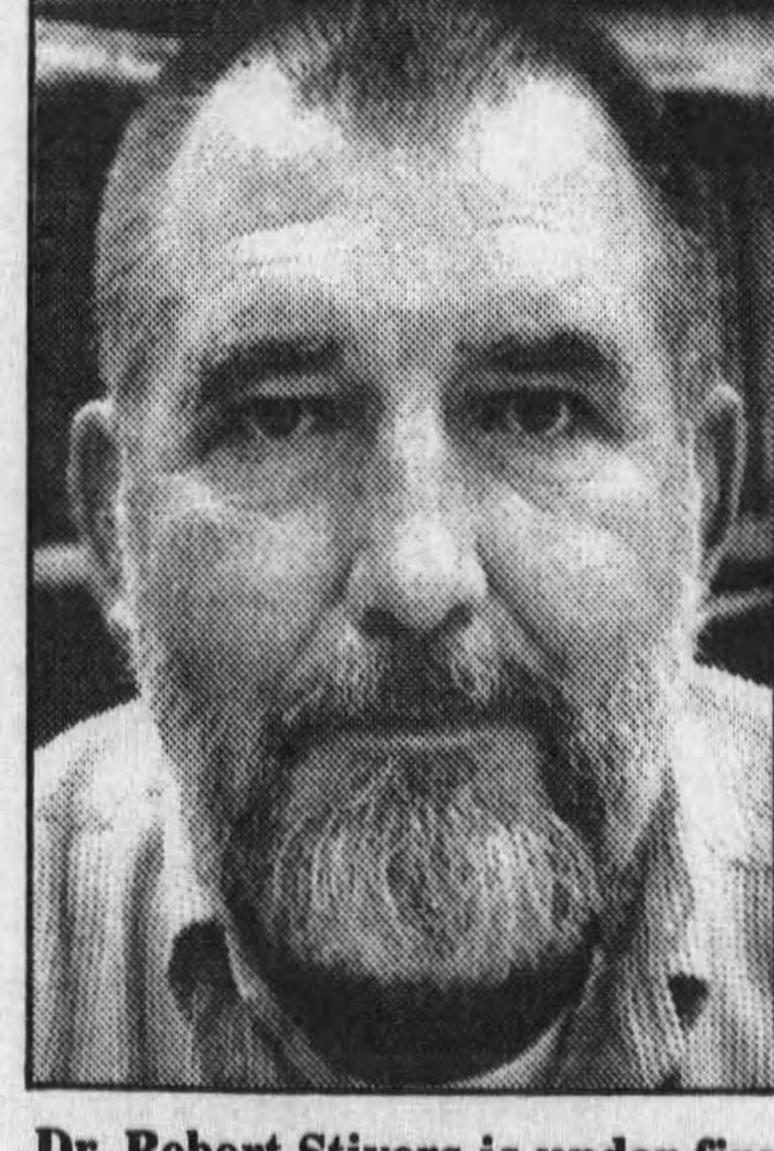
management."

Stivers, who was appointed medical examiner in March 1971, is expected to meet with Brownlee this week to discuss the results of the investigation, informed sources said, but Stivers said he had no such plans.

Some police and court sources complained about Stivers' managerial style and said he was unreliable, and several sources said their problems with the medical examiner have been complicated by the fact that he regularly fails to report to his office until midafternoon.

Stivers said he reports later to work because he works the night shift, and emphasized that he does most of his work by telephone. "I'm available 24 hours a day," he said.

However, Wendy Shoob, a former Fulton County assistant district attorney, said when she was a prosecutor she had problems getting Sti-



Dr. Robert Stivers is under fire from police and prosecutors.

vers to appear in court to testify and with the accuracy of his

"I had one case where he said the bullet entered on the right side,

but photos from homicide clearly showed it came from the other side," Ms. Shoob said.

Ms. Shoob and other assistant district attorneys said that Stivers' autopsy reports generally are two or three paragraphs long as opposed to the detailed three- and four-page reports prepared by other physicians in the office.

Stivers maintains, "The business of the coroner's office is to determine the cause and manner of death. We are not cops; we are not district attorneys."

While Fulton District Attorney Lewis Slaton acknowledged his staff's complaints about Stivers' attendance in court, he attributed part of the problem to the increasing caseload at the medical examiner's office. The five physicians and six Fulton County police officers that serve as investigators at the medical examiner's office handled 2,500 deaths last year.

"He has great forensic abilities," Slaton said, adding, "He may have lost some interest over the

Gays

From Page 1A

ple; we are singing for our lives." Mary Gaddis, a member of Affirmation, a group representing gay and lesbian Methodists, said homosexuals in the church will continue

to press their demands. She charged that the delegates were ducking the issue by not acknowledging the presence of closet homosexuals in church leadership

positions. "We do know that some of the bishops are gay," Ms. Gaddis said. "The church won't acknowledge that." She declined to name

Lloyd Bloom pleaded guilty in il-

Former Atlanta sports agent Jim

Abernethy was acquitted of decep-

tive trade practice here two months

ago, but he was convicted of tam-

pering with a sports contest for his

payments to Auburn football player

Kevin Porter. Abernethy was sen-

tenced to one year in jail and fined

\$2,000. He was denied a reduction

of sentence at a probation hearing.

"No matter how they want to

paint it, this is a second conviction

of a sports agent on yet another

statute," said Valeska. "People may

laugh at this deal, but I think it

should be obvious that we want

Walters, and to get Walters we need

would be testifying against his for-

mer boss. "I'll be there to testify

Bloom said he did not think he

An appeal is pending.

legal sports recruiting case.

Both votes were victories for Methodist moderates and conservatives against several of the church's national boards, which had recommended the denomination change certain passages in its lawbook, the "Book of Discipline."

The votes were also a victory for many Southerners in the church. During the winter, leading pastors and lay people from across the South met to declare their opposition to ordaining homosexuals.

"We simply are not inclined to receive the gospel from persons whose conduct betrays the very gospel they seek to propound," said the Rev. Garnett Wilder, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Snellville, Ga., after the votes.

adultery, in that it violates the biblical code of Christian conduct. "I feel the United Methodist Church has the privilege, has the

Homosexuality, he said, is like

right, to establish standards for its ministers," declared the Rev. Vergil Daughtery Jr., superintendent of the church's Valdosta, Ga., district, during the debate.

But another ranking church official offered a distinctly different view. Arguing for allowing homosexuals to be ordained, the Rev. Merlin Ackerson, a district superintendent from Iowa, said that changing the bylaws would not "inundate" the church with gay clergy. He said the church faced a bigger problem in "heterosexual pastors who are arro-

gant to the point of being unteachable ... and who have affairs with the proverbial church secretary or organist."

The question of how the church should deal with homosexuality has bedeviled Methodists since 1972, when delegates at that year's General Conference voted to include in the Book of Discipline the statement that homosexuality is "incom-

patible with Christian teaching." At the same time, the delegates voted also to include a statement that, although they did not condone

homosexuality, homosexuals themselves are "individuals of sacred

At the 1980 General Conference — the legislative body meets every four years — delegates voted to bar church funds from going to any group "advocating" homosexuality.

Four years later, delegates voted for an explicit ban against gay clergy, placing a clause in the Book of Discipline against "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" serving as