

OBITUARIES**Floyd McKissick,
former CORE head,
rights activist, dies**

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Floyd B. McKissick, a longtime civil rights lawyer and former director of the Congress of Racial Equality, has died at age 69 after battling lung cancer.

Mr. McKissick, who died Sunday at his home, had been appointed last June as a district judge by Gov. James G. Martin.

In 1966, he replaced James Farmer as head of CORE. Two years later, he left CORE and subsequently alienated some black leaders when he switched to the Republican Party and supported then-President Nixon.

Mr. McKissick said it was foolish for blacks to place all their faith in the Democrats, but he conceded that the switch also could help Soul City, his residential-industrial development in rural North Carolina.

The government eventually cut funds to the project, however, and parts of Soul City now resemble a ghost town, although Mr. McKissick and his wife, Evelyn, continued to live there.

The Asheville native became involved in the civil rights movement as a teen-ager, when he was arrested by a white police officer for directing traffic around an all-black roller-skating race. The local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People protested the arrest.

In 1951, he sued to gain admission to law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A federal appeals court ordered him admitted.

Mr. McKissick, who had just graduated from North Carolina College at Durham — now North Carolina Central University — was represented in the case by Thurgood Marshall, then an NAACP attorney and now a U.S. Supreme Court justice.