

## Atlanta Police Chief Accused In Inquiry on Exam Cheating

By Jeff Prugh  
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ATLANTA—In what one state legislator described as "Atlanta's Watergate," A. Reginald Eaves, public safety commissioner and the first black police chief of a major U.S. city "expressly authorized" answers to a police promotion exam to be given to some black officers to assure their advancement, a three-month investigation concluded last night.

The 212-page report was made public by two Atlanta attorneys—one black one white—commissioned by Atlanta's black mayor, Maynard Jackson, who had appointed Eaves, his onetime college roommate, to the post in 1974.

The investigation, which produced 5,000 pages of testimony and 63 polygraph exams of 49 persons, was ordered by Jackson in November after four black officers swore out affidavits that Eaves had ordered the alleged cheating on the 1975 examination.

"Obviously, I'm shocked," said Eaves, who sat disconsolately in the nearly packed City Council chambers, studying the report as it was presented at a news conference. "I'm firm in my convictions that I've done nothing wrong."

The private attorneys—Felker W. Ward Jr. and Randolph W. Thrower—left it up to Jackson as to what disciplinary action, if any, would be administered against Eaves. They also stopped short of saying whether Eaves is criminally liable.

Jackson reportedly was given a brief synopsis of the report earlier yesterday, but flew to Iowa to participate in a seminar and was not available for comment.

"If you're asked by the mayor to re-

sign, will you fight it?" a reporter asked Eaves.

"You resign when you're done something wrong," Eaves replied. "I've done nothing wrong."

Eaves was criticized in the report as being "grossly indifferent" to allegations of "widespread unfairness and cheating."

The report also accused Eaves of "testifying falsely under oath" and of "avoidance, evasion and interference" in regard to his own polygraph examination.

Officer William Taylor, who had charged that he was ordered by Eaves to give advance copies of questions and answers to certain officers, has quoted in the report as saying that Eaves once told him:

"Well, I want these people to score high enough so that I will have no problems promoting them, but you get with Sgt. [Thomas N.] Walton and you work that out. I don't want to know anything about it."

Many blacks in the chambers were dismayed as they scanned copies of the one-inch-thick report. "You just can't win anymore," one muttered forlornly.

Georgia State Rep. Hosea Williams (D-Atlanta) described the scandal as "Atlanta's Watergate" and Eaves as "Richard Nixon."

"I do think," Williams said, "if it had been a white chief, it would have been washed over."

A black Baptist minister, the Rev. Ted Clark, vowed a fight from many of Atlanta's blacks to support Eaves, with "whatever it takes."

"Pardon my french," Clark said bitterly, "But—damn the report."