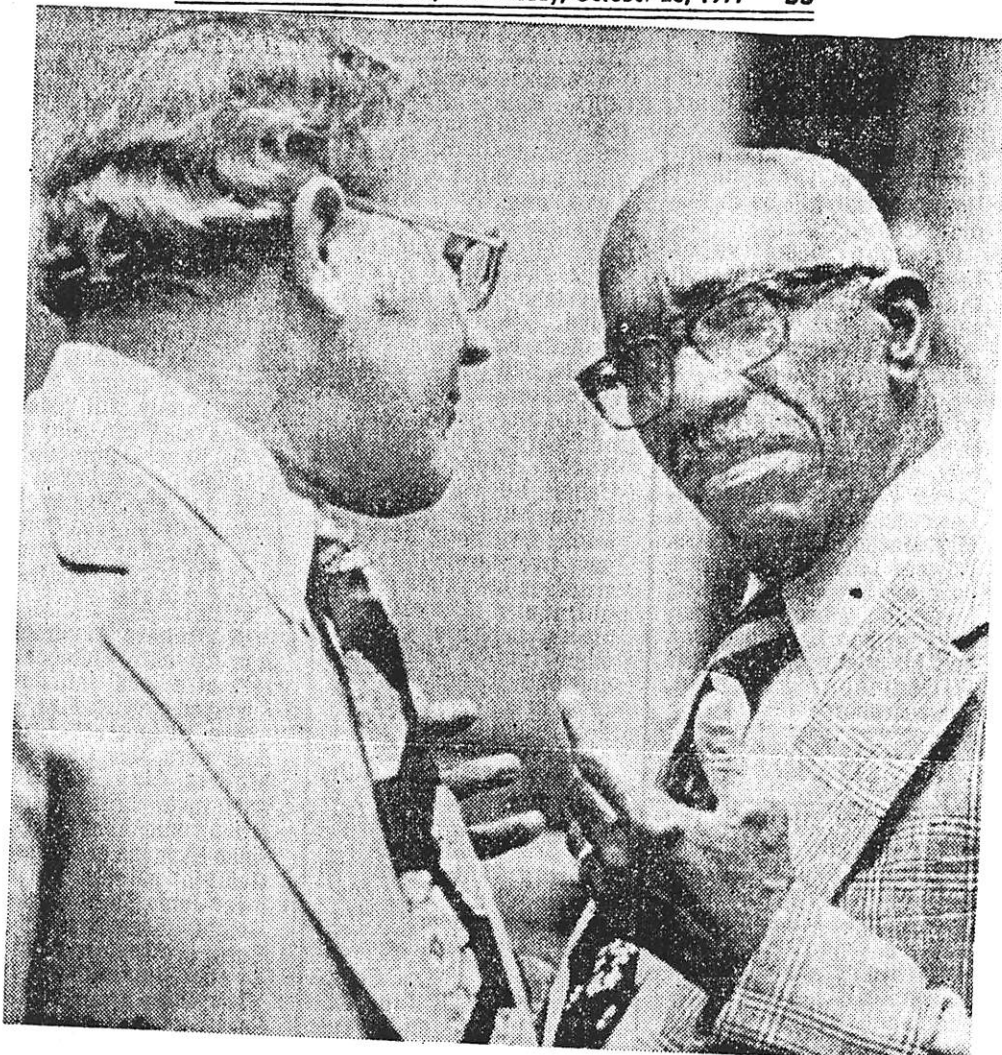




—UPI Telephoto

Job Never in His Dreams

MONTGOMERY — State Rep. Rufus A. Lewis of Montgomery, right, said he never dreamed of becoming the first black U.S. marshal in Alabama since Reconstruction. Lewis, talking here to Rep. Tom Drake of Cullman, will take his job in a few weeks.

He Recommended Another Black Leader Takes Federal Marshal Post

MONTGOMERY (UPI) — Rufus A. Lewis, Alabama's first black federal marshal since Reconstruction, went to Washington to get another man recommended for the job, but wound up taking it himself.

Lewis, 69, who was active in civil rights work for more than 30 years in a state that resisted integration. He was confirmed by the Senate last week. He said he was surprised when he learned he had been recommended.

"I NEVER thought about it a year ago," he said. "The only reason I was recommended is because I went to Washington for President Carter's inauguration and talked to Sen. (John) Sparkman and Sen. (James) Allen about getting another man appointed U.S. marshal."

Lewis said the two Alabama Democrats could not accept his recommen-

dation of the young black he wanted to have the job. The big surprise came one day as Lewis, one of the 13 blacks in the Alabama House, sat in the legislature.

He said Allen's staff told him he was the only black Allen and Sparkman would recommend. Lewis said he would have to think about it, but was given only one hour to make up his mind. He accepted.

LEWIS, A former coach at Alabama State University, was a leader in black voter registration during the 1950s and 1960s and went to jail at least twice for his activities. He was bailed out each time before he had to spend the night.

But the racial climate has changed, Lewis said.

"What I have undertaken (as a legislator) is evidence there has been a big change," he said. "I

can eat in all the restaurants, if I have enough money, and I can stay where I want to. It is a good feeling to see all these changes take place."

LEWIS said his primary doubt about taking the job was that he'd be giving up his legislative office. But he decided he could do so without hurting the blacks' inroads to the legislature since his House district is 70% black and could send another black in his place.

"I knew a black could win and thought I could take a chance," said the soft-spoken funeral director. "I'm not ever looking toward retirement. When you do that you just lay down and die."

Magellan's Expedition

MADRID (A)—Ferdinand and Magellan's expedition sailed from Spain in 1519.