

CAPITAL CLIPBOARD

Preyer Gives Up Choice Position As Federal Judge For Primary Try

By EULA N. GREENWOOD SURE THING? . . . In many respects the best job in North Carolina is not that of U. S. Representative (you have to run every two years for re-election); or U. S. Senator (the work is killing and you must run every six years); or any of the Council of State jobs (the pay is small and voters must be faced each four years); and is not that of Governor (four years and you have had it—in more ways than one).

The Very Best Job in this State is that of Federal Court Judge. It pays nearly as much as that of Governor (\$22,500, etc., as against \$25,000, etc), carries much prestige, and runs for a lifetime. They just ain't many of them jobs left no more, Mattie.

But Federal Judge Richardson Preyer is voluntarily giving up his hardy-warm judge's seat in which he could sit until the cows come home in order to run for Governor.

Talk about selling! Talk about giving the bird to that old saw about a bird in the hand being worth two in the bush! Preyer must have received some right sharp promises in order to make the sacrifice. And, who is able to make such promises that a man will gladly step down from a Federal judgeship?

BAD FEELING . . . One of the greatest things Bert Bennett of Winston-Salem had going for him was that so many good Democrats felt they were his personal friends. They loved "old Bert," were looking for an opportunity to go to bat for him.

But when Bennett decided to step down, they were not consulted, and their feelings were hurt. Then, when he turned to Preyer — again without asking their opinion — they were hurt again.

So, even though Bert Bennett is the same man he was six months ago, consensus is that he has lost literally thousands of friends because he did not confer with more of them before making such quick, far-reaching decisions. "Ours not to reason why—ours but to do or die" seems to be the feeling.

FIRST JOB . . . Judge Preyer's

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resignation will not be accepted in Washington — if the normal course is followed—for about two weeks.

The first major job facing him is to get acquainted with erst-while Bennett buddies. This will take a long time . . . and a lot of Bennett's time away from Quality Oil Co. Nevertheless, it is a must. Meantime, another former judge is making hay.

FEAR OF FAILURE? . . . It begins to look as if the two best-known men in the State—Charles Jones of the Republican Party and Dr. I. Beverly Lake of the Democrats—may not run for Governor.

Lake is, frankly, having trouble finding the money. Jones hates to leave Washington. He, and his father before him, have good, solid records there. This about Jones: Even if he should win for Governor—and there is that definite possibility—unless he is able to sweep into office with him a majority of the Legislature, he would go down as a failure for the Republican Party.

To have a successful program, he would want to have in the 1965 General Assembly a minimum of 60 men in the House and 25 in the Senate. While there is trouble in the Democratic Party, we seriously doubt there is that much trouble.

Can the Republicans sweep North Carolina? The answer is a firm no. They haven't come that far yet — particularly with a Democratic President in the White House and 200,000 Negroes eagerly, impatiently waiting to drop into the box 200,000 Democratic ballots.

As Republicans strive to draft Jones, they are faced with a real big draft from another direction: fear of failure. We doubt Jones will run for Governor—next year or ever.

STRANGER THINGS . . . If the Republicans can't get Jones and Lake can't get money from the Democrats, you may see a coalition of the Republicans and Democrats with Dr. I. Beverly Lake as the candidate. This is

the 40 per cent of eligible voters who normally stay away from the polls at election time may be heard from again in next year's elections. When one hears more eastern North Carolinians talking about voting for Republican unknowns than talking about voting Democratic like their fathers did before them, the time for wheeling and dealing had better wind up.

Those Democratic leaders who still score the idea of any family reunions except such as will serve their own selfish interests could wake up and find themselves right short of kinfolks in the next general election.

NOTES . . . Announcement of two big State buildings on either side of the Legislative Building should be made any day now . . . for Archives & History and Administration . . . At least three weekly papers—in Hillsboro, Scotland Neck, and Raeford—have come out for Richardson Preyer for Governor . . . and the Charlotte Observer is writing some very favorable editorials for "Rich Preyer."

MILITARY PAY RAISE

The signing of the Military Pay Bill is the biggest pay raise in history to most of America's service men and women. The pay boost will date from October 1st.

Many officers and enlisted men in their middle pay grades would get raises and these are the men who are at the point where they usually decide either to make a career of the armed forces or for civilian life. While low-ranking men and women despite the bill, would have to continue looking for outside jobs.

WHAT IS IT? . . . At least one solid-as-a-rock organization, the N. C. Citizens Association, seems to see trouble ahead, in the editorial pages of its publication, "We The People." See if you agree with Editor Lloyd Griffin, veteran N. C. political leader. . . . None can fail to note that a great angry murmur has spread among the common people against something in the political scheme of things. What is it? One hears that it too much taxation; or too much integration; or too much government by boy scouts; or something about there being a hot line set up between Washington and Raleigh; or that the common run of State employees have been two-timed.

"Whatever it is, is certainly stirring up the electorate into bitter expressions of voting determination like nothing has since the early 1930's. It looks as if

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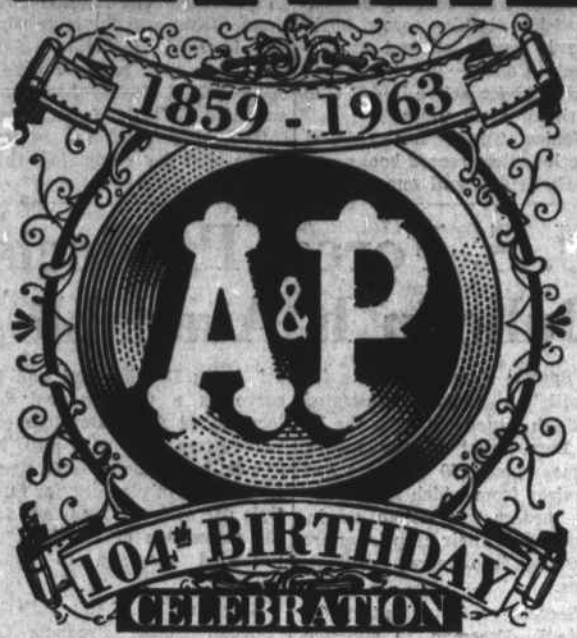
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