

Bob Scott's Resignation From Grange Post Is Political Topic

By EULA N. GREENWOOD
SCOTT STEP . . . The real reason young Robert Scott is stepping down as master of the State Grange at its annual meeting in Statesville this week is that quite a bit of the activity he has planned for himself during the next eight months could pull the Grange organization deeply into politics.

Scott will take to the hustings for gubernatorial candidate Richardson Preyer, oppose Agriculture Commissioner L. Y. (Stag) Ballentine, or both. The rumor is he will go all out for Preyer, possibly on the payroll of the campaign, and will leave the Ballentine matter until a later date.

In any event, he did the fair thing in resigning from the Grange. Organizations, including the Grange itself, are sometimes used to further a cause or candidate close to the heart of the leaders. Such activity weakens the organization.

BIGGEST AND BEST . . . Those of you who missed the State Fair this year (about one-fifth of the State's population saw it, branched it, felt it, smelled it) failed to participate in the finest thing of its kind ever held in North Carolina.

We wouldn't take a thing away from the late Dr. J. S. Dorton, who laid the solid foundation of the State Fair in the better-than-two-decades he managed it, but the progress it has shown with Agriculture Commissioner Ballentine as "acting manager" has been tremendous. This is his second year with it.

Much of the credit, we suppose, must go to Publicity Director Dougald Cox, former weekly newspaper editor, who seems to be right in the middle of the show for much of the entire year.

The Fair this year was so, so big that we went, spent five hours rambling, found later we had missed an entire section of it, and proceeded to go back for a second round. It was Big, educational corny exciting thorough-

ly integrated, and expensive. However, you could get a fair-sized, five-hour glimpse of North Carolina at its best on an outlay of less than two dollars. We did it—the second time around.

WHISPERING . . . At least two whispers have started on the two leading gubernatorial candidates for the Democratic Party. There will be others, of course, but these two side-of-the-mouth statements are built-in political thunder; so look out for them.

1. Dan Moore is the tool of big business. His main source of income has been from the great Champion Fiber Co. as their chief counsel. (Look for this from those most adept at using such things among the outer fringes of the Preyer following.)

2. One of the signers of a petition asking Presidential clemency for Julius Scates of Greensboro, former Carolinas director of the Communist Party, was Richardson Preyer. (This is already making the rounds.)

What the whisperers don't say, of course, is that an attorney's feelings are not necessarily colored by the type of client he represents. Sometimes the reverse is the case. And, on the other hand, young Scates renounced Communism while serving a sentence and was already serving a term longer than some superiors in the party.

Don't be surprised if the two whispers are accompanied by below-the-belt cartoons. They are very, very effective in certain places.

HIGHWAY SIGNS . . . One of the best signs that you are a member of the State Highway Commission is for you to be accused of using highway location for profit for self, kin, or partner. It is one of the most dependable things going.

The fact that Luther Hodges, while Governor, owned great interest in road-conscious Howard Johnson Restaurants developed more than one whisper about him. So, when he became Secretary of the Department of Commerce which has as one of its

for-fung agencies the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads, Hodges wisely scoured himself of all Howard Johnson holdings.

We recall there was a big howl over some road-work done on the Kerr Scott farm while he was Governor; and again when he received a nice hunk of cash for land taken in a big thoroughfare cutting across his lands.

Now it is Highway Commissioner Elsie (he weighs 310) Webb of Richmond County. The thing does seem to smell a little. No doubt about that. But it is not the first time there has been finger-pointing at highway bosses. Nor will it be the last. But only seldom is there much more than malicious gossip.

TWO REQUESTS . . . Incidentally, two requests went winging Governor Sanford's way last week. One asked that he request Elsie Webb's resignation. This came mainly in the form of editorials. The other, more formal, pleaded that he grant executive clemency to Kidd Brewer and Robert A. Burch, thus wiping out the 18-month prison terms now hanging heavy over their heads.

Bets here are that Webb is closer to resigning than Sanford is to clemency.

DURHAM PREFERABLE? . . . The word we get around here is that the prayers of E. C. Durham

he is not listed as a Rev. in the Raleigh telephone directory—were not conservative enough for Senate President Clarence Stone. He called on the Rev. Mr. Strong.

Well, frankly, knowing Brother Durham as I President Stone, the latter's firing of the former excites us little. However, one of the old-line Democrats in the State Senate doubted the wisdom of substituting a Republican (Sen. Charles Strong of Guilford) for Durham, said he thought that was carrying conservatism a mite too far.

NOTES . . . Leading Democrats would like to see a makeup between former House Speaker Joe Hunt of Greensboro and Richardson Preyer, also of the Gate City . . . but Hunt seems to be lost to the Moore group . . . and this could hurt in Guilford.

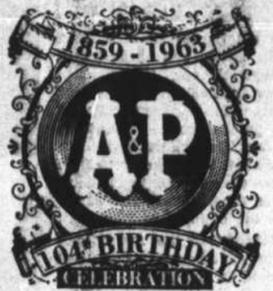
Correction: The Bert Bennetts of Winston-Salem do not have six children, as recently reported here. They have seven . . . Six financial institutions have built, are building, or have announced construction of huge new office buildings in the heart of downtown Raleigh . . . Agriculture and its sidekick, Freighthauling, got in good lobbying licks at the legislators here for the Special Session—the solons were guests of the State Fair Tuesday night and of the N. C. Motor Carriers Association for dinner Wednesday night . . . Although there is a clique busily trying to drum up opposition to various members of the Council of State, it looks as if only one is in much trouble at this time.

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