

The Carolina Review: Hunt-Lake Debate Stirs Controversy

ENTERTAINMENT. Last week's gubernatorial debate was not expected to make any appreciable difference in this year's campaign between Democrat Jim Hunt and Republican I. Beverly Lake. In fact, past debates in North Carolina, including one between Hunt and his primary opponent Bob Scott back in the Spring, have been less than entertaining and somewhat boring.

But thanks to Bev Lake and his Congressional Club backers, North Carolina voters who bothered to tune in to last Monday night's televised debate were treated to some real entertainment. For the nostalgic few who were looking for some old-fashioned, bare-handed political insult, it was a trip back to yesteryear.

Lake, instead of following the

proposed format, paid only perfunctory attention to the questions of the media panel gathered for the occasion. From the opening bell, Lake was on the attack and addressed himself directly to Hunt with questions of his own—questions designed to force the governor into explaining his ties to labor leader Wilbur Hobby, economic policies of Jimmy Carter and Ted Kennedy, bureaucracy, and to the Panama Canal giveaway.

The first controversy took place only moments after Lake began his opening remarks when Hunt openly protested Lake's use of visual aids as part of his presentation. The first visual was a large poster showing headshots (linked by arrows) of Gov. Hunt, his Natural Resources and Community Development Secretary

Howard Lee, one of Lee's assistants involved in the infamous CETA mess Eva Clayton, and labor leader Wilbur Hobby.

After substantial pressure from panel moderator Wallace Ausley (an executive with WPTF in Raleigh-Durham) and Hunt, Lake finally desisted under protest from using the posters.

So while the debate was surprisingly entertaining, no one has accused it of being overly informative.

According to prior guidelines set up weeks in advance, the two candidates were to meet at Meredith College in Raleigh and submit to questions from a panel of reporters—none of whom regularly cover state politics. Through a complicated system of opponent replies and follow-ups, the meeting was established as the one debate that Gov. Hunt planned to accept in the Fall campaign.

On paper, the system seemed safe enough. Still, the Hunt people were somewhat apprehensive preparing for the debate. We spent the whole week knowing they (the Congressional Club) would try to pull something," said Hunt deputy press spokesman Brent Hackney, but we thought it might be some surprise piece of information or something."

Hunt's spokeswoman at campaign headquarters, Stephanie Bass, seconded Hackney's misgivings. Yes, we figured they might try anything. Of course, I knew they would throw CETA at us," he said.

Indeed, CETA did seem to be the only substantive issue discussed (mostly by Lake) during the debate.

To his credit, Hunt tried desperately to answer questions placed by the panelists, but such questions paled considerably after Lake's theatrics. For example, one reporter's question dealt with juvenile crime.

Lake almost totally ignored the question, choosing instead to accuse Hunt of some im-

propriety.

After digging Lake for not answering the question, Hunt tried. But Lake may have been on the right track.

Hunt's North Carolina Juvenile Code" program, a promising and innovative plan which has been initiated and legislated over the past three years, consists of 106 typewritten pages of legislation, not counting an additional 23 revisions from the past legislative session.

Obviously, it was virtually impossible for Hunt to effectively demonstrate in 75 seconds what he has done and proposes to do in juvenile crime.

So who did perform best? Hunt appeared statesmanlike (for the most part) and informed, but was put "a little off-balance by Lake's attack," according to one Hunt campaign source admitted that Hunt "looked like the bad guy" when he insisted that Lake remove the posters.

That was the moderator's

fault—he really blew it," said the source.

Yet sophisticated analysts who observed the debates gave Hunt the better of the match.

To be sure, Lake was not statesmanlike and certainly didn't come to the debate armed with concrete proposals for better government.

Sen. Lake came to raise questions in the minds of the rank and file voter about Hunt's involvement with Wilbur Hobby, CETA funds misappropriations, and his ties to liberal national policies. Regardless of your opinion about him (Lake), he did plant those questions in the minds of the viewers," said one Republican worker.

Because of his success at planting those questions, more than just a few observers are willing to give Lake the edge in the debate.

Lake had little to lose in meeting Hunt," said a Lake supporter. "Why shouldn't it be argued that any negative impact on the Hunt image indicates a Lake victory"

Slated October 15

Small Business Forum, Greenville

Do you own a small business? Are you concerned with state regulations and legislation that affects your business? Would you like to have an opportunity to speak out on these issues and be counted by state representatives?

Small business representatives will have an opportunity to speak out at a Small Business Forum to be held in Greenville on Wednesday, October 15. The Governor's Small Business Advocacy Council will conduct forums at 2 P.M. and 7 P.M. at the Regional Development Institute-Willis Building, First and Reade Streets, Greenville. Any small business representative in the First Congressional District is eligible to attend.

Greensboro small businessman Al Lineberry, Jr., who is chairman of the council, will be present along with staff members of the N. C. Department of Commerce to receive comments from small business owners. They are asked to speak on the effect

of state regulations, policies, and legislative issues on their businesses. Lineberry said the Council is also looking for suggestions on improving the state's relationship with small business.

Gov. Jim Hunt has required the Small Business Advocacy Council to make a

report on the statewide forums to him in order that progressive action can be taken.

For further information, please contact the Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce at P. O. Box 894, Greenville, NC 27834, 752-4101.


Study Management Skills

NAGS HEAD — Medical assistants will gather in this seaside resort September 19 and 20 to learn ways of improving their supervisory and management skills. Featured speaker for the two-day workshop is Anthony K. (Tony) Jackson, M.B.A. Participants from North Carolina and Virginia are expected to attend.

The workshop will help medical assistants identify those elements in their own behavior, the organization,

and other people that influence their effectiveness as managers. Self-improvement plans to correct managerial weaknesses will be implemented. Techniques of conflict resolution as well as methods of enhancing job performance will be discussed also.

The workshop is sponsored by The Psychological Associates of the Albemarle



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Oct. 2-5, 1980

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Teen Dance — Festival Dance

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Arts, Crafts Sale To Be Held

Final plans are being made for an Arts and Crafts Sale to be held at Hobbville Community Center in Hobbville, October 18. This will be the first sale of its kind to be held there.

A spokesman reported it is being organized to provide area craftspersons an opportunity to display and sell their handiwork.

Any craftsperson interested in participating in this sale should contact Faye Hollowell, 919-297-2652 or Janice Eure, 919-297-2012 for details. Registration deadline is October 1.

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