

Carolina Review: Disinterest Allows Passage Of Controversial Bill

UNNOTICED... Amid all of the noise and fanfare of the current temporary adjourned session of the North Carolina General Assembly, one bill seems to have passed muster relatively unnoticed by the voting public.

Senate Bill 300, introduced by Sen. Henson Barnes, D-Wayne, call for a referendum of an amendment in the North Carolina Constitution to allow four year terms for members of the N. C. General Assembly. It also allows for four year terms of local Clerks of Superior Court.

The lack of attention on this particular bill seems to have been a result of the great debate over the gasoline tax, other revenue raising ideas and the immense interest in cost-cutting in preparation for expected federal reductions.

Maybe the extra attention devoted to other issues allowed the controversial

bill to slip by the rather strong opposition. In past years, since 1970 in fact, similar bills have had a lot of attention but no success.

The last time legislative terms were extended, to the current two-year term, was in 1835. Before that, members served only one-year terms.

Apparently, SB 300 will come to a vote before the people on May 4, 1982, -- the next statewide primary election.

During debate on the bill, most of the opposition was carried out by Republican members. But one of the opponents, Rep. Graham Bell, D-Gaston, appealed to the legislators' pocketbooks and the political interest of the Democrats.

Bell offered that since the constitution prevents legislators from raising their salaries during their current terms, then they would have to wait every four years instead of two to

give themselves salary increases.

Bell also noted that if Reagan's current popularity continued, the Republicans might make substantial inroads on assembly membership in 1982-- the first to enjoy the new extended incumbency.

Supporters of the amendment say the most practical reasons for the longer term are the substantial cost and the excessive amount of time involved in campaigning for re-election every two years. They say the burden of campaigning three to six months every two years coupled with spending another seven to ten months in Raleigh is enormous. They suggest that holding public office might someday become too expensive for people of average income.

There are those, of course, who suggest that people of average income have already been squeezed out

of running for public office -- with no relation to the two year term.

Opponents of the amendment suggest that it is just another way of lessening the democratic process at the

grassroots level.

"The individual's vote is our most effective means of expression in a democratic republic. We should never lesson this opportunity," said one opponent.

Across the street at the Governor's Office, it appears that Gov. Hunt might remain neutral on the proposed amendment even though the amendment is seen by most as a means of

cementing Democratic control over the General Assembly for years to come. That neutrality might be the better part of valor since the Congressional Club has asked for the voting record

by assembly members on SB 300. The club and its cast of conservative Republicans can be expected to use the "yes" votes against Democrats in upcoming elections.

Peanuts Important Source Of Protein

In the future developing nations will depend more and more on the peanut, one of the world's greatest sources of protein, says Dr. Johnny C. Wynne, an associate professor of crop science at N. C. State University.

Wynne is working on an NCSU research project designed to help small farmers in developing countries improve the yields of peanut crops. The project is being sponsored by the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to Wynne, peanuts can be an important source of food with high quality protein and are being used almost exclusively in their world countries for human consumption," Wynne said.

"The oil can be used for both food and in cooking." Wynne's present project is directed at the development of the peanut crop of Malaysia, a small but agriculturally progressive country in Southeast Asia. There, he thinks, peanuts may play a doubly im-

portant role in the country's agricultural development.

Malaysia, he explained, has recently discovered oil off its coast, and the government is investing some of its newfound wealth in the rubber industry to improve the country's agricultural economy.

"Rubber is the principal agricultural project of Malaysia, and in recent years large commercial rubber plantations have been plating and harvesting a new and superior tree," Wynne said. "Unfortunately for the small farmers, these trees take approximately five years to reach maturity, and growers with limited acreage can't afford to lose revenue during the time it takes to cultivate the improved trees."

Wynne says peanuts may be the perfect crop to help the Malaysian farmers make this planting transition.

"During the first few years, following the planting of the new rubber trees, as many as 30 feet of usable soil is available between tree rows," Wynne explained. "There, in this unused area, peanuts can be planted and harvested. The

result is a viable interim money crop."

The problem confronted by Wynne and cooperating investigators at the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia involves a diversity in the soil acid balance requirements of the trees and the peanuts.

"The rubber trees thrive in an acid soil, while peanuts are more productive when grown in less acidic soil," Wynne said.

To solve the problem Wynne and the other researchers on the project are seeking peanut lines which are capable of fixing their own nitrogen under these unique conditions.

"Our initial task will be to identify and remove any constraints which might impede the nitrogen-fixing process," he said.

Additional avenues being pursued are an attempt to

identify plant lines which can be used to breed better nitrogen-fixing qualities into the Malaysian lines.

Simultaneous research is being conducted by the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia (RRIM). Kewi Chong, a Malaysian student sponsored by RRIM, is pursuing his doctorate degree in crop science at NCSU while assisting Wynne and other in-

vestigators in the peanut research.

"When Chong returns to Malaysia he'll have more than a Ph.D.," Wynne noted. "He'll have had a good first-hand experience in soil research and will have had a hand in selecting some peanut varieties which could play an important role in the agricultural development of his country."

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Mr. Swain, 70, Taken In Death

COLUMBIA — Clarence Plato Swain, 70, died September 10 in Washington County Hospital.

A native of Tyrrell County, he was the husband of Mrs. Stella Mae Swain. He was a retired painter and a member of Sound Side Missionary Baptist Church.

Surviving besides his wife, four daughters: Mrs. Doris Lusk of Carlisle, Iowa; Mrs. Nina H. Rowe of Columbia; Mrs. Ida Maxey of Vanceboro; and Mrs. Rose Sutton of Edenton; two sons: Donald Swain of Columbia; and William Flay Swain of Tyner; 15 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A funeral was held Saturday at 3 P.M. in Walker Funeral Home

Chapel, Columbia by Rev. Don Craft. Burial followed in Azalea Memorial Gardens.

Information provided by Williford-Barham Funeral Home, Edenton.

Illness Claims

Mrs. Ward

Continued From Page 6-B
 Graveside services were held at 11 A. M. Tuesday in Beaver Hill Cemetery with Rev. Richard R. Blankenhorn officiating.

Williford-Barham Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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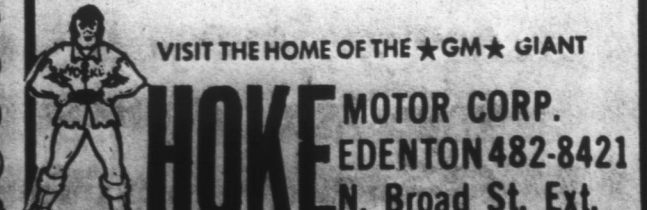
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