

Carolina Review - Rep. Ron Taylor Arrested And Charged In Connection With Fire

LOOKS LIKE... "It looks like he must be the dumbest guy in the whole world if he got hooked up with something like that," said one long-time observer of state politics. The observer, a man who has seen a lot of dumb guys through the years, was talking about Rep. Ron Taylor, D - Bladen County, who was arrested and charged last Friday in connection with an April fire that destroyed three tobacco warehouses that belonged to State Senate power, Monk Harrington, D - Bertie.

The catch is, Ron Taylor is not the dumbest guy in the whole world. "I never considered Ron a mental giant, but he certainly isn't dumb either," said another observer who has worked with Taylor in the Legislature.

But Taylor was charged with 21 counts of conspiring and soliciting to burn, burning and using incendiary device. Two other men, also of Bladen County, were charged in the indictments that were handed down by a Bertie County grand jury.

Taylor is president of a family business that manufactures tobacco equipment. Monk Harrington is president of his own tobacco equipment manufacturing company. Since 1980, Harrington has been trying to collect a \$350,000 court judgement from the Taylor company over patent infringements.

According to one more or less neutral observer, there could be "no motive but revenge - unless Taylor thought Harrington would

feel intimidated and stop trying to collect the \$350,000."

"And anybody that knows Monk Harrington knows better than that," said the observer. "All the evidence points to Taylor doing it, but almost too much. It's too pat," he said.

Taylor was certainly not acting guilty. As soon as he was released on \$75,000

bond, he was back home in Bladen County campaigning for re-election.

Before the case is over, and that promises to be awhile, there could be a lot more political fall-out than that just affecting Ron Taylor. And it could give a glimpse into a part of the tobacco industry that no one likes to talk about - a glimpse that everyone hopes

is just a very minute part. PAY RAISES... Conversations continue about what is going to happen in the Legislative "short session" over teacher and state employee pay raises.

State Treasurer Harlan Boyles entered the controversy last week by suggesting that the state workers not give up on getting their current pay

raise continued (the pay raise last year was not permanent, but rather mandated only through June 30, 1982). Boyles said the state might also be able to make longevity, merit and step increases available.

Gov. Jim Hunt has said that one or the other has to go or more state employees will have to be laid off.

Betting continues that the merit and step increases will take the dive - in effect, a salary freeze for the state employees and teachers (the current "temporary" raise would be legislated permanently).

According to a source within the administration, the salary freeze "is the direction we're going in." ERA... Pollster Lou Harris

visited the state this week as a guest of Governor Jim Hunt and ERA activists. According to a Harris poll taken in April, a big majority of North Carolinians favor ERA passage.

The visit was timed to coincide with legislators' preparations to come to Raleigh - possibly to vote on the ERA one last time.

Lost Colony On Schedule

MANTEO - It's count-down time for the 42nd production season of "The Lost Colony." The 1982 season of the Joe Layton edition of Paul Green's classic symphonic outdoor drama will open June 11 in Waterside Theater and run nightly except Sundays through August 28.

"We have an excellent cast lined up," says associate producer - general manager Bob Knowles. The cast reports May 24.

"Our auditioning process was very successful and the cast we will have this summer is quite capable of continuing the quality presentation of 'The Lost Colony.'"

Dare County Preview Night June 10 all Dare County residents are invited to a special and traditional "free" preview of the 42nd production of America's first and oldest symphonic outdoor drama.

"We are excited and looking forward to an excellent production season," added Knowles.

For information on "The Lost Colony," write P.O. Box 40, Manteo, N.C. 27954.

Veterans like Nancy Kaye (Queen Elizabeth), Cora Mae Basnight (Agona) - her 26th season, Perry Turner (Old Tom); Walter Tucker (Father Martin), Pete Peterson (Wanchese), Robert Midgette (Manteo) and John Gullucci (Simon Fernando) will be returning in their same roles.

And various universities and colleges will be sending some talented young professionals to "The Lost Colony" for their first season, according to Knowles.

Social Security

By Lee Wallio
Field Representative

Young people planning to work this summer as waiters, waitresses, and in similar service jobs should be aware that cash tips are covered by the Social Security law, just as regular wages.

However, tips must be specially reported to get Social Security credit for them.

For Young people, Social Security disability and survivors benefits can be paid after as little as a year and a half of work.

If a person suffers a mental or physical condition that prevents him from working for a year or more, he can qualify for Social Security disability benefits.

Social Security can also pay benefits to the surviving young family.

While the employer deducts the tax automatically from regular wages for Social Security purposes, the employee must report cash tips to the employer who then reports them to the Social Security Administration.

Cash tips of \$20 or more in any month must be reported to the employer within 10 days after the month ends.

Tips must be reported in writing by the employee.

The Employer collects the Social Security tax due on the tips that are reported. The amount may be deducted either from the regular wages owed or from money turned over to him for that purpose.

The employer does not pay the employer's share of the Social Security tax on tips as he does on regular wages.

However, if the employer pays regular wages to an employee who receives and reports tips to his employer, and the regular wages paid are less than the federal minimum wage, the employer is required to pay Social Security taxes on the difference between the regular wages and the federal minimum wage.

More information and leaflets about Social Security coverage of tips are available from the Elizabeth City Social Security office at 338 - 2161.

Early Book Art On Display

Early book art is on display at College of The Albemarle through the month of June. The exhibition, which is on loan from the N.C. Museum of Art, has been hung in the main lobby and corridors of "A" Building on the North Road Street campus.

The collection contains 38 book leaves, all from the 15th and 16th centuries. Thirteen are vellum sheets from hand-written and hand-illuminated manuscripts. One, a calendar page from a "Book of Hours," is estimated to date from 1430.

The remaining leaves are early printed pages. They are embellished with woodcuts with the exception of two early Bible pages that display hand-illuminated initials. Thirteen of the printed pages are from the 15th century.

A number of the leaves date from the 1470s. Pam Whitley, COA coordinator for the traveling exhibitions, pointed out that this was only 30 years after Gutenberg's first printed Bible, and 10 years after the introduction of woodcut illustrations.

Whitley said she is pleased that the book art is on display at the college for Albemarle area residents. The museum purchased its collection with assistance from the Reby Lewis Purchase Fund in 1961.

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3/\$1

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46 Oz. - Lemon/Lime or Orange

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5/\$1.00

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