

COOKIES ..... 79c

DOG FOOD3 FOR 89C

JERRY BOUCHER

MANAGER

NORTHSIDE SHOPPING CENTER EDENTON, N. C.

STRIP STEAK La. \*399

.... цв. 99с

CHUCK ..... 199

W-D BRAND U.S. CHOICE BONELESS

STEW BEEF . . LB. \*199

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Sir:

A constitutional amendment will be on the ballot in the primary June 29, 1982 which reads as follows: "Constitutional amendment making the terms of the members of the General Assembly four years, beginning with members elected in 1982." This will be amendment No. 1 on the ballot.

I believe a vote for this four-year term is a serious mistake and will work against the best interests of the people.

The proposed constitutional eviendment is bad legislation. Admittedly, the men and women who drafted this amendment are people of integrity and principle who believed this amendment to be worthwhile when it was introduced. But, I feel they failed to recognize the long term implications of their actions.

Foremost, I believe that passage of this amendment would reduce the communications between lawmakers and their costituents. It would be a sound down the path towal professional legislators. It would discourage many potential candidates.

Futhermore, since the amendment is on the same ballot as the legisators themselves, the voters must make their selections without knowing whether they are committing to this candidate for a two or a four-year term.

In addition, if legislators win "secure" four year terms in 1982, then they'll be free to sun for other offices—such as Governor, I. Governor, or a Council of State position—in 1984 without having to risk losing their General Assembly seats.

And, by being elected in "off-year" elections, the members of the General Assembly would not necessarily share the mandate of the Goernor in support of the will of the people. In other words, our legislative branch and our executive branch might be stepping to different tunes—in effect, forcing confusion and chaos into the halls of state government.

This amer ent may serve the desires of some politicians, but it certainly has never been mandated by the people of this state. We have heard no public outcry for this amendment. The only people who seem to want it are a for members of the Gener Assembly, not the vast more population who cape accountability and responsiveness from their legislators.

We don't need this amendment. We don't want this amendment. Nevertheless, we're being called upon to vote it down.

since 1968, 96 per cent of all constitutional amendments proposed by our General Assembly have been approved by the people. Without heightened public awareness of the menace posed by this amendment, this amendment will probably be passed, too.

We need to defeat this amendment — to defeat it soundly and decisively - so the members of the General Assembly will get the message that the people of North Carolina are accustomed to good government, and we won't settle for less.

Two-terms for North Carolina legislators have worked well since 1832. Our government is good. Our budget is balanced, our taxes are moderate, and our credit ratings are high. We have nothing it gain by approving four year terms, but we surely like a great deal.

I've heard it before, "If it

ain't broke, don't fix it." I can't see a thing we'll fix by giving our General Assembly members four-year terms.

We must urge all voters to vote AGAINST amendment NO. 1 in the primary of Tuesday, June 29, 1982.

Tom Gilmore