

The Carolina Review

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legislators joined in the fight—even some of those who voted for it in the General Assembly originally to put it on the ballot."

According to Gilmore, "about the only organization to come out for the amendment was the General Assembly."

Gilmore (and others) apparently assessed the situation correctly when they decided the four-year term was a "power-play" on the part of the legislators. "We had a lot of people, people like Pat Taylor, who felt very strongly about this issue—he (Taylor) felt it was going towards a fulltime legislature," Gilmore said. Pat Taylor was, of course, the last part-time lieutenant governor in North Carolina. He was defeated in the 1972 Democratic primary for governor by Skipper Bowles—himself a loser to Republican Holshouser in the general election.

Skipper Bowles and Jim Holshouser joined Taylor in their animosity toward Amendment Number One. So did former governors Sanford, Scott, and Moore. So did former N.C. legislator and Washington Senator Sam Ervin.

But it was mostly Tom Gilmore who led the defeat of the four-year term. Gilmore, who resigned his position as Deputy Secretary of Human Resources in the Hunt Administration to campaign against the amendment, says he drove "about 25,000 miles" in the six-month activity. He toured 76 North Carolina counties and helped to form bi-partisan committees against the amendment in 68 of those counties.

In the last two days before the vote, Gilmore traveled from Greensboro to Wilmington to Raleigh to Asheville to Durham to Haw River and then back to Greensboro to

vote. The last two weeks, Gilmore's wife took off work to travel and share the driving with him. Before that, various friends would "occasionally take a day off and travel with me," he said. Gilmore and friends raised a probable final total of "around \$34,000" to fight the amendment. Meanwhile, nobody was spending money to support the amendment, although Gilmore says several legislators were willing to debate the merits with him. No doubt, the amendment's defeat was "loud and clear."

But these days, people are suspect of anyone—especially a politician—who devotes that much time and energy in a seemingly unselfish cause. Gilmore's ascendancy to glory is no different. Speculation about Gilmore's motives arose immediately upon his resignation from the Hunt administration. "He's running for governor," some said. Others thought his reason for resigning might have been a cover for having been forced from his job.

Gilmore maintains he resigned from his job because he wanted to campaign against the amendment fulltime. When you think about it, that's really just what he did. Next week, a look at Gilmore's possible—perhaps probable campaign for governor in 1984.

1st Annual Community Watch Day Held June 26 In Raleigh

Over 600 people attended the first annual Community Watch Day in North Carolina on June 26 at the Kerr Scott Building in Raleigh.

The day-long event featured crime prevention displays by law enforcement agencies, live entertainment, and an awards ceremony.

Awards were presented to 180 citizens and law enforcement officers representing 47 North Carolina counties for outstanding work in the Community Watch Program.

Community Watch Day comes in the wake of a 1 per cent reduction in the state's crime rate for the first quarter of 1982 compared with the first quarter of 1981.

The quarterly reduction represents an additional decline in crime on top of the two per cent drop reported state-wide for 1981.

Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Heman R. Clark delivered the keynote address at the meeting and called for continued support of Community Watch. "Community Watch, like anything we care about, needs our constant attention

to stay in good working order," Clark said.

Robert A. Melott, deputy secretary for the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, who also attended the awards ceremony, said he was pleased with the success of Community Watch in North Carolina.

L. D. Hyde, director of the NC. Crime Prevention Division, the state's lead agency for state-wide coordination of the Community Watch Program, read a proclamation from Governor Hunt designating June 26, 1982 as "Com-

munity Watch Day in North Carolina." Hyde called the meeting "a tremendous success" adding, "We've come a long way with Community Watch since Governor Hunt began the program in 1972 when he was Lieutenant Governor. Today, we've got over 10,000 communities involved and, as nearly as we can determine, more than one-half of the programs in the country are right here in North Carolina."

The N.C. Community Watch Association, Inc. was the sponsor for Saturday's events. The association is a

private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to extend the Community Watch concept to every neighborhood in North Carolina. The Association is active in 66 of the 100 counties in North Carolina and future plans call for extending its membership to all counties by the end of 1982.

Top awards were given to Lieut. Don King of the Gaston County Police Department and Brandon Mullis of Stanley County for their work in crime prevention. King's award

was for exemplary work as a law enforcement officer. Mullis received recognition as the state's outstanding citizen.

The association also elected its officers for the upcoming year during a special meeting on Saturday. Officers for the 1982-83 term are: President, Don Steelman of Raleigh; Vice-President, Jay Trivette of Smithfield; Secretary, Brandon Mullis of Albemarle; and Treasurer, Elizabeth Duncan of Newton.

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