

Carolina Review: Hunt Plays Peacemaker

HELP...Eyebrows arched in Raleigh a few weeks ago when Gov. Jim Hunt agreed to appear at an upcoming fundraiser for defeated Congressional candidate Mickey Michaux. The fundraiser is planned to help retire a heavy campaign debt Michaux acquired in trying to become the state's first black Congressman since Reconstruction.

The eyebrows arched because Michaux has steadfastly refused to endorse his Democratic opponent, Tim Valentine, after Valentine's victory over him in a primary run - off. Michaux had been the frontrunner in the first primary.

Some observers felt the governor shouldn't help Michaux with the fundraiser if Michaux wasn't planning to endorse Valentine. Administration sources hinted that Hunt was trying to get the two together.

One source said Hunt had

even called Michaux to ask for a Valentine endorsement.

Instead, Michaux has at times hinted strongly of a write - in campaign on his behalf - perhaps a sure - fire means of electing Republican Jack Marin to the seat.

Whether he ever had plans for a write - in campaign or not is open to speculation, but Michaux announced this past weekend that he was definitely planning to run for the 2nd Congressional seat again in 1984.

At a meeting of black officials in Raleigh, Michaux criticized the Democratic party and suggested they had taken blacks for granted. But Michaux did agree to support "all the Democrats in the 2nd Congressional District" in November.

Michaux later emphasized that his statements should not be construed as an endorsement of Valen-

tine. "I don't intend for whoever gets there in 1982 to be there after 1984," Michaux reportedly said. A lawyer, as is Valentine, Michaux said the Democratic nominee's "single qualification" was that he "was a Democrat." However, a meeting is scheduled this week between Valentine and Michaux - the first one since the primary. Pundits suggested Michaux might discover some other qualifications in that meeting.

As for the governor's work on Michaux's behalf, most observers feel he should be stumping for Valentine. A study of Valentine's financial contributors during the primary campaign reportedly showed close to 50 per cent were also givers to the Jesse Helms' campaign organization, the National Congressional Club, at one time or another. Since Helms has twice

been elected by conservative Democrats, especially in the east, that's where the inroads will have to be made for Hunt to beat Helms in 1984.

Meanwhile, Hunt spokesman Brent Hackney says the governor is still trying to bring Michaux and Valentine together.

Computers For Farms

U.S. agriculture has experienced many technological revolutions including mechanization, crop hybridization, fertilizer, pesticides, and plant and animal health products. The next breakthrough looming on the horizon may well be the use of micro - computers. Farmers should be able to utilize this tool in many ways to improve management of their farming enterprises.

The electronic technology which has made small computers possible is the "chip," a silicon wafer one-half square centimeter in size, on which is printed the circuitry previously contained in a large cabinet. Today's micro - computers have the capacity of computers which filled a medium - size room just ten years ago.

However, because the micro - computer is so new and tremendous improvements are being realized on almost a monthly basis, there are some difficult decisions to make. For example, should you invest in equipment (hardware) today, knowing that a year from now it will be significantly less capable than a brand - new one?

Utilizing a micro - computer requires that computer programs be available to provide the useable information that you purchased it to provide. Several agricultural and commercial firms have developed and are developing micro - computer programs that permit a farmer to make management decisions in a much more efficient and flexible manner.

The joint efforts of universities and others will also be beneficial to farmers, as it will create a reduction in the amount of time spent putting information in the on - farm computer.

Just as past technological improvements in agriculture have resulted in greater productivity and improved efficiency, micro - computers should benefit many farmers in the future.

New Construction Down 24 Percent

North Carolina's largest cities authorized a total of 2,926 new construction units in April, State Labor Commissioner John C. Brooks said today, down 24.1 per cent from 3,857 in April 1981, and a 12.8 per cent decrease from March's 3,355.

Estimated value of the building, at \$80,697,412, dropped 19.9 per cent from the April 1981 total, \$100,721,738, and 27.7 per cent from \$111,541,932 in March.

Raleigh led the 44 reporting cities in value with \$12,845,092, followed by Charlotte, with \$12,398,245; Winston - Salem, \$7,959,571; and Greensboro, \$6,218,017. Durham, Fayetteville, Goldsboro and Monrow each recorded more than \$3 million, while Gastonia, Greenville and Jacksonville exceeded \$2 million apiece.

For the first time in 1982, according to Brooks, one of the four categories of

building activity reported monthly by the labor department's research and statistics division showed an over - the - year gain.

Nonresidential construction increased 9.3 per cent from April 1981, but double - digit declines were still reflected for single - family homes (-25.3 per cent), multi - family dwelling units (-17.7 per cent), and additions and alterations (-30.6 per cent).

A total of 377 permits were issued for nonresidential construction projects in the state's cities

for more than 10,000 population, up 9.3 per cent from 345 in April 1981. Value, at \$20,664,709, dropped 46.2 per cent from \$38,397,161. Permits gained 7.1 per cent from March's 352 (at \$39,201,626).

Permits for single - family homes, at 558, declined 25.3 per cent from 747 in April 1981. Value, at \$23,058,127, dropped 26.4 per cent from \$31,308,352. Permits decreased 1.9 per cent from March's 569, with value down 3.0 per cent from \$23,764,360.

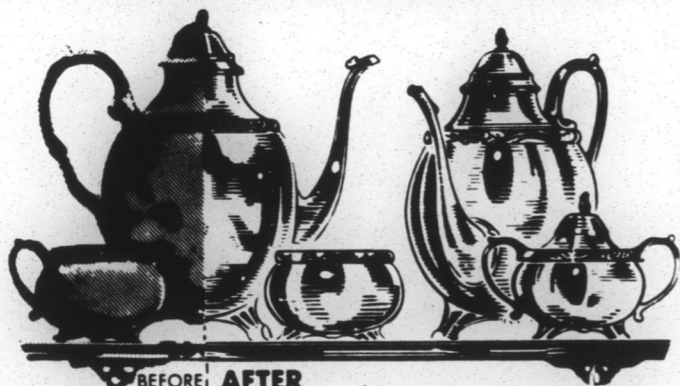
Compared to April 1981,

the average construction cost for a single - family home fell 1.4 per cent, to \$41,323 from \$41,912. The average dropped 1.1 per cent from March's \$41,765.

A total of 465 multi - family units were authorized, off 17.7 per cent from 554 in April 1981. Value, at \$8,995,125, decreased 18.9 per cent from \$11,095,874. Units dropped 40.9 per cent from March's 771, with value down 55.7 per cent from \$20,301,403.

Permits for additions and alterations declined 30.6 per cent from April 1981.

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