

Carolina Review: Senator Gets Defended

SOLES... "We know him as a good, quiet, unassuming and capable person. He has our complete support," said one of only many senators expressing their displeasure over the latest Colcor caper.

Eight-term state Sen. R.C. Soles, D-Columbus, was indicted last week on extortion and conspiracy charges; charges connected to the apparently ongoing federal Colcor investigation.

U.S. Attorney Sam Currin of the Eastern District charged that Soles accepted a \$500 gold bracelet from and undercover agent in exchange for influencing legislation on the regulation of precious metals. Soles was also charged with assigning three local political associates to promote the passage of a mixed drink referendum in the Columbus County town of Bolton-at the impetus of the undercover agents.

Everybody already knows about the Colcor bust of last July, when Rep. Ron Taylor, also of Columbus County, was charged with similar indictments. Taylor, already in big trouble over arson charges, pleaded guilty to his part in accepting bribery money from the agents.

Soles was mentioned in the original Colcor bust, but prosecutors said then that they didn't have enough evidence to indict the soft-spoken senator. Apparently, they don't have much more than they had in July.

What the prosecutors do have are some angry Democratic senators (and probably Republicans too).

When Taylor fell from grace, legislators were somewhat disenchanted with the FBI methods, but Taylor was so obviously tied into the state-related arson case, that they just more or less threw up their hands. Besides, Taylor was in tape accepting money from the agents.

FBI tapes already played in court reveal the wealthy Soles turned down cold cash from the agents. So the agents came back with the gold bracelet, a replacement for one they knew he'd lost. Soles accepted the gift. Secondhand information from supporters of the senator suggest tapes

yet to be aired will reveal Soles even offered to pay for the bracelet, and the agents refused.

But even if Soles accepted the gift, even if it was worth \$500, he didn't break the law unless he did something legislatively in return. The agents say Soles promised to influence a bill in the legislature that dealt with precious metal regulations.

Hold on a minute. If what has been described so far is against the law, then a lot of

us around the legislature could be key government witnesses in the future. Almost every lawmaker visited by a constituent, sometimes presented with gifts (a smoked ham, basketball tickets, etc.), ends the visit with the promise of a favor.

Did Soles sell out on the precious metals bill?

"You can't link that bill to R.C. Soles to save your life," said one Soles friend who looked at the bill's history.

That isn't exactly true. Soles voted in the unanimous majority (38-0) in the first floor reading of the bill (passage requires three readings). On the second, Soles was one of two senators (42-2) to vote against the bill. That day, to prevent a third and final reading, Soles issued an objection, thus keeping the bill on the calendar for further consideration. The next day, Soles voted again in the unanimous majority (31-0) for passage.

Quite frankly, a lot of senators obstruct final passage, on point of privilege, until they can check back home with constituents who have expressed as special interest in a bill. The senators like Soles, but they may be angrier because they see a little bit of "there but for the grace of..."

Unless the feds can color Soles a little more sinister, Colcor may have colored out this time.

Gospel Group To Appear

Steve and the New Birth Harmonics, a 26 adult mixed voice contemporary gospel group will make their first ap-

pearance in a concert at the Ernest A. Swain Auditorium, Edenton, N.C. Sunday March 27, 1983 at 5:00 P.M. The con-

cert will consist of church, contemporary gospel and gospel music. Their main objective is to win souls to Christ



Steve and the New Birth Harmonics

through a singing ministry. The public is invited to attend. Admission is free of charge.

Members include: Sopranos - Annie Bembry, Mary Bryant, Barbara Bond, Denise Bowe, Judy Boyce, Marie Daves, Dianne Granby, Adelon Jackson, Earlene Jordan, Janie Riddick, Norma Simpson, Mattie Spivey and Phyllis Swain; Altos - Estelle Felton, Arizona Fleming, Patricia Foreman, Audrey Granby, Katie Hall, Mattie Jordan, Louise Perry and Alberta Wills. Tenors -

Madeline Wiggins, Steve Flemming and David Jordan; Musicians - Piano-Steve Flemming, Bass-Jerry Zachery and Drums-Jimmy Blount; Board of Directors are Rev. J. L. Fenner, Mr. Steve A. Flemming, Mrs.

Dianne R. Granby, Rev. A. Green, Rev. J. H. Lonclon, Rev. J. I. Perry, Sr., Miss Nanette C. Turner and Rev. W. L. Wainwright.

Photo by Mr. William Bonner.

EPSDT Service Is Now Available

EPSDT, Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment is now being offered at the Pasquotank-Perquimans-Camden-Chowan District Health Department. The service is provided to all children ages 0-21 years who are eligible for the Aid to Families With Dependent Children Program. Children under 2 years of age are seen for seven examinations, while children up to age 21 are screened with regular check-ups.

EPSDT provides required shots, dental care, and screenings such as height and weight, and vision and hearing tests. Referrals are made as needed at no cost.

Questions about the program are welcome and can be directed to the PPCDC District Health Department at 338-2167.

"Half a truth is a whole lie." Yiddish Proverb



RURITAN CLUB CHARTERED—(L to R front row) Carlton Nixon, Albemarle District Governor; David Ober, President; Steve Evans, Vice-President; Aubrey Tynch, Secretary; Ray Smith, Treasurer. (L to R back row) Ray Goodwin, Zone Governor; Joe Jackson, District Lieutenant Governor; Ivan Ober, Jeff Smith, and Jimmy Forehand, Directors.

New Ruritan Club Is Organized

The newly organized Rocky Hock Ruritan Club met at Rocky Hock Community Center on Thursday night, March 10, 1983. The official Ruritan National Charter, signed by twenty-nine Ruritans, was presented to the club by Joe Jackson, Albemarle district lieutenant governor.

Officers of the new club who were installed by Bob Spivey, past Ruritan National director are: David Ober, president; Steve Evans, vice-president; Aubrey Tynch, secretary; Ray Smith, treasurer; Ivan Ober, Jimmy Forehand and Jeff Smith, directors.

Other guests attending the charter night meeting were Walton Carter, national director; Carlton Nixon, Albemarle district governor; Joe Roberts and Ray Goodwin, zone governors; Max

Singletary, district secretary; Charles Ward, past district governor; Swin Lowry, past national president.

Chowan Ruritan Club of Tyner, N.C. is sponsoring the new Rocky Hock Club and was represented by Robert Harrell at the charter night meeting.

The Rocky Hock Ruritan Club will meet the second Thursday of each month at Rocky Hock Community

Center as a part of a fast growing rural civic service organization is looking forward to getting involved in community projects.



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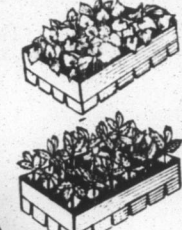
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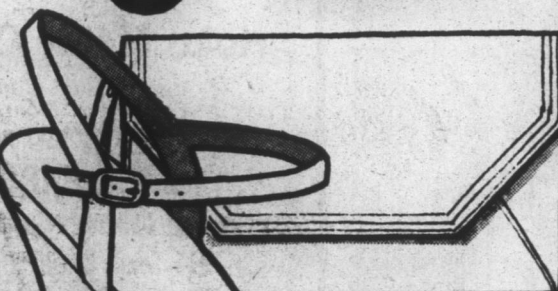
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