

Eddie Knox Announces His Candidacy For Governor At News Conference

CHARLOTTE—Eddie Knox, a former state senator and now mayor of Charlotte, officially announced his candidacy as a Democrat for governor at an early morning news conference attended by hundreds of hometown community and business leaders.

Following his remarks in Charlotte, Knox, 46, flew to Asheville, Greensboro, Raleigh, Greenville, Wilmington and Elizabeth City, with the same message to local government officials, educators, area leaders and news reporters.

Jobs, education and crime were listed by Knox as the three most critical issues fac-

ing North Carolina. As he outlined his approaches to meeting those issues, Knox spoke of his success in accomplishing public goals. "It's now time to take my style of leadership to the people of North Carolina," he said. "Working together, we will develop a progressive platform that will move North Carolina to the destiny she deserves."

During the past 20 years, Knox gained great respect from political parties, the business community and neighborhood leaders for his commitment to public service and the forthright manner in which he worked with people.

He achieved a reputation of doing what he set out to do. His success was attributed to an exceptional ability to bring people together, hear their views, develop workable solutions to problems, and then see that appropriate action is taken.

Currently serving his second term as mayor of the state's largest city, Knox pointed to his record as mayor, as a two-term state senator, as chairman of the state's Advisory Budget Commission, and as a leader on numerous other state and local committees in saying, "I did what I promised to do." That is the same philosophy he says he will carry to the governor's office.

Prior to making his announcement, Knox spent

more than two years traveling throughout the state, listening to people's concerns and seeing their problems first-hand. What he heard and saw has become the foundation for his plans to help North Carolina cope with rapidly changing times.

Developing better jobs will be the keystone of his campaign, Knox said. "Jobs will be our guiding star and I will keep my eye on that star. The decency and self-respect that come from having a job and earning good wages is something every North Carolinian has a right to. New industry must be sought more vigorously than ever before."

He said North Carolina must thoroughly explore the export trade market and help businesses better use state

ports and foreign trade zones.

Bringing new industry to the state, Knox said, I will require "a much better industrial recruitment program that has expertise regionally situated to assist each area of North Carolina." Such a program, he said, will "assist each county and community in promoting their great assets to new industries." Undergirding this industrial recruitment program, he said, would be an intensive program to "train and educate the workers of this state to meet changing job markets."

He said North Carolinians "shouldn't view changes as threats or as something to fear. They are challenges—opportunities we can use to help our workers earn a bet-

ter living and improve the quality of life for us all. We must meet the tests that come with change through planning and through process that will assure us that the transition won't be traumatic—but will be filled with pragmatic and innovative benefits for us and for our future."

At a time when the state is facing a diminishing student population (and resulting tuition income drop), coupled with increasing cost of providing quality education, Knox said, the state's educational system "must continue to be evaluated and re-evaluated."

As part of the evaluation process he proposed a symposium, planned and conducted by educators—with input from business and in-

dustry leaders. "In the final analysis," he said, "this state and the quality of life of its people are directly tied to our educational successes."

Thirdly, Knox said his campaign would focus on crime control. "Band-Aid approaches aren't going to heal the wounds that rampant crime inflicts on our communities....If we want to win the fight against crime in North Carolina, we must build a perception among the people that it is the responsibility of every man, woman and child in this state to fight it....When strong countermeasures are proposed with proposed with strong leadership, I believe the people will pull together and fight crime," he said.

In adapting for the future,

Knox said, "We must bring government—at all levels—closer to the people. We can't isolate state government in Raleigh."

Knox said he would continue to serve as mayor of Charlotte until his second term ends in December, and although he will continue traveling throughout the state, he "will not campaign on the taxpayers' time nor at their expense."

Drug Abuse

Continued From Page 7-B
tions, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, Post Office Box 2291, Durham, N.C., 27702. The telephone number is (919) 489-7431, extension 2415. Each additional copy of the booklet is 25 cents.

"Our Town" Presented

GREENVILLE—One of the most cherished and popular plays in the history of American theatre, Thornton Wilder's "Our Town," will be presented by the East Carolina Playhouse in ECU's McGinnis Theatre April 14-19, with nightly performances set for 8:15 P.M.

Rhonda Kirby, ECU junior of Edenton portrays Myrtle Webb. She appeared in a previous ECU drama production, "Step on a Crack" and in Edenton Little Theatre and Holmes High School productions.

This Pulitzer Prize-winning chronicle of the way life was lived in a fictitious little New Hampshire town in the gentle, early years of the century is a touching celebration of being alive.

It is a drama of the daily affairs of love, marriage and death in Grover's Corners (population 2,642) that kindles a poignant glow as it points

out the little-realized beauties of everyday moments.

Director Cedric Winchell, who guided the ECU production of "The Shadow Box" last December, points out that "Our Town" is the "most produced play in American history."

Special matinee performances have been scheduled for Friday, and Tuesday, both at 1 P.M. According to Playhouse General Manager Scott Parker, the special matinees have been set aside primarily for school groups who have read the play as part of their course work and now want to see it performed onstage.

Tickets for "Our Town" may be purchased at the box office in Messick Theatre Arts Center, corner of Fifth and Eastern Streets, Greenville, each weekday from 10 A.M. until 4 P.M. Telephone reservations may be made by dialing (919) 757-6390.

Highway Improvements

RALEIGH—Among the items which the N.C. Board of Transportation approved in its meeting recently were 48 contracts for highway improvements across the state.

State Secretary of Transportation W.R. Robertson, Jr. commented, "Thirty-nine of the approved contracts called for resurfacing work on nearly 940 miles of existing highways."

"Our main emphasis continues to be on maintenance of existing highways. North Carolinians have over \$25-billion invested in the state's highway system and it is our responsibility to protect that investment."

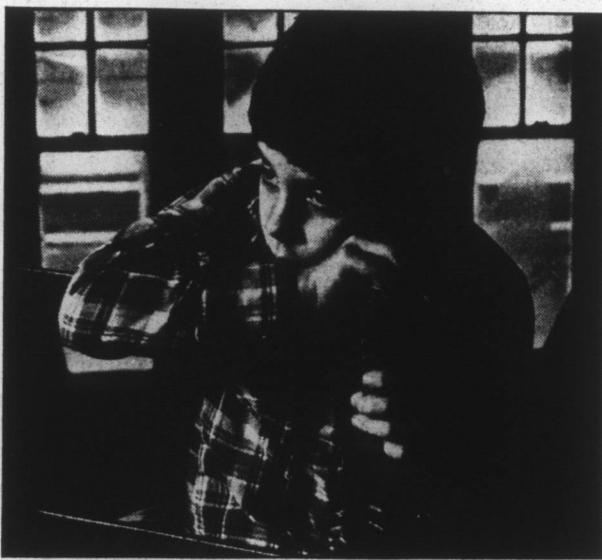
"Our thanks go to members of the 1981 General Assembly

who approved Gov. Jim Hunt's 'Good Roads' program generating necessary funding for highway maintenance. We appreciate their support and assistance in recognizing that critical need," he said.

Among contracts awarded by the board were three specifying the widening and resurfacing of Highway 12 in Dare County, the relocation of Airport Road in Wake County and the widening of Highway 168 in Currituck County.

In all 48 contracts totaled nearly \$26-million.

Thirteen is considered so unlucky that at one time in Paris no houses had that number.



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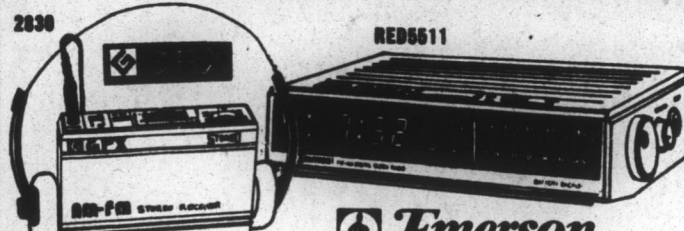
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