

# Harrington Caustic Over Area Split Plan

By JOE M. PARKER  
LEWISTON — Third District  
Senator J. J. Harrington said Fri-

day morning he planned to be in Raleigh Monday with a plan of his own drawn up for presentation to a committee studying redistricting of the state senate.

The redistricting committee met Thursday and drew up a tentative plan which splits the Roanoke-Chowan area in half, destroying the Third District set up by the senatorial redistricting two years ago.

The committee's tentative plan puts Bertie County, Sen. Harrington's home county, in the 1st District composed of counties east of the Chowan River and north of Albemarle Sound. The 1st District is now represented by Sen. Emmett Winslow of Perquimans, Gates County is now a part of this district.

Hertford and Northampton Counties under the tentative ar-

angement drawn by the committee Thursday would be put in a district with Halifax County. What other counties would be a part of the district were not certain from initial reports of Thursday's meeting.

If the district in which Hertford and Northampton are put has one senator, it is thought Warren would be a part of it. If it is a two-senator district there is a possibility Edgecombe will be added.

Asked for comment Friday morning Sen. Harrington said, "I don't like it a bit." He followed this with news that he would draw up an alternative plan and be on hand Monday when the committee meets again at 11 a. m. in the State House.

Harrington said the plan "does not make common sense. This country is based on common sense and the first time we leave it we are lost."

Harrington indicated he had learned that the committee's problem in drawing a district in the Roanoke-Chowan was what to do with Halifax and Edgecombe. Both counties are too large for a single senator when combined but too small for one by themselves.

Of his intention to go to Raleigh Monday Harrington said, "I am not going to be fighting, working and arguing for myself but for the people of this area. I think I know what they want and this plan is not it."

"Good Friends" Of his own chances personally for re-election in the district proposed by the committee Harrington said, "I have a very close association with the people of the 1st District when we were a part of it. I represented them then and feel I could do so again. I have many good friends in the Albemarle area."

Harrington continued, "If Bertie were put in the Halifax-Edgecombe district I would do all right there also. I have a large number of close personal friends over there, particularly in the Tarboro area."

"I just don't have anything to lose myself in this redistricting. I don't even know if I will run for re-election. But the people of the Roanoke-Chowan have a whole lot to lose," Sen. Harrington said.

Harrington indicated that he had had a number of phone calls since the committee's action first began to leak out Thursday night. He said he had been in touch with Sen. Asley Futrell of Beaufort County, a committee member.

Harrington said Sen. Futrell has expressed a willingness to work with the people of the 3rd District to find a better solution than that proposed Thursday. "This is particularly fortunate because Sen. Futrell's district is next to ours on the south and his help will be needed if we are to get this thing changed," Harrington stated.

Harrington indicated his proposal Monday might contain elements of a suggestion made recently in redistricting discussions by Alex McMahon, former secretary of the state county commissioners' organization. McMahon said from his study of the federal court rulings he thought if all senatorial districts in the state except one were within the 15 per cent varia-guidelines of the court that this would be acceptable in the federal courts.

Harrington indicated one possibility along this line would be to add Gates County to the 3rd District to bring it within the 15 per cent tolerance then leave Sen. Winslow's 1st District as the one district out of 35 or 36 in the state with a smaller population than the norm.

The figure used in the committee for allocating senators was 91,123. A tolerance of 15 per cent over or under this is thought to be acceptable by the federal courts.

Harrington said the Hertford-Bertie-Northampton district has 74,000 population and is within 18 per cent of 91,000.

"If we took in Gates we would be within 15 per cent," Harrington said.

"Then if Chowan County were added we would have 94,000 and

be so close nobody could argue," Harrington said. He indicated this also is a possibility that should be considered.

Suggestions Coming "The committee has torn up our Roanoke-Chowan District by its tentative plan but they are emphasizing that it is tentative and are going to be open to suggestion for changes Monday. I intend to give them some."

"I will be fighting for the Roanoke-Chowan section not for myself. I am still senator for this area and I think I know the thoughts of the people on how they want to be represented," Harrington said.

Also questioned about the senatorial situation Friday morning was Hertford Rep. Roberts Jernigan, Jr., a member of the redistricting committee for the House.

Jernigan said, "I didn't like the set up I read in the paper this morning. I went to Elizabeth City last night to explain to the Representatives from that area what the House committee had done to them. They didn't like and they let me know. I don't like the senate draft and I will have a chance to say so if it comes before the House for passage in its

present form," Jernigan cautioned however that the plan is just a draft. He said it could change greatly when the Senate committee meets again Monday.

"I am not satisfied with this

As to details of the Senate draft work every way possible to get counties with common interests together in a district," Jernigan continued.

Jernigan said, "It is so temporary now it would not be useful to speculate on it." He did say however that Sen. Futrell "is 100 per cent in favor of helping us out and this will be important in getting a better district."

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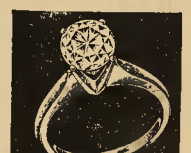
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