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Wallace addresses state Senate; advises retention of N.C. primary

by Tim Pittman
Staff Writer

RALEIGH — Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace drew the cheers and applause of an overflowing legislative auditorium audience Wednesday as he attacked a proposed Senate bill to kill North Carolina's presidential primary.

Wallace, speaking at a Senate Local Government Committee public hearing, joined Gov. James Holshouser in urging state legislators to retain the presidential primary.

Enthusiastic spectators gave Wallace a standing ovation as he entered the

auditorium, and continuously interrupted his speech with burst of applause.

"When you take the vote away from the people on the frivolous charges of high costs and not attracting enough candidates," Wallace said, "they (the people) won't pay you much attention."

Wallace called the bill an attempt to take away the average middle-class citizen's rights. "You are playing with the average citizen of North Carolina who is about to lose his input into election of officers," he said.

Vigorously defending the rights of the middle class, Wallace said, "This is a

movement (the trend to do away with presidential primaries) to remove the average man — the textile worker, farmer, beautician, and truck driver — from the political process."

Wallace said the bill had been introduced because he had won the N.C. presidential primary by an overwhelming majority.

"I feel consciously or unconsciously that the fact I was involved in the primary here in 1972 is one of the main reasons for the impetus behind this legislation in North Carolina."

Holshouser said the presidential primaries — "the lifeblood of what our government is all about" — serve the people and candidates during elections.

"Primaries put you in contact with the people," he said. "It's good because the presidential candidates see what the people want and the people can meet the candidates."

"The primary is a birthright, a precious, treasured experience—an opportunity which we need to maximize," Holshouser said.

Reps. George Breece, D-Cumberland, and Robert Jones, D-Vance, lead the support of the bill.

which has already passed the House with a 75-36 vote.

Jones, who introduced the House bill, said the bill would shorten the time between the primary and general elections, and reduce the cost of elections.

"If we are going to have a presidential primary, it ought to mean something," he said.

"The primary causes disunity within the Democratic party, and the Democratic party doesn't need disunity any more."

Wallace, who cited personal examples of how the destruction of presidential primaries could hurt him, said, "The best way to preserve the middle class is to allow the middle class to have a greater degree of power."

"Some politicians fear they might vote emotionally. They might vote for George Wallace," he said.

"I might not even get involved in the presidential race, but more people are going to want to get involved, and this involvement is the only way to overcome the growing cynicism and mistrust of government."



George Wallace...

Staff photo by Charles Hardy

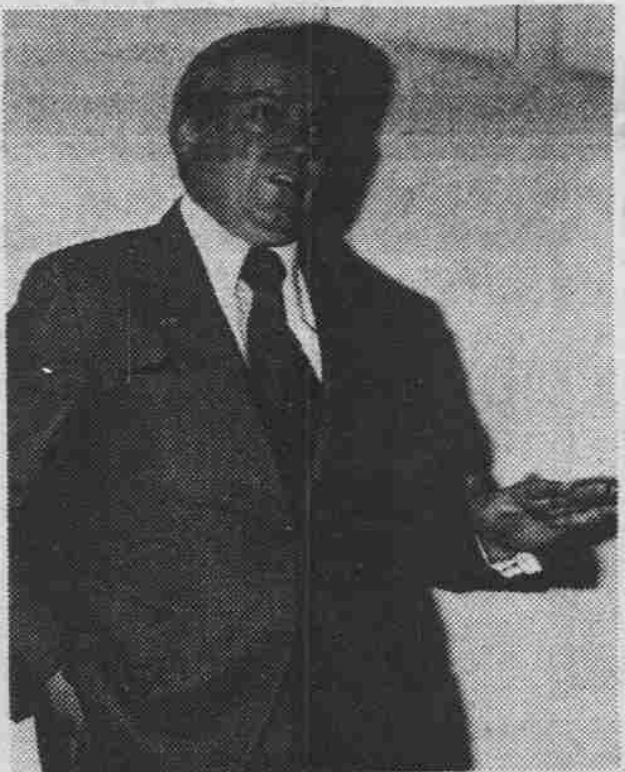
...governor of Alabama, speaks to the N.C. Senate in opposition of a bill which would eliminate the state presidential primary. Wallace won the 1971 primary and is the leading contender for the democratic nomination this year.

Strickland predicts primary bill defeat

by Merton Vance
Staff Writer

State Sen. Thomas Strickland predicted Tuesday night that a bill to abolish the presidential primary in North Carolina will be defeated by the Senate.

Speaking to the UNC Young Democrats Club, Strickland, D-Wayne, said he was surprised when the bill was introduced. "I didn't feel that any politician would attempt to take the vote away from the people when it had already been established," he said.



Staff photo by Charles Hardy

Sen. Tom Strickland

Strickland sponsored the legislation which established the presidential primary in 1971.

Alabama governor George Wallace, who won the North Carolina primary in 1972, contacted Strickland after the bill to abolish the primary reached the Senate Local Government Committee. Wallace opposed the primary repeal in a speech to the committee Wednesday.

Wallace wanted to stop moves to abolish presidential primaries in North Carolina, Tennessee, Maryland and Michigan, states in which he won large numbers of votes in the 1972 primaries, Strickland said Tuesday.

Strickland said voters he has talked with want to keep the presidential primary. "I feel that the system should be opened up and that people should have the opportunity to participate."

The bill may reach the Senate floor but will probably be defeated, he said. A similar bill has already been passed by the House. Strickland also told The Young Democrats that recent recommendations to increase tuition rates at North Carolina's state-supported universities were "a little bit drastic."

A Senate subcommittee recommended Friday that tuitions be increased by \$200 per year for in-state students and \$300 for out-of-state students.

Strickland, a member of the Senate Higher Education Committee, said an increase of \$50 in tuition costs for in-state students was more likely, with a slightly higher increase for out-of-state students.

Presidential power bill halted by CGC

by Art Eisenstadt
Staff Writer

The Campus Governing Council (CGC) voted, Tuesday, by a large margin to defeat a bill that would have limited the student body president's power to relocate offices.

The council defeated the measure, 11-3, after 20 minutes of debate. In addition to the 10 CGC members who discussed the bill, Black Student Movement (BSM) chairperson Lester Diggs and Brent Bills, a member of the Carolina Union Board of Directors, argued against the bill from the floor.

Cinda Thomas and Jerry Noble, both of the Human Sexuality Information and Counseling Service, and former CGC Rep. Carl Fox argued for the bill.

Introduced by Rep. Jon Sawyer, the bill would have required presidential decisions on office changes to be heard by the Administration Committee and then the entire CGC, similar to the way appointments are handled.

The Administration Committee chairperson would also have been required to notify all parties affected by a proposed four days (amended from one week) before hearings began.

Sawyer wrote the bill Monday in the midst of a controversial decision by Student Body President Bill Bates' staff to relocate several Student Government offices.

Bates cancelled the plan Tuesday morning after several groups, most notably the Human Sexuality organization, complained that they were not notified in advance of the moves.

Diggs' testimony took most of the council by surprise. Speaking at the invitation of Bates, Diggs said, "In a case where the (Student Government) administration becomes arbitrary or insensitive, I think CGC needs to be checking the president's

power. "In no way, shape or form can Bill's administration be called arbitrary or insensitive. When that becomes necessary, this bill will be good."

Diggs said Wednesday CGC should not try to put too many checks on the president's power, except when the president becomes irresponsible. "Let's cross that bridge when we come to it. CGC has more important things to do," he said.

He said he opposed the bill after he heard of it and asked Bates earlier Tuesday to yield the floor to him.

BSM's offices were scheduled to be moved under the original plan, a move which Diggs said he was against.

Bates, who had opposed the bill, said of its defeat, "I thought it was a good move. I thought it had a good chance of passing." He said Diggs had approached him earlier in the afternoon and told him "he was against stripping the president's power."

Dick Pope, one of the three representatives to vote for the bill said, "I think it is sort of ridiculous to speak of whether Bill Bates is arbitrary. We were trying to make sure that a president in the future wouldn't try to undermining somebody."

In other action, CGC approved a referendum for next October to determine whether smoking should be banned in classrooms. CGC has no authority to enact a ban, but hopes to use the results of the referendum to advise University administrators if such a ban were proposed.

CGC also approved the nominations of several Bates appointees. They were: Billy Richardson, executive assistant to the president; David Smith, secretary of internal affairs; Ellen Frisbie, executive secretary; Karen McDonald, secretary of executive affairs and Johnny Kaleel, legislative aid.

Assembly may drop proposal

Scott expects no rise in tuition

by Greg Nye
Staff Writer

Proposed tuition increases for UNC students next year will probably be dropped by the North Carolina Assembly, state Sen. Ralph Scott, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said Wednesday.

But a \$25.8 million cut in the enrollment budget of the consolidated University is likely to be adopted, Scott said.

The two proposals were approved last Friday by the appropriation subcommittee on higher education in an effort to cut back on the General Assembly's budget.

Scott said he believes subcommittee members will change their recommendation for increased tuition as public pressure against the proposal mounts. "In my opinion, there will be major changes in its initial recommendation," Scott said.

"We don't want to make it tough for college students," state Sen. D. Livingstone Stallings, chairman of the appropriations subcommittee, said Wednesday. "But we have got to have some money from somewhere."

Budget cuts totaling \$232 million are expected to be made in the General Assembly because of the recession in the state. The Assembly estimated this year's growth in state revenue over last year to be 11 per cent. But unemployment has forced

sales tax revenue down — to only a 3 per cent increase over last year's revenue.

The proposed tuition increases and enrollment budget cuts would reduce state funds for the 16-campus university system by \$70.5 million over the next two years.

If the subcommittee's proposal is approved, in-state tuition will increase by approximately 40 per cent from \$492 a year to \$692 a year. Out-of-state tuition will increase by 17 per cent from \$1,800 a year to \$2,100 a year.

Even if the subcommittee does not alter the tuition increase recommendation, the Appropriations Committee and then the full House and Senate must approve the measure. "There are bound to be changes made along the way," Scott said.

"We have to cut back on our spending but the real problem is to try to be fair to everyone."

"There are going to have to be cuts made in every department, and UNC will have to make some sacrifices along with the rest — education is where most of the state's money goes."

The enrollment money was to be used to cover the expenses of last year's over-acceptance of students and the increased numbers of students already accepted for next year.

State Sen. McNeill Smith, a member of the appropriations

subcommittee, said last week the committee's decision to cut the enrollment budget was influenced by the large amounts of money higher education has received in past years.

"Appropriations for higher education have gone up 540 per cent over the last 10 years while those for public schools have only doubled," Smith said. "Only 20 per cent of the population benefits from higher education in North Carolina, while 80 per cent benefit from public schools."

William C. Friday, president of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, disagreed. "Requirements have been put upon higher education for services and programs the state did not have 10 years ago," he said Wednesday. "Allocations have not been at all out of line."

The cutback could be damaging to the University, Friday said. "Without the enrollment funds the student-teacher ration may increase."

But Stallings pointed out that the recommendations were still tentative. "We are going to meet with President Friday next week to see if he can propose alternate areas of budget to cut."

However, President Friday said Wednesday he is more concerned with revealing the disadvantages of the enrollment budget cut than finding new areas to cut. "The Board of Governors must point out the disadvantages of the budget cuts to the General Assembly," Friday said.



ERA lobbyists at committee meeting

ERA goes to House with favorable report

RALEIGH — North Carolina's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) came one step closer yesterday as the House Constitutional Amendments Committee voted 13-3 to send the ERA to the full House with a favorable report.

The committee's ratification of the ERA came after two months of committee deliberation in which committee chairman Hartwell Campbell, D-Wilson, was accused of stalling a vote on the proposal. The ERA will go to the floor of the House next Tuesday.

Although the committee's decision was not a surprise, the 13-3 vote was unexpected. Reps. Bobby Wayne Rogers, D-Vance, and

Jay Huskens, D-Iredell, supported the ERA. Based on prior committee action, both representatives were expected to cast votes against the ERA's committee approval.

A 6-10 vote killed a substitute motion to send the ERA to the House with a neutral instead of a favorable report.

Two emotional public hearings and a visit by former U.S. Sen. Sam Ervin have highlighted ERA action in the past month.

Thirty-four of the required 38 states have adopted the ERA already. North Carolina, Florida, Illinois and Missouri are the only remaining states expected to take action on the amendment this year.

Communists advance on Saigon

by Bert Okuley
United Press International

SAIGON — Communist forces smashed into two more province capitals Wednesday and were reported maneuvering 40,000 troops into position for what military sources said could be the start of the battle for Saigon.

Elements of two Communist divisions battled South Vietnamese defenders in downtown Xuan Loc province capital, 38 miles northeast of Saigon, and Tan An province capital 25 miles southwest of Saigon.

Military sources said the attacks on opposite sides of Saigon indicated the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese, although preferring a political victory, were preparing for a siege and all-out drive on the South Vietnamese capital itself if necessary.

The attacks came 24 hours after the bombing of the South Vietnamese Presidential Palace. President Nguyen Van Thieu dismissed the plane assault as an "isolated incident" and reiterated his vow to remain in office.

A spokesman for the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government said Wednesday the 26-year-old pilot of the F5

Freedom Fighter jet had flown the plane to Communist territory.

The airman, 1st Lt. Nguyen Thanh Trung, was given the Viet Cong's Liberation Medal 2nd class and promoted to captain, the spokesman said.

The sources said the Communists have four full divisions — about 40,000 men — as well as an estimated 150 tanks and 5,000 artillery troops with guns, rockets and heavy mortars within the general area around Saigon.

They faced an estimated 35,000 South Vietnamese regulars in the 13 provinces around the capital.

Pro-Communist diplomats a week ago said if Thieu were not ousted, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong attacks on the capital were imminent.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman said Hanoi, in the past few days, had begun flying courier aircraft into the northern two-thirds of South Vietnam held by the Communists.

The Hanoi army newspaper *Nhan Dan* said the Communist offensive had "liberated" 19 provinces, 2 military regions and 9.3 million people — half the population of South Vietnam.