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ERA marches in Raleigh Sunday
...heard Governor Hunt call for referendum

ERA march in Raleigh brings call for state vote

By LYNNE THOMSON
Staff Writer

The maneuvering to get a referendum on the June 29 primary ballot will be reminiscent of the way Huey Long passed laws in Louisiana but if Gov. Jim Hunt gets his way the voters of North Carolina may get their say on the Equal Rights Amendment.

News analysis

In a speech to 7,500 ERA supporters in Raleigh Sunday, Hunt vowed to try everything possible to get the state to ratify the proposed amendment as it draws to its midnight June 30 deadline.

Everything for the governor includes a referendum, though Hunt's legal advisor Jack L. Cozart said that constitutionally there's no way to make it binding on the Legislature.

The obstacles for getting even a nonbinding referendum on the ballot are formidable.

State Board of Elections head Alex K. Brock called the proposal off the wall and said Hunt would not only have to convince the Legislature to vote for holding the referendum, but also to bypass 12 to 15 technical requirements such as absentee ballots and public notice. The referendum bill would probably provide for paper balloting even in those 62 counties of the states which use voting machines.

The governor may also have to find his way around federal Voting Rights Act requirements that the federal Justice Department approve placing anything on the ballot, a process that can take 60 days.

The governor has the power to call the legislature into session, Cozart said, so he could arrange for them to be in Raleigh. See ERA on page 8.

Economy tagged as key for races

Orange County voters will go to the polls June 29 to pick a sheriff and decide which candidates will go on to the November general election in races for Congress, state Senate and the Orange County Board of Commissioners. A referendum on increasing state legislative terms from two to four years and a slate of county Board of Education candidates also will be on the June 29 ballot.

This survey of the candidates and the issues was compiled from interviews by staff writers Jennifer Cargal, Bob Kimpleton, Mickey Weaver, Scott Wharton and Edith Wooten.

The Congressional Race

Although none of the three candidates for the fourth district congressional seat have singled out one issue as the integral part of their campaigns, all agreed that the national economy will be a key issue in the race.

Former UNC athletic director Bill Cobey and former airline pilot Leo Tew are competing for the Republican nomination. The primary winner will challenge incumbent Democrat Ike Andrews in the general election Nov. 2.

Andrews, of Cary, who is running for his sixth consecutive term as congressman, said this week he was confident that his challenger in the general election would be Cobey. Money and the support of the powerful Congressional Club will give Cobey a heavy advantage, Andrews said.

Andrews, who is unopposed in the Democratic primary, said the economy would be the key issue in the fall race.

Tew and Cobey also said the economy would be an important issue in the race.

Support of the president's policies and lower interest rates also will be big issues in the fall, said Tew of Raleigh.

Cobey, of Chapel Hill, agreed with Tew, saying keeping inflation and interest rates down as well as balancing the federal budget will be important.

Cobey ran for lieutenant governor in 1980, receiving 48 percent of the vote in the state in losing to incumbent Jimmy Green.

One factor in the fall election will be the new congressional district lines. The new fourth district consists of Wake, Orange, Chatham, Randolph and Franklin counties. Durham County, a strong area in the past for Andrews, no longer is in the district. Orange county was added to the district in the 1981 redistricting.

State Legislative Races

Education, the economy, pay freezes and public utility rates are among the issues important to Democratic candidates for the two 16th district state Senate nominations.

Four Democrats will run for two slots in the November 2 general election. There will be no Republican primary, as only two Republicans have filed.

The two Republicans are P.H. Craig of Chapel Hill and Alan V. Pugh of Asheboro.

There also will be no primary or general election for the new 24th House district, which covers Chatham and Orange counties, because incumbent Democrats Joe Hackney and Anne Barnes, both of Chapel Hill, were the only candidates filing for the two seats.

Candidates for the Senate seats include powerful incumbent Russell Walker, D-Randolph, Wanda Hunt of Pinehurst and Don Stanford and J. William Blue Jr., both of Chapel Hill.

The new Senate district includes Chatham, Moore and Randolph counties, as well as most of Orange county.

Walker gives the economy top priority as the Asheboro Democrat seeks a fifth term, he said this week. He is the only incumbent Senate candidate in the district. Sen. Charles E. Vickery, D-Orange, is not seeking re-election.

Walker said he also is concerned with federal cuts in education and human services.

Hunt, a Moore County school board member, said she is stressing the environment, the economy, drug and alcohol abuse and education in her campaign.

She said she also is in favor of stricter enforcement of drunk driving laws.

Stanford, a Chapel Hill attorney, said he is concerned with high unemployment in Chatham, Randolph and Moore counties, as well as the rising costs of utilities. The state's fuel clause, which allows utilities to pass fuel cost changes to customers with approval of the N.C. Utilities Commission, should be wiped off the books, Stanford said.

He said he is for environmental conservation, including strict control over hazar-

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Bill Douglas (above) demonstrates polo form atop Bucharoo, while UNC summer student Bonny Kyle (left), tries her own on a more lively steed. Douglas, a watercolor painter originally from Weldon, brought his string of 20 ponies to the Triangle in hopes of introducing polo to area universities.

Tar Heel/Frank Clarkson

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