

## Business

# Martin to make budget cuts due to low revenue surplus

From Associated Press reports

RALEIGH — Gov. Jim Martin acknowledged today the state's revenue surplus for 1987-88 will be \$44 million to \$60 million lower than had been forecast, forcing him to make cuts in his budget proposal for next year.

After being briefed on the shortfall by Revenue Secretary Helen Powers, Democratic legislative leaders said it confirmed their contention that Martin's spending plan for fiscal 1988-89 is \$137 million in the red.

"I could have told you that," said Rep. Bob Etheridge, D-Harnett, chairman of the House Base Budget Committee.

Martin, however, told reporters the

Democrats were continuing to overestimate the shortfall. He said there was no need to scale back his spending proposals except to pare up to \$60 million from the \$239.9 million worth of capital projects in the 1988-89 plan.

The governor, who denounced as "a charade" the Democrats' claim last month that he had over-budgeted, was unrepentant at an impromptu news conference, saying his critics could not have known about the imminent shortfall at the time.

The shortage, he said, resulted from surprisingly low tax collections in May. Preliminary estimates are that revenue intake for the month declined 3.3 percent from the same

month the previous year — a drop that C.C. Cameron, the governor's executive assistant for budget and management, said "blew us out of the water."

Martin said the state budget office is standing by its revenue forecast for the fiscal year beginning July 1, and that there is no reason to reduce his proposals to increase spending for programs that will continue from year to year, such as the 4.5 percent pay raise for state employees.

Democrats disagreed, saying the slump in May collections likely would repeat itself next year and that cuts also would have to be made in the governor's proposals for ongoing programs.

# Census Bureau counting down

From Associated Press reports

CHARLOTTE — U.S. Census Bureau workers are scanning thousands of maps from North Carolina, four other states and the District of Columbia in a process that will use computers to map every home for the 1990 census, officials said.

The bureau's regional office in Charlotte, one of 12 nationwide, deployed its first wave of field workers last week. They will use neighborhood maps generated by the computers to verify the addresses of more than 10 million homes in North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

"It strikes to the very heart of what

we're all about in this country," said John Lewis, a member of the North Carolina Economic Development Board. "It is literally one of the largest peacetime mobilizations in the free world."

"We have about 75 people working here now, but that will grow to perhaps 200 as we produce maps of the entire region for our enumerators to use," said William Hill, regional director.

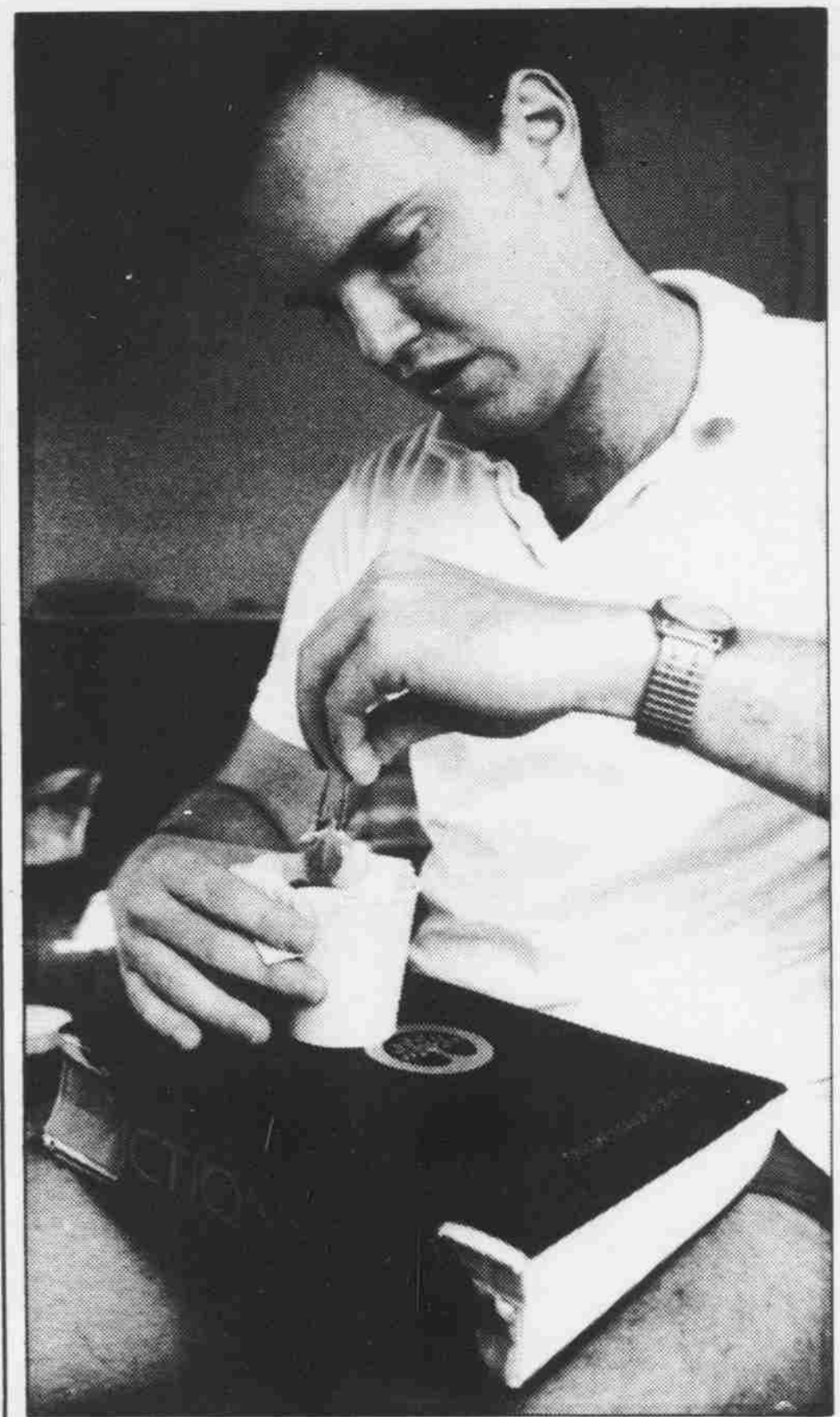
Although the bureau has used computers since 1950, this is the first count using the sophisticated mapping method, which took six years to design, Hill said.

The bureau produces data and reports every year, but its most

important function is the census taken every 10 years as required by the Constitution.

For the 200th anniversary of the nation's census, first taken in 1790, most people will return questionnaires they get by mail on April 1, 1990. Others will be visited in person, including those who fail to return questionnaires by mail, officials said.

No one is overlooked. In March of 1990, for example, workers taking the big count will visit shelters for the homeless and check under highway bridges frequented by vagrants. The next month, they will visit boarding houses, hotels and similar places where people without permanent residences may live, officials said.



Tar Heel/Subhash Roy

## Feed me

Bill Fox, a graduate student in psychology from High Point, feeds a starling nestling as part of his vocal mimicry research.

# N.C. is still in the running for super collider project

From Associated Press reports

RALEIGH — A divided Council of State allocated \$90,000 Tuesday to keep North Carolina's bid for the superconducting super collider on track, a move Attorney General Lacy Thornburg likened to "pouring money down a rat hole."

The council, comprised of 10 elected state officials, voted 7-3 for the expenditure requested by Gov. Jim Martin after a lively debate that reflected growing skepticism in some

circles about the wisdom of North Carolina's expensive pursuit of the collider project.

He and Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan said politics likely would be the decisive factor in the federal government's selection of a host state. Jordan noted that Texas, represented by powerful House Speaker Jim Wright, was one of seven states in the running for the \$4.4 billion scientific project.

Wright "may decide it needs to go to Texas," Jordan said.

Thornburg added: "We might as well be realistic. We've got about the same chance of getting this project as the snowball in the proverbial bad place."

There also are doubts Congress will fund the project after a site is chosen, he said.

Jordan, a Democrat running against Republican Martin in the gubernatorial race, voted for the allocation despite expressing reservations about tapping the state's con-

tingency and emergency fund for the purpose. Thornburg voted against it.

The emergency expenditure was among three requested by the Martin administration during the Council of State's monthly meeting — leaving a \$138,902 balance in the \$1,125,000 fund for the fiscal year that expires Jan. 30.

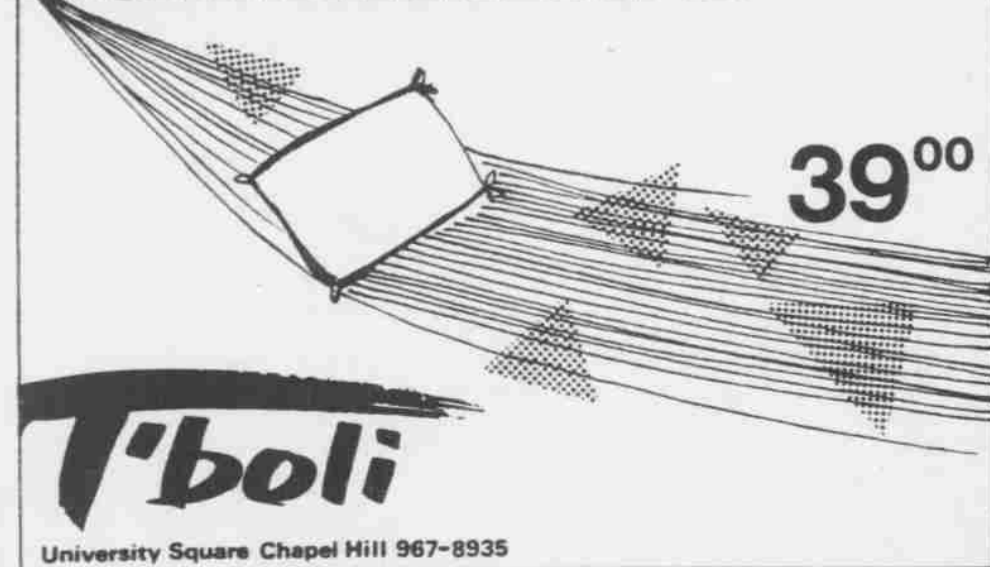
Bill Dunn, director of the state's super collider project, said the \$90,000 was needed to cover unforeseen expenses this month — a crucial

point in the federal government's process of choosing among seven states vying to host the \$4.4 billion scientific operation.

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