

Election '88

Martin, Jordan eye education

By KAREN DUNN
Staff Writer

The main issue in the N.C. gubernatorial race is the future of education, and that seems to be the only facet of the election that Republican incumbent Gov. Jim Martin and Democratic candidate Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan agree upon.

"For the four years Jim Martin has proposed budgets, from 1985 to 1988, the percentage of the general fund going to education has increased every year," said Tim Pittman, Gov. Martin's press secretary. "That number had declined dramatically from 1961 to 1983. The state has finally reversed that trend."

Martin has also enacted a career ladder program in which teachers are evaluated by their peers, Pittman said. The program works on a system of levels in which teachers receive a raise when they reach a certain level

of quality teaching, he said.

"The career ladder program will be the most significant education reform in state history," Pittman said.

Martin has also vowed to better the conditions of some of the state's older schools.

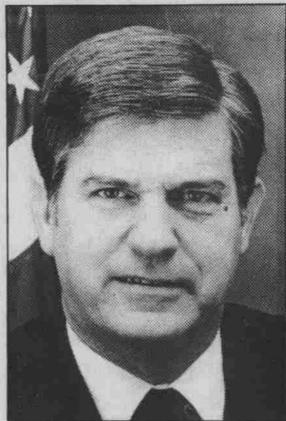
"North Carolina is populated with dilapidated schools. Twenty-five percent of those we surveyed in 1986 had been built before 1949. So Governor Martin has raised the issue of a bond referendum to construct new schools," Pittman said.

Another important issue to Martin is to cut the high school dropout rate in half by identifying children who may be at risk and getting them extra help at an early age, Pittman said.

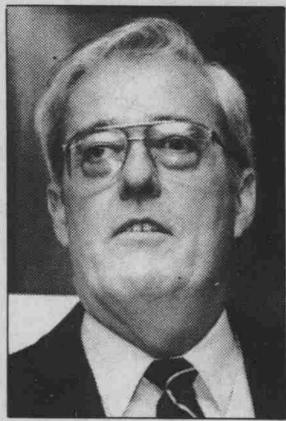
But the Jordan campaign has been critical of Martin's education policies.

"Bob Jordan has been a leader in

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Jim Martin



Bob Jordan

Next governor will seek power to veto, political experts say

By KAREN DUNN
Staff Writer

North Carolina's governor is the only one in the United States without veto power over bills passed by the state Senate and House of Representatives, and the winner in the gubernatorial election is expected to seek that power, analysts say.

But no matter how hard the next governor tries, he probably won't get the item veto power because the N.C. General Assembly doesn't want to relinquish any power, said Thad Beyle, professor of political science.

"If they give him power, they lose power. It's part of the separation of powers," Beyle said. "They see it as a zero sum game."

The N.C. governor is also weak because department heads within the government are elected separately and not appointed by the governor, Beyle said. The governor can have little influence if his lieutenant governor and attorney general are from other parties, he said.

But the governor has more power now than in years past, because he may now serve more than one term and is totally in charge of the state budget, Beyle said.

If Gov. Jim Martin is re-elected, he will push the legislature to make veto power a public referendum issue, said Tim Pittman, Martin's campaign press secretary.

"The N.C. legislature should allow the public to vote on a referendum. The governor shouldn't decide," Pittman said. "The voters should encourage the

legislature to put the veto issue on a ballot."

If elected, Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan would submit a total governance package to the legislature suggesting a limit on the number of terms for the speaker of the house, said Michael Plante, research director of the Jordan campaign. The plan would also suggest limiting governors to one term, he said.

When a governor has the opportunity to serve two terms, the first term is spent campaigning for reelection instead of working with the legislature, Plante said.

Jordan's package would include gubernatorial veto power, forcing the legislature to vote on the entire package rather than the veto they have resisted.

"The only way to get it (the veto power) is to work with the legislature. Martin has made a career of bashing the legislature by calling them 'arrogant and repulsive'... that's no way to get things done," Plante said. "You'll never get the veto power by standing on your back legs and screaming about it," he said.

Martin's administration has been very different from former Gov. Jim Hunt's, Beyle said.

"Hunt was able to work with his own party — Martin has not," he said.

Their styles are also very different, Beyle said.

"Hunt worked hard to see that his bills were passed. He had an 'open door policy.' Martin does not do that," he said. "Hunt put legislators first. Martin does not spend as much time with the legislature."

Candidates vow legislative cooperation

By DAVID BALL
Staff Writer

Because the lieutenant governor can be stripped of his power to appoint Senate committees and their chairmen, both candidates pledge to work closely with legislative leaders to compromise and have a productive legislative session.

"What we've had in the past is too much partisan politics," Republican candidate Jim Gardner said in an interview last week. Gardner said he wants to work "hand in hand" with Senate leaders on education, prison reform and transportation.

Democratic candidate Tony Rand, the Senate majority leader and appropriations committee chairman, said his experience would make him more able to compromise and efficiently guide the Senate.

"My knowledge of and association

with the members would be a major asset in trying to unify the Senate, but there are no guarantees to anyone," Rand said.

The lieutenant governor should know what senators think are important issues in the state and be able to work with them on those, Rand said.

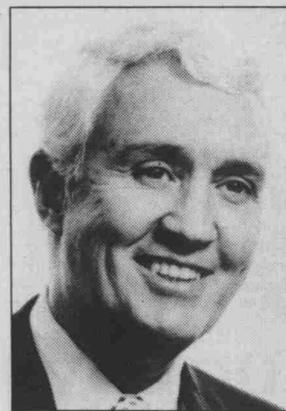
Gardner said he plans to visit all 50 senators within the first week after the election. "I'm willing to extend a hand of compromise if we can work together," he said.

Rand also plans to conduct regular meetings.

"I want to have meetings on a regular basis with the entire majority party and meetings with the minority party on a regular basis," he said.

But if Gardner wins, he could still

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Jim Gardner



Tony Rand

Candidates value varied experience in secretary of state race

By KARI BARLOW
Staff Writer

The 1988 race for the N.C. secretary of state pits Republican John Carrington's business skills against Democrat Rufus Edmisten's public service experience.

"It's really a business office," said Donald Penven, Carrington's campaign treasurer. "There isn't a great wielding of power. That office should be run by someone with business experience."

Carrington, who has owned his own business for more than 20 years, feels that state government is a business and will approach the job as a businessman and not a politician, Penven said.

"The main issue is electing someone who has 20 years of public service,"

said Glenn Wells, campaign manager for Edmisten.

Edmisten served as the state attorney general from 1974 to 1984 and established a Raleigh law practice after a failed campaign for governor against Jim Martin in 1984.

"The Secretary of State is the custodian and keeper of the constitution of North Carolina," said Thad Eure, who is retiring as secretary of state after serving more than 50 years.

The secretary of state has a staff of about 80 who work with him to enact regulatory measures involving corporations and stockbrokers in the state.

After serving as the state's attorney general for 10 years, Edmisten has earned the confidence and respect of North Carolina's stockbrokers, Wells

said. "He was able to enforce the laws fairly for everyone," he said.

Carrington has charged that Edmisten is obligated to special interest groups as a result of his past lobbying efforts.

"He will not be lobbying anymore when he goes over to the secretary of state's office," Wells said. "Lobbying is no more than going down and presenting a point of view."

But Carrington supporters say their candidate owes fewer debts and can run the office according to his conscience.

"I think coming from the private sector, he would be very conscious of staffing," said Jim Gocke, a Carrington campaign worker.

Voters are generally unaware of the

race, making campaigning extremely important for each candidate, officials say.

Registered Democrats outnumber registered Republicans 2-to-1 in North Carolina, according to the state Board of Elections, putting Carrington at an disadvantage.

"We've only had two Republican governors since Reconstruction. So, traditionally, they (the voters) do vote straight ticket," Wells said.

Penven agreed but said that tradition was wrong.

"Just pulling out one straight lever is not what democracy is all about," said Penven. "We are trying to overcome that."

Each candidate campaigned aggressively in the week before the election, trying to sway undecided

voters.

"He (Carrington) is putting forth a humongous effort," Penven said. "It's been virtually a full-time thing with him. John is out on the road almost every day."

Carrington traveled in Gov. Jim Martin's Republican Express from Raleigh to Morehead City in an effort to concentrate on people who are not political activists, Penven said.

"Rufus has been into every county in this state literally hundreds of times," Wells said. Edmisten's name recognition from when he was attorney general has helped his campaign, he said.

Edmisten has also taken part in a joint Democratic campaign, Democrats Together, formed by the various campaign managers for council of

state candidates.

"We looked at a joint campaign strategy. There is strength in numbers," Wells said. "This is a show of unity and support of each other."

Although Carrington has debts left over from his 1984 campaign for lieutenant governor, he is financing the major part of his campaign himself while paying off his debts.

Since April, his campaign has spent about \$317,000, mostly on television ads, Penven said.

"When you're in a minority party and not a name that's been around... you have to rely on a commercial method. His strategy is aggressive in trying to get his message and name out," Gocke said.

The Edmisten campaign raised about \$100,000.

Incumbent Price runs on experience against Republican Fetzer

By JASON BATES
Staff Writer

In the last days before the election, the race for the 4th District seat in the House of Representatives between Republican Tom Fetzer and Democratic incumbent David Price was neck-and-neck, according to Bob Harris, committee director for Fetzer's campaign.

Mike Davis, campaign manager for Price, said they would be spending the last few days identifying their voters, getting them out to the polls and watching for any last-minute "shenanigans" by Fetzer.

They have centered the campaign

on what Price has accomplished in his first term in the House and what he can do in the future, Davis said.

Davis accused Fetzer of avoiding the issues. "He has spent most of the campaign saying, 'I'm for George Bush' and distorting Congressman Price's record."

Harris said he was pleased with how the Fetzer campaign had pro-

gressed so far. The most important part of the campaign is raising enough money for television commercials and the Fetzer campaign has been very successful in its efforts, he said.

Their commercials linking Fetzer with Vice President George Bush have been very effective, Harris said.

Price based his campaign on three basic issues: education, helping real

people with real problems and being an effective leader, Davis said, and Price's record on these issues is why he should be re-elected.

Price helped co-author a bill to make college education more affordable by making student loans tax deductible, Davis said. He also authored a home equity bill and pushed it through the House and Senate. Other congressmen called this

"a remarkable achievement for a freshman congressman," he said.

Price also halted the placement of a high-level nuclear waste dump in North Carolina. If re-elected for a second term, Price will keep working on these issues, Davis said.

The major issues in Fetzer's campaign are controlling drugs and reducing the deficit without raising

taxes, Harris said. Fetzer supports Bush's "flexible freeze" budget plan and opposes any tax increases. He favors a hard-line stand that includes a life sentence for selling drugs to children and the death penalty for drug kingpins who commit murder, Harris said.

If elected, Fetzer's first bill will call for reducing pay for Congress if they fail to balance the budget, Harris said.

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