Ramsey Criticizes Martin For Sending Questionaires

BY JOHN DRESCHER JR. The News and Observer

House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey Friday criticized the Republican ad-ministration of Gov. James G. Martin for requiring intended pork barrel recipients to fill out questionnaires describing their organizations and their other sources of money.

But a Martin spokesman said that the administration would continue to send out questionnaires in an attempt to determine the constitutionality of the 1,400 local appropriations approved by the General Assembly last

The legislature provided that the pork barrel appropriations be distributed by the governor's budget office by Sept. 1. Martin's requirement that the questionnaires be com-

pleted is likely to delay mailing many

of the checks until after Sept. I.
The state Constitution requires that public funds be spent only for public purposes. Legislative Republicans have questioned whether some of the appropriations were constitutional.

This week, Martin had asked state Attorney General Lacy H. Thornburg to review each of the 1,400 appropriations for their constitutionality. Thornburg, a Democrat, said Thursday that he would review only those appropriations in which Martin furnished evidence that the payments may be improper. A Martin official said Friday that Martin would comply with Thornburg's request.

In a letter dated Friday and mailed does it matter who else has given to legislators who were allotted pork money to an organization?" barrel funds for projects in their districts, Ramsey wrote, "I am not challenging the governor's authority to require all of these people to fill out a form in order to obtain the appropriation, but I do think that it is totally unnecessary and borders on

In an interview, Ramsey also said some of the questions were inappropriate and irrelevant, including a question asking about other sources of funds for the organization and another seeking the names of members of boards of directors.

In his letter to legislators, Ramsey included comments from Gerry F. Cohen, director of legislative drafting. Of the request to name other possible funding sources. Cohen wrote; "I do not see any possible

have in determining public purpose. This is not public information...This question could have a chilling effect on some organizations."

Martin officals defended the questionnaire.

"Nobody is trying to harass anyone," said Tim R. Pittman, Martin's press secretary. "The primary concern is just to make sure this money is spent for the public good."

Marvin K. Dorman Jr., deputy state budget officer, said the question inquiring about other sources of money was needed to protect against a group hoarding state money from one year, then using it the next year to meet a legislative requirement relevance for this question. What that it have matching funds to receive

tion," he said. "All of us felt it was questionnaire requires. important to have on the question-

The head of one group that received information," he said. an appropriation said the questiontime in his office and Martin's. "We contract with at least two departand licensed by the state," said J. of the Tammy Lynn Memorial Foundation, a private, non-profit center in tin) letter meant." Raleigh for mentally handicapped people that received \$38,000 in pork barrel funds

Ramsey said. He said he now had to entitled to the apropriation.'

Of the request for a list of the board board of directors also was needed, materials and provide a letter of taxof directors. Cohen said: "I do not see Dorman said. "We feel it's important exempt status from the state Department in determine the second of the could be seen to know the makeup of an organic."

"I'm going to end up spending pro-

Pittman said Martin would comply naire was unneeded and would waste with Thornburg's request that Martin time in his office and Martin's. "We provide evidence that an appropriation was unconstitutional before he ments in the state, and are certified asked Thornburg to review it. "We don't look at that as a rejection," Pitt-Stephen Ramsey, executive director man said. "I think there has been a mininterpretation of what the (Mar-

Martin's letter to Thornburg said: "I will appreciate it if you will advise me the name of each entity to whom a The state already has information (check) should be sent...and whether, requested on the questionnaire, in your opinion, the entity is lawfully



MADISON COUNTY TEACHERS MELANIE BLANKEN-SHIP, left, AND BETTY JANE RAMSEY were among 25 WNC teachers who completed the four-week Summer Institute of the Mountain Area Writing Project at Western Carolina University recently. Shown with the two local teachers is James Nicholl, chairman of the WCU English department. Blankenship is a teacher at Marshall Elementary School and Ramsey teaches at Laurel Elementary.

Mars Hill College Receives \$8,000 Grant

gram.

The school's Division of Fine Arts is center. only one of a dozen in the nation that

center for containing electronic arts, and health and rehabilitation equipment such as record players, proposals. tape decks, a video cassette

Mars Hill College has received recorder, and a television monitor as \$8,000 from the Mary Duke Biddle well as source material such as Foundation of Durham to fund a records, tapes, musical scores, and library and resource center for the cast recordings. A portion of the college's musical theatre degree progrant will be used to renovate space in the Theatre Arts office to house the

The foundation was begun in 1956 awards a Bachelor of Arts Degree in by Mrs. Biddle to aid worthwhile pro-Musical Theatre. Mars Hill's pro- jects in N. C., New York City, and gram was begun in the late 1970's and Duke University in the areas of awarded its first diplomas in 1983. higher and secondary education, The grant will be used to establish a cultural programs, projects in the



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