

Congressional Dual To Wire

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members, including Speaker Tip O'Neill of Massachusetts and Reps. Ralph Hall, Kent Hance, Jim Wright and Marvin Leath of Texas.

A \$1,000 contribution was also listed from the "Boll Weevil PAC" by Hefner.

That PAC is made up of Democrats, including Hefner, who often support Administration programs.

This year's campaign is Blake's first attempt at a districtwide office. He is the owner of three hardware and building supply firms, including Pinehurst Hardware and Seven Lakes Hardware in Moore County, along with Broadway Hardware in Lee County.

Blake is a native of Jackson Springs and graduated from West End High School in Moore County. He served two years in the Army during the Korean Conflict.

Blake reported, as of the middle of October, raising \$175,548 and spending \$173,561 on the campaign.

Of that money Blake borrowed \$56,500 and has received over \$20,000 from Republican Party committees, including more than \$9,700 from the National Congressional Club, which is headed by Sen. Jesse A. Helms.

The Eighth District stretches from Yadkin County to Hoke County, which is the smallest in the district.

If elected, both candidates said they would not forget Hoke, even

though it has the fewest number of voters.

Because his home is close to Hoke, Blake said it would be hard for him to ignore this county.

If county voters cast ballots along party lines, Hefner should have no problem carrying Hoke. There are slightly more than 400 registered Republicans here.

Despite the likely victory here, Hefner is spending time in Hoke County campaigning to get voter recognition, he said.

Why Qualified

Hefner is seeking re-election because he believes that he has helped the district and the state during his previous terms, and wants to continue serving the area. "We have done a good job with saving the tobacco program, and with Social Security and for the veterans," Hefner said, adding that he was proud of the staff he has assembled.

The seniority he has built up is vital to continuing good service for the district, the Congressman said.

Blake is in the race because he can see the problems of the district better than Hefner, he says.

The voters want Congress to deal with government debt, and Congress is going to have to speak to that question, Blake said.

"I don't think the Democrats can speak to it because they are obligated to the people they owe

over the years. Bill Hefner is part of that party," Blake said.

Campaign Rhubarb

The most heated issue of the campaign has erupted over the issue of textile import quotas.

Hefner says that Blake is off base when he accused the Congressman of harming the nation's textile industries by voting to give favored nation status to China.

Blake television commercials have said that Hefner cost the district 12,000 textile jobs by voting in favor of the issue.

Prior to the vote on China, the U.S. was already maintaining deficit textile trade imports from Japan, Korea and Taiwan, which is a favored country of Sen. Helms, Hefner said.

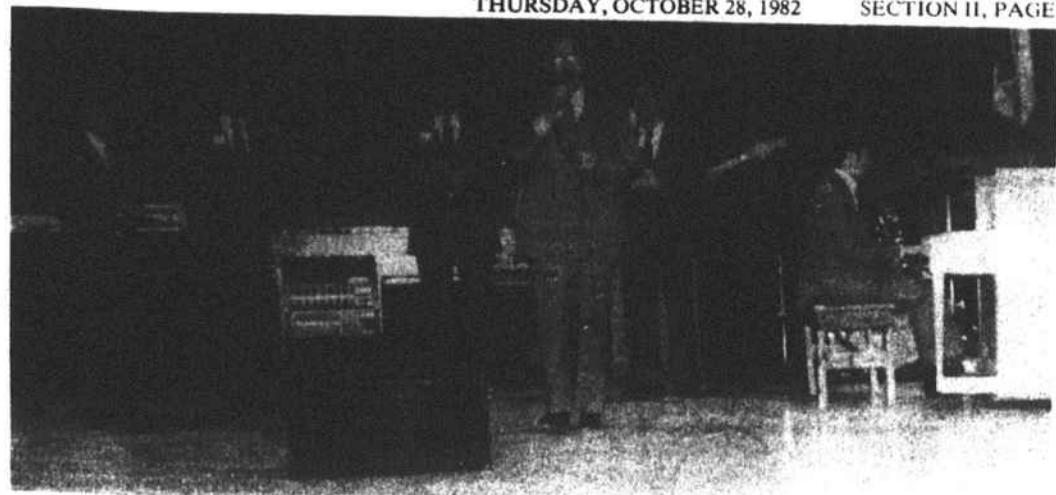
The vote on the China issue in the House was 300 to 70, and 74 to 70 in the Senate. The trade agreement with the Chinese is being reviewed this year by the Reagan Administration, the Congressman said.

The products we sell to the Chinese are far greater than the imports we allow to come here, he added.

"I think it is a cheap shot. We're not losing jobs in China. The jobs are going to Taiwan," Hefner said.

Military Spending

On military spending, Hefner



Cong. Hefner with the Singing Americans here last Friday.

said he believed it could be cut. The Congressman wouldn't say how much the cut could be, but indicated that it should be less than 10%.

Blake said he saw no "sacred cows" in the military, and did not see why cross-the-board cuts could not be made.

School Prayer

At least 85% of the country believe that there should be some type of prayer in the schools, Blake said, noting that whatever time Congress devoted to the issue was well spent.

"Prayer is a natural thing for a human being to do, and voluntary prayer in the public schools should be permitted," Blake said.

Blake said, however, that he was not backing a Constitutional Amendment for school prayer.

Hefner said he would favor a Constitutional Amendment on the issue, and that the amount of time devoted to the issue by Congress was ok.

Interest Rates

It is strange that less than two weeks before the election, interest rates begin to decline after years of

inactivity, Hefner said.

"I believe that the election is having an impact on the interest rates. It might be a ploy by the Federal Reserve and the Administration to show improvement before the election," he said.

If the rates do not come down and remain low, the depression could deepen, Hefner added.

Rates should be brought down slowly and no government programs should be used to bring interest rates down, Blake said.

Blake said he was unsure about the permanency of the present decline, but suspected that it was short term.

Six Hopefuls For Three Board Seats

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County's adult population received all of their formal education in the public schools. This will continue to be true in the future. Therefore, the public school system will, more than any other institution, determine the kind of county this is and will be in the future."

What is wrong with the educational system in Hoke County?

Cameron said, "I think the negatives of our schools have overshadowed the many good things that are happening every day in our classrooms. There are many good things going on in our schools. If I had to pick one major concern, it would be the lack of sincere unity and open and honest communication."

Coley replied, "Instead of answering the question 'What's wrong with our schools?', I would like to ask a question in response as an answer: 'What's right with our schools?' Students are achieving on state level. Large numbers of students go on to college, and appointments are made to the various Service academies. Teachers are interested in pupils."

Wright: "We need more cooperation between the board of education and the county commissioners. We need to upgrade our physical facilities. We need lower pupil-teacher ratios. We need parents to be more involved in our system. We need to insure that there are open lines of communication within our system, and between our system and the entire community."

Mrs. Kelly replied: "I think the Hoke County school system is as good as any other system in the state, but there is always room for improvement. I feel my input will help make it even a better system."

Blue said: "A lack of longrange planning in the area of curriculum needs is probably the biggest problem as far as education is concerned. Politically, the biggest problem lies in the way that the board of education and the superintendent have chosen to create an atmosphere of distrust between the county commissioners and the board of education."

Mrs. Dudley answered: "We are constantly trying to improve our educational system. I believe I can help."

What about the physical condition of the Hoke schools? Do they need repairs?

Cameron said, "Upchurch Junior High and J.W. Turlington (which was built in the 1930s) seem to be in need of constant repair. Eliminating the overcrowded con-

ditions in these and some of our other schools would alleviate many of the problems regarding program development, morale, and discipline."

Coley declared, "Some of our schools are in good condition, others need substantial repairs and enlargement."

Wright replied: "The physical condition of our school(s) need much improvement. Some schools are old and overcrowded. We have classrooms in every available space; for example, we have classrooms underneath a gymnasium. The new roofs and larger maintenance budget have helped but not solved the problem entirely."

Mrs. Kelly's answer: "I know that some of our schools in Hoke County are in better condition than others. J.W. Turlington is in need of repairs, and maybe a few more."

Mrs. Dudley replied, "Yes." Blue said, "Certainly, the physical plant is large and some buildings are approaching 50 years of age. A continuing program of maintenance and modernization is necessary if these present buildings are to meet present and future needs."

Should new facilities be built?

"Our crowded situations now may or may not be a constant trend into the future," Cameron said. "We are one of the few counties in the state that, reportedly, is growing in size. However, an accurate and factual analysis regarding the projective needs of the future in regards to new facilities should be done. This data should be carefully examined by the future board members and administration, as well as the general public in Hoke County. Only then could recommendations be made. Building schools is not the decision of one body of individuals alone."

Coley said, "Yes, additions and enlargements are needed at some of our schools."

Wright said, "It is only a matter of time before new facilities will have to be built."

Mrs. Kelly: "New facilities should be built when warranted."

Mrs. Dudley said, "Yes, if needed."

Blue said, "If Hoke County grows at the rate that census projections indicate, we will have to add facilities in the next several years. We should prepare now to minimize the impact of future construction on county finances."

And if new facilities should be built, where should the money come from?

Cameron expressed favor for a one-cent addition to the state sales tax. He said the additional cent

could pay a major portion of the cost, "but, of course, this would need to be supplemented locally."

Coley said the needed money should come either from an additional one-cent sales tax earmarked for schools, or from a statewide bond issue.

Wright said he also thinks the money should come from a one per cent sales tax.

Mrs. Kelly said she believes the funding should come from monies available or a combination of county and federal dollars.

"I believe strongly in Revenue Sharing," was Mrs. Dudley's answer.

Blue said, "If, after careful study, it is determined that additional school facilities will be needed in the future, the board of education and county commissioners should work together to establish reserves to meet these needs."

The next question was: "What do you hope to accomplish if elected? Or what will be your goals?"

Cameron's reply was: "I want to be instrumental in providing the necessary leadership in seeking and selecting the next superintendent of our schools; to provide the necessary leadership in establishing longrange planning; and provide the necessary services and resources to support direct teaching and learning in the classroom, where many of our real needs are."

Coley said, "Reduce the dropout rate, raise the achievement of all levels of students, obtain adequate physical plants, and pay a local supplement if possible."

Wright's answer was: "As a school board member, my goals would be to have excellence in the Hoke County schools. To endeavor to bring about general improvements and the betterment on the part of the schools and the school board. I would continue to work for these goals by passage of sound educational program and policies. By working hard to get the most out of our school budget; by informing the public conditions and needs of the schools, and to arouse a greater public interest in our schools; by seeing that the effective hiring and evaluation of teachers and other personnel is accomplished so that children in all classrooms have excellent leadership -- these, all, are some of my goals."

Mrs. Kelly replied, "One of my goals would be to see that there is a better coalition between board members, administrators, educators, and parents. To raise the ratio and qualified minority teachers

hired in the system."

Blue replied, "My first concern would be the development of quality curriculum to meet the real needs of our student population. Second, I would be concerned with improvement in teacher quality."

Mrs. Dudley said, "My goals may differ from some other members, but when I am elected I will work to bring parents, teachers and administrators together in harmony to make our schools better."

The ninth question they were asked was: did they think all the county's teachers are qualified and doing a good job?

Cameron said, "The 'qualifications' one may bring with them into employment does not always imply their true effectiveness within the classroom. All of our teachers are 'qualified' but, as in all major institutions, some of our teachers are far more effective than others. I do believe the majority of our teachers are doing an outstanding job."

Coley said, "All of our teachers are qualified to teach in public schools, a few may be out of field. I believe a majority of our teachers are doing a good job."

Wright replied: "I think about 95 per cent of our teachers are qualified, hard-working, and show a genuine interest in the welfare and education of our children."

"I sincerely believe," Mrs. Kelly answered, "that the school board would not knowingly hire an unqualified teacher. I believe our teachers are qualified and doing a good job."

Mrs. Dudley said, "I am not familiar with all the teachers' records nor am I familiar with all the administration records; however, I feel that the majority of our teachers and administrators are doing a fine job."

Blue declared, "My own daughter was fortunate to have very good teachers in each of her six years in the Hoke County system. However, conversations with other parents and students indicate that quality is not universal within the system."

If teachers are not qualified and not doing good, how would the candidates correct the problem if he or she is elected?

Cameron's answer: "Supportive supervision, construction criticism and staff development. Let's be specific in identification of the problems, and focus in on correction."

Here's what Coley had to say: "For those teachers not doing a good job, the newer evaluation procedures will strengthen and improve their efforts to facilitate doing a better job."

Wright answered this way: "In the future, we should be even more

selective and hire only the best-qualified teachers. We should work through our RIF (Reduction in Force) policy to eliminate those persons not doing a good job."

Mrs. Kelly: "If we have unqualified teachers, the principals should bring that knowledge to the superintendent."

Blue answered: "We can get improvement in teacher quality by improving the environment in which teachers work and by increasing the rewards for good teachers. We should begin now to build a meaningful local supplement for teachers."


Mrs. Dudley referred to the answer she gave to the previous question.

Replying to another question, Cameron said, "General tension between teachers and administration could be alleviated through more democratic leadership style by the administrators and a more cooperative outlook by the teachers. Both go hand in hand."

Coley said, "I do not believe that the relationship between teachers and administration is at a low ebb or at an apex, but might be considered on a par with other school systems in North Carolina. There is always room for improvement in any system."


ELECT

Robert A.
(Bobby)
Wright



Hoke County
Board of Education

Paid Political Ad



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