

# Opinions

## South holds key for Reagan

**By Cliff Blue**  
**1985 ELECTION** - This year's election will be the first with electoral votes apportioned on the basis of the 1980 population census. How that will affect the outcome is not certain, but a study of past elections indicates it would help President Reagan. The population shift in recent years has been to the Sunbelt -- the South and West. That's where Reagan's strength lies.

This year the following states gain electoral votes: Florida - 4, Texas - 3, California - 2, and Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Tennessee and Utah, one.

These states have voted Republican in recent presidential elections. That's a shift of only sixteen electoral votes. But they come from states many of which are more likely to be captured by Democrats -- New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and South Dakota. (Though better Democrat prospects in 1984 most of these states have also tended to vote Republican in presidential elections but not as dependable.)

Three, (New York, Pennsylvania and Missouri) have voted Democrat in four of the past eight elections and Massachusetts has voted Democrat five times out of eight.)

The switch of 16 electoral votes, however, shouldn't be given too

### People and Issues

much importance. One must go back to the presidential election of 1916 when Woodrow Wilson was elected on the pledge to keep the nation out of war, to find a presidential election whose outcome would have been changed by a 16-vote switch.

Reagan won over Carter in 1980 by 489 to 491. Carter won in 1976 by a slim 57-vote margin but 1972 Richard Nixon won over George McGovern 520 to 17. In 1968, Nixon's margin over Humphrey was more than 100, and in 1964 Lyndon Johnson won over Goldwater by 486 to 521.

**AN OLD FRIEND** -- A few days ago, I had a letter from an old friend, keeping this column straight and on the track. I am speaking of the Honorable J. William Copeland, Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. He wrote: "In going through my pockets I found a clipping from your column in the Manteo paper of January 5. I believe you will find that in addition to Andrew Johnson, we had two others that we claimed: Andrew Jackson, who says he was born in North Carolina and South Carolina says he was born on their side."

"A historical marker shows him to be born in North Carolina. Also, James K. Polk was born in Mecklenburg County about eight or 10 miles from Charlotte and

also not far from the South Carolina line. A total of three when you look at it favorably.

"Of course, Andrew Johnson was born in Raleigh in a house that stood only a few feet from the present Justice Building where my office is. The house has been preserved and restored and now stands for inspection in Mordecai Park in Raleigh."

**NORTH CAROLINA TAXES** -- According to the PA, North Carolina, whose state taxes are the highest in the Southeast, is in the bottom ten in the nation when its low local taxes are considered as well, according to a U.S. Census Bureau report.

North Carolina's 41st ranking puts it slightly above the average of the eight Southeastern states. But while its per capita state taxes averaged \$644.34 last year -- 32nd in the United States, the total including local levies came to just \$884.87 per person. The national average was \$1,175.47 per capita, the report said.

The other seven Southeastern states and their combined state and local tax burdens last year were Florida, \$946.17; Georgia, \$945.80; South Carolina, \$841.90; Tennessee, \$772.14; Alabama, \$763.56; Mississippi, \$751.02.

While state governments nationally raised 61.1 percent of the state and local tax revenues, in North Carolina state government raised 72.8 percent of the revenues, the census bureau report said.

## Boston Tea Party spirit lives on

**By Richard A. Viguere**

Like dominoes they are beginning to fall. First one senator, then another, then maybe a governor or two...

In Michigan, two Democrat legislators who had voted for a 38% income tax hike were recalled (fired by the voters) in December and replaced by anti-tax Republicans in a special election January 31. Now the GOP has a majority in the state senate for the first time since Watergate.

It was not strictly a Republican victory. Instead, it was a triumph for blue-collar workers fed up with politicians of both parties who think the people are not smart enough to spend their hard-earned money wisely.

The political establishment reacted with disgust to the recall votes. A Michigan Democrat (quoted by columnists Evans and Novak) described the tax revolt as "our people looking for more

take-home pay so they can buy more snowmobiles and motorboats." After all, why should working people spend their money on luxuries when they can spend it for the public good, on important projects like busing children across town to go to school?

It is the arrogance of the "limousine liberals" -- people who have already made a comfortable life for themselves -- that angered Michigan workers enough to unseat the tax-raisers. Governor Jim Blanchard won the 1982 election by promising no tax increases, but shortly after taking office he proposed the largest increase in the state's history. Now signatures are being collected on petitions to throw him out of office, too.

Dan Powers, 25, a worker at a Ford plant, got "madder than hell" when taxes were increased. Even though he had campaigned for the Governor and other liberals, Powers led one of the

recall drives. "People in this state and in this district are fed up with taxes," he said, and fed up with Blanchard's "tax and spend philosophy."

In a recent recall campaign and special elections, supporters of the tax hike spent ten times as much money as the tax protesters. But more than 60% of the people voted to fire the two pro-tax state senators, and the pro-tax Democrats who tried to succeed them were beaten by more than two-to-one.

Don't count on the political establishment to change its behavior because of events in Michigan. Despite the hemorrhage of Democratic support on the Michigan assembly line, House Speaker 'Tip' O'Neill praised Blanchard's tax hike. "Jim, I knew you had the stuff. Keep up the good work," he wrote.

In a special session in Oklahoma two months ago, legislators rejected a massive tax increase proposed by the Governor after mail and telephone calls from constituents ran ten-to-one against his proposal.

If only they would open their eyes, members of the political establishment of both parties would realize that a new populist revolt is on the way.

The spirit of the Boston Tea Party lives on, and you ain't seen nuthin' yet.

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 Wagon Wheel Restaurant

## BANK NOTICE

Request of United Carolina Bank, Whiteville, Columbus County, North Carolina, for authority to close its Main Street Branch (Downtown Walk-In Teller's Window), 138 North Main Street, Raeford, Hoke County, North Carolina, effective March 16, 1984, has been filed with this office to be processed in accordance with Rule 4 NCAC 3C .0202.

The public is invited to submit written comments on this request to the Commissioner of Banks, Post Office Box 961, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602. The comment period on this request will end 14 days from the fourth consecutive week of publication (approximately March 1, 1984). The Commissioner of Banks will consider comments, including requests for a public meeting or formal hearing on the request, received within the comment period.

JAMES S. CURRIE  
 Commissioner of Banks

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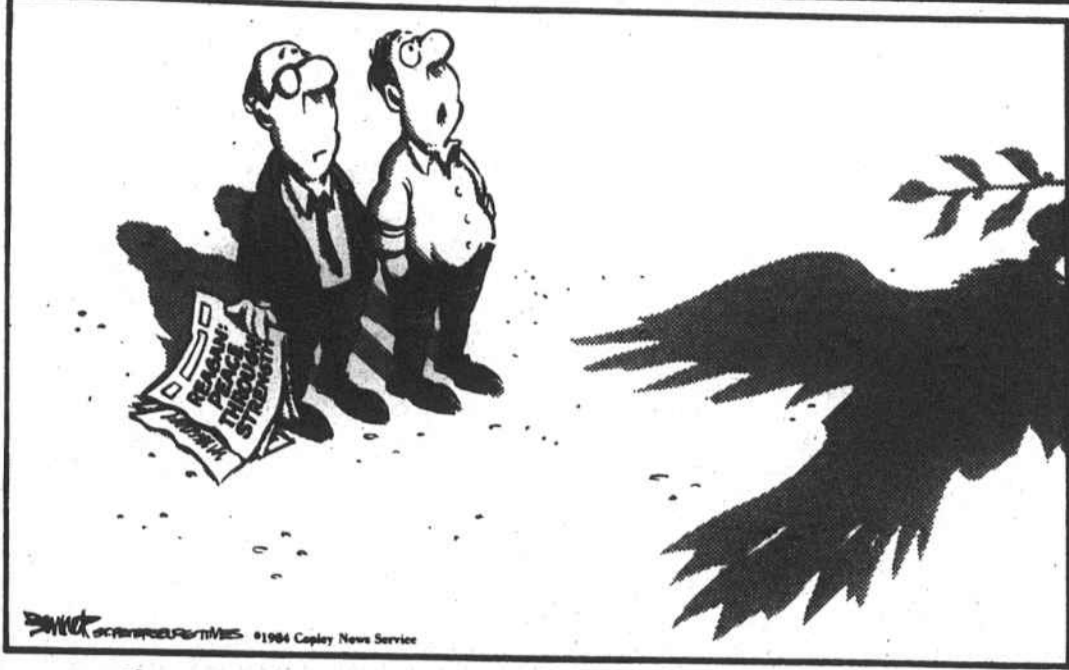
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"SURE I'M GLAD TO SEE REAGAN'S DOVE OF PEACE... I JUST WISH IT WOULD STOP CIRCLING LIKE THAT..."

## ... Letters continued

(Continued from page 2B)

animals in this area are being subjected to. The Commissioners have been dragging their heels in passing an Animal Cruelty Ordinance which would permit an appointed person to investigate and prosecute those guilty of mistreating any animal.

The weak excuse given by the commissioners is that they have to verify the passing of this ordinance with the County Attorney.

In the meantime, the animals continue to suffer every day that this ordinance is not passed.

All animal lovers should take note of the names of our County Commissioners and exercise their indignation the next time these individuals run for office.

Jack Letzgas  
 Iris Letzgas

### Jaycee women are serving Hoke community

Dear editor:  
 A young women's leadership training organization is being officially recognized during the week of February 12-18. The organization, the United States Jaycee Women, is currently the fastest growing women's organization in America.

An organization of more than 55,000, the United States Jaycee Women provide leadership training for young women between the

ages of 18 and 35. Personal growth and leadership skills are developed through service in over 3,000 communities across America.

Last year, the organization raised over \$1 million for various foundations including St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Cystic Fibrosis, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, and the Arthritis Foundation.

The Raeford Jaycee Women are members of the U.S. Jaycee Women, having been officially chartered on September 19, 1983. Through support of local projects such as Dollars for Literacy, the TMH Halloween Carnival and the Jaycee Child Safety Seat program, we, like thousands of other Jaycee Women throughout our country, have experienced the personal satisfaction one feels in giving service to local communities and look forward to future commitment to Raeford's citizens.

On behalf of the Raeford Jaycee Women, I would like to thank the citizens and the merchants of Raeford for their continued support and help during our first year.

Kristi Posey,  
 President,  
 Raeford Jaycee Women

### Inflation rater lives in tower

Dear editor:  
 According to the government's latest figures the inflation rate is now down to 3.5%.

What I want to know is, who is the guy who figures the rate?

I know he's not a farmer. (He hasn't priced a set of tractor tires lately or bought any seed or fertilizer.)

I know he's not in the market for a new home. (The average price of a new house has gone up from \$83,000 to \$89,500.)

He hasn't bought anything on time. (The interest rate there is 18 to 20%.)

He hasn't bought a new car lately. (Have you priced one?)

He doesn't pay any property taxes.

If he has a telephone, he never sees the bill.

All his utilities are furnished free.

None of his pipes busted in December.

He's not with the Defense Department. (Where screwdrivers cost \$800.)

He hasn't had a tooth pulled lately or had one capped.

He hasn't hired a lawyer to beat a rap.

And above all, I know he's in perfect health. (He has no idea what a week's stay in a hospital now costs.)

That guy is bound to live in an ivory tower, without knowing what the construction costs are on such a high-rise structure. He sure doesn't live around here.

Yours faithfully,  
 J.A.

## Go to college for a weekend.

You are invited to spend a cost-free weekend at Methodist College. Before you spend time or money anywhere else!

On Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24, Methodist College is hosting **The Good Life: Campus Style**. Starting with an early dinner (Italian!) on Friday evening, we promise 24 hours



**METHODIST COLLEGE**  
 Office of Admissions  
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 Fayetteville, NC 28301  
 919-488-7110

of informal fun, as you get to know all about us.

Meet campus leaders. Tour the dorms, the class rooms, the Student Union. All of the places where we work and play! Picnic! Dancel Cheer for the baseball team!

To take part in **The Good Life** weekend, let us hear from you no later than March 1.

Methodist College does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national or ethnic origin or religious denomination in the administration of its educational policies, scholarships and loan programs, athletics, and other College administered programs.

## Reserve your future today.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I need overnight accommodations  
 I will arrive on \_\_\_\_\_ Friday: \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday (Time) \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend **The Good Life** weekend, but I want more information about Methodist College.