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Roark Views On Issues Are Stated Church To Note Homecoming Day

SHELBY — House candidate Lester D. Roark, in a recent statement, has expressed his stands regarding a number of significant issues.

Roark, who is running for Seat No. 2 of the 43rd House District — Cleveland, Polk and Rutherford Counties, said upon issuing the statement, "I feel these matters are important enough to the people of this district to require a public statement from a candidate."

"I believe the people should know how a candidate stands. There should be at least one candidate in this race who will express himself."

A main plank in Roark's platform is his stand in favor of a tobacco tax. The candidate feels that "a tax on tobacco products should be collected by the state and allocated to local school districts in order to meet local requirements."

Roark believes a tobacco tax applied to local educational needs could be a factor in reducing or holding down property taxes.

As a candidate who is strong on education, Roark also spoke out in favor of public kindergartens and mandatory state licensing for day care centers.

He has mentioned throughout his campaign, and reiterated in his statement, that he would "support and work for the United Forces for Education's 1969 legislative program," which includes an index salary schedule.

Rounding out his educational emphasis, Roark recalled the need for more alcoholic rehabilitation centers in North Carolina.

He said also, "We must do more to aid the mentally retarded and physically handicapped people of this state."

Turning to state personnel needs, Roark said he would favor a two-part program for state

employees. His program would (1.) raise the base salary schedule for state employees to a level consistent with national averages and one that would be competitive with industry, and (2.) stop "the political tug-of-war used every four years to pressure state employees."

He said, "Civil employees have never been paid enough, and we must now do something to assure that we can obtain and hold good personnel."

Liquor-by-the-drink is one of the statewide issues to which Roark is opposed. His statement on the often-cited liquor proposal was "I shall oppose liquor-by-the-drink anywhere in North Carolina, now and in the future."

He spoke also on the 65-foot twin-trailer bill that was so narrowly defeated during the last legislative session. He said he was opposed to the bill for several reasons, the main one being "the safety of the individual motorist."

"Such a bill," he said, "would cause road and highway damage, would be detrimental to small, independent truckers and would result in no saving to shippers, since there would be no rate reduction with the larger rigs."

Roark has spoken out consistently in favor of law and order in North Carolina, with emphasis placed on local handling of the problem. In his statement, he called once again for "state support in training and equipping local law enforcement personnel for local control of law and order."

He called also for "more support and enthusiasm for local auxiliary police, volunteer fire departments and Civil Defense units."

Roark views the Clinchfield dam and reservoir proposal, currently being worked on by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, as holding great potential for Rutherford, Cleveland and Polk Counties.

In his statement, he commented on "the great industrial, commercial and recreational potential the project holds for the three counties. It could be a factor in establishing a tourist industry in the area, and would enhance residential values," he said.

Roark said he would do everything possible to support the project.

He commented, too, on the completion, as soon as possible, of a four-lane U. S. 74 to Columbus, where it would meet Interstate 26. The candidate said completion of the highway "would create a vital link with I-26, I-40 and I-85 when it is completed, and would place the three counties in the district along an important artery between Asheville and Charlotte."

Turning once again to tax matters, Roark said he would work for a tax revision that would grant a \$2,000 "Head of Household" exemption for widows who maintain homes and families.

Finally in his statement, Roark spoke out against "closed meetings in Raleigh," and said he would do everything possible to keep the public informed about activities at the state capital.

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 and family of James Reid



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 By WILSON GRIFFIN
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