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Reference is made on our editorial page this week to our editorial of November 10. For those who failed to read it, or would like to refresh their memory, we are reprinting it below.

## A SLAP FOR SANFORD

Although some politicians may not admit it, Tuesday's vote against the ten proposals in the State Bond Election was aimed more at North Carolina's Governor than the issues involved.

No shrinking violet when it comes to making a play for publicity, he was very much identified with the proposals, and had been quoted as saying he was confident they would meet the approval of Tar Heel citizens.

Sanford apparently didn't realize that thousands of North Carolinians are so hostile to him that they would vote against about anything he might favor. To put it frankly and bluntly, Terry's endorsement of the aforementioned bond proposals was the kiss of death.

For months now, countless Tar Heels — including many who voted for Sanford — have been wishing for a way to lash out against a man who, rightly or wrongly, is in our opinion the most unpopular North Carolina Governor of our time. The bond election gave them a chance to do just that in no uncertain terms.

There are those who will argue that the bond proposals failed to pass because of a light vote. They contend that the "against" vote turned out, while the "for" vote failed to show up at the polls. We can't go along with this line of reasoning. It was our observation that, in New Bern and Craven county, the percentage of non-voters who were not in favor of the bonds compared closely with the sentiment of those who actually voted.

As always, it is regrettable that more citizens didn't go to the polls. It is a continuing disgrace that here and throughout the nation a majority of the qualified voters don't exercise the privilege that is theirs. This indifference is doubly unforgivable in a world where so many are denied the right to speak their wishes in an election.

In our opinion, Governor Sanford's unpopularity is such that never again will he be elected to high office by the citizens of his state. This prognosis on our part may make pretty silly reading a few years from now, if this globe and the people on it are still around. Politically, there may be big things ahead for Terry, but we dare say they will come by appointment and not by the vote of fellow Tar Heels.

Perhaps we should make it clear that we voted for Sanford, after John Larkin was eliminated in the first gubernatorial balloting. To our way of thinking, Terry was a better choice than Dr. I Beverly Lake. We felt that Dr. Lake's approach to the racial problem, sincere though we think he was, could accomplish little good and very likely would do considerable harm.

It is our belief that thousands of North Carolinians shared our attitude, and subsequently elected Sanford for this very reason. The fact that many of the voters who supported Terry won't admit they voted for him is simply an indication of how precarious every politician's perch is.

Sanford's great shortcoming as a leader, it seems to The Mirror, lies in the fact that he apparently places more reliance on pressure than persuasion in trying to achieve his objectives. It is no secret that he had considerable success in riding herd on the last legislature, but pressuring a politician who has an eye on an appointment plum is one thing, and riding herd on rank and file citizens is something else.

Voters have a mind of their own. They don't always show good judgment.

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"For what are you thankful?" I asked this question last Sunday while trying as usual to teach something worthwhile to our class of 12-year-old boys and girls at Centenary Methodist church.

The smallest girl in the class raised her hand. "Abundance," she said softly. And I thought how difficult it would have been for Solomon to come up with a better answer.

Abundant food and clothing and shelter, abundant beauty in nature, abundant liberty, abundant opportunity, an abundance of friends, an abundance of churches and synagogues where, if we get right with God, we will find an abundance of faith.

Thanksgiving Day is gone, but thankfulness should remain a glowing thing in our hearts the whole year through. Little Patty Vickers made that abundantly clear last Sunday, with one well chosen word. Small though she is, Patty was thinking mighty big. If we remember that word — you and I — we too may approach her wisdom and gratitude. — JGMCD.