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Political candidates aren't the only folks who have their problems when that great American institution, the battle of the ballots, brings on frenzied activity over a period of months.

Naturally vote seekers, grinning like possums, get a trifle weary. However, they at least escape headaches such as one that befell Owen G. Dunn Company here during Governor Kerr Scott's administration.

Without advance notice, the New Bern firm had to print 1,800,000 ballots for the State during a single weekend. That's a lot of work, even for a plant as well equipped as Dunn's happens to be.

The rush order was occasioned by the death of Associate Justice A. A. F. Seawell of the North Carolina Supreme Court the previous Saturday, and subsequent developments.

When Seawell passed away, Governor Scott conferred with Attorney General Harry MacMullan, and was told that under the circumstances it would be necessary to hold an election to determine a successor.

The following Thursday night Scott pulled a major surprise by appointing a Wilmington attorney, Murray James to serve on the Supreme Court until the General Election on November 7th.

The Governor made it quite clear to the State Democratic Committee that he wanted his appointee to be nominated by the Committee. Open opposition developed from the moment the appointment was announced.

Meanwhile, the local firm, responsible for printing all State ballots, with a tremendous job to do and time running out, had no choice. It must wait until Friday morning's meeting of the Committee, at which session the nominee would be picked.

When the gathering convened, Scott's appointee was nominated by Hargrove Bellamy of Wilmington. Anti-Scott forces presented the name of former Judge Jeff Johnson of Clinton.

The Committee voted, but before the result was determined, James arose and withdrew his name. He said it was in the interest of Party harmony. Johnson became the Democratic nominee, a definite slap in the face for Governor Scott.

Johnson's nomination took care of half the problem at Owen G. Dunn's, but still missing was a Republican nominee to complete the ballot. The Republican Party announced during Friday morning it was ready to name its nominee.

But, when the noon deadline rolled around, Party officials asked for an extension of time. Needless to say, this threw the New Bern printery into a tizzy, but there was nothing to do but wait some more.

Minutes dragged, as Dunn's employees listened for the telephone call that would finally get things going. It came at 2:30

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A PIGEON CAN STRETCH IF HE'S HUNGRY ENOUGH.

—Photo by Billy Benners.