

# Action In Political Arena Quickens

By L. F. Amburn, Jr.

## Holding The Fairness Doctrine

Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District rarely "shows" in our least favored morning daily of general circulation in Northeastern North Carolina. And when he does make the print it is usually in a form of criticism or in a left-handed manner.

Earlier this week the gliberal writers in the ivory tower made it appear that Rep. Jones had forsaken his popular conservative position by being the only member of the Tar Heel delegation in the House to oppose the new political spending law. However, the congressman's opposition to the law is merely consistent with his total commitment to the sense of fair play.

The bill Rep. Jones opposed limits candidates in federal elections to spending no more than 10 cents per eligible voter for advertising on television, radio and in newspapers. There is a \$50,000 maximum placed on purchases from the media.

Rep. Jones was most sincere, we are sure, when he pointed out such a limitation would result in unfair competition between incumbent candidates and those who aspire to federal elected positions. The incumbent for any office has the definite advantage if it be through past exposure alone. Ethical reporting results in the incumbent getting free exposure another person more than likely couldn't purchase at any price. (In most newspapers, front page space isn't for sale).

But the congressman limited advantages of incumbents to such things as government-paid staffs, cheap television production facilities and free postage for certain items sent to constituents.

After redistricting by the 1971 General Assembly, Rep. Jones' total area in square miles represented amounts to 12,244—or nearly 20 per cent more than the entire State of Maryland, and greater amounts of eight other states. Also, there is a heavy concentration of small daily and weekly newspapers alone and even at their modest ad rate, \$50,000 wouldn't go very far.

By his opposition to the federal campaign spending law, Rep. Jones has again demonstrated a trait which the people of the First Congressional District admire. He is not a politician's politician; but he is about as people-oriented as any man in the U. S. Congress.

His consistency as a political figure with a sense of fair play may not make him many close friends in the gliberal press, but they ain't got the first vote in the First District. Thank goodness for such little blessings!

## Area Needs Gates County

Commissioners in neighboring Gates County have apparently made a decision which will have momentous effect on the Albemarle Area of Northeastern North Carolina. They have petitioned to defect from the 10-county Region "R," and move across the Chowan River into Region "Q."

Such a switch at this time would certainly damage the efforts of Albemarle Regional Planning & Development Commission (ARPD), the Albemarle Area Development Association (ADA), the N. C. Rural Fund For Development (NCRFD), Economic Improvement Council (EIC), and the newly organized Resource Conservation and Development Project (RC&D).

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With the deadline for filing May 6 Democratic primary elections less than two weeks away, information who is not running is almost as interesting as announcements from dates. And in some instances, the political winds in Northeastern North Carolina are blowing up an odor of suspicion.

At home, activities in Chowan County read like this:  
John A. Mitchener, Jr., announced

that he will be a candidate for nomination to the General Assembly from the new First House District.

C. A. Phillips, chairman of Chowan County commissioners, says he will seek another term. (He filed at noon on Wednesday).

J. Clarence Leary, Sr., the dean of local politicians, has decided to call it quits.

And, Dr. J. H. Horton, veteran member of Edenton-Chowan Board of Edu-

cation, is running for re-election.

In the district, things are a little more confusing. Such as:

Sen. George M. Wood of Camden announced Wednesday that he will not be a candidate for re-election to the State Senate.

The Chowan Herald learned from a reliable source shortly after noon Wednesday that House Speaker Phil Godwin of Gates is giving serious consideration to running for the Senate. Redistrict-

ing in the 1971 General Assembly placed Gates County in the Fifth House District with Hertford, Bertie and Northampton counties.

Rep. W. T. Culpepper, Jr., of Elizabeth City, told The Daily Advance late last week he would run for another two-year term. Meanwhile, he has undergone surgery and was confined at present to the Intensive Care Unit at a Norfolk, Va., hospital.

Stanford White of Manns Harbor was the choice of Dare County Democratic Executive Committee to fill the unexpired term of the late Rep. Archie Burrus of Dare. White has suffered a heart attack and is a patient in a Richmond, Va., hospital awaiting surgery.

Sen. Ashley Futrell of Beaufort is expected to announce as a candidate from the First Senatorial District.

Sen. Wood's carefully-worded statement added further speculation to the rumor that he would side-step a three-way race with Sens. Futrell and J. J. (Monk) Harrington of Lewiston and run for the House of Representatives. However, well-guarded sources said this action would hinge on Rep. Culpepper's recovery to the extent of becoming a formidable contender.

In other words, Sen. Wood, who might aspire to be Speaker of the House, doesn't want to enter a race involving his close political ally, Rep. Culpepper. This could well be the case if Rep. Culpepper's announcement was a smoke-screen to give Sen. Wood some breathing room.

Speaker Godwin was a potential candidate for lieutenant governor and declared he would not seek a seat in the new Fifth House District. However, he bowed out of the state-wide race because of what he considered the high cost of such a campaign. He said at the time he was still extremely interested in state government but did not indicate any future plans.

With 10 of the 14 counties in the First Senatorial District making up the Albemarle Area where Speaker Godwin is quite popular, and with Sen. Wood's decision not to run, the source said Godwin appeared on the verge of a favorable decision.

## Mitchener Announces

The First House District is composed of Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Tyrrell and Washington counties. The district is allotted two representatives.

Mitchener, a local pharmacist, has extensive business interests in Edenton and Plymouth.

"I welcome the opportunity to serve the people of this district—a district composed of counties with a great deal in common," he stated. "It has been my happy privilege over the years to get to know many people from throughout the Albemarle Area, and I feel that the knowledge I have gained about their desires for a progressive future equips me to be of service in the General Assembly."

Mitchener declined to seek re-election as Mayor of Edenton in May, 1969, after serving in that capacity for 10 years—a period in which the town experienced unprecedented growth. He served eight years prior to that as a Town Councilman.

During his tenure as mayor, he became active in the N. C. League of Municipalities, serving on the board, as vice president and later as president.

Mitchener was chairman of the Albemarle Area Planning Commission which produced and published "A Region In Transition—The General Development Plan For The Albemarle Area." This regional plan is considered by authorities to be the most exhaustive and complete study of its type ever made.

"During the many months while data was being compiled for this study commission report, I became even more aware of the need for the 10 counties in the Albemarle Area to project as a unit, programs which will benefit the entire region in which we live," he noted. "As a representative in the General Assembly I would confer with, and seek the wise counsel of, people throughout the area and work for pro-

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John A. Mitchener, Jr. J. Clarence Leary George Wood W. T. Culpepper, Jr. C. A. Phillips

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## Board Given Site Report

The Chowan County Courthouse Site Committee presented county commissioners with two proposed sites for a new structure at the regular monthly board meeting Monday.

The two sites proposed were: the site where the existing county office building is; and the Waif property on Water Street to include the Albemarle Tire Service Building.

West W. Byrum, chairman of the committee, gave the following advan-

## Progress Reported

Edenton Savings & Loan Association reached \$7-million in assets at the end of 1971, while paying \$283,951 in dividends and making a total of \$1,551,330 in loans to families in the community.

This was brought out by J. Clarence Leary, president, at a recent stockholders' meeting.

Leary said the association had another very successful year and assets increased by \$764,046 with savings being up \$657,163—to a high of \$5,942,625. The dividend paid amounted to an increase of nearly \$40,000.

"In our efforts to assist the families of our community to own their homes, we made 129 loans," he reported.

Later he said: "The officers and directors of your association perform their duties under constant obligations, first to our savers by providing a safe place for their savings, then to the community at large by making home loans to qualified applicants. These thrift and home financing services are vital to the welfare of all communities and it is a source of considerable pride that this institution makes an important contribution in this area."

tages and disadvantages of both sites. They were:

"We recommend the existing county office building be demolished and new court facility be erected on this site. Advantages are:

The county owns the hotel site and no capital outlay would be needed to purchase the site; the hotel site has ample footage both width and depth to build a courthouse, jail, and office space for all necessary administrative services; the maintenance and upkeep, together with the monthly utility costs, would be less for one building than for the same services in two separate buildings and the present jailer's home would not have to be replaced; currently the available parking space on the north side of the building is adequate, but later if additional space is needed, adequate space is available when needed; and if the new building should be valued at \$300,000, including the site valued at \$50,000, grants of 80 per cent would provide \$240,000 plus \$50,000 for the site making a total of \$290,000 which would leave a small sum for the county to provide.

Disadvantages of the site would include possible lack of space if ample parking is to be provided; possibility of no funding if facility is to include county offices; congestion of parking lot; deterrent monies because of time involved for demolition; problems in supplying quarters for existing office facilities; and increased cost if owned property

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## Lowe Paid Honor: Pierce Promoted

Economic Improvement Council, Inc., Tuesday night sponsored a testimonial dinner for Roy L. Lowe, executive director who has resigned to take an administrative position outside the region.

One of Lowe's final duties was to announce that the EIC board had earlier in the evening promoted Wilbur G. Pierce from deputy director to the position of executive director. Also, Lowe said the board had chosen Mrs. Mary Reich as director of family planning.

Some 150 leaders from throughout the 10-county Albemarle Area, EIC board members and staffers gathered in Edenton Jaycee Community Building on Base Road for the dinner.

In his remarks, Lowe expressed appreciation for the remembrances and cited program development as one of the key accomplishments of EIC. "Cooperation is the real theme to community and regional planning," he noted.

Lowe paid special tribute to Pierce, who he described as the man who has made things happen within the anti-poverty agency.

Mrs. Elizabeth Byrd of Edenton, EIC

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## Area Meeting Set

At its February dinner meeting the Albemarle Area Development Association will hear Rev. Edwin Williams of Hertford discuss restoration of historical homes.

Melvin Hearn, recently appointed state coordinator for the Coastal Plains Regional Commission, is expected to attend as a guest of honor and to speak briefly.

Committee chairmen will report on plans and projects and Wesley Cullipher, director of the Albemarle Regional Development Planning Commission, will discuss pending grants affecting the area, according to L. F. Amburn, Jr., president of the ADA.

The dinner will be held at the Holiday Inn tonight (Thursday) starting at 7 o'clock. Reservations should be made through Loyal Phillips, arrangement chairman. The Elizabeth City phone number is 335-0841.

## Lowe Is Alternate

CHAPEL HILL — Garry Freeman Lowe, Route 3, Edenton, has been chosen first alternate finalist in the bid for 1972 Morehead Awards to study at the University of North Carolina here.

Lowe, a student at John A. Holmes High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Lowe.

Included in District I finalists is John Herbert Small of Elizabeth City, son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. W. Small.

Finalists and alternates were selected from 18 nominees representing 15 counties in the district following interviews February 3 in Williamston. Lorimer Midgett of Elizabeth City, is chairman of the district committee.

## Local Sales Tax Collections Good

Chowan County placed second in net collections of the local option 1 per cent sales tax during December. Net collections amounted to \$14,253.08.

Pasquotank County led the seven counties in the Albemarle Area who levy the local option tax with net collections of \$43,652.90.

Collections in other counties included:

Camden, \$2,076.82; Currituck, \$5,453.06; Perquimans, \$6,650.56; Tyrrell, \$2,722.92; and Washington, \$13,722.37.

G. A. Jones, Jr., new commissioner of the N. C. Department of Revenue, reported that net collections amounted to \$5,078,213.54 in the 64 counties where the tax is levied. Mecklenburg County led all the rest with collections of \$744,902.47, followed by Guilford with \$555,329.59; and Wake with \$506,854.51.

Chowan County and the Town of

Edenton received a total of \$3,933.43 in the final distribution of \$302,787 retained by the revenue department for distribution at this time.

Chowan County's share was \$2,893.19 while the Town of Edenton received \$1,040.24. The report showed refunds from the tax amounted to \$4,134.06.

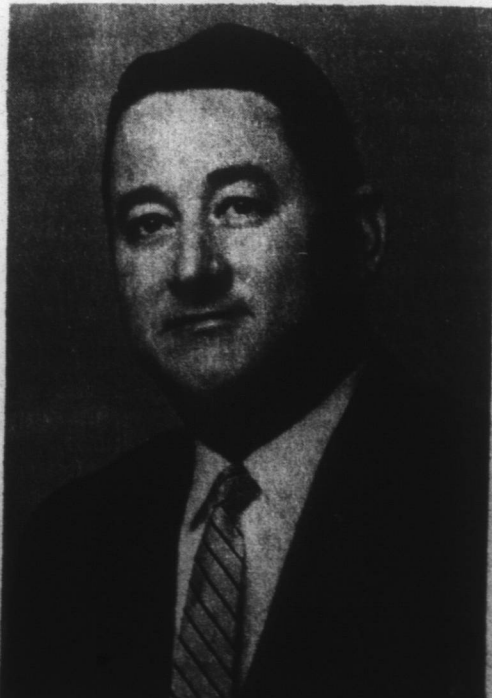
Other Albemarle Area counties who shared in the distribution included:

Camden, \$813.67; Currituck, \$1,281.28; Pasquotank, \$7,034.20 and Elizabeth City, \$3,265.85; Perquimans, \$2,307.53; Hertford, \$389.98; and Wintfall, \$72.39; Tyrrell, \$820.96 and Columbia, \$153.14.

Jones reports 72 counties (not including Mecklenburg) have imposed the 1 per cent local option sales tax. Sixty-nine of these counties already have placed the tax into effect with two others making it effective March 1 and another making it effective on April 1.



Valentine Sweethearts—February 14 is the day set aside for lovers all over this nation. Getting in the mood for the occasion are Little Stephanie Hampton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hampton and Brian Nixon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Nixon, both of Mexico Road. Soon children will be sending Valentines to all the special friends and wives and sweethearts will be receiving cards, flowers and candy. (Candy in picture courtesy of Hollowell's Rexall Drug Store).



Rep. Phil Godwin