

State Rep. Davenport:

Succession Could Unbalance Power Base

State Rep. John Ed Davenport of Nashville announced Tuesday the formation of Carolinians Opposed to Succession, a committee which will oppose the proposed amendment to the Constitution of North Carolina which would allow the governor and lieutenant governor to run for a consecutive terms of office.

Davenport said: "the Constitution of North Carolina is the foundation of our government. It should not be changed except in those instances where an urgent need appears. In other words, as the old adage says, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it, and our constitution is not 'broke'."

The committee will be headquartered at the Hilton Inn in Raleigh. In addition to Davenport, who will serve as chairman, its members include former State Treasurer Edwin Gill of Raleigh, former Rep. Ed

Kemp of High Point, former Speaker Pro Tempore Kitchen Josey of Scotland Neck, former State Purchasing Contracting Director William Henderson of Raleigh, Sen. Craig Lawing of Charlotte, Rep. Pat Griffin of Durham, Rep. Jay Huskins of Statesville, House Speaker Pro Tempore Horton Rountree of Farmville, Rep. George Hux of Halifax, Sen. Kenneth Royall of Durham, former House Speaker Jim Ramsey of Roxboro, former Speaker Phil Godwin of Gatesville, Betty Lou Johnson, Republican Committeewoman of Raleigh, former Rep. George Holmes of Yadkinville, Sen. Don Kincaid of Lenior, Hugh Chatham, president of Chatham Manufacturing Company, Elkin, Jack Lee, chairman of the North Carolina Republican Party, Dave Flaherty of Lenior, former Republican can-

didate for governor, former Secretary of Human Resources.

"The people of North Carolina have long held an inherent fear of power vested in one office—that of the governor.

This is the basis of the present provision and the reason we should hesitate to make a change," Davenport said.

"This issue has nothing to do with the present incumbents in the office of governor and lieutenant governor. It is bigger than either of the incumbents. The issue is what is best for the people of North Carolina.

"It is my opinion that the people of North Carolina should vote 'No' on the proposed Succession Amendment.

"It is estimated that there is an annual turnover of about 9,000 state employees, exclusive of teachers, each year. During a term of office, the governor can control 36,000 state employees. The governor appoints approximately 2,500 people to boards, commissions and committees. The current governor will have the authority to appoint three new judges of the Court of Appeals and 11 new Superior Court judges. He will fill the vacancies of any judge of the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court Justice who dies or resign during his term of office.

"A Governor of North Carolina and the agencies exclusively under his control will disburse over \$500-million federal funds each year, without appropriation by the General Assembly.

"Any governor with this appointive power and this amount of money to disburse is able to implement his program in the General Assembly. He is, or should be, able to implement his program with the state employees. Any

governor with an additional four-year term having the inherent power of his office would create the power center in government that the people of North Carolina have so long feared. There would be a grave danger of such a powerful figure having absolute control of state government, Executive, Legislative and Judicial.

"A two-term governor could completely dominate the legislature and make it a rubber stamp to his policies and programs without the ability to change a comma in legislation. Most programs of a governor, be he Democrat or Republican, are passed by a General Assembly who looks to the Governor with respect.

"One little-mentioned factor is that the ability of the lieutenant governor to succeed himself could shift the power base in the General Assembly from the present bicameral legislature, to dominance by the Senate, unless speakers are elected for a longer term. An eight-year lieutenant governor and speaker would tend to make the legislature respond to the shift of more power to the governor, by allowing very powerful legislators to become committee chairman and retain their positions and dominate the legislature from within.

"Succession would almost assure that a governor would spend his first term of office running for re-election. Usually this will happen at the expense of the people of North Carolina, represented by expanded taxes, more expenditures and more government employees.

"The succession of both the governor and lieutenant governor will tend to stifle competition among candidates. The lieutenant governor will run for two terms as lieutenant governor and then for two terms as governor. A lieutenant governor will tend to be subservient to the incumbent governor. Such a course of events would foster machine politics.

"For over one hundred years, North Carolina has had a sound financial government without scandal. The states that have succession are usually the states that have scandal in government. Increased

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My Susan took part in the Thanksgiving pageant at church school. Of course, I made her pilgrim costume. Later, as I watched her singing, she looked just like the pictures I have seen of pilgrim children. I felt a lump in my throat and had a real sense of identity with those men, women and children who long ago withstood the hardships of life in a new and alien world.

These immigrants weren't superhuman; they were people just like you and me. They had the courage to believe in a new life—a new country. They believed their ultimate struggle would lead to the freedom they so fervently sought.

Over three and a half centuries have passed. The foundation the pilgrim fathers laid for us seems to be shaking beneath our feet, and even our faith wavers.

But, reconsider. We owe it to those pilgrims as well as to ourselves to reaffirm our belief in God and in our country. And what better way than in your church—this Thanksgiving?



Sunday Daniel 7:11-14
Monday Daniel 12:1-4
Tuesday I Corinthians 15:54-57
Wednesday Mark 13:24-27
Thursday John 18:36-37
Friday Revelation 1:4-8
Saturday Revelation 1:12-16
Scriptures selected by The American Bible Society

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Little Stories about GREAT HYMNS

"I AM THINE, O LORD"
Fanny J. Crosby

"I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise on the wings of faith,
And be closer drawn to Thee."

Chorus:
"Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To the cross where Thou hast died;
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,
To Thy precious, bleeding side."

"Fanny J. Crosby, the blind hymn writer, was led to write this hymn before retiring one evening after she had spent the late afternoon talking with Dr. W. H. Doane, composer, about the nearness and constant presence of God. Millions have sung this hymn to the favorite tune composed by Dr. Doane."

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Sunday School Lesson

OUR MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION
International Sunday School Lesson for November 28, 1976
Scripture: Romans 1:16, 15:7-33
By Mrs. Jesse Waller

For the past three months, we have been considering passages from Paul's letters to the Galatians and Romans. The main theme has been the healing of human relationships.

If we are not reconciled with God, and his plan for us, we are not reconciled with others. This is not accomplished automatically, but the change comes in a person, only when he is able to see himself as he really is, and open his life to change, by God's spirit. Only the reconciled is able to direct others to this source of healing.

Paul proved that he was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. He had preached in the Areopagus in Athens, and in the Jewish synagogues. He had been imprisoned by the Gentiles, and rejected by his own people, the Jews. He had given up an important role to become a missionary for Christ. His greatest delight was to bring the good news to those who had never heard. He loved to quote Isaiah 52:15, "So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider." What a wonderful feeling of accomplishment he must have felt, in spite of his often imprisonments and harassments.

If we have been reconciled to God, we are involved with the reconciliation of others, whether we like it or not. The peace of reconciliation is so sweet, we want others to experience it.

Have you ever heard someone say, about someone who had wronged them, "I will never forgive the one who caused this hurt?" Whether they realize it or not, they are harboring this grudge which is like an incurable disease working in their body. Only the divine surgeon can perform the operation to remove this condition. Every case is a challenge for Christian ministry.

The Holy Spirit, through love, has settled many family disputes. Perhaps we hesitate to take the initiative to help bring peace where there is discord. But we should never stand in the way of those who try to help. We could accomplish much, if we discouraged those who insist on telling jokes which reflect on ethnic groups. It never helps to repeat gossip that could threaten the relationship of husband and wife.

There are many opportunities offered in our communities to be of supportive service, as the church tries to bring about better relations between racial groups. There is so much volunteer work needed, that if we responded as we should, we would be playing a large part as a reconciler.

Closing thought: As surely as there are broken promises, and broken homes and hearts, just as surely is there a Christ, waiting to heal.

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