

Force Reduction Policy Is Criticized

Same Man

Rep. Jay Huskins of Our Dell didn't get over to meander along the Public Parade last weekend but he was on hand Monday in Williamston for the Senate and House Joint Committee on Congressional Redistricting. He is chairman of the House committee. His counterpart in the Senate is Mrs. Helen R. Marvin of Gaston County.

Sen. Melvin R. Daniels of the Isle of Pasquotank is a member of the committee and attended Monday's meeting. However, he was quoted in Sunday's edition of our favorite daily of general circulation in Northeastern North Carolina as having considerable concern over the way the redistricting thing appeared to be going.

Sir Melvin's concern was that both chairmen reside in the "west" and had instructed that the lines be drawn from the mountains to the coast, which would leave Eastern North Carolina with the pieces.

Friend Jay had some concerns of his own over Sir Melvin's statements. He reminded the audience at Martin Community College that the last time he was on the campus he was heading a legislative committee which made recommendations which resulted in the establishment of the East Carolina University School of Medicine. "Somehow you welcomed me back then," he said. "I'm the same man today."

He also expressed disappointment that a colleague would accuse him of regional bias on such an important matter.

What Friend Jay didn't say is that he is also the same man who spearheaded establishment of a joint House and Senate oversight committee on utilities from which sprang the Public Staff of the State Utilities Commission. Utilities in general and Virginia Power & Light Company in particular are of great concern to the people of Northeastern North Carolina and Sir Melvin.

The Public Staff, coupled with Electricities—which represents municipals that buy wholesale and resale electricity—have saved consumers millions of dollars. They continue in this important role, and like Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., want to see people in every section of Tar Heelia treated equally.

Furthermore, Sir. Melvin and his colleague from the First District have "a little bill" in the hopper which deals with money for Edenton Historical Commission. It is more important to this region than any other, but the backers will need support from legislators from throughout the state. Among those needed is the "same man" who has gone out on the limb for our area in the past.

A charge of regional bias is not going to make success easy. It is another incident where a public figure didn't engage his brain before starting to talk.

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Several dozen concerned faculty members of Edenton - Chowan Schools turned out Monday night for the board of education meeting where the Reduction In Force Policy was on the agenda. However, when the item was reached, Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, said the document was not ready for public discussion.

Dr. Dunn said the administration had been meeting with a faculty committee but had not refined the policy sufficiently so as to make a recommendation to the board. At his suggestion, a special board meeting was set for 7:30 P. M. Tuesday.

In addition to the RIF Policy,

the board will consider recommendations for career status of teachers.

Faculty members filled the Third Floor Conference room in the County Office Building prior to the 7:30 P. M. meeting Monday. Chairman Eugene Jordan announced that the meeting would be moved to the second floor of the Chowan County Courthouse on North Broad Street.

When the second meeting place overflowed, the meeting was moved to the courtroom.

Mrs. Harriett Small spoke as an individual, but her comments were nods of approval from the audience when she called the policy as it is now written as

"belittling and demeaning" to the teachers. She said there is absolutely no job security for teachers.

Also, she said the N. C. Association of Educators has developed an alternative policy but Dr. Dunn has not seen fit to incorporate it in the local draft.

Mrs. Barbara Ward a faculty member who is also a member of Chowan County Board of Commissioners, said the school situation is not of "your doing or our doing." However, she said they wanted to show concern before the policy is adopted "and we have a slim or no chance of getting it changed."

"All we are asking for is some

little degree of consideration... just a bit of security," she concluded.

Another staff member pointed out that other schools units have adopted satisfactory policies.

Near the close of the meeting Dr. Dunn presented a resolution pointing to Parent - Teacher Association Teacher Appreciation Week. It was adopted.

The schools may be solvent on June 30 because of action taken February 1 to freeze local expenditures. Dr. Dunn said J. P. Timberlake, III, auditor had monitored the situation and felt their would be no deficit. However, the board approved a budget amendment to transfer

\$15,000 from the Capital Outlay Fund to the Current Expense Fund.

C. Christopher Bean, board attorney, discussed a memorandum regarding fine and bond forfeitures. He said although the money is levied in criminal court, collecting it is a civil procedure.

Between January 1, 1978, and December 31, 1980, he found \$10,300 in unpaid fines of \$100 or more. Only \$1,500 was found in unpaid bond forfeitures which is a credit to the "comprehensive job in obtaining judgments absolute on the boards" by the clerk's office and presiding judges.

Bean was instructed to continue his work, collect what he can and make regular reports to Dr. Dunn.

Mrs. Etta Hathaway, food service director, presented documents showing that the system stands to lose \$83,854 in cafeteria financial support if proposed federal cuts materialize. She said the lunch price would have to go to \$1.15 or \$1.20 (from the present 60-cent price.)

Cecil W. Fry, a board member, said the board should go ahead and ask principals to find a large room for those who will bring their own lunch. Chairman Jordan said 62 per cent of the students get free or reduced price lunches and it may be the best meal they get all day. "We must look at this closely," he said.

Dr. Dunn said he understands the concern, but it is too early to make a definite decision on what to do. Also, the board delayed adoption of the 1981-82 school calendar in order to find out exactly what the General Assembly is going to do about teacher days.



Robert L. Pence

Federal Agent To Visit Here

Robert L. Pence, agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in North Carolina, will visit Northeastern North Carolina next week. He will be visiting with law enforcement officers and citizen leaders in crime prevention.

Pence will be at the Chowan County Sheriff's Office at 9 A. M. Tuesday. Greeting him there will be Sheriff Troy Toppin, Police Chief J. D. Parrish and C. B. Smith, chairman of the crime prevention group in this county.

FBI Agent Mark Goss of Elizabeth City said Pence hopes to meet as many officials in this section of the state as possible during this two-day visit. "He is anxious to meet with officers and personally pledge strong FBI support for law enforcement," Goss stated.

Agent Charles S. Richards of Charlotte, FBI coordinator for press media and applicants, was in the area several weeks ago and arranged the visit.

Pence, who is stationed in Charlotte, came to North Carolina in March, 1980. Prior to that he was with the Administrative Services Division in Washington, D. C.

He signed on with the FBI in October, 1962, and in addition to assignments in Washington he has served in New Orleans, San Francisco, New York City, and Louisville, Ky.

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Forehand Gets 25-Year Term

Lloyd Forehand, 51, 808 North Broad Street, has been found guilty in Chowan County Superior Court of second degree kidnapping. The jury returned the verdict this week.

Judge Edwin S. Preston of Raleigh sentenced Forehand to 25 years in prison, no less nor no more.

The defendant was charged in the case which derived out of a complaint lodged by a developmentally disabled woman.

In the case where Irvin Holley was convicted earlier of assault with a deadly weapon, Judge Preston sentenced him to five years.

Asst. Dist. Atty. Keith Teague of Elizabeth City is prosecuting the docket. Other action taken included:

Major Drew, assault with a deadly weapon, two years. Execution of sentence was delayed for two weeks. The judgment also made the defendant eligible for immediate work release. On parole he was ordered to make restitution.

Oras Carlie Blount, 30 counts of forgery and uttering, five years, suspended upon payment of \$200

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Leadership Conference Set

Women in Chowan County will have the opportunity to attend the County Governor's Conference on Leadership Development for Women to be held Saturday, May 23, at the John A. Holmes High School in Edenton.

"The county conference is a follow-up to the successful statewide conference convened in Raleigh in May, 1978 by Governor Jim Hunt and the nine regional conferences held across the state last year," said Mrs. Beth Taylor, co-chairperson of the planning committee. "These conferences



OLYMPIC WARM UP — Chowan County's Special Olympics athletes are shown above going through warm up exercises prior to the start of last Saturday's games on Hicks Field. A Special Olympics feature can be found on Page 8-A of this week's newspaper.

Local Peanut Growers Support Coalition

A group of about 45 Chowan County peanut growers elected to join the N.C.-Va. Peanut Growers Coalition, Monday night, and will immediately begin soliciting for additional local members in an effort to boost prices for their raw product. The coalition is expected to seek a \$700 per ton minimum for quota peanuts grown by member farmers through a standard contract developed by the organization.

U. S. Secretary of Agriculture

are being held to provide leadership development opportunities for women and to encourage them to exercise their energies and talents to strengthen their communities," she said.

Training sessions at the conference will include topics such as "Women and the Law," "Assertiveness Training," "Managing Your Career and Your Family," etc.

For information or registration, contact Mrs. Taylor at 482-3592 or

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John R. Block has proposed a \$455 per ton support price, elimination of acreage allotments and limitation limiting the poundage quota to 1.4-million tons.

Dave Kelly, a coalition director from Sunbury, said the proposed support price has prompted growers to "get off their hindparts and do something, though he predicts the Block proposal will not pass the House of Representatives."

Earlier, Rick Morgan, a coalition member from Gates County, pointed out, "Shellers wouldn't have given us \$600 per ton now if we hadn't pushed them." Planter's Peanuts was the first sheller to offer that amount.

According to figures presented by D. T. Bateman, president of the N. C. Peanut Growers Association, the cost of producing one ton of peanuts is \$624.56 with an average yield of 2,500 pounds per acre.

Kelly commented that farmers invest thousands of dollars and are expected to be happy with a marginal livelihood. "You are the only ones who have not made a profit."

Kelly warned the growers that

individual bargaining could result in their signing contracts they don't fully understand and receiving no more than the support price. And he added, "The shellers will go off the market when they've got what they want."

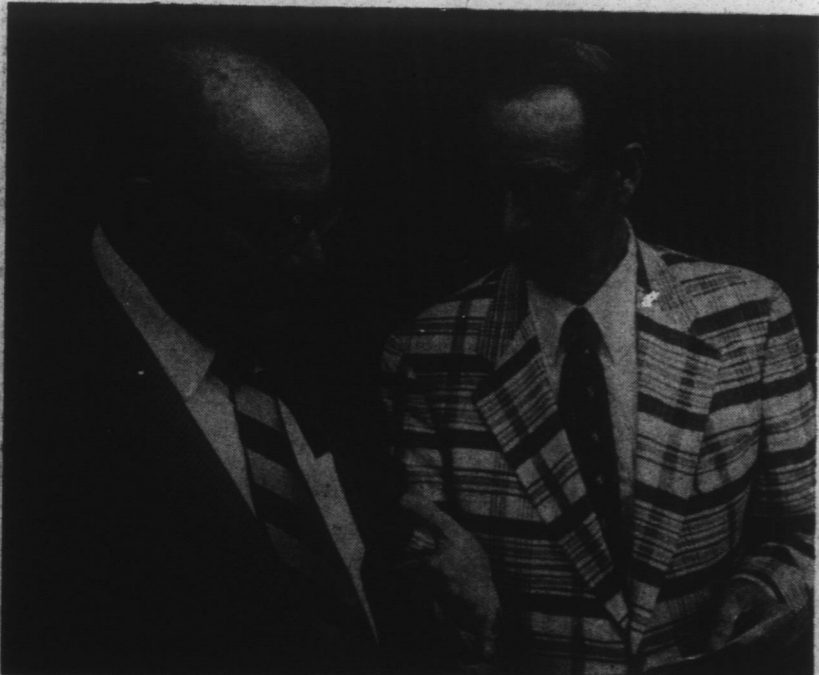
Kelly called for expanding coalition efforts to include the entire southeast, particularly Georgia and Alabama where runner peanuts are grown. "There are other than Virginia-type peanuts that can be used in candy and peanut butter," he remarked.

Later Bateman told the gathering Georgia growers have said they will plant 100 per cent of their quota and sell them at the support price.

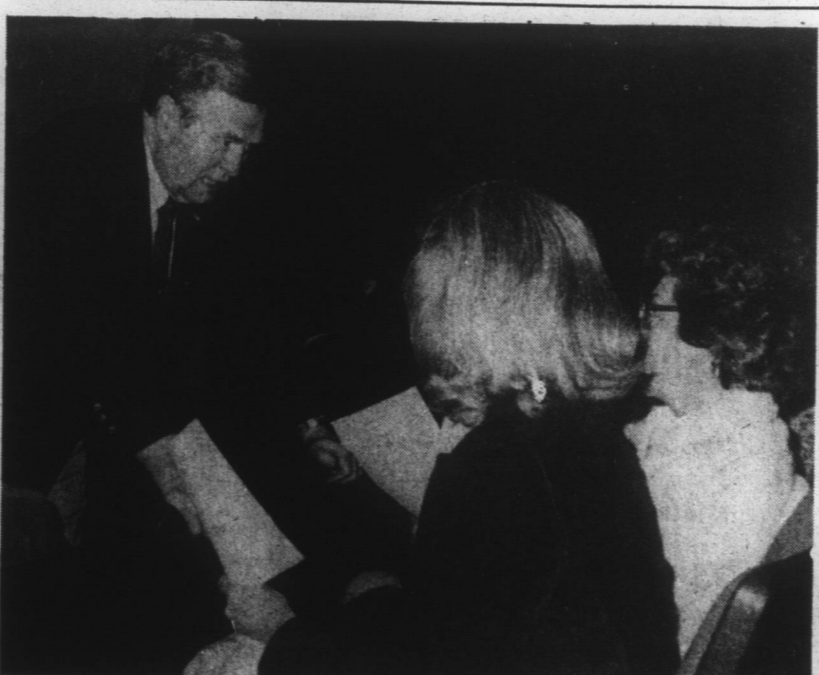
Both men agreed Georgia and Alabama pose a serious threat, though in doing so, they risk possible bankruptcy.

"If the movement is to have impact, we must organize the entire industry or we'll push ourselves right off the grocery shelf," Kelly said. "You'll find runners in cocktail peanut cans, and once they're coated in spices and dry-roasted, you can't tell the

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EXPLAINS PROBLEM — Rep. Jay Huskins of Iredell, right, and A. B. Ayers, Jr., of Bear Grass, discuss the difficult problem the General Assembly will have in designing a congressional redistricting act. The committees in the Senate and House have agreed to attempt to arrive at a "norm" which deviates no more than 2 per cent. (See Public Parade.)



AIDING THE CROWD — Rep. Chris Barker of Craven was among redistricting committee members who attended a public hearing Monday at Martin Community College in Williamston. Martin County was well represented and the speakers were vocal in expressing disagreement with any plan which would move their county from the First Congressional District.



SENATORS HUDDLE — Sen. Helen R. Marvin of Gaston is shown with Sen. Melvin R. Daniels, Jr., of Pasquotank, left, and Sen. Dallas L. Alford, Jr., of Rocky Mount, prior to Monday's joint Senate and House Congressional Redistricting Committee public hearing in Williamston. Sen. Daniels vows to fight to keep the First Congressional District intact.

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