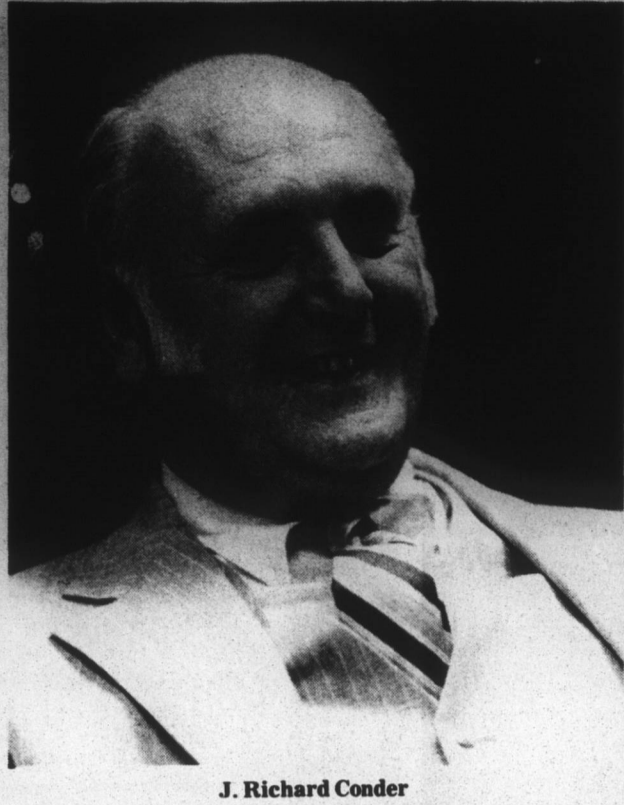


Conder Raps Federalism; Supports Reagan Federal Aid Policy



J. Richard Conder

WASHINGTON, D. C. — J. Richard Conder of Richmond County (Rockingham), N. C. says he comes from a region of hard-working people — his constituents never give him the luxury of waging an unopposed campaign! Nevertheless, five times Conder has been elected commissioner of this small Southern community of 46,000 located mid-point between the two Carolinas.

This term Conder will be celebrating his 20th year in public office. He has served 18 consecutive years as chairman of the board.

He will concurrently be serving as president of the National Association of Counties (NACo), a Washington-based public interest group that represents over 2,000 of the

nation's 3,104 counties. Conder will be inaugurated during the association's annual conference July 11-15 in Louisville, Ky.

Like most county officials, Conder, 51, is a part-timer, and a product of his hometown. He estimates he spends about 20 per cent of his time on public affairs, thanks to an employer he says "has a deep commitment to the community."

He is vice president of First Union National Bank, a subsidiary of First Union Corporation of North Carolina. Conder says he is also representative of growing numbers of county officials who are first, businessmen, with the skills necessary to conduct the increasingly complicated affairs of local government.

"When I entered office the commissioners used to meet like a social club. They'd pay the bills, chew the fat and go home. Today there has been a tremendous change in the way constituents expect politics to be conducted. Citizens are more deeply committed than ever before to quality local government.

Richmond County commissioners for instance, now administer a \$12-million budget derived from property taxes, the state and federal government. Conder calls upon volunteers from the area's professional community — lawyers, utility managers and small businessmen — to

help plan for community growth.

Conder sees his year as NACo president as an opportunity to increase the visibility of county government. "Most citizens have no idea what counties do," he says. "In the last two decades counties have assumed a vast array of services formerly provided by cities and states. Counties have become the primary providers of public services to the nation's citizens...but it is an unsung song, a generally unrecognized role we county officials play. We've gone along minding our own business for years. Let's look at some of the changes those years have wrought in my county, for example:

"For years, my people enjoyed a stable population and an unemployment rate of about 5 per cent," Conder said. Farmers and textile workers, mostly, committed to the traditions of family and home. This way of life was seriously threatened by modernization in the textile industry, and other economic changes that threatened our economic base.

"What did we do? We appointed an Economic Development Committee, not of professional planners and futurists, a committee of like-minded citizens. People that already have a stake in the well-being of the community. A committee of volunteers," Conder said. This team had two major

successes, Conder noted.

They brought about improvement in the water supply. The \$5-million, "phase one" was completed in 1977, phase two is under construction. Secondly, they began to attract new industry, notably the Clark Equipment Company, makers of heavy-duty transmissions. Other local industries include textile mills, sail boat and furniture makers.

"We did a good job," he says. The population of the county grew 15 per cent in the last 10 years, a rate comparable to other areas of the Sunbelt. But along with population growth came other worries: increasing number of felonies, the need to fund more education and social services, and most important, an unemployment rate that has risen to 12 per cent in the last months.

"What we need is jobs," Conder says. "One of the accomplishments I am most proud of is development of a big, modern high school with a beautiful campus, fine teachers and a wide range of activities.

"It's band and athletic teams are among the top in the state. Well, that school graduates 700 seniors a year. Most of them leave home...never to return. Their parents call me and they say, 'My kids would like to stay, but they can't find jobs.'"

It is an emotional issue, one that hits close to home:

Conder and his wife Barbara, have three teenage children.

The new NACo president received his bachelor's degree in accounting at East Carolina University, Greenville, and attended Louisiana State University Graduate School of Banking, Baton Rouge; and N. C. Banker's Association School in Chapel Hill.

He has served as senior vice president and area manager of Southern National Bank and worked for Dixon and Odom, a Rockingham accounting firm. Conder is a veteran of the U. S. Air Force.

"Government in Richmond County has done a good job, now we have to do better," said this tall authoritative figure, with a good-humored chuckle, suddenly turning serious with the declaration that unemployment and inflation are symptomatic of a "troubled economy. That is why," Conder explained, "last November, a majority of the voters in an overwhelming number of states said 'enough'."

"Ronald Reagan" was elected with a mandate for change in the way the federal government does business and particularly, a mandate to reduce the amount of government intervention in the affairs of local government, of business and in people's daily lives. In the government sector, this relationship is called federalism. We in

county government are hopeful that the promises of the Reagan administration will spell greater independence and greater cooperation between the various levels of government.

"I cannot deny federal aid has helped Richmond County. We have developed a water supply, constructed an airport, purchased a multi-purpose recreation facility, provided meals for the elderly and improved our health care services...all with the assistance of the federal government," Conder continued.

Now much of this help will be withdrawn. Recently the county laid off 90 of its 300 employees whose salaries were paid by the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) program. Now the board of commissioners will be called upon to make a list of "priorities."

"Which services do our citizens want to fund, which must be cut?" Conder questioned. "Of all the services we provide, one of the least popular is 'Meals on Wheels' program for the elderly. But I have visited all four of our meal sites, and I have found this service has become a focal point in the lives of many lonely people. Without a place to go may of these individuals would be starved, starved for personal attention, fellowship and human af-

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N.C. Farm Market

Grain prices were lower this week with declines of 11 to 15 cents per bushel on corn, 12 to 13 cents on soybeans and 10 to 11 cents on wheat through Thursday, July 2 compared to the same period of the previous week. No. 2 yellow shelled corn ranged mostly \$3.27 to \$3.49 in the Eastern part of the state and \$3.45 to \$3.68 in the Piedmont. No. 1 yellow soybeans ranged mostly \$6.73 to \$7.16 in the East and \$6.40 to \$6.92 in the Piedmont; No. 2 red winter wheat \$2.85 to \$3.29; No. 2 red oats \$1.60 to \$2; and barley \$2 to \$2.20 per bushel and milo \$5 to \$5.40 per hundred. New crop prices quoted for harvest delivery corn \$3.07 to \$3.43; soybeans \$6.84 to \$7.05. Soybean meal 44 per cent FOB the processing plant ranged \$218.40 to \$234.50 per ton, according to the Market News Service of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

A total of 8,951 feeder pigs were sold on 14 state graded sales during week of June 29. Prices were \$1.50 to \$12.75 lower. US 1-2 pigs weighing 40-50 pounds averaged \$73.62 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$63.10; 50-60 pound 1-2s averaged \$68.03, No. 3s \$57.13; 60-70 pound 1-2s \$60.34, No. 3s \$53.30; 70-80 pound 1-2s \$57.58 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$52.12.

At weekly livestock auctions held within the state the week of June 29, prices for slaughter cows were .50 to \$1 lower. Slaughter steers were \$1.50 to \$5.50 lower and feeder calves \$2 to \$6.50 lower. Utility and Commercial cows brought \$39.50 to \$49.50; Good slaughter steers above 800 pounds \$51.50 to \$57.50; Good slaughter heifers above 700 pounds brought \$48 to \$54.75; Choice Veals \$60 to \$74; Good slaughter calves 250-350 pounds \$55 to \$63.50. Medium frame Number One muscle steers 400-500 pounds brought \$53 to \$60.50

per hundred pounds and same grade heifers 400-500 pounds sold \$47 to \$55. Feeder cows, beef type average flesh sold from \$40.50 to \$48. Baby calves under 3 weeks of age brought \$35 to \$90 per head. Market hogs brought mostly \$47 to \$54.50 per hundred weight and 300-600 pound sows \$42.25 to \$52.30.

Vegetables are available throughout eastern North Carolina. Dry weather has reduced the supply, but a good volume of pepper and some cucumbers and squash remain to be packed in the Faison area. Due to the holiday, no prices were available on Thursday. Sweet corn was mostly \$6 per crate on July 2. The season for western North Carolina vegetables was just beginning with beans, cabbage and a few Tennessee tomatoes being sold this week.

Egg prices were higher on large and fractionally higher on medium and small compared to those of the previous week. Supplies were light to moderate. Demand was moderate. The North Carolina weighted average price quoted on July 2 for small lot sales of cartoned grade A eggs delivered to stores was \$71.07 cents per dozen for large, Medium 56.72 and small 48.42.

The broiler-fryer market is 3 cents lower for next week's trading. Supplies are moderate. Demand is moderate. The North Carolina dock weighted average price is 51.23 cents per pound for less than truckloads picked up at processing plants during the week of July 6. This week 7.9 million birds were processed in North Carolina with an average live bird weight of 3.97 pounds per bird on July 1.

The Library of Congress contains about 300 miles of shelf space and about 40 acres of floor space.

Letter To The Editor

(Editor's Note: A copy of the following letter to Rep. Vernon James was sent to The Chowan Herald for publication.)

Dear Rep. James:

I believe in getting straight to the point and cutting out all of the "political garbage" that you and your esteemed colleagues seem to enjoy wallowing in, so here it is...I think that House Bill 1176 (which I understand you cosponsor) is one of the most absurd things I have heard of coming out of Raleigh, especially in times like this when it is a miracle that any of us can make it financially.

I am ashamed that a person from my part of the country has anything to do with a piece of unfair legislation such as this House Bill 1176. I think I'll start another "Edenton Tea and Coffee Party"...don't laugh, it was unfair taxes such as you propose that gave good cause to have demonstrations such as the "Boston Tea Party" and of course our own "Edenton Tea Party".

I don't know who you talk to these days, but it surely isn't the working man who put you in office. I haven't found any of us "common folks" who really would like to pay an additional 96 cents per pound for coffee!! As a matter of fact, a lot of us are getting fed up with stupid legislation such as this and the type of politicians that propose them.

Your House Bill 1176 proposes a tax of 6 cents per ounce or 96 cents per pound on coffee. The tax on tea would be 8 cents per ounce or 1.28 per pound. I buy approximately 2 cases of coffee a week at around \$70. per case, but if your tax goes through I would have to pay an additional \$23.52 per case in tax making it \$93.52 per case.

...Now if you don't think that is absurd...there ain't no cabbage in Weeksville! Sincerely,

Jim Boswell

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

AUTHORSHIP OF THE BIBLE, NATURALLY, CAN NOT BE ASCRIBED TO ANY ONE PERSON, OR GROUP OF PERSONS, BUT, WHEN WE VIEW ITS AUTHORSHIP CLOSELY, WE CAN ONLY GASP WITH AMAZEAMENT OVER THE VAST ARRAY OF PARTICIPANTS WHO, WRITING OVER A PERIOD OF 1500 YEARS, CAME FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE! ASSURELY, ALL OF THEM WROTE UNDER THE INSPIRATION OF DIVINE GUIDANCE FOR, ALTHOUGH SOME WERE INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED, OTHERS WERE HARDLY LITERATE ENOUGH TO FASHION THE WORDS THEY WROTE! THEY WERE:

KINGS, PEASANTS, PRIESTS, FISHERMEN, SHEPHERDS, GENERALS, LAWYERS, DOCTORS, TAX COLLECTORS, POLITICIANS, NOBLEMEN, MARTYRS, SOLDIERS, AND SLAVES!

THEY USED EVERY AVAILABLE FORM OF EXPRESSION:

PROSE, POETRY, PARABLES, PRAYERS, SERMONS, SONGS, HISTORY, LAW, LETTERS, DIALOGUE, ANECDOTES, RITUAL, ROMANCE, BIOGRAPHY, EULOGY, ALLEGORY, PROPHECY!

THEY WROTE IN WIDELY VARIED SITUATIONS:

IN PRISONS AND PALACES, CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES, DARK CAVES AND ARID DESERTS, BY RIVERS, ON MOUNTAINS, IN DEFEAT, IN VICTORY, IN EXILE!

THEY WROTE ON ALMOST EVERY SUBJECT FOR MANKIND:

GOD AND THE DEVIL, CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, CREATION AND SIN, THIEVERY AND CHARITY, HATEFULNESS AND KINDNESS, HONESTY AND TRICKERY, PROPHECY FALSE AND TRUE, LIFE, DEATH, HEAVEN, HELL!

ABOVE ALL, THEY WROTE OF GOD'S PROMISES AND PLANS FOR HIS UNIVERSE, AND OF HIS LOVE FOR US, HIS CHILDREN... WHAT A MAJESTIC HERITAGE IS OURS — THE HOLY BIBLE!

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