

Public Parade

For A Wimp Or A Pimp

Well, Congress has passed a bill liberalizing federal gun control laws and it is difficult for us to find much wrong with the legislation itself; but even among supporters of the National Rifle Association position there must be some who are asking themselves if it is good to have the legislative branch of government so subservient to any political action group.

Until the nation's police organizations intervened in force, both houses of Congress seemed willing to jump through the hoop at the NRA's bidding. Indeed, on Wednesday the house concurred with the provision in the senate-passed bill which would have removed restrictions on the interstate sale and transportation of handguns.

But, with the arrival of uniformed police from 21 states on Thursday, describing that provision of the law as a "cop killer," the house reversed itself and adopted an amendment banning interstate sales of handguns, 233-to-184. Among those 233 were Reps. Walter B. Jones of the First District, Steve Neal of the Fifth District and Charles G. Rose of the Third District.

All of the Republicans from North Carolina voted against the amendment, as did the other three Democrats. Indeed, one of the Republicans, Rep. J. Alex McMillan of the Ninth District, was so anxious to get the legislation on the books that he signed a petition to discharge the committee to which it had been assigned so that it could come directly to the floor without going through the hearing process.

What makes that action so noteworthy is that Rep. McMillan, a freshman member from Charlotte, was a darling of the NRA's Political Action Committee, leading all other members of the North Carolina delegation in the amount of PAC contributions he received.

Had we been in Congress, we probably would have voted for liberalizing the shotgun and rifle provisions; but we would not have accepted NRA financial contributions while action on the bill was pending. That is what raises the question about the independence of Congress, the third leg of the organizational stool on which our system rests. If members can be bought, even while the debate is in progress, then we are in danger of being left trying to balance a two-legged stool.

What is the role of the individual voter in all this? It is simply that he must be alert to the fact that he often becomes the innocent tool of such groups as the NRA which do not stop with direct contributions to Congressmen, but invade the districts to oppose candidates who try to remain aloof from the special interest groups.

The NRA, for example, was not content with helping Rep. McMillan's campaign with cash

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Police Chief Will Remain

Edenton Town Administrator Sam Noble announced late Tuesday that Police Chief J. D. Parrish has withdrawn his letter of resignation. The resignation was to have been effective May 2.

Parrish, a veteran of some 24 years on the police force, said he felt very comfortable with his decision not to resign. He said the decision came following much thought and concern.

Noble stated that he and Chief Parrish have developed an excellent working relationship over the past four years and that he was elated by Parrish's decision to remain with the town as police chief.

Board Plans Nursing Facility Replacement

The Chowan Hospital Board of Directors has announced plans to replace its 56-bed skilled nursing facility with a new 40-bed wing attached to the hospital.

The announcement stated, "In a continuing effort to provide area residents with modern facilities, the Board of Directors established a Long-Range Planning Committee composed of Board members, Medical Staff, county and city officials, and members from surrounding counties. This committee was charged with reviewing and projecting the needs of the hospital for the next five (5) years."

The first goal of the Planning Committee is to replace the aging 56-bed skilled nursing unit with a 40-bed skilled nursing unit attached to the hospital.

The Planning Committee, in reviewing the current needs of the service area of Chowan Hospital, forecast a need of only 40 beds, as the State has awarded Certificates of Need to Bertie County for 100 extended care beds, to Washington County for 90 extended care beds, and to the Gates/Perquimans County area for 106 extended care beds. Included in the number of extended

care beds are 137 skilled nursing beds.

The reasoning behind the decision to build a new wing, as opposed to renovating the existing unit, was attributed to several factors. Foremost of these is cost. To renovate the aging facility to bring it up to State standards would cost \$2,056,000 in 1984 dollars (The Plan was finalized in 1984.) A replacement wing would cost \$1,500,000.

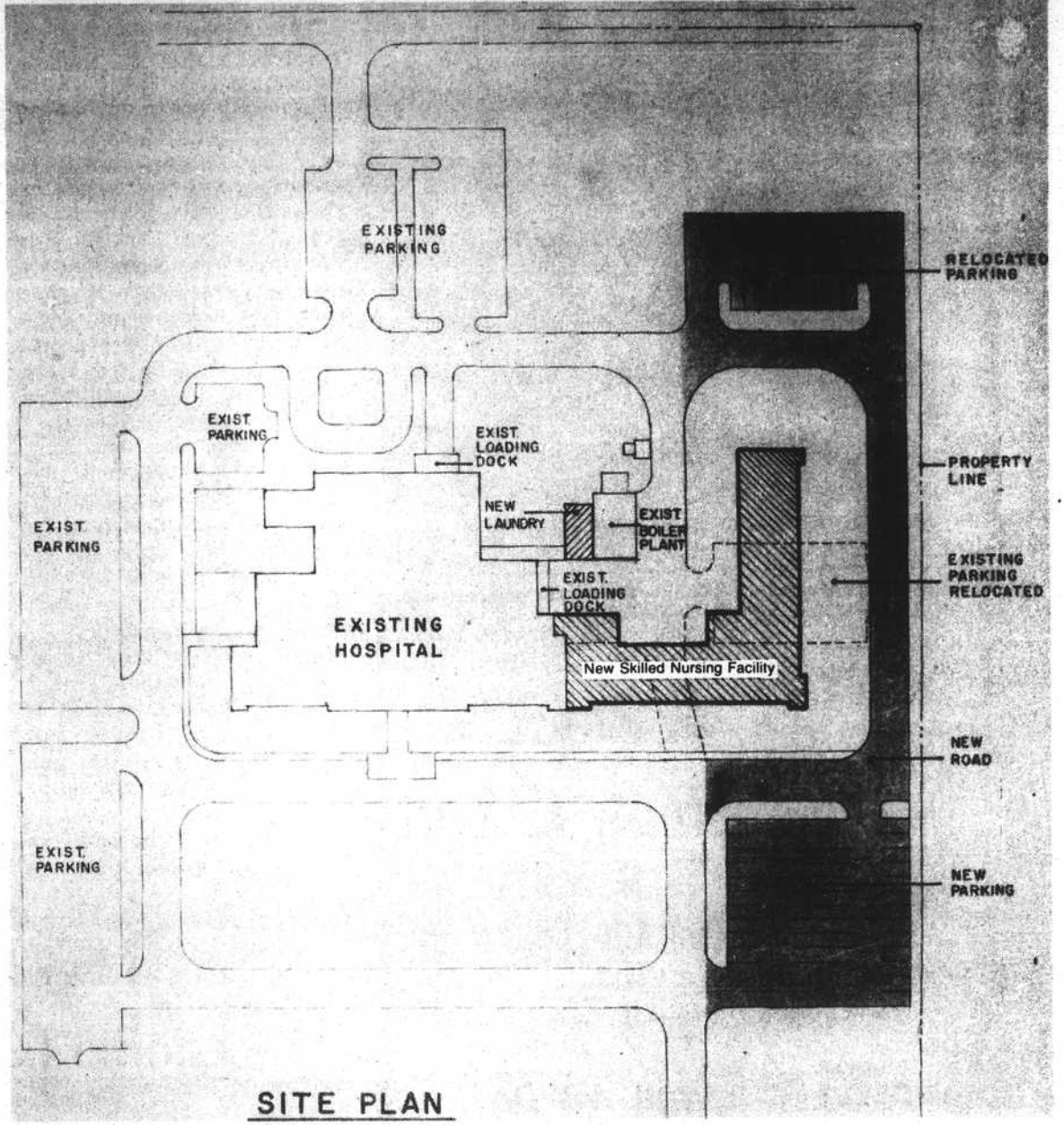
Other reasons for considering a replacement facility were economies of operation, personnel, and utilities.

In order to finance the construction of the new wing, the Board concluded that with the current lower interest rates it would be in the best interest of the hospital to refinance the \$2,500,000 1982 Revenue Bond Issue of 13.2% with a \$4,765,000 1986 Revenue Bond Issue at approximately 8½%. With refinancing the 1982 Bond Issue, the hospital would save approximately \$700,000 in interest cost on these Bonds.

The proposed addition would join the present acute hospital on the northwest facing Virginia Road and the Methodist Church

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FRONT ELEVATION ONE STORY ADDITION



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LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST—School Board Chairman Cecil Fry, Superintendent John Dunn, Representative Vernon James, Representative Charles Evans and Board Member John Mitchener, III (l. to r.) at the recent Legislative Breakfast held at Boswell's Restaurant.

Improvements Discussed

A Legislative Breakfast was held recently at Boswell's Restaurant and attended by state Representatives Vernon James and Charles Evans and state Senator Marc Basnight. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the legislators of the physical improvement needs of Edenton-Chowan Schools and to tell them about the pilot Career Ladder Teachers Program.

In addition to the legislators, those attending were Carolyn Forehand, Kay Cherry, Linda Williams, Sandra Phillips, Brenda Winborne, Catherine Russell, Alice Jones (candidate for school board), Principal Gil Underwood, Florence Thatch, Christine Fleming, Jim Kinion, Maxine Britt, Principal Jake Boyce, John Guard, Board member John Mitchener, Board Chairman Cecil Fry, Board Member Jim Taylor, Principal Rob Boyce, Superintendent John Dunn, Principal Clara Boswell, Principal Ralph Cole and Walter Noneman.

Superintendent John Dunn explained the capital improvement needs for Edenton-Chowan Schools and some of the possibilities of funding these needs. He explained the extreme needs to get our local school physical facilities up to standard and the difficulty in doing this by

local funding. He said that some source of funding must be found. Senator Marc Basnight stated that, "I support the ½% Sales Tax to schools in its entirety."

Kay Cherry acting as spokesperson for the local Career Ladder Steering Committee made many positive comments on the Career Ladder Program. She explained that this program is getting a very favorable response locally with the program being a just reward for our dedicated teachers. The end result is that students benefit by better

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Area Citizens Meet State Candidates

Pete Thompson

Chowan County resident, R. M. "Pete" Thompson has begun an intensive campaign for the Democratic nomination for a seat in the State House of Representatives. Thompson said that he was "going to hit the road" beginning this week and for the next three weeks.

He said that he had been in every county in the First Congressional District at least four times to date and that the pace will dramatically increase prior to May 6.

Thompson said, "I have really enjoyed the campaign. I've seen people I haven't seen in several years. I like coffee and I have enjoyed a lot of coffee with a lot of nice people."

In commenting on government, he said that he felt that the area's citizens had been well served both locally and by the Legislature in Raleigh. He went on to say, "Voters want more local control by local officials. This gives faster

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Harry Brinkley Schiffman

One candidate who is ready to debate the issues is Harry Brinkley Schiffman, a Manteo businessman. During an interview last week in Edenton, Schiffman said that he felt that a televised panel discussion among the six Democrat candidates for

the N.C. House of Representatives would be a public service for area voters.

He said that a representative of WITN-TV, Channel 7 in Washington, N.C. termed it "a great idea." Schiffman said that he had been in touch with incumbent Vernon James who also liked the idea.

WITN newsman Joe Corcoran, contacted Wednesday morning,

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Sam Walker

One candidate who has been running a fast-paced campaign for the State Legislature is Sam Walker from Currituck County where he owns a food store. One

day recently, he was seen at Whiteman's Store; Murray Nixon's Fishery; at Small's Crossroads; in the fields talking to farmers; at Peele's Fish Market; and in the downtown area of Edenton. When interviewed, he said that he had been completely through the district more than 30 times.

He was overheard being asked by a voter if he was running against Pete Thompson. Walker's reply was, "No, I'm running with him." He told another, "I'd like one of your votes." In response to a bewildered look, he explained that each voter has the option of voting for two candidates in the

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GETTING AROUND—N.C. House of Representatives candidate Pete Thompson hands out his cards and talks to area voters at Griffin Music Center Friday.



TALKS TO VOTERS—Shelia Bootwright talks to candidate Harry Brinkley Schiffman during his stopover in Edenton last week.



CAMPAIGNING—Sam Walker, Candidate for the N.C. Legislature, stops to talk with local jeweler, Russell Davis during a recent campaign swing through Chowan County and Edenton.