



Justice At Auction?

One of the most important bills to come before the 100th Congress is a proposal, sponsored by some 44 members of the senate, to put realistic limits on campaign spending. Everybody interested in preserving our system of government ought to support it.

With the growth of deep-pocket Political Action Committees, campaign spending for congressional seats has become so excessive as to be vulgar — for example, the roughly \$30 million spent two years ago to fill just one senate seat from North Carolina. And the average spent in filling each of the 435 house seats came close to half a million during the last election.

In fact, these special interests have become so selective in the candidates to whom they make campaign contributions, favoring incumbents almost exclusively, that it is difficult for challengers to put on a successful campaign, with the result that the current Congress has been described by one cynic as "the best money can buy."

That's bad enough. But now it's beginning to appear that justice is for sale, too.

Let's look at a few critical examples of how special interest money is finding its way into the courtroom:

Pennzoil Company and Texaco, which are engaged in an \$11 billion lawsuit in the Texas courts, are now accusing each other of trying to influence judges who will sit upon the case with campaign contributions.

It began when a Pennzoil attorney made a \$10,000 campaign contribution to a lower court judge who had already been assigned to hear the case. Texaco defense attorneys cried foul, but then struck

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Travelers Halted

Bridge Is Damaged

By JEANETTE WHITE

Travelers across Chowan River Bridge met with delays and frustration this weekend after two separate accidents closed the bridge for several hours.

No injuries were reported in either accident, but property damage was extensive.

The first accident occurred just after noon Friday when a large piece of logging equipment struck the top of the draw span and was knocked from its trailer, closing traffic in both lanes.

The piece of equipment, a "feller-buncher", was being pulled on a low-boy owned by Frankie Aarats of Jamesville. The "cutter-head", an arm extending from the equipment, struck overhead beams of the draw section of the bridge.

N.C. Highway Patrolman Carl Cayton said the \$160,000 tree cutter, a 1987 Barko model 775, was new and being tried by Aarats in his logging operation.

The driver of the truck towing the low-boy was Jackie Grimes, 52, Jamesville, who reported that an alarm on the approach to the bridge did not sound to alert the driver that the equipment was overheight.

Alarms were installed last year on both approaches to the bridge to alert drivers if trailers or equipment are too tall to fit under the draw.

Cayton said the Chowan draw is 14-feet high and 13-feet, six-inches is the legal height of a load being pulled on the state's highways, but drivers are liable for any damage caused when trailers or equipment are more than 12-feet, six-inches high.

Cayton said some of the state's old overpasses have only 12-feet, six-inch clearances.

When the tree-cutter was knocked from its trailer oil ran from the equipment and a truck was called to bring more oil before it could be started and driven back onto the trailer.

N.C. Dept. of Transportation workers were called to cut away sections of the bridge damaged by the tree-cutter and DOT officials were called to verify the safety of the span.

Two horizontal support beams across the draw were damaged and stress when the equipment struck those beams cracked a vertical support along the side of the span.

An engineer from Williamston, R.L. Spence, examined the span and declared it safe, but expressed concern about whether the draw could be opened without difficulty for river traffic.

Several highway patrolmen, Chowan Sheriff Fred Spruill and Deputy Vic Lamb controlled traffic at the ends of the bridge.

Traffic backed-up about three miles before a path was cleared at 2:30 p.m.

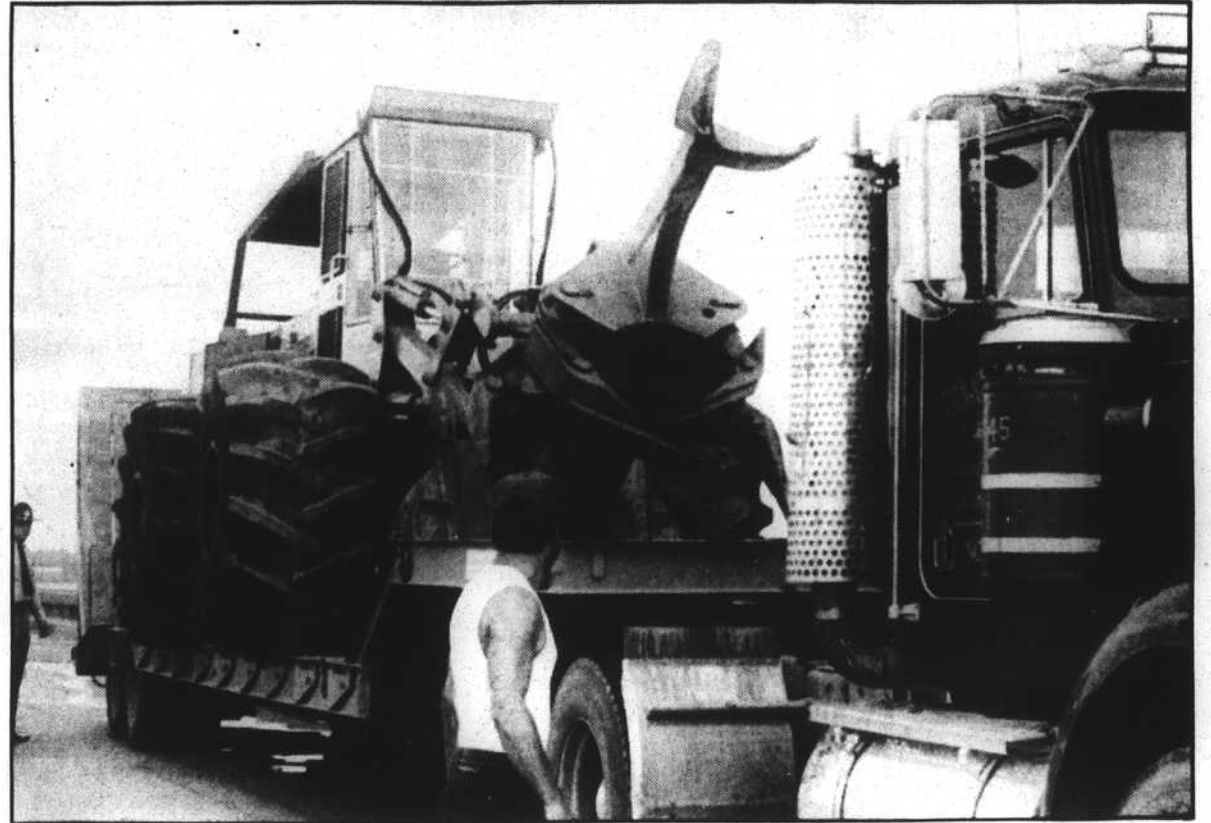
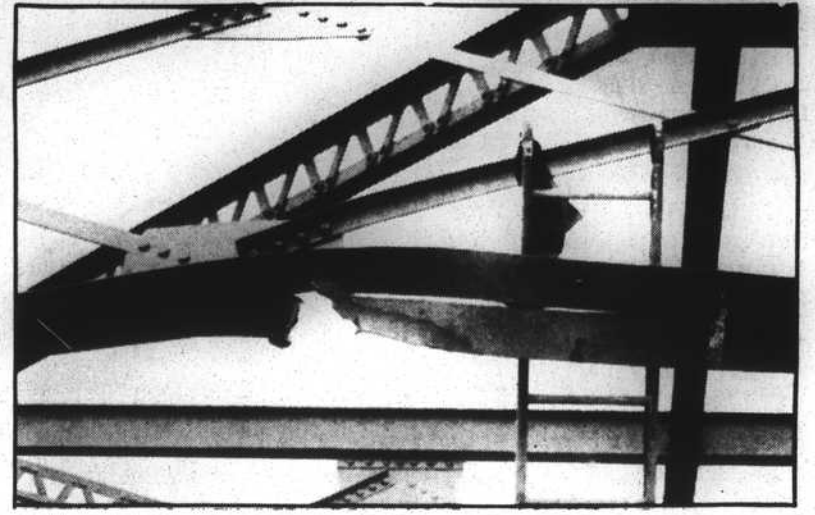
Aarats said he feared damage to the tree-cutter and bridge would exceed \$200,000. Grimes was ticketed for an overheight violation.

The second accident occurred at 5:18 p.m. Sunday when a 1984 Ford van caught fire on the north side of the draw and stopped traffic until 6:23 p.m.

According to reports, the van, owned by Larry Dunlow of Wind-

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BRIDGE DAMAGED—A piece of equipment on a low-boy (below) inflicted damage to the draw of the Chowan River bridge Thursday. The torn metal overhead girder (right) was one of three struck by the equipment. The driver of the truck towing the low-boy was Jackie Grimes, 52, of Jamesville, who reported that an alarm on the approach to the bridge did not sound to alert him that the equipment was overheight. He was ticketed for an overheight violation. Damage to the tree-cutter and bridge could exceed \$200,000.



Bicentennial Committee Plans Celebration Events

Plans are underway for Chowan County to participate in the United States Constitution Bicentennial celebration.

Focus of the local activities will be November 8, when Edenton had a special role in the writing and signing of the Constitution.

It is believed by historians that the state's first public movement favoring the important document was inaugurated by James Iredell of Edenton.

Citizens of Chowan convened at Edenton November 8, 1787, and passed resolutions instructing members to endorse the new Constitution.

A Chowan County Bicentennial Committee for the celebration has been named to include John Dunn, chairman; Linda Eure, vice-chairman; Phyllis Copeland, secretary; Phil Evans, projects.

The committee was formed after each state and its communities were asked to form a

group to lead this summer's celebration. The local committee has adopted various projects to coincide with the nation's observance.

A quiz and newspaper contest will run in the Chowan Herald, beginning on page 7-B in today's issue. Chowan School Superintendent Dr. John Dunn has indicated that the school system's theme for

1987-88 will feature the constitution and citizenship.

Ms. Nelle Hyatt has been named to lead research on the county's participation in the signing of the constitution and local attorneys have contributed \$150 toward purchase of copies of the document for distribution to school students.

Included in fall bicentennial plans are exhibits in Chowan

County Courthouse, a book fair at Shepard-Pruden Library, and a Sept. 17 announcement of winners in the newspaper contest, chaired by Winston Dail.

Dr. Dunn has mailed letters to area clubs and organizations asking for participation and ideas to celebrate this event in Edenton and the nation's history.

Council Considers Budget Proposals

By JACK GROVE

A public hearing on a proposed budget for fiscal year 1987-88 was held by Edenton Town Council Tuesday night. An increase of \$264,132 is projected in spending over the current year's budgeted general fund without any increase in taxes.

The only change to the budget came after a presentation by Chamber of Commerce President Beth Taylor. She asked that \$5,000

be allocated to the business organization to help fund a video tape on Historic Edenton. The ten-minute tape is to be shown at the state's visitor centers in promoting the town.

The chamber was allocated \$2,500 in the 1986-87 budget. As a compromise, council added \$1,000 to the chamber funding in the new budget to come from the contingency fund.

In presenting the budget, Town

Manager Phillip Whitaker said that, while the tax rate remains the same, future raises were possible due to phasing out of federal revenue sharing, possible liability insurance increases and other unforeseen circumstances.

Items causing increased spending in the new budget include extension of utilities to a new motel on N.C. 32 and airport improvements. Listed as a con-

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FARMERS' MARKET MOVES—A new site has been chosen for the Chowan County Farmers' Market, which opens Friday at 8 a.m. Market coordinator Virginia Hobbs and Mike Williams of the agriculture extension service said produce will be sold at no cost to the grower and Mrs. Hobbs will take care of sales if a grower has to bring his produce and leave.

Farmer's Mart Changes Location

Chowan County Farmer's Market has moved to a new location on old U.S. 17 just past the Pizza Hut.

Virginia Hobbs, coordinator for the market, said the move was made because plans are underway to sell and develop the old site across from Golden Corral on N.C. 32 North.

"If we had waited, we could have had to move in the middle of July," Mrs. Hobbs said.

Use of the new location was donated by Yates Parrish and this year's market will open Friday, June 12. Hours are from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. and days of operation are Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

When the sales begin Friday, all early vegetables will be available, including cabbage, beets, and onions, as well as smoked fish, and canned goods.

The market is open to any grower who can get his vegetables

to the market and no charge is made for selling the produce.

Mrs. Hobbs said she would take

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House Opens

Grand Opening Festivities for the Ronald McDonald House, Greenville, will be held on Sunday, June 21. A special invitation has been extended to the residents of Chowan County to attend the celebration and to tour the bedroom sponsored by the county residents.

Dedication ceremonies will be held at 2:00 at the Brody Auditorium, Brody Medical Sciences Building in Greenville. Ribbon cutting will be at 3:00 at the house with open house and tours from 3:00 to 5:00.

For further information call Stephanie Nugen at 482-7277 or Leigh Ambrose at 482-4108.

Rotarians, Lions Club Trade Barbs Over Golf Rivalry

Members of Edenton Rotary Club got a surprise Thursday when a "mystery woman" appeared, disrupted the regular meeting and said she wanted to be a Rotarian.

The surprise came as Rotarians and guest Pete Dail of the Lions Club were discussing the sixth annual June 10 golf match between the two clubs. The first two matches were won by the Lions, but the trophy that goes to each year's winner went home with the Rotarians for the past three years.

Program chairman Jack Habit said, "Dail and his fellow pussycats are no longer the roaring lions they used to be."

Dail's reply was, "I bring you all greetings from the number one civic organization in Chowan County. We do look forward to a real enjoyable day."

Rotarian West Byrum presented Dail with a broom, saying, "They (Lions) just can't seem to putt like they should."

At this point, an auburn-haired woman (?) appeared and told the assembly, "I've always wanted to be a Rotarian." She produced a letter endorsing her membership and said the letter was from Rotary president Bill Culpepper.

Culpepper, taken by surprise at the series of events, said, "Wait just a minute, let me see that

letter."

"It's confidential," she replied and refused to turn the letter over to the president.

Culpepper informed the surprise guest that to gain membership in the all-male organization,

she must first be passed by the membership committee and classification committee and have a membership proposal card.

"If you can find someone in this club to propose you," Culpepper said.

The uninvited guest left the meeting, Habit said his program was concluded and as the meeting ended, Culpepper was muttering, "I still don't think she's going to get past the classification committee."



ROTARY CLUB CANDIDATE—This mystery woman applied for admission to the all-male Edenton Rotary Club last Thursday. Bemused club president Bill Culpepper (left) and program organizer Jack Habit look on as she pleads her case.