



## Newspeak For Taxes

While Congress is trying to figure out a way to give its members a 50 per cent salary raise without a vote, senior citizens had better get a new hold on their pocketbook without a doubt.

For a \$200 billion annual deficit is not going to go away; and, now that we have learned to read the President-elect's lips, it is time to begin considering his motives in picking Michael Boskin as chairman of his Council of Economic Advisers.

First let's look for a moment at the post-election status of the federal budget. Remember how during the campaign we were told that under Gramm-Rudman mandates the deficit for this fiscal year had been reduced to \$150 billion. Now they tell us that to do that they used some \$50 billion from the Social Security Trust Fund earmarked to meet future demands on the system.

So the after-election deficit remains at \$200 billion.

Then there is the matter of cleaning up the nuclear energy plants operated for the benefit of the defense department. Some of them have been closed and others are hazards to the health of the communities where they operate. That's another \$40 billion item we did not hear much about during the campaign.

Another problem that was swept under the rug during the campaign involves the Savings and Loan banks across the country. Already all the funds in the Federal Deposit Insurance fund for savings and loan customers have been used and some \$40 billion more will be needed to bail out many of those left, principally in Oklahoma, Texas and California.

Add to all that the \$10 to \$15 billion which will be needed to cover the few innovations in health and social programs the President-elect promised and you are looking at another \$150 billion needed in new money the day Congress meets.

Where is this \$350 billion coming from?

We will give you some clues.

Robert Strauss and Drew Lewis, co-chairmen of the bipartisan group authorized by Congress to advise the new administration, admitted on national television the other morning that the Social Security system is under study for ways to reduce "entitlements" and transfer the income to the general fund.

And Mr. Boskin has described Social Security as "welfare for the wealthy." He said it pays "well-off elderly people many billions of dollars more than what they and their employers paid in, plus

Continued On Page 10



**READY TO SHOOT**--Technicians and actors stand by, ready to go before the camera to film a commercial for Stihl chainsaws in Chowan County on Dec. 6. The commercial, using a woods fire as a backdrop, will air on national TV beginning next month.

## TV Commercial Filmed Locally

By JACK GROVE

A portion of Chowan County will be on television across the nation beginning in February thanks to the efforts of a film company from Baltimore, Md.

They came here early in December to film a commercial for Stihl chainsaws. The scenario called for firefighters to be using the saws in a fire situation simulating the devastating fires that swept across the Pacific Northwest last year.

The filming took place in a stand of trees east of N.C. 32 north, across the highway from the cotton gin road. A controlled burning of the stand was being conducted by the N.C. Forest Service at the time.

Called "hazard reduction burning," Ranger Roger Spivey explained that it prepared the forest floor for seed bed for new growth. He said that it is only done in pine forests as hardwood trees can't withstand the heat. Thick bark or pines protect them during the burning.

After a landowner contacts the forest service for a burn, plans are made and approved by the district ranger. Fire lines are plowed in advance of the fire. Spivey said that pines must be at least 15 years old to withstand the burning.

Carl Schultz, assistant director at the filming, done by Academy Film Productions, said that the company looked south for a locale due to winter weather conditions in the west. A call was made to the state film commission that assists film producers and "they put us on to the N.C. For-

est Service."

They were then directed to Chowan County for "the right look" for the commercial and where controlled burning was planned. They wanted to use as a backdrop, a forest with the right mixture of hardwoods and pines.

The filming was completed in one day with professional actors, two Elizabeth City firemen and N.C. Forest Service personnel in front of the camera.

Before filming, the actors provided background sound in front of a mike by stamping of feet, running through weeds, heavy breathing and shouting such phrases as "over here, get that snag."

Continued On Page 10

## Accidents Mar Holiday

Two auto fatalities marred the holidays in Chowan and Perquimans Counties last week.

Nina Renee Spruill, 21 of Rt. 1, Edenton died in an accident at 3:35 p.m. last Thursday.

A report filed by N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper M.J. McArthur indicated that Ms. Spruill was traveling east on rural paved road 1305 when her 1988 Toyota crossed the centerline on a curve, swerved right and then left and

skidded into the path of a west-bound 1987 Chevrolet pickup.

Lester Ray Copeland of Rt. 2, Tyner, driver of the pickup, drove partially onto the shoulder of the road in an attempt to avoid the collision. After impact, both vehicles came to rest in a field.

Copeland, who was wearing a seat belt, was treated and released at Chowan Hospital. Ms. Spruill reportedly was not wearing a seat belt. Neither driver had a passenger at the time.

A single vehicle accident in Perquimans County took the life of William Abner Johnson, 36, of Holiday Island.

Trooper Y.Z. Newberry responded to the scene at 4:25 a.m. on Friday. He said that Johnson was driving alone when he entered a curve on Holiday Island Road heading south at a "high rate of speed" estimated to be 70 mph or greater.

The 1985 Toyota ran off the road, struck a ditch bank and overturned several times before coming to rest on its top in the roadway. Johnson was thrown from the vehicle and was found 48 feet from the car.

Newberry's report said that a seat belt was not in use at the time.

## Wind Pushes Fire Across Pine Fields

An estimated 65 to 70 acres of young pine trees went up in smoke Wednesday, Dec. 28 in the Valhalla section of the county. The fire was reported at 10:52 a.m.

Flames from a ditch bank fire were whipped by high winds through a nearby strip of woods onto three pine plantations of loblolly pines. The man doing the ditch burning had a burning permit according to county N.C. Forest Ranger, Roger Spivey.

The fire raced across some 30 acres of one-year-old trees on a Union Camp plantation, jumped a company road, burned across four or five acres of eight-year-old pines and burned 35 acres of a four-year-old stand of loblollies before it was contained.

About 30 men were at the fire scene on N.C. 32 north, one-half mile south of Valhalla. They included the Edenton Fire Dept. with two pumpers and a tanker; forest service personnel with three tractor-pow units; Union Camp employees with a tractor-pow; Chowan Sheriff's Dept.; and the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad.

The wind-whipped fire took four hours to contain.

In setting a damage estimate, Spivey said that re-forestation programs cost an average of \$200 per acre. The trees lost to the fire then, would have been worth \$13-14,000. He said that the trees would have been "economically mature" for harvesting at about 35 years of age.

The ranger pointed out that, even with a burning permit, people must take existing conditions into consideration before starting a fire. They include recent rainfall, humidity and wind conditions.

Fall and spring are considered to be the traditional fire seasons with spring "worse most of the time." However, "anytime when we have low humidity and high winds, we need to be extremely careful how we use fire in the open," Spivey said.

The ranger said that a citation was issued to Russell Byrum for allowing a fire to escape to another person's property. Under state law, the offense is a misdemeanor.



**RETIREMENT GIFTS**--Retired Edenton Police Chief J.D. Parrish was honored with gifts and a banquet last Thursday evening. Holding mementoes from left are Sgt. McCoy Parker, Capt. Harvey Williams, Mrs. Parrish (holding a plaque with the chief's badge and all the names of Edenton officers), Mayor John Dowd, Parrish (holding a new service revolver), Sgt. Joe Norman and Sgt. Gregory Bonner.

### 28 Years Of Service

## Retiring Police Chief Is Honored

A large crowd was on hand last Thursday evening to honor retiring Police Chief John D. Parrish at a banquet in his honor. Parrish has served with the Edenton Police Dept. for 28 years, 21 years as chief.

Guest speaker, Superior Court Judge Thomas Watts, said that he wished to "set the record straight. We need to reveal the true John Parrish. We come to roast John, not to praise him."

Watts said that there was no truth to the rumor that Parrish had been appointed as chief by the Royal Governor. "It just seems that way, he's been here so long."

Leaving levity behind, the judge said, "In all seriousness, J.D. Parrish has served the citizens with courage and

with integrity since 1961. He has led his department with vision." Noting that the size of the department had more than doubled under his leadership, he praised the chief for expanding the training of officers.

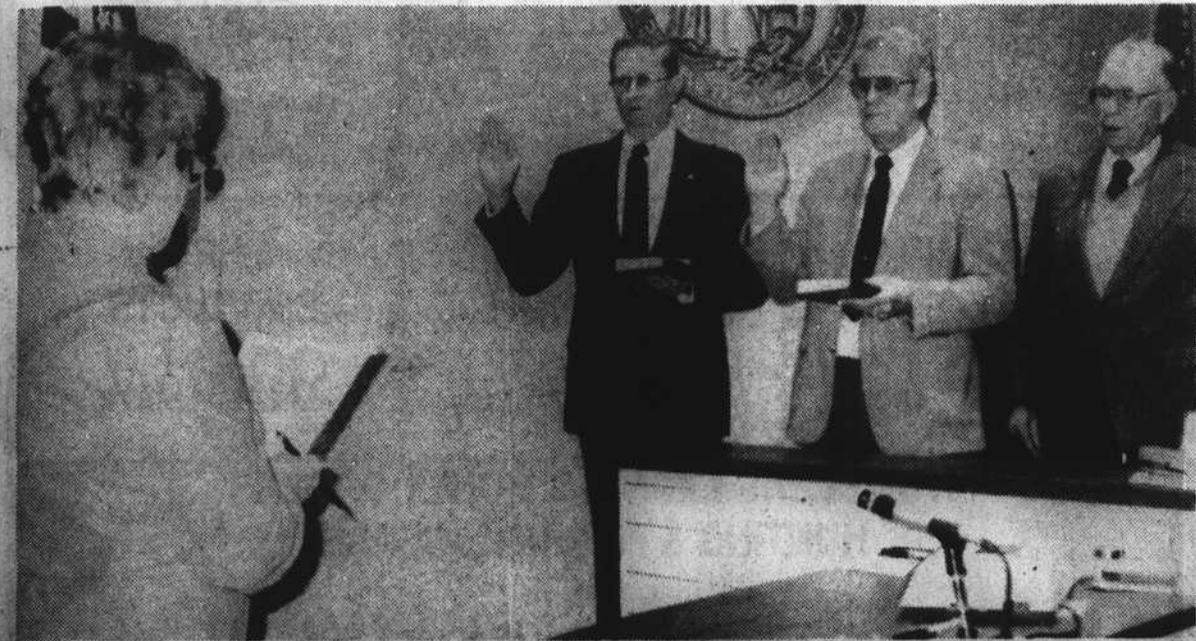
Watts pointed out the loyalty of his officers and said that "He has one of the highest retention rates of any community that I have seen." Also, "he fostered a spirit of cooperation with other law enforcement agencies. Most importantly, he and the men that he commanded maintained Edenton as a safe community."

Mayor John Dowd told the crowd, "I grew up running from him." In presenting Parrish with a pair of heavy

duty rubber boots for the farm, he quipped, "I'm not so sure you didn't need them while you were Chief of Police."

Town Manager Anne-Marie Kelly recalled her introduction to Parrish by Dowd. "He stood, tipped his hat and said 'I'm happy to meet you.'" Then when Dowd continued that she was the new town manager, (and his new boss) "The Chief's eyes just about popped out of his head. But he recovered quick." She mentioned that they went on to work smoothly together.

In brief parting remarks, Parrish said, "I felt like my parents were needing me," in their farm operation. "But I do miss the police department."



**MAGISTRATES SWORN**--Mrs. Marjorie Hollowell, Clerk of Chowan Superior Court gave the oath of office Friday to Magistrates (from left) Carlton Jackson and Wayne Rice as retiring Magistrate Raymond Tarkington looks on. Jackson took over Tarkington's position at the first stroke of the new year.