

# Capital News Letter

BY THOMPSON GREENWOOD

**HORTON APPOINTMENT.**—Although the naming of W. P. Horton as chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee does not necessarily rule him out as a candidate for Governor, the odds now are definitely against his running.

In his new role, he may be expected to tear his shirt plugging for W. R. Umstead for Senator. He will be in position to render a service which could not be purchased at any price.

**POLITICAL ERROR.**—The feeling around Raleigh is that Tom Pearsall made a mistake in announcing for Charles Johnson at such an early date. Consensus is that he could have given himself, and Johnson, greater stature by waiting until the middle of the winter or early next spring—then coming out with a statement to the effect that "after giving the matter serious consideration, and having surveyed the field, I regard Johnson as the best fitted, etc."

The talk that Pearsall may have been making a trade for 1956, when the Governor will come from the East again, sounds rather empty in view of the fact that veterans are expected to name virtually everything after 1948. Pearsall was too young for World War I and too old for World War II.

**W. H. LEE**  
Electric Shoe Shop  
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**BALLETINIO STRATEGY.**—Lt. Gov. L. Y. Ballettino has been offered several important posts if he will pull out of the Governor's race in support of Johnson. Reports are that he will be given the Johnson nod for Commissioner of Agriculture or State Treasurer, and in the event he loses out and Johnson wins, will be named chairman of the State Highway Commission.

When Ballettino announces, he will resign as Lieutenant Governor and Joe Blythe of Charlotte will move into this office. This is expected to force Johnson to resign as Treasurer.

Don't count Ballettino out by any means. They are trying hard to scare him—but L. Y. is hard to scare. His supporters are advised to be of strong heart.

**ALL FOR BILL.**—Gov. R. Gregg Cherry is apparently not too much concerned at this time about who the next Governor will be. There is a feeling here that any of the candidates mentioned might suit him all right. Yet it must not be forgotten that Ballettino did yeoman service for him in the Legislature . . . and at heart he may be for the Varina sage, but he is keeping it from reaching the surface.

And is planning to concentrate all his power toward keeping Umstead in the U. S. Senate.

**NOTES.**—Recently this column said that the N. C. Tobacco Advisory Council would meet in June at Asheville and would "visit Ecusta Paper Co., Waynesville, and other points in that vicinity" . . . Unintentionally the column somehow left the impression that Ecusta is situated at Waynesville . . . We should have said "visit Ecusta Paper Co. AND Waynesville" . . . or preferably, "visit Ecusta Paper Corp. AT BREVARD, and Waynesville" . . .

Your capital had its twenty-second safe robbery in eight months last week . . . Fred Fletcher, Bell Bread fairytale salesman and son of A. J. Fletcher and nephew of Col. A. L. Fletcher, was one of seven elected to Raleigh City Council last week . . . This column has never thought W. P. Horton would run for Governor, but still thinks he would make a good one . . .

**AFTER SEVENTY.**—Although Dr. Carl V. Reynolds is well past that three-score-and-ten, his reappointment as State Health Officer will be no surprise to anybody. A native of Asheville and a kin of Robert R. (Hope Diamond and Friendship) Reynolds, Carl V. has been head of the N. C. Department of Health since 1934, coming here from Asheville, where he was city health officer.

He lives at the Sir Walter with his semi-invalid wife and trips along Fayetteville Street, Raleigh's main drag, like a filly . . . a big cigar in his mouth. His older sister, who lived with him, died a few weeks ago, and he had family worries which would have crushed a smaller man—but they were not apparent in his work.

Dr. Reynolds says the way to have good health after 70 is to take good care of yourself before 40.

**THE CASE OF THE FAITHFUL WIFE.**—Working under Churchman Walter P. Anderson, former chief of police of Winston-Salem and Charlotte, the State Bureau of Investigation gets into a little of everything these days—despite the long and frequent religious trips taken by its boss. Within recent months, it has studied, for instance, politics in Stokes county, milk prices in Durham and Raleigh, and a Western North Carolina minister's wife.

This preacher who had to be absent from his home hearth right much saving souls, didn't trust his good-looking wife too much, and finally came to the flat conclusion that she was unfaithful to him. She painted that she wasn't, but he had more faith in everything else, obviously, than in her. Upshot of the whole thing was that she agreed to a lie detector test. If it proved she was truthful, everything would be all right between them once again. Otherwise, of course, he would just

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**MOTHER-OF-THE-YEAR**—Mrs. Frederick G. Murray, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who has been chosen by the Golden Rule foundation as the "American Mother-of-the-Year." She has raised five children and devotes considerable time to child welfare work.

have to do his missionary work closer home, and this falling, a d-i-v-o-r-c-e. He brought her to his fellow churchman, Anderson.

His special detector man was somewhere down east on an investigation. Well, nothing to do but call him. This fellow was somewhat surprised—to put it mildly—upon his return to Raleigh to find he merely had to give a test to a minister's wife, who had committed no crime. He took her into the room, locked the door, for it requires around 80 minutes to get the person in the right frame of mind for the test. After about 40 minutes the minister began to be impatient. What could they be doing in there all this time? As time went on, he became worse—but they wouldn't let him in, for it would spoil all that was transpiring in that inner sanctum. Finally, the little minister became so excited that he got in touch with Attorney R. N. Simms, Jr., who called the SBI and asked them what in thunder was going on up there. The investigators—or maybe it was Anderson, himself—explained as best they could. Simms understood . . . which is more than can be said for his scripture-quoting client. The test proceeded.

Finally, the door was opened. The minister rushed in. The results showed the wife had been telling the

truth, the case was closed, and the preacher can continue with his work.

**OFF THE CUFF.**—Charles C. Emery, score of Greensboro, now in jail in Tennessee, claims to have made

\$50,000 during the past year cashing worthless checks . . . The N. C. Good Health Association is said to be looking for a man to succeed Harry B. Caldwell as executive secretary . . . The average salary of North Carolina teachers next year will be \$2,025, not including city supplements . . . for nine months' work . . . But a nine-months' old Guernsey bull brought \$15,000 at a Durham cattle sale last week.

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