

# Washington News Letter

Harnett County News Bureau  
Erwin News Service  
Washington, D. C.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 30.—Rep. Monroe M. Redden, of Hendersonville, says there is "nothing to" a report he would manage former Sen. William B. Umstead's gubernatorial candidacy in return for later political reward.

Redden said, "I am going to support Bill Umstead for governor, but I certainly am not going to manage his campaign."

The Hendersonville lawmaker who

was out of the country when the report developed last year, said that as far as promises of future political rewards were concerned, "I do not plan to run now or in the foreseeable future for any political office, nor do I plan to accept appointment to one if it is offered."

Last year's report had it that Redden, in return for management of the Umstead campaign, would get the Durham man's support in a later race for either governor or senator, or that he would be appointed to the Senate by Umstead if a vacancy should develop during the gubernatorial term.

Meanwhile, Western North Carolina sources in Washington predict that the Buncombe County political machine, and Rep. Redden, will support former Superior Court Judge George Shuford, of Asheville, in a four-cornered race for the Twelfth District House seat.

These sources said Shuford would win support of the Buncombe machine because of animosity of machine leaders toward Frank Parker, another Asheville attorney who also is seeking the seat Redden is vacating voluntarily.

The decision of Redden and the machine to back Shuford was reported reliably here to be the real reason, J. Richard Queen, of Waynesville, first candidate to announce for the seat, had decided to withdraw from the race.

Queen, a member of the professional staff of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, was secretary to former Senators J. Melville Broughton and Frank P. Graham. Politically sponsored by Redden, he had hoped to win the retiring congressman's support for the House seat, but failed to do so. He told friends here he would rather keep his \$11,600 congressional job than try for the House seat in a hot campaign.

The Buncombe machine's reported animosity toward Parker grows out of the fact that six years ago, he defeated Brandon Hodges, now State Treasurer, who was running for the General Assembly with machine backing.

Veteran Rep. John H. Kerr, of Warrenton, says he plans to run for Congress again.

Kerr said that "as far as I know now, I will run again." He has been a member of the House since 1923.

Also, the dean of the North Carolina House delegation, Rep. Robert

L. Doughton, of Sparta, told reporters he would have an announcement "in a few days" (it may be out by this reading) about his own plans. He would not indicate its nature.

Although there have been some reports in the state that Judge Kerr would have opposition should he seek re-election, there is no announced opposition to him. However, it is known that at least one prominent citizen of the Second District is considering right now whether to make the race against Judge Kerr this year.

During most of his congressional service, Kerr, has now been a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, and now is its ranking member. He is chairman of its subcommittee on deficiencies and civil functions of the Army Engineers.

James E. Webb, of Oxford, who has resigned as Undersecretary of State, will stay on that job for possibly six weeks and will then keep his connection with the State Department as a special consultant to Secretary of State Dean Acheson.

Shortly after Webb's resignation was announced by the White House, it was learned through Rep. Thurmond Chatham that he was staying with the Department in some capacity. But now it has been established that he has been named a consultant to Acheson, although this had been predicted in this column late in December.

Webb will remain for the time being as Undersecretary because his successor, Ambassador to France David K. E. Bruce, plans to attend a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Lisbon next month before taking over here.

The nature of Webb's consultative work with Acheson was not disclosed, but the Department said the Oxford man has agreed to work on "some special problems."

Jesse Helms, Raleigh newsman recently converted into a Senate aide, is a political conservative and makes no bones about it.

And, consistently, Helms, administrative assistant to Senator Willis Smith, also makes no bones about being opposed to the presidential ambitions of Senator Estes Kefauver, Tennessee liberal.

It was, therefore, with considerable embarrassment that Helms, en route to lunch one day just about the time Kefauver made the announcement of his candidacy, discovered on his coat lapel a big red and white button bearing the words, "Kefauver for President."

Helms hastily snatched the button from his lapel and hurled it into the

nearest wastebasket. Investigation revealed that a practical joking assistant had "tagged" him as a Kefauver supporter and that the entire Smith staff, in on the secret, was in an uproar of laughter at his dilemma.

All North Carolina members of Congress have been invited by Senator Smith to attend a luncheon in the Vandenberg Room of the U. S. Capitol on Feb. 4 in honor of Dr. Billy Graham, Charlotte evangelist.

Graham is conducting a month-long evangelistic crusade in Washington and at one time or another most Tar Heel lawmakers have been in his tremendous audiences.

In announcing the luncheon in his honor, Senator Smith told his colleagues he felt it would be good for them to have an opportunity to sit down with Graham and get to know him better.

That big yellow quarantine sign you'll see aboard Rep. Graham Barden's boat, if you visit it at its Trent River moorings, may alarm you, but it needn't.

A constituent, wanting to rib the New Bern lawmaker about his fondness for fishing, had the sign printed exactly in the form of the standard health department quarantine notice.

"Fishing Pox," it warns in big black capital letters, adding in smaller letters the symptoms of the ailment and the warning that it not only is highly contagious, but that it is incurable.

Barden, an admitted victim of the "disease," was so pleased with the sign that he rushed back to New Bern to have it framed and mounted aboard the boat, and incidentally to spend another week-end fishing.

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