

RALEIGH ROUNDUP

By EULA NIXON GREENWOOD

Washington, D. C., news release said last week that Robert R. Reynolds is having a car painted a blazing red for use in his campaign to prevent Frank Graham from returning to the U. S. Senate for another four years. The report also declared that Reynolds is having a suit made which will be just as red as the car.

If Bob goes through with these plans, he will attract more attention than Candidates Willis Smith and Frank Graham. The car and suit, it is presumed, will be employed by Reynolds to add emphasis to his charge that Graham has permitted his name — the good name of Frank P. Graham — to be used in Communist-front organizations.

The Senator must soon decide whether he will deny these accusations or merely ignore them. If he denies them frequently enough, he will constantly be on the defensive. If he ignores them, a lot of people will jump to the conclusion that the charges are true. Reynolds has accumulated most of his ammunition and is expected to start blasting at Smith and Graham within the next two or three days.

THE BOSS . . . Although Democratic National Committeeman Jonathan Daniels has been too busy on his Truman book to make many public utterances within the past two or three weeks, it becomes more apparent every day that Daniels is the boss of the Democratic Party in North Carolina. He is calling the turn. Two years ago he was a writer, a scribbler of articles for national publications, and a man who was regarded as more of a resident of Washington than of Raleigh. He was a citizen of the U. S. A. No more.

Now he is captain of the team. Within the short space of 24 months he has moved ahead of men who for years have looked to the day when they would be in the front ranks of the Party. He is the man chiefly responsible for persuading Frank Graham to give up the presidency of the University of North Carolina and go to Washington.

One cannot help admiring his rapid ascendancy. Where are the leaders of yesterday? Where are the up-and-coming young men who showed such promise? Where are the Democratic leaders in the counties? They seem to be still scrambling around tearing their shirts for the Democratic Party. Meantime, however, Jonathan Daniels strides ahead. They merely follow in his train. If there is a boss, he's it.

COUNTY MANAGERS . . . Now that Charles P. Geen of Louisburg has been named campaign manager for Willis Smith, the drive is on for county managers throughout the State.

Smith, who was a strong Kerr Scott man two years ago, believes in speed and it now looks as if he will go into April with more than half his county managers named. Manager Green's first task had to do with going through the hundreds of names coming to Smith from all areas. In some counties it is going to be impossible to name one person as manager, so committees will be used. It now looks, also, as if women will play a tremendous role in the Smith campaign.

Manager Green is 39 years old, is a leading Baptist layman, was a colonel in World War II, is an attorney, and is an alumnus of Wake Forest College.

THE NORTHEAST . . . While Northeastern North Carolina is not noted for its voting strength and heavy population, it is always a section to be reckoned with in any campaign. The odds seem to be that Smith will take it this time, for; Smith himself is a native of Pasquotank County; his wife's sister, Mrs. Frank Wood, lives in Edenton; and his campaign manager's wife is the former Mollie Hoffer of Gatesville.

NEUTRAL . . . Drew Pearson said in a recent issue of Washington Merry-Go-Round that: "Secretary of the Army Gordon Gray, who will replace Graham as president of the University of North Carolina, is staying neutral in the North Carolina race, but his family is backing Smith."

ADAMS . . . Hoover Adams, 20-year-old Dunn newspaperman, was called to Raleigh last Friday March 10, on the matter of handling Willis Smith's publicity. He said neither yes nor nay, but Smith made it clear this hell-for-leather and whip-smart reporter could have the place, if he wanted it. If he can get Smith in the headlines to the same extent that he has Harnett County and Dunn, the Raleigh attorney should not entertain no fears about his publicity.

NOTES . . . Merry-Go-Rounder

Drew Pearson says Senator Frank Graham "faces a tough reelection battle" . . . John Temple Graves, Birmingham writer and lecturer, will be the featured speaker at the N. C. Merchants Association convention to be held in Southern Pines at the Hollywood Hotel on May 8-9 . . . The State Highway Patrol will place crosses at spots where fatal highway accidents occurred . . . Indications are that State employees are taking with a grain of salt Gov. Scott's advice to them to stay out of the forthcoming battles . . . Last Friday, Gov. Scott had a long two-hour luncheon with Jeff Johnson, who is managing Sen. Frank Graham's campaign . . . They no doubt talked only about the weather . . .

While Statewide attention is turning swiftly to the Smith-Graham-Reynolds battle, there are a number of local battles which will prove more exciting . . . Believe it or not, some of the most bitter, root-hog campaigns, involving charges and counter-charges, have involved candidates running for seats on the Superior Court bench . . .

KICKBACKS . . . Every couple of years or so while Kerr Scott was Commissioner of Agriculture came word from the front office that employees of the State Agriculture Dept. should kick in with funds to further the cause of the Democratic Party. There was no . . . "or else" condition attached to the request which came from Democratic Headquarters down through Commissioner Scott's office to the employees, but the "or else" wasn't necessary. Everybody . . . or almost everybody . . . wanted to stay in good with the "higher-ups" so they kicked in. If Kerr

Scott, objected, nobody heard about it.

This "kickback" business which is now being "investigated" by the SBI should be nothing new to Governor Scott. State employees have done it for years. The Governor "revealed" that he had affidavits and checks to prove that in some sections teachers are told to "pay up or get out." His statement made headlines . . . and was just more hopla, to use a gentle term. Of course this kickback practice is bad, but it's as old as politics — and if the teachers' orders were not as smooth as velvet-glove-on-the-iron fist followed on the State level, it was probably due to the fact that local politicians are not quite as easy on the uptake as these at the top.

The teachers kickback situation, according to the Governor, appears to prevail on countywide basis in three or four counties and in some other counties on a smaller scale. It has been pretty general in Raleigh jobs with the State, and nobody would be surprised if the SBI itself has not in times past done a little kicking-back, kicking-up, and kicking-around. The whole racket is part and parcel of politics, whether teachers or other State employees are involved; and a large percentage of teachers and other State employees now have their jobs through political connections somewhere. They just love politics when it helps 'em, but yell to high heaven when they are called upon to pay the fiddler.

OFF THE CUFF . . . Sanford Publisher Bill Horner is still being urged to pull a Willis Smith on Congressman C. B. Deane . . . but has not yet decided whether to take on the Rockingham native in another of those Eighth District heav-ho's . . .

. . . A recent issue of CIO News says: "Danger (1950) Ahead" and points to the fact that in off years labor usually loses out in Congress. In 1938, 71 labor-loy-

ing Congressmen were defeated; in 1948, a total of 81 friendly-to-labor Congressmen went to defeat; and in 1946 '49 liberal Congressmen were returned home (and the Taft-Hartley Act was passed) . . . and so labor is professedly worried about 1950 . . . which is an off year . . . That is, not a general elections year . . .

SECTION 20 1-2 . . . Despite the fact that the past Legislature appropriated more for education than ever before, the Division of Classroom Teachers of the N. C. Education Assn. in session with the parent organization here last week asked for still higher pay for teachers (a starting salary of \$265 per month) . . . and they can't get it without higher taxes. That's the way it looks now.

This is closely tied to Section 20 1-2 of the past Legislature's Appropriations Bill. The section provides if there is any General Fund surplus at the end of this fiscal year (June 30) it must be used to increase salaries of teachers up to a maximum of \$2,400 to \$3,600 per year . . . or about \$265 per month for beginners and \$400 per month for experienced teachers. So, unless the

Attorney General rules otherwise on the law, all the surplus — if any — will go to the teachers, toward what the Classroom Teachers requested last week, and the State will go into the new fiscal year on July 1 as broke as the proverbial convict.

The Production and Marketing Administration has announced that surplus stocks of nonfat dry milk solids and dried eggs, acquired by the CCC under price-support programs, are now available for donation to private as well as to public welfare organizations for the relief of needy persons in this country and to private organizations for the relief of needy persons abroad.

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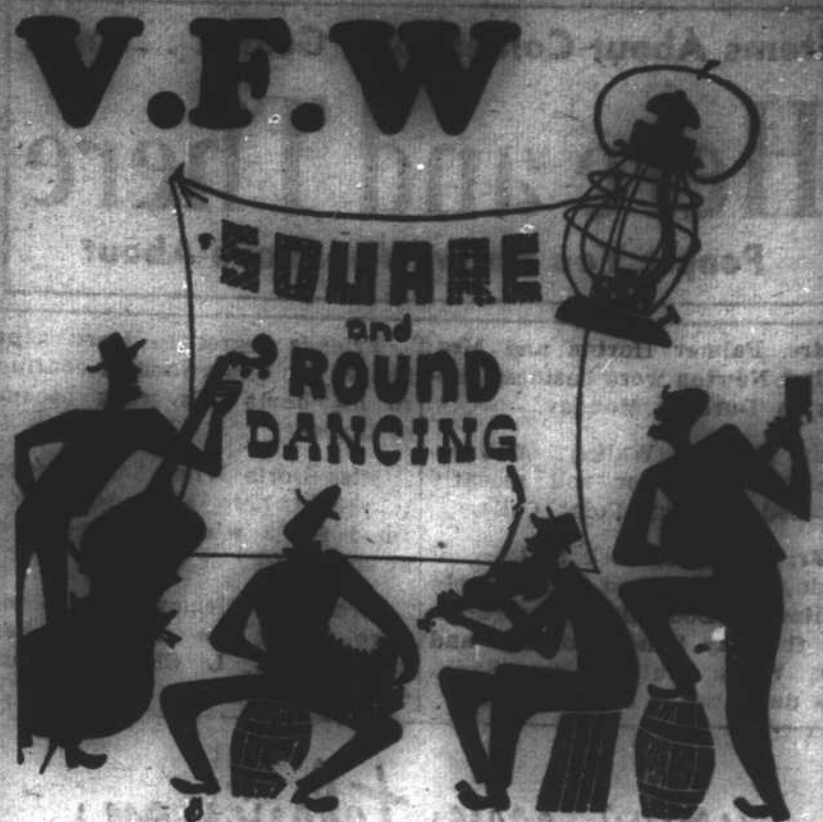
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