

### Complaints

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Meiszer, explained the results of an employee survey concerning their preferences of which retirement benefits they would like to see improved in the county plan. The survey was initiated by the commissioners.

He said the survey indicated that most county employees wanted a cost of living increase in retirement payments.

Bennett explained that if that change was made, retirement payments would go up as the consumer price index went up.

The employees also called for better disability coverage, and retirement after 39 years of service regardless of age. The county plan now stipulates that an employee must work 30 years and be age 65 in order to retire with full benefits.

### Neal-Mizell Debate: Seeking Undecided Vote

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efforts to bring it off, the debate did no more to further voter understanding of the candidates or their positions than those of President Ford and Jimmy Carter.

From the onset it was clear that their statements would be calculated, designed to make believers out of those who were still straddling an unsteady fence. For example, part of Mizell's opening statement was that his priorities were, "God, family, and country" that the issues were helping the needy, senior citizens, crime, and unemployment, that Neal had forsaken the people of this district, and that the problems of the nation

should and could be solved now.

Neal, on the other hand, retorted saying that the problems of the nation could not be solved overnight and called for a slow and steady approach in handling the nation's problems. He said, "being straight with the people" or doing what you say was the most important element of any person who holds a public office. He called it the new politics. He maintained, as he had previously, that his opponent had not been straight with people while in office.

From an ethnic standpoint, the debate was a disaster. In all fairness, the candidates were not asked

any specific questions they could respond to on ethnic issues. The debate might have proved a bit spicier and perhaps more revealing had questions of that type been asked.

Many times both candidates found themselves in the unenviable position of defending prior personal attacks made by the opposing candidate. The responses to the panelists' questions sounded more like short campaign speeches, Mizell's especially.

Whether anything new was learned from the debate is at best doubtful.

Richard Ervin, a democrat running for the State House of Representatives,

said, "The greatest thing I learned was that 75% of the nation's budget was uncontrollable and that the controlled 25% dealt with areas like national defense and direct appropriations." He said it pointed up the difficulty in balancing the budget.

It is, however, the considered opinion of this writer that if there was a winner in this "debate" it was Stephen L. Neal. He did not have canned answers as Mizell appeared to. He was slow and deliberate and seemed to have put some thought in answering the questions put to him. He came off as his own man and not a manufactured political candidate.

### Public Safety Advisor Resigns

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year track record and then look at that of my predecessor to know that I did make some major accomplishments."

Jones said that one of the most disappointing things about his job was the friction that existed in top management.

He referred to the "closed-door" antics of top administrative officials within the Public Safety Department. He said, "It has caused low moral and a lessening of the effectiveness of the public safety concept."

Jones says he has discussed the problem with the city manager and the deputy city manager. He said he believes

that this problem was one of the underlying causes for the city's label as the crime capital in the state. He said there was a lack of aggressive leadership, adding however that the department had been innovative. He cautioned that the leaders who are supposed to implement these innovative plans had not been as initiative oriented as they should be.

He said the department had great potential and was on the right road but thought new personnel should be brought in to "enhance the department's professionalism."

"Public Safety," he said, "that is, its concept has not been fully supported by all the

participants in the Fire Police Departments." He said that there were elements both areas of the Public Safety Department that believe Fire and Police departments should be separated. "It too has hurt the effectiveness of the Public Safety program," he said.

"Several people have said that I am relying on my race or on my race in defending against the criticisms I received," he said. "I don't need a crutch," he insisted, continuing, "I ask that you (the public) consider the fact that the state has others who were and are still not members of the North Carolina bar, but are still legal advisors."

He said that they had received the kind of criticism he has. He added, as an after thought, "It could happen to be white." Jones was the state's only Public Safety Advisor.

Even though Jones is leaving the job that has had trying moments, he said opportunities for black advancement in government were greater and could be greater if the public unity were displayed on a city-wide scale.

Of the rank and file work in the Public Safety Department, he said, "There are some good men in areas of public safety who deserve better. I know they have hurt them to some extent in the crime rating in the past other day."

Jones is supposed to leave his post on Nov. 5th. He says he may leave. "Where is he going and what will he be doing?" Jones remains a mystery. Jones mentioned however that he would be working for a firm south of Winston-Salem. How far south he did

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