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STATE REPORT BY STATE SENATOR VOIT GILMORE

OUT OF THE RUBBLE

From the rubble of the Charlotte bombings, will there come better interracial cooperation in North Carolina? Newspapers and newscasters across the nation have praised the spirit of North Carolina in deploring this wrong way to settle racial differences. I attended Governor Moore's first meeting of the N. C. Good Neighbor Council recently. The 55 members, about half of each race, exchanged frank views. A Negro lecturer the glow on the resumption, his face feels over the slurring word "nigger." A white easterner told Negro members that they should work harder on civil rights themselves and stop importing agitators from other states who make us mad.

One panel speaker was Dr. Andrew Best of Greenville, the only Negro physician in Pitt County. He said he had long been a member of the staff of the 250-bed Pitt County Memorial Hospital, but that "only after things began to happen in Washington was I admitted to the Pitt County Medical Society." The hospital was integrated "fully, without incident."

The Good Neighbor Council decided to encourage "all interracial committees in a city and county" to provide continuing communication between the races. As a Baptist preacher said, "We just can't legislate goodwill." It must come from understanding and mutual respect.

FIRE PIRE . . . At the Good Neighbor Council meeting in Raleigh I had the pleasure of introducing two well-known North Carolinians, Dr. Neil Hirschberg of North Carolina College at Durham and Henry Balk, editor of the Goldsboro News-Argus.

Dr. Hirschberg is a professor of biology, which for many students is a tough subject. I was reminded of the biology teacher who one day observed a pupil writing a note in the front of his textbook. Looking over his shoulder the teacher saw that he had printed this in bold letters: "In case of fire, throw this in."

In presenting Henry Balk I recalled the comment recently made about another Tar Heel newspaperman. It was, "That writer either should put more fire in his writings, or vice versa." But that's not true of the wise editor from Goldsboro. Balk's facile pen produces newsy, challenging copy ranging from comments on the Carolina persimmon crop to an urgent concern for human rights across our state.

OUR ELECTRICAL FUTURE . . . Use of electricity in the United States has on the average doubled every decade since such service began 90 years ago. In 1960 separate American electric power enterprises competing with each other, but also cooperating in the development of cheaper power, the long-term trend of electric rates has been downward despite inflation.

This is part of the background of the recent Northeast blackout. To prepare for the 400 million Americans 50 years from now who will demand incredible quantities of electric power, utility companies now are hooking their huge conventional and nuclear generating plants to extra-high-voltage transmission lines which can move power economically for hundreds of miles.

This EHV transmission is greatly enlarging the marketing area for large blocks of low cost power and is creating the advantage of interconnecting power systems to cover broad geographical areas.

Thus it was that a fluke at a Canadian power station could have blacked out New York City. With power to North Carolina at times flowing here from distant generating points, our utilities people are now alert to be watchful for similar scares.

SYMPHONY TROUBLES . . . During "Culture Week" in Raleigh, trustees of the N. C. Symphony Society assembled and heard Dr. Benjamin Swalin, the Symphony's veteran director, tell the woes of getting his 1966 season under way. The usual problem of persuading good musicians to forego longer better-paying seasons with big city symphonies is now further complicated by rising draft quotas. At least a dozen of the

Dr. Eyerman Gets Salary Raise

Harnett County Commissioners Monday ordered a Christmas tree and decorations for the county courthouse, agreed on natural gas heating system for the agriculture building, set Jan. 31 for tax listing, and agreed to a tax refund.

Other items included the tax listing suggestion that a refund be made to Leslie H. McLamb of Dunn for a mechanical order of \$122.66. Surplus food orders have increased from 150 to 381 according to F. C. Hubbard, welfare head. Hubbard was also given permission to create the job of assistant case work supervisor to begin as soon as possible.

The board was asked by the State to raise the pay of Director of Public Health M. F. Eyerman one grade of \$52 per month. Retroactive to July, 1965. The board decided after full discussion that it was necessary.

Eyerman, in agreement between State's merit system and Harnett County, is to receive pay two steps below grade in the initiation of the merit progress system in Harnett.

Henry Johnson Dies At Age 80

Henry Wesley Johnson, 80, of Rt. 2, Four Oaks, a retired farmer, died Wednesday.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Annie M. Johnson; five daughters, Mrs. Chester Barefoot of Four Oaks, Rt. 2, Mrs. Harry Thornberg of Rt. 3, Raeford, Mrs. Leroy Weatherly of Rt. 3, Yorktown, Va., Mrs. Lyward Johnson of Rt. 2, Benson and Mrs. John Ivey of Rt. 2, Dunn; four sons, A. R. of Rt. 2, Dunn, Henry T. of Rt. 2, Benson, J. W. of Benson and George E. Johnson of Orlando, Fla.; three sisters, Mrs. Lennie J. Holiday of Four Oaks, Rt. 2, Mrs. Addie J. Jackson of Tucson, Ariz., Mrs. L. K. Parker of Wilmington; and 20 grandchildren.

MASSENGILL RITES

Walter D. Massengill, 55, of Durham, brother of Mrs. Mabel Wiggins and Mrs. Mattie Stephenson of Rt. 1, Angier, and Mrs. Maude Wiggins of Benson, died Wednesday. Funeral services will be held Friday at 4 p.m. at Fuller Memorial Presbyterian Church. Burial will be in Woodlawn Memorial Park.

N. C. Symphony's good prospects have been hampered by the military in recent weeks.

Our state-wide Symphony is at a crossroads. Many believe that in order to attract good musicians and serve all of North Carolina it must replace its present short spring season with a full-scale October to May season. In turn, this means adjusting the annual Symphony budget upward from \$225,000 to \$400,000.

Money problems are old hat to Ben Swalin. Right now he will settle for two violinists and an oboe player.



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