

Senatorial Campaign-The Candidates

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

You'd have to be well-insulated from the media to not be aware of the mud-slinging and dirty politics going on in this year's campaign for the United States Senate between incumbent Jesse Helms and Governor Jim Hunt.

So much garbage has hit the airwaves in this particular race that it is difficult to be objective about either candidate. Is Jim Hunt really a crusader for good and Mr. Helms the devil personified—or vice versa? Advertising by both parties has featured attacks on the opponent rather than presenting what that Party's candidate thinks about the issues.

This article will simply attempt to summarize the record and intentions of both men and filter out the negative propaganda being spewed by both sides. Those who are yet undecided can sort it out for themselves.

JESSE HELMS

HIS RECORD AND INTENTIONS

Jesse Helms grew up in Monroe and attended Wingate Junior College and Wake Forest College. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he embarked on a career in journalism. His political career began in the 1950's, when he worked with Senators Willis Smith, Alton Lennon, and Richard B. Russell. Helms served two terms on the Raleigh City Council (1957-1961). Until his election to the Senate in 1972, he was closely affiliated with Raleigh stations WRAL-TV and WRAL-FM, and with the Tobacco Radio Network.

In the Senate, Helms chairs the Senate Steering Committee, the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Western Hemispheric Affairs, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. He is also a member of the Select Committee on Ethics and the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Helms led the Senate fight against the five cents per gallon increase in the federal gas tax; opposed the \$165 billion increase in payroll taxes, "which over the next 10 years will cripple the working men and women of America"; voted for the Comprehensive Tax Cut Bill and for a balanced budget. He advocates an increase in the personal tax exemption from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per person, which would "exempt millions of middle and low income citizens from federal income taxes," and favors repeal of the federal estate and gift tax. He is for a sound Social Security system, a strong national defense, a foreign policy favorable to American interests, sound agricultural policies and practices that assure farmers a fair profit, a return of voluntary prayer to the public schools, the elimination of fraud, waste and abuse in the Food Stamp program, and an end to forced busing of school children. The Senator wants to "halt the spread of communism in the Western Hemisphere," balance the federal budget,

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The course is free. And, enrollment is limited. Call the Red Cross at 376-1661, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., to sign up for the Babysitting course.

reduce the federal bureaucracy, and end government funding of abortions.

He has set a personal example for cutting government spending by reimbursing the White House and the N.C. State Budget Office when he was flown with the President or the Governor; by returning to the U.S. Treasury funds allotted him for operation of his office; and by not accepting payment of his Senate salary for time spent campaigning.

JIM HUNT

HIS RECORD AND PROMISES

Jim Hunt grew up on a dairy and tobacco farm in Wilson County. He has a degree in agricultural education from N.C. State, a master's degree in agricultural economics, and a law degree from University of North Carolina. He served as an economic advisor in the country of Nepal before returning to Wilson to practice law. In 1969, Hunt was appointed Assistant State (Democratic) Party Chairman in charge of reorganizing the Party to allow greater participation by women, minorities, and young people.

He was North Carolina's Lieutenant Governor from 1973-1975.

During his almost eight years as North Carolina's governor, Jim Hunt established the Division of Aging to coordinate programs for the elderly and better provide for their needs, ordered a moratorium on the termination of Social Security disability benefits, provided state funds for child care, established a tax credit for child care, and appointed blacks to judgeships in the District and Superior Courts, the Court of Appeals, and the N.C. Supreme Court. He also appointed the first two blacks to the Utilities Commission and the first black Cabinet Secretary and State Personnel Director.

Hunt created the Governor's Office of Citizen Affairs to encourage citizen involvement and volunteerism throughout the state, enacted the Safe Roads Act against drunk driving, began efforts to help the victims of crime, created the



Governor Jim Hunt

Rape Victim Assistance Program, reduced prison over-crowding through new construction and prisoner release, involved young people in crime prevention efforts, and established the Minimum Competency Test for graduating high school seniors.

Hunt pledges that, if elected, he will support all efforts to keep Social Security on a sound financial foot-



Senator Jesse Helms

ing, work for high-quality, affordable health care by controlling health care costs, and support programs that aid low income women, infants and children. Hunt promises to work for a strong economy and a healthy environment, to strengthen the family farm, and to control hazardous waste disposal.

Governor Hunt set an example for citizen involvement by volunteering an hour a week in the public schools.

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