

**Speaking Out**

**D.G.'s Resolutions And Predictions**

Charlotte Post  
ATTN: Bill Johnson, Editor  
1531 S. Camden Road  
Charlotte, NC 28203

Dear Editor:

The beginning of the new year is always a time for looking forward -- for making resolutions and predictions.

Here are my new year's predictions, for what they are worth. But don't hold me to them. I will be glad to be wrong about some of my "best guesses."

**TAX REFORM**

It won't make it. Here is what will happen. The Senate will pass a tax reform bill sometime next spring. It will be closer to the President's original proposals than the House version passed a few weeks ago.

A House-Senate conference committee will finally work out a compromise -- that will win the reluctant support of the President.

Congressional leaders of both parties will also support the compromise. But the power of the special interests and others who are not paying their fair share of taxes will be too great.

The House will vote down the compromise -- showing again that the special interests have gained even more power in the Congress than our two political parties combined.

**GRAMM-RUDMAN**

Deficit reduction set in concrete? Probably not. It will be a big disappointment for all of us.

Congress and the President will work out ways to "postpone" its requirement for a balanced budget. Gramm-Rudman, like all the other magic solutions, won't work unless Congress and the President really resolve to

run this country in a fiscally responsible manner.

That still has not happened.

**TEXTILES**

The President will yield to the tremendous pressure from this region to help owners and workers adapt to changing times. A revised, scaled-down, textile bill will pass both houses and be signed by the President next summer -- just in time for the fall elections.

In the meantime, as the value of the dollar declines, the downturn in the textile business will not be as steep in 1986. But workers will keep on losing their jobs to foreign competition and to modernization in our own mills.

**THE RUSSIANS**

We'll keep on talking to them. President Reagan enjoyed the summit in Geneva.

Dealing with domestic problems will be tougher and more frustrating for the President this year.

With all that pressure at home, the allure of sure favorable attention at the summit will be irresistible.

Look for an extra mini-summit right before next November's election. The price of this meeting may be real concessions to the Russians -- and those of us who have urged the President to begin meeting with them may begin to call for caution next year.

That would be some turnaround for everybody.

**PAC'S AND UNFAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES**

Attempts to slow down the take over of the American political system by special interest groups will fail this year. So will proposals to curb negative campaigning.

In 1986, PAC money will finance the dirtiest, most negative political

campaigns ever. It has already begun in North Carolina. As a result, there may be a strong drive for real campaign reform in 1987.

I will be talking more about these predictions on the "One on One" TV show on Thursday, January 2, on Cablevision Channel 3.

Sincerely,  
D.G. Martin  
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D. G. Martin  
.....Congressional candidate

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North Carolina  
**HIGHWAY SAFETY INDEX**

Thru December 22, 1985

Fatalities to date 1985	1,413
Fatalities wearing seat belts	77
Seat belt survival index	95%
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Fatalities to date 1984	1,405
Fatalities wearing seat belts	31
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Total Fatalities 1984	1,448
Fatalities wearing seat belts	31

Source: William Hatt  
Commissioner, Motor Vehicles