

Capital Reporter

By SCOTT SUMMERS
 RALEIGH, Sept. 7—Some folks have expressed doubt that Kerr Scott will back Willis Smith in the coming senatorial campaign, despite the Governor's repeated pledge to take the stump for his party's candidate.

The Governor is a Democrat first, and despite his opposition to Willis in the two primaries will take to the stump for Smith if party leaders want him to. As a matter of fact, it has al-

ready been planned for Smith's Alamance county campaign—if not the entire campaign—to be kicked off with a big Alamance Young Democrats rally for Smith at the Governor's own Haw River farm home.

Tar Heel hoarders can be proud of themselves. They sent sales tax receipts up about \$400,000 more than was expected last month. Revenue Commissioner Eugene Shaw reported a gain of more than \$50,000 above the same month a year ago. Since this was more than \$400,000 above the average gained each month this year, Shaw could

only attribute it to "hysterical war buying and hoarding."

If the North Carolinians fighting in Korea had acted with the same patriotism, the Korean war would have been over two months ago—with us pushed off the mean little peninsula.

Reported irregularities—particularly misuse of public property—are being investigated in the State Forestry Division's First District.

The First District includes the seaboard counties, where forest fires are a serious problem each year.

The reported investigation apparently isn't worrying First Division personnel. Just a few nights ago, the Forestry boys of the First pitched themselves quite a party over near Little Washington.

Along in the shank of the evening, the boys became quite gay. The gayer they got, the more courage they found, and before long they lifted their voices in song—like a bunch of hounds baying at the moon.

And what do you think the tune was they were singing? A little ditty entitled: "Who's afraid of Big Bad Kerr Scott!"

You can forget that dry dock at Wilmington. Blame it on a lot of things: lackadaisical attitude of New Hanover county, which always has its hand out but doesn't seem to want to help itself; fumbling by the State Ports Authority; and the Navy's refusal to cooperate with a retired Army Colonel (Col. George Gillette), despite all that talk about unification.

A \$15,000 outlay would have brought the drydock to Wilmington.

The Navy wasn't too hot about the idea of putting the drydock in Wilmington to start off. Shipbuilders were opposed, too. But the Governor pushed the idea, and after personal insistence of Senator Frank Graham, President Truman intervened and the dock was assured if the \$15,000 could be raised. The State did not want to enter private business, so rightly felt it could not put up the money. Despite their alleged desire to expand, folks in New Hanover looked the other way.

So Wilmington can be assured of remaining a second rate port, because ship owners are not going to send their ships 36 miles inland unless there are repair facilities available.

Time-payment cattle are slated for North Carolina's future. A group of New York money men are interested in starting up either a bank or finance company to loan money to farmers to buy cattle.

It'll work just like buying a car or a refrigerator. Pay so much down and so much a month or week until the loan is paid, with the cattle as security. Some loans will be made without even a down payment, it is understood, if the plan goes into effect.

The New Yorkers are enthusiastic about North Carolina's possibilities as a cattle country, both beef and dairy. And any time you don't think there's money in cattle raising, look at all those Texas millionaires. The experts say North Carolina is better suited for cattle raising than the Lone Star state, and that cattle can be raised cheaper here.

The Governor at a press conference took a swipe at North Carolina bankers for "not having enough vision" to finance cattle buying. The banks were the same way about financing cars some years back, he said, so the finance companies came in and

This Little Piggie - - -



A contented porker and the beauty could be the title of this picture. The pig seems quite happy to be caught by this Carolina Beach bathing beauty as they practice for the county fair games which will be a highlight of the three day celebration to be held at Carolina Beach, September 8, 9 and 10th to mark the opening of the Carolina Beach September Season. The celebration will get underway Friday, September 8, with the arrival of King Neptune and his subjects and will continue through the following three days when a number of events have been planned by the City of Carolina Beach and the Chamber of Commerce. (Photo by Hugh Morton)

federal taxes—and on the short end of the deal as far as federal money spent in the State—the Governor and some others think it's time some of those federal projects came this way.

Anyway, it'll be a knockdown, dragout fight. This week's report from Washington, via the Tar Heel Capitol: Direct controls affecting the farmer—on such items as farm implements, fertilizer, etc.—are not in sight. They won't be clamped on unless the war spreads beyond Korea.

Some \$50,000 farm workers will be eligible for social security—old age benefits—come January 1. The law leaves out farm owners or operators, tenants, sharecroppers, migratory workers, and members of the farm family under 21. A farm worker must establish eligibility by working full time for one employer for a calendar year, and must put in

two months work out of every three to stay eligible. Uncle Sam will collect a 3% tax on all cash wages—paid equally by worker and his employer. Benefit payments run from \$25 a month to a top of \$80 a month. Orchid of the week goes to Captain L. R. Fisher, director of the Highway Safety Division. Since taking it over, he has turned

ed it into a smooth-working organization. In addition, he's carrying the brunt of the load for the Governor's Advisory Committee on Highway Safety. A concrete example of Fisher's work is the reduction in highway deaths during July. That's the first time this year that has happened.

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"made a killing". Banking Commissioner Gurney P. Hood said that only a few Tar Heel banks now make loans on cattle.

Assistant Budget Director Dave Coltrane is hunting a farm management specialists to take over supervision of all state-owned farms. The hunt is on because Coltrane found recently that some of the State's farms are losing money. In one case, it was discovered that a farm had twice as many registered cattle out to graze as the pasture would stand. In times like these, even a state-operated farm ought to at least break even, Coltrane believes.

With it's decision to allow Tidewater Power and Light Company a \$200,000 a year rate increase, the Utilities Commission by a 3-2 vote has put its approval on poor management of the company.

The raise is being paid by home and store consumers, while industrial users will get a slight cut.

The amazing thing about the whole action is that no where in the many-paged report of its decision is any reason given for the raise except "to allow Tidewater to sell some \$2,000,000 in new stock".

This two million bucks is needed, it was said, to "expand service" and to make repairs—a lot of which, the report said, have been needed since the war when materials were unavailable.

No one would quarrel with an expansion of service by Tidewater, but it is peculiar that it is one of the few—if not the only—companies in the country that did not build up a reserve during the war to make post-war repairs. Other companies, unable to get materials during the war, put aside the money they would have spent if they could and saved it for work after the war ended.

Despite poverty pleas, Tidewater has been able to pay an average dividend of one dollar a share for at least the last two years.

The Commission's refusal last week to re-open the case, means that the poor consumer will have to go to court if he wants to fight the rate raise further. And the Utilities Commission is supposed to protect the public!

If the Utilities Commission wants to do something, it could either force Tidewater to give its consumers decent service at a decent price or make them sell to someone who can. Since the company buys 85% of its power from Carolina Power and Light Company then resells it at a profit, and since CP&L's President Louis Sutton says his company has plenty of power, it looks as though that would be the logical company to serve the Tidewater area, anyhow.

Tidewater's poverty pleas brought a laugh in front of the Sir Walter Hotel here last week. Two top Tidewater officials stepped out of the hotel, into a plush, block-long Cadillac—complete with liverie chauffeur—for the ride home to Wilmington.

Incidentally, Tidewater's president is reported to get a salary of more than \$25,000 a year plus a "very generous" expense account. The expense account plus salary, the report said, runs more than the combined salaries and expense accounts of all five of the Utilities Commissioners. Not bad for "pore folks".

And the power argument spotlighted last week bids likely to become the biggest political issue

of the state. The Governor says the state's power potential is great but underdeveloped. He claims industry is passing the State by because of lack of power and that hydro-electric, flood control, water conservation dams should be built with federal funds.

CP&L's Louis Sutton says tain't so; that private power companies are taking care of all needs adequately; that steam power is better than hydro-electric; that industry is not passing the state by; and that it's all just another attempt by the government to take over private power companies.

But Sutton talks only about power. He doesn't say anything about flood control, other than it should be done some other way, and he doesn't even mention water conservation.

Up to now no one has come up with any flood control, water conservation plan that doesn't entail government spending. If at the same time power output can be boosted, it would be foolish not to do so.

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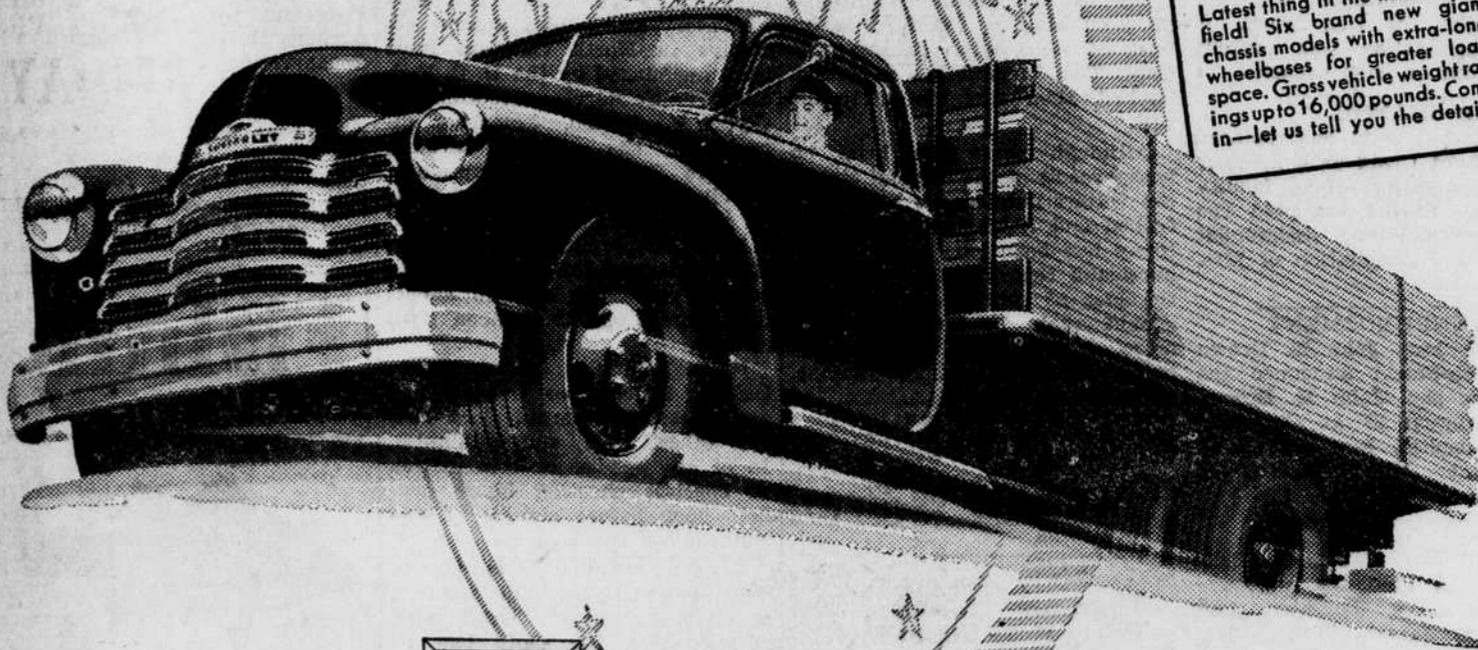
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