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Political Science professors discuss Issues of Presidential campaign

By Brad Rich

Tuesday night, October 19th, the UNCC Political Department and the Friends of UNCC cosponsored a discussion of the issues in the current presidential campaign.

The discussion, moderated by Schley Lyons, chairman of the department, focused on the possible directions Jimmy Carter or Gerald Ford administrations would take on the issues of foreign policy, domestic policy and bureaucratic reorganization. The discussants were: Ted Arrington, on domestic policy, Nish Jamgotch, on foreign policy, and Eric Stowe, on bureaucratic reorganization.

Dr. Jamgotch led off the discussion with his views on foreign affairs. He said, "There appears to be little enthusiasm in this election, especially in the area of foreign affairs. Perhaps this is because there are no overwhelming issues in the campaign." He said the American people are in search of a foreign policy and are confused.

Jamgotch said there is really no effective way to gauge Gerald Ford's performance in foreign affairs. Ford has spent one of his two years "learning the job" and the other year "preparing to run for re-election." Congress has played a more aggressive role as a result of the "sting of Vietnam," and Henry Kissinger, as Secretary of State, has "dwarfed the president."

"Relations with China have been difficult because of their internal difficulties and right wing Regan supporters have made continued detente with the Soviet Union more difficult," Jamgotch said.

Jamgotch said the foreign policy directions taken by either Ford or Carter would probably depend largely upon who they would choose as Secretary of State. He said neither Ford nor Carter are extremely well experienced in foreign affairs, and will probably have to take the advice of better informed people. Jamgotch said he doesn't really expect Kissinger to stay on, and speculated Ford might pick his successor from among such choices as John Connally, Nelson Rockefeller and William Scranton. Possible Carter choices for the position might be George Ball or Frank Church.

Ted Arrington spoke next on domestic policy. He placed his major emphasis on the fact that both Carter and Ford are traditional representatives of their parties, and as such, will probably tend to support the usual concepts of their respective parties. Arrington said the Democratic party has traditionally favored the use of the federal government to aid the poor and disabled, while the Republican philosophy would like to cut federal spending. "Republicans," he said, "Believe that many federal programs backfire. They think the size and scope of spending should decrease, or at least be capped."

He also said the two candidates differ in their traditional approaches to resolving the economic problems. Carter, in the best tradition of the Democratic party, favors the federal government directly employing out of work Americans, while Ford would focus on slowing inflation and creating jobs in the private sector.

Arrington speculated three possible election results:

1) Carter wins by a narrow margin and the Republicans would gain back a few of the Congressional seats they had lost in previous years. Carter would then have a nominal Democratic majority in Congress, but not enough to pass the programs he desires.

2) Ford wins narrowly and the Republicans would gain some seats, and it would be back to much the same situation as in Nixon's first term. The split in Congress would result in general activity.

3) Carter wins by a large majority. Arrington felt this was the most unlikely possibility, but if it were to occur, Carter, like Lyndon Johnson in 1964, would have a large enough majority to enact his programs.

Next, Eric Stowe discussed Jimmy Carter's proposals on reorganization of the bureaucracy. He called it "a basically Republican, business approach, which

has been attempted before." One notable effort to implement this type restructuring was Robert McNamara's plan for the Department of Defense in 1962.

Stowe said Carter's plan has basically five approaches. They are:

1) Zero based budgeting. This forces bureaus to justify their existence by proving that every cent they ask for is needed.

2) Multi-year budgeting. This is a successful business practice which involves forecasting the entire cost of a program over the years.

3) Reduction of the number of agencies. This would result in a decrease in political infighting and competition within agencies.

4) Program evaluation. This aspect would employ independent program auditors to make sure that an agency is actually doing the job it was set up to do.

5) Sunshine laws. These are directed mainly towards regulatory agencies, and would open meetings up while eliminating the "Lone Ranger" style of foreign policy often practiced by Henry Kissinger.

Stowe also felt Carter may be up against insurmountable odds. "The federal bureaucracy wasn't given birth by some devil figure," he said, "It was created over a period of about 50 years, and is related to lobbyists, interest groups, and congressional committees."

Another problem faced by Carter, Stowe said, is the fact that while many Americans criticize the bureaucracy in the abstract, they want it to be there when they call with a complaint. As Stowe said, "Americans are against everybody's bureaucracy but their own."

The discussion ended with a question and answer session. Dr. Lyons followed with a few closing remarks, as did Bonnie Cone

Journalism class poll predicts Carter win

By Nancy Davis
and Teresa Gardner

Jimmy Carter will be the next president of the United States if the rest of the nation agrees with UNCC students, according to the results gathered from a straw poll recently taken on campus.

During the week of October 13-19 nearly 100 students were asked who they prefer for the next president in a random poll conducted by fourteen UNCC journalism students as part of a news writing assignment.

Students, ranging in age from 18-42, were asked their opinions at various locations on the UNCC campus ranging from the library to the dormitories. The results were representative of an even spread in class rank and an equal distribution between dorm and commuter respondents, but when divided into schools there were twice as many Business Administration majors as there were in any of the other leading fields.

Carter won the poll, favored by 50% of the vote over Ford's 39%, with 11% undecided only two weeks prior to the National Election. Of the 94 students asked, 87% said they intend to vote on November 2.

Those in favor of Jimmy Carter seem to feel he is more in tune with the people and will bring a fresh face to Washington. Many agree with Charlie Bragg, 25, a senior, who likes Carter's "ideas of economic policy and restructuring the government." Running mates also showed a strong influence in voter preference: "Actually, I prefer Walter Mondale over Carter, and that's why I'm voting for Carter," said Henry Raines, 23, a Political Science major. Carter is most often accused of not being specific enough and making unreasonable claims. Jim Moore, 26, an Accounting major, expressed the feeling that "Ford will not bring dignity or self-esteem to the office, which it desperately needs at this point."

President Ford's followers stress his experience, realism and overall knowledge. Comments made by Tom Liendecker, a 21 year old senior, represent the attitudes held by those who place their confidence in Ford: "He is not so vague on issues. Ford's done a decent job, a good job considering what he had and the situation he inherited." Richard Herndon expresses the opposing belief that Ford's experience has hurt him "because his Congressional Record shows he was very indecisive." Still others, including Lisa Laney, a sophomore working towards an Accounting major, are just ready for a change: "I'm not really in favor of either one, but I am voting against the Nixon Administration."

There was a general consensus from those who are still undecided. Lisa Elliott, 21, sums up their views: "I don't feel like there's a big choice."

You have less than one week left to choose, and this time it really counts.

Carolina Journal photo by Jack Turbyfill



The circus came to campus last weekend; featuring thrills for all ages. See more pictures on page thirteen.