- Editorial Opinions -"YOUR HOME NEWSPAPER'S" editorials are the opinions of staff members. As such thep may be wrong. Whether you agree or disagree our columns, under "The People Write" heading, are open for you to express your own opinions.

Senator Sam And Voting Rights

The zeal with which the Senate Judiciary Committee has gone at the task of reviewing the appointments of Judges Fortas and Thornberry to the U.S. Supreme Court has brought up enough discussion of the national Constitution to cause some to go back and read again the portions discussed most frequently at the hearings.

Among the many documents in which the Constitution is printed is our fa-vorite, "Layman's Guide to Individual Rights Under The United States Constitution," prepared by the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights of the Judiciary Committee. The copy we keep handy for reference at Your Home Newspaper has a preface by Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., chairman of the subcommittee. It was mailed to us by the Senator several years ago.

Senator Ervin's preface contains these. words, "Americans should be ever aware of those cherished rights which are protected by our form of government and which are so essential to our way of life. Equally important is the duty of every individual to be vigilant in helping to safeguard these rights not only for himself, his family and his neighbors, but for all citizens." This is a pretty good statement of civic responsibility Senator Ervin wrote. It is one of the reasons we saved this particular booklet as a reference to the Constitution.

With this background in mind it came as a shock to us, as it did to many, to learn Senator Ervin during the course of his interrogation of Judge Thornberry was moved to say, "The Constitution of the United States doesn't give anybody the right to vote." Our shock led us to the inside of the booklet where the constitutional amendments are quoted and explained. Amendment 15' says, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." The 19th amendment reads the same as to sex. After quoting these two amendments Senator Ervin's booklet says, "The intent and purpose of these two amendments are clear. The right to vote, which is the keystone of our demo-

cratic society, may not be denied to any citizen in either a State or Federal election merely because he is born into a particular group . . . These amendments, together with the 5th and 14th amendments, prohibit any arbitrary attempt to disfranchise any American citizen."

Going further into Senator Ervin's booklet we find after the 24th amend-ment this statement, "The 24th amend-ment prohibits denial of the right to vote for Federal officials because a person has not paid a tax. This amendment was designed to abolish the requirement of a poll tax which at the time of its ratification, five States imposed as a condition to voting. Although limited in its scope to votes cast for Federal officials, the amendment is based on the idea that a citizen's right to vote should not depend on his ability to pay a tax.'

After all this Senator Sam has the temerity to tell the Texan who ruled Texas' poll tax law was unconstitutional that he does not know the Constitution and that it "doesn't give anybody the right to vote." Not only does the Constitution have plenty to say about who can vote, it gives the likes of Sam Ervin the right to do the voting in the Senate for hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians who are fed up with his nineteenth century views and his intransigence on keeping the Constitution a living document rather than a brittle, unchangeable piece of parchment which stays absolutely the same right up to the day of the revolution required to change

Thank heaven in this country we have a Constitution and a government set up under it which allows it to change with the times. We suggest Senator Ervin go back and read again the booklet he sent out under his name. Particularly now ought he to do so since there seems little likelihood of North Carolina being relieved of the burden of his pompous bombast representing us in the U.S. Senate for another six years. Having to put up with his fossilized views of the Constitution for another six years will make them long indeed

Secrecy Real Integrity Problem

If all of the "position papers" prom-ised North Carolina voters by Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Gardner are on a par with the first one just issued, he state is going to have a "long, hot fall" this year, regardless of what the remainder of the summer brings either weatherwise or in the civil commotion sphere. Gardner's paper on integrity in government contained nothing surprising or shocking, some that was out of date and still more that is misleading.

Apparently it is the feeling in Republican leadership circles that there is much political hay to be reaped in the state on the issue of honesty in government. They may be right as far as some sections are concerned, but for the state. as a whole, the record under 70 years of continuous Democratic administrations is amazingly free of scandals of major proportion.

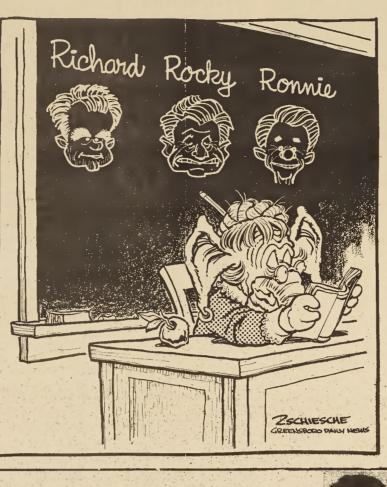
In recent years there has been the Kidd Brewer case involving kickbacks in placing contracts for reflectorized materials bought by the Highway Department. This was almost the only serious scandal almost within memory and it involved wrong doing on the part of only one state employee. Considering what many states have had in their governments with fraud, bribery and other ings conc lic's money, North Carolina has had over the years a level of integrity associated with its government of which its citizens can take pride, rather than feeling shame. The big problem of integrity in North Carolina has been in the way in which money decisions are arrived at, particularly as to secrecy in coming to spending and taxing decisions. This has been true at the local and county levels as well as at the state. This is a matter with which the next legislature ought to deal. The money decisions at all levels have for too long been in too few hands. If there is scandal in government in North Carolina, this is it.

Despite Gardner's lengthy paper on the subject of integrity, it was his Democratic rival, Lt. Gov. Scott, who first took a strong stand for open meetings legislation in the current campaign. In a joint appearance of all candidates before the state Press Association in Chapel Hill back in January, Scott came forth in response to a question with a strong endorsement of open meeting legislation. The most Gardner had to say then on the subject was in effect "me to." After seven months to ponder it, his position paper devotes only 34 out of more than 1,600 words to the problem.

North Carolina deserves better than this on a matter of such concern. All the words Gardner used to talk about voting frauds and political harassment of state employees and school teachers may have relevancy someplace but that place is rot the Roanoke-Chowan. It does concern people here as elsewhere that the entire budget to run-the state for two years could be adopted in much less than half a day of public exposure before the full legislature after it has sat for nearly six months.

Raleigh columnist Bill Shires reports that Congressman Gardner recently

The Three R's



Carlton Morris Writes

Along The Coast, We **Enjoy Telling Stories**

In my one and only conversation with Arthur Godfrey, he asked if there's a difference in the way people talk in one part of our land as com-pared to another. Presuming he meant in the South, I told him there was a noticeable differ-ence which I only discovered that very week in New York, Back home I told him everyone talked like me. This old saw was first introduced. I believe, by Will Rogers.

Actually there is a difference from one part of almost any state to another part. In our own South there's a noticeable difference in our humor, say for instance, from the mountains to the sea.

Along the coast we dearly enjoy telling stories. and it makes little difference if we've heard them a thousand times. Perhaps this comes from our rural background for there were many years when every man considered the day wasted if he failed to gather with the boys at the crossroads or the country store to swap yarns.

You couldn't tell the same jokes day after day, though some people and columnists still do. But you could do much as present day comedians. You could change names and brush a story up pretty good and tell it every month and you would get the undivided attention of all present. Maybe next month someone would come up with the same story and get the same belly laugh.

My father's favorite hurt no man, but it was one of the few things he laughed about, though he had a tremendous sense of humor.

The story concerned a scoggin and for you in-landers a scoggin is a very long-legged bird that feeds on a diet of anything that uses water as a habitat. This scoggin was walking along the shore and occasionally he would drive his bill into the water, then throw his head back and swallow a fish, shrimp or eel.

Pretty soon he drives his bill into the water very hard, then jerks it out very quickly with it vibrating like a tuning fork. He looks around with his eyes crossed and remarks, "A danged hard crab."

Around Capitol Square

Mountain people have a very keen sense of humor, but they will likely let you trap yourself into a situation. The following I swiped from the front page of the Citizen-Times of Asheville.

It's a known fact that well-to-do Floridians spend the hot, humid summer months in the North Carolina mountains. One such gentleman came to the mountains and rented or built a home. But he had one very big problem. He had no way to dis-pose of his garbage, so he dropped around to see one of the local people.

"How do you dispose of your garbage?" he queried.

'Simple," the man told him, "we feed it to our shoats.

"What in the world is a shoat?" the city-bred gentleman wanted to know.

"That's just a small hog," the mountain man told him.

The two got together and the man from Florida purchased a shoat from the mountaineer.

Time passed as it has a way of doing and the man from Florida had a wonderful summer. He fed garbage to his shoat until he was the biggest hog on the mountain.

One day the leaves began to turn and next thing you know frost was on the pumpkin and so the visitor decided it was time to head south. But he had a problem, so he went over to see his neighbor.

"I'm ready to return to Florida," he told the mountain man, "but don't know what to do with my shoat."

"I'll take him off your hands," the mountaineer told him, "if you don't want too much for him."

"Well," the man from Florida said, "I paid you \$15 for him and I've had the use of him all summer. Do you think \$10 would be too much?"

Your Home Newspopers **Raleigh Bureau**





News.

A real "find" brought joy and us two out-of-state visitors this satisfaction to Northampton Me- week, Nieces Martha and Kathy morial Library this week. The Gall from Newport News wanted four volumes containing the full index for our set of colonial and early state records are now in our proud possession! For years we have known that our prized colonial records would be much more useful if we could only acquire the missing index. The "find" came about this way. A few weeks ago a library furni-ture salesman who is also a col-lector of North Carolina history was drooling over our set of colonial records. When he no-ticed that the index was missing he told us that the state library in Raleigh had just advertised a few miscellaneous volumes of

the colonial records for sale at the colonial records for sale at \$2,50 per volume. Could our missing volumes possibly be in this group? At this amazingly low price? Charles Bridgers chose to find out and returned. from Raleigh on Wednesday with victory in his hands. Charles gave us two of these newly acquired books and we paid for the other two from the petty cash account, Northampton Memorial

Library is, perhaps, the only small library in the state to have this valuable series of historical records. Mrs. John White and daughter, Susie, of Margarettsville brought

bus a thorough "physical check-up" and treatment for those "minor ailments." (Minor, we hope!) Bring the family to the library to choose books from our shelves during these weeks. We will welcome you. While in Jackson be sure to look at Bridgers Brothers' show window, arranged by Charles Bridgers on behalf of the Northampton County Museum. Charles has used selected items already in the museum to portray a running history of Northampton County.

Gail from Newport News wanted to hear the story of how this building was used as a refuge for women and children during Nat Turner's insurrection back in 1831, William Styron, the Pulitzer Prize winner for his book, "The Confessions of Nat

Turner," is a native of Newport

This week brought us a new

bookmobile family in the Creeks-ville area. Little Trudy and Da-vid Strickland could not spend

the summer without books to read and gleefully welcomed the

rolling bookshelves. Remember that the bookmobile will be on

vacation during August. This re-spite will be used to give the old



Wallace Chances Analyzed

By JIMMY LASSITER Summer News Intern The Herald

Ahoskie

Is the "George Wallace For President" movement a real threat to the two major parties and could he possibly put the election in the House of Representatives?

There were two major questions discussed at last week's Gover-nor's Conference in Cincinnati and the word from the conference was that Wallace is gaining rather than losing strength around the country as the presidential campaign approaches.

From here, it seems it is probably not possible to stop Wallace in the House primarily because the election is most unlikely ever to get there. The greatest likelihood, it seems, is that the Wallace vote will have great influence on, and perhaps change the outcome of, the race between the major party candidates, particularly if there are between the major party candidates, particularly if they are Nixon and Humphrey.

It is only a minute possibility, although a real one, that Wallace would carry enough states and their electoral votes actually to pre-vent either major party candidate from having a majority in the electoral college.

Even if he did carry that many states, Wallace has no intention of letting the election get into the House as set forth in the Consti-tution. Because there he would have virtually no influence on the ultimate choice, to be made by the state delegations.

Wallace has talked in the past about making a prior deal with one of the other candidates, trading his electoral votes for all sorts of dubious agreements and rewards, but this is ridiculous. No major party candidate would make such a deal with such a man, knowing he could never govern if he did.

Reportedly, there were a number of ranking political leaders from Texas, Tennessee and North Carolina saying that if the election were held today, the former Alabama governor would carry their states, white the former ly regarded as well outside his grasp. grasp.

It seems the Democrats are increasingly fearful that Wallace may not be held to three or four states in the deep South and could ulti-mately deprive Vice President Humphrey of anticipated electoral votes in the upper South and Border states.

The growing Wallace third party movement has increased supthe ground with the largest popular vote, even if he fails to win the necessary absolute majority in either the electoral college or the House.

Scott Leaves Door Open For Humphrey

mailed several hundred thousand invitations "to come visit his various headquarters in the 4th District." The invitations contained the line "not printed atgovernment expense." No mention, however, was made of the fact that they were mailed free under his Congressional franking privileges. If this and his failure to tackle the real integrity problem of secret money sessions are typical of Gardner's degree of integrity in government, this is at least a case of the kettle calling the pot black.

By WILLIAM A. SHIRES Assn. of Afternoon Dailies

RALEIGH - Lt. Gov. Bob Scott, the Democratic nominee for governor, wants it made clear that he is running his own campaign and the top of the party ticket is "Bob Scott for Governor." "I do not believe that any candidate in this day and time wants to become tangled up with other can-

didates and all sorts of things," says Scott. "I am going to run my own campaign regardless of what happens."

To this extent, Scott dodged the question of whether he would endorse – and run with – the Democratic party's choice of a presi-dential nominee. He refused to predict that vice president Hubert Humphrey would

be nominated, saying he felt there was a "likelihood" that "yet another can-

WILL BE LEADER

This was a significant statement inasmuch as Scott, now titular leader of the Democratic party in North Carolina, will control a 56-vote delega-tion in Chicago. The delegation, on a formality and technicality, is now pledged to Gov. Dan K. Moore as a "favorite son" candidate but this is simply a strategy to gain time. Most of the North Carolina delegates are reported ready to go with Humphrey on an early ballot, but Scott's state-ment casts some doubt on this assumption.

Certainly Scott gave no indication that he is ready to bolt or support anyone other than Hum-phrey. But he left the door open in the event some other candidate should come on the scene. In effect, Scott was saying he does not think the North Carolina delegation is as cemented to Humphrey

as it has been reported. Scott did not say so, but there are increasing doubts among North Carolina Democrats that Humphrey can get the presiden-tial nomination. There is much feeling that another candidate – either Eugene McCarthy or President Johnson himself – will wind up the nom-ination. In some quarters of speculation, Lyndon Johnson is a heavy favorite.

WALLACE EFFECT

Scott feels that former Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama is getting "a great deal of support" across North Carolina, cutting across political, economic and social lines and that Wallace has gained substantially during the past six weeks. On the other hand, Scott doubts that the Wallace candidacy will have a very great impact on the state's gubernatorial race. He adds that because the two major parties have not nominated their candidates for president, "we have not yet seen the real strength" of the major party political effort.

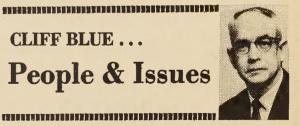
EARLIER START

Scott is pleased by the arrangement to name new state party headquarters staff and begin the fall campaign earlier than usual. There was, he said, a "need to get started earlier" than in past years, although this did not mean Democrats were feeling sharper political pressure.

It involves the "simple mechanics" of political party promotion, the printing and distributing of literature and precinct level organizing, Scott literature and precinct level organizing, Scott said. "It was not enough to wait until a frantic few weeks." He said county and local Democratic par-ty leaders wanted "to begin earlier and get to work." In essence, he said, this was the reason for an earlier changeover in party structure. Scott said he had informed Gov. Dan Moore and his pri-mary opponent, J. Melville Broughton, of the impending changes in party leadership.

In any case, there is an established constitutional system for set-tling an election in which there is no electoral college majority. It is to send the question to the House and no matter how faulty the system is, it is constitutional, and if changed, ought to be changed by constitutional methods - not on whim, one-year basis or out of fear of either Wallace or of deadlock.

It seems those who fear George Wallace the most should fight this new plan the hardest, for he is an artist of defiance, who has found strength in picturing himself as the little man run down in the schoolhouse door, the "average American" ignored by the "pseudointellectuals" controlling the major parties.



PRESS MEETING. . . Last Friday and Saturday it was our pleasure to attend the annual meeting of the North Carolina Press Associa-tion at the Blockade Runner at Wrightsville Beach.

am proud of my trade and profession and always enjoy getting together with Tarheel newspapermen and women.

Politics probably dominated the talk more than didnewspapering, for the simple reason that North Carolina has just become a real two-party state. Most newspapermen with whom I talked seemed to think that Bob Scott would be able to win the governorship over Jim Gardner although the sentiment was not unanimous.

The sentiment of the people with whom I talked regarding the presidential election was that George Wallace had made tremendous gains in recent weeks in North Carolina and a goodly number said that if the election were held now that he would carry the state. This sentiment did not seem to be confined to any particular section of the state.

As a state senator from the county of Mecklenburg, the state's largest, Herman A. Moore is acutely aware of the very real need of local governments to find more revenue. However, his search now is threatening to lead him down a blind

Leave The Inspection Law Alone

alley. Sen. Moore has suggested that countyowned and operated vehicle inspection stations would turn a tidy profit, and that Mecklenburg eventually could count on \$250,000 annually from that source. This would mean, naturally, the abandonment of the present state-operated-inspection system under which approved garages and filling stations perform the chore.

The suggestion might help the local government till, but if adopted it could very well signal the end of vehicle inspection for a second time, and this is one cat that doesn't have nine lives.

Not until 1965 were inspection propo-

nents successful. They succeeded then only by answering the complaints of those who had endured the dreadful experiment of 1947-49. The major beef was the state-operated lanes (which under the Moore suggestion would be reincarnated at the county level). So the job was handed to the garages and filling stations, operating under state supervision. Inspection has gone smoothly and has won public acceptance. That fact, standing alone, is reason enough to keep hands off the current system.

The counties have not asked for the doubtful privilege of operating inspection lanes. Their governing boards have their hands full now. So why should a working, successful, and valuable statewide system be abandoned in favor of one fragmented among the 100 counties?

- Winston-Salem Journal

didate" would come on the scene. He mentioned no one by name, saying "I do not know who it will be.