Thursday, October 9, 1980/The Daily Tar Heel/3

Carter admits attack on Reagan a mistake

WASHINGTON (AP)-President Jimmy Carter, criticized for running a mean re-election campaign, conceded on Wednesday that his sharp attacks on Ronald Reagan were a mistake and promised "more reticence" in the future.

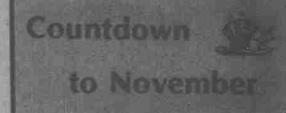
In a television interview on ABC News, the president also placed part of the blame on his GOP opponent and on human nature.

Asked whether his sharp attacks on Reagan were a mistake, Carter responded:

"Yes, I will say that, but there is enough blame to go around. I think the press sometimes has failed to cover major issues. Reagan has made

The president was reminded that he comes through and when I feel has been accused of being mean, vindictive and hysterical. He replied:

"Those charges are not accurate. I think it's true that when Reagan says I



am desperate or vindictive or hysterical, he shares some of the blame ... that the tone of the campaign has departed from what it should be for this highest office in the land."

extremely deeply about a subject...it's incumbent on me to express it but I will try to do it with more reticence in the future."

Hunt denies charges

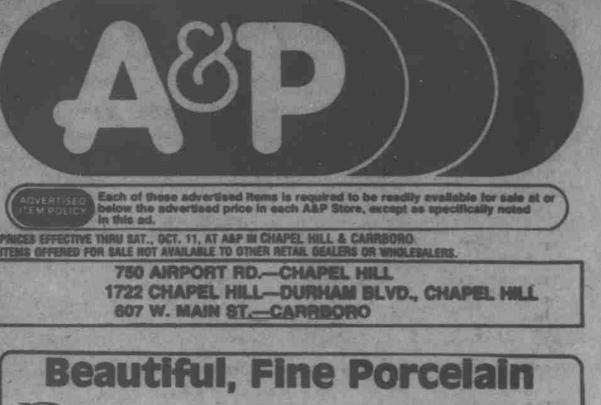
RALEIGH-Gov, Jim Hunt denied charges Wednesday that N.C. Department of Transportation personnel were involved in a highway bid-rigging scandal.

Hunt's Republican challenger, I. Beverly Lake Jr., made the charges during a news conference this week.

Wednesday, "I want to get to the bottom of this and an investigation will proceed."

A total of four North Carolina construction firms have pleaded guilty to rigging highway construction bids. Two officials for the Charlottebased Rea Construction Co. received prison sentences for their role in rigging bids.

Hunt said the state was trying to recover profits made by the paving companies found guilty and said criminal jail sentences for those involved would be decided by the attorney general's office.











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