

Politics In Chapel Hill

The Soundings Add Up To A Mulligan Stew

The Old Savor's Mostly Missing

By J. A. C. DUNN And W. H. SCARBOROUGH

Chapel Hill's politics are at the moment like a half-cooked mulligan stew. He who dips a tasting spoon into the pot may come up with the raw ingredients, but no definite flavor.

In fact, Chapel Hill and even Carboro might be called politically bewildered—in sharp contrast to rural Orange County, which is conservative and vehement about it.

In Chapel Hill, opposition to I. Beverly Lake is widespread, but support for Dr. Lake cannot be discounted. Actively committed Democrats indicate they will hold the Party line in the next election. The University faculty, on the other hand, appears prepared to go Republican en masse if Dr. Lake receives the Democratic nomination.

Somewhat surprisingly, a large segment of the Town seems to feel that the logical opposition to Dr. Lake is not a liberal such as former State Democratic chairman Bert Bennett. Opinion on Mr. Bennett is either mixed or nonexistent. Some sentiment is apparent in favor of such conservatives as Thomas J. Pearsall, Dr. Henry Jordan, Judge J. Richardson Preyer, or Rep. Charles R. Jonas.

One of the central points where political opinion and speculation tend to coagulate is the University Barber Shop, where Mack Snipes, the proprietor, is resident oracle.

Mr. Snipes is a political hand-capper of note. He has reportedly picked the winning candidate for Governor and President for the past two decades, and he enjoys something of an inside track on State politics: he numbers among his regular long-time customers Gov. Terry Sanford, former Hodges administrator Paul Johnston, State Insurance Commissioner Ed Lanier and scores of others.

Mr. Snipes has, for several months, been on record as favoring Bert Bennett as the man to watch in 1964. He predicts Mr. Bennett will have no difficulty in winning the race over Dr. I. Beverly Lake, and will win the General Election in a walk over any Republican, including Charles R. Jonas.

"Judge Preyer has just confused the issue doing what he's done, don't you think?" Mr. Snipes said. "Bert (Bennett) is my favorite candidate, but it's because I know him personally, so I just don't know how he'll do."

"It seems that the crowd is using him, but that has happened before. He seems to be the picked choice. Hodges picked Seawell and he lost. It does lose a man a lot of votes for the Governor to try to pick him as the next man."

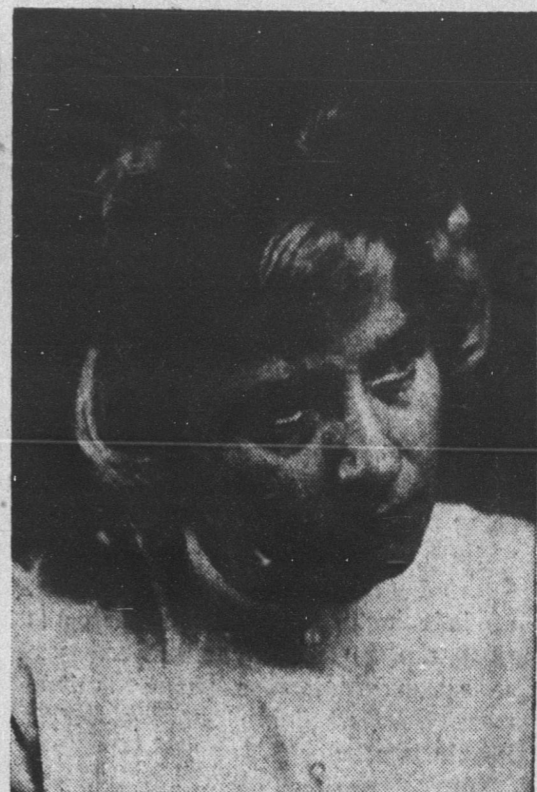
Had Mr. Snipes consulted with



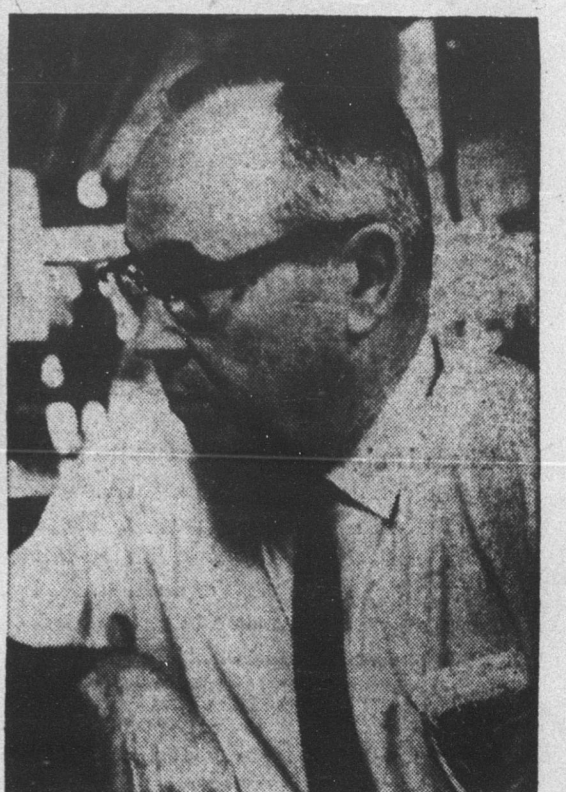
BARRY WINSTON ... Lying Behind A Log



TOM SCISM ... Preyer Or Jonas First



MRS. SALLIE GRAY ... I Was A Seawell Man



EUGENE STROWD ... Conservative Revival

Gov. Sanford on the political picture recently? "No, the Governor hasn't been around in a couple of months."

"I don't think Lake's got a chance against Bennett, Preyer or Pearsall. The cities will make the difference. Oh, the County may go for Lake, and you can't say which one'll elect the man, but I think the County would swing behind Bennett pretty good. These fellows you talked to out in the County, I know them, and a lot of them were just pulling your leg. They went for Scott and Hodges and Sanford, and I don't see any reason why they won't go for Bennett. They may tell you one thing and then say something else again when they get in that booth."

What did Mr. Snipes see as the big issues of the next election? "It's hard to say. I don't think this race question will make any difference. I think the country people are more for equality than a lot of small towns. Most of them are for equality, they like to see everybody get a better education, and a better job."

"Most of my customers that I talk to are against Lake, and most would support Bennett, Pearsall or Judge Preyer. I heard a lot about Dr. Henry Jordan two months ago. Different ones were mentioning him, but right now it's quieted down, partly because his name had come up before other elections, but it comes up and then it's dropped. I don't know, he just doesn't seem to get much attention right now."

What about the communist speaker law? "I don't think people are going to pay much attention to it."

What effect will the national administration have on local politics? "I think the President is still popular. His brother Bobby is not, but he's just carrying out the Supreme Court ruling. He'll cost the Democrats some votes, but not many."

What of Republican chances in the State? "They tell me this fellow Jonas is pretty good, but he's got a job in Washington,

and I don't think he'd want to take a chance on running for Governor and losing that."

Mr. Snipes's sentiments are not entirely shared by his fellow barbers and his customers, but the shop has served for years as an informal debating union. Mr. Snipes's partner, T. M. Green, a rock-ribbed Republican, has retired, and with his retirement perished an argument that ran for decades. "People used to come in here and egg us on just to see the show, and finally it got to the point where we'd start in just to amuse them," Mr. Snipes recalled.

Not all barbershops are political. The tone of a barbershop depends on its barbers. The barbers in the Tar Heel in Amber Alley are, in many cases, hardly older than University undergraduates. As a result, the Tar Heel Barbershop is not political.

"We haven't heard anything," said Eddie Goddard. "I heard a man talking about Hodges the other day, but that's all."

"When the students are here we talk about school," said George Ballou. "Lately we've been talking about the Rathskeller fire."

Attorney Barry Winston, a prime functionary in the County Young Democratic Club, expressed more alarm and less certainty than Mr. Snipes.

"We're doing like everybody else at the moment—lying behind a log waiting to see what everybody else is going to do."

By his own description Mr. Winston is a "wild-eyed moderate." He is emphatically opposed to Dr. Lake. "I have three children," he said, "all of whom in the next five years will be looking for a public school education. I want the schools to be open when they're ready to go."

"As of a week ago—from everything I have heard—Bert Bennett is the strongest contender." Mr. Winston's personal sympathies lie with Judge Preyer. "I'd like to see him seek the nomination and I'd campaign for him."

Other than candidates, what will be the big issues? "It depends. It could be redistricting (of the State Senate). But if the Legislature redistricts on some sort of equitable basis—and they've almost got to—I don't think it'll be an issue, except in the East. If they don't redistrict, it'll be the major issue of the campaign. The Republicans would have a field day."

"The Republican chances are less than fair."

"They'll make no substantial gains, they'll probably hold what they've got—unless the Democratic Party chooses as its nominee for Governor Dr. I. Beverly Lake. If they do that and Charlie Jonas chooses to run, we'll have a Republican Governor. If Bennett is nominated and Jonas runs, the Lake support will be split down the middle."

Mr. Winston also sees "a significant threat" in Republican State Rep. William Osteen, possibly to the Sixth District Congressional seat held by Rep. Horace Kornegay. "His recent performance demonstrates his capabilities as a vote-getter. I don't think what happened in Greensboro was entirely a reaction against the Old Guard Democratic Party."

What effect would national politics have on the local political complexion? "It's already done what it's going to do, make it mighty tough for any man who looks like a liberal."

Within the County Mr. Winston also envisions a threat. "The Democratic Party, had better start taking cognizance of the local Republican threat: the time has come when there is sufficient disenchantment with the Administration among the rank and file Democrats that we can't count on Party loyalty to win elections as in the old days. And, the energy, political intelligence and savvy of some of the up and coming young Republican leaders."

Among his contemporaries, Mr. Winston also noted what he called

"an amazing dissatisfaction with the Kennedy Administration and a surprising amount of dissatisfaction directed against Sanford." He predicted that more of the young disaffected are going to be wielding influence and participating in politics before the 1964 elections.

What about the potency of the communist speaker law as an issue? "It won't be a big issue, but it will be an issue. It ought to be repealed. If it becomes an issue in the campaign any candidate who speaks against it will be doing himself a disservice, but the rest of the State a very great service."

Mr. Winston admitted to some perplexity at the number of potential candidates. He is in charge of the program for the Young Democratic Club's annual fall rally, and he has been trying to invite all of the prospective candidates to the affair. So far Bennett, Jordan and Pearsall have tentatively accepted. Dr. Lake has another engagement. Plans are under way to invite Judges Dan K. Moore and J. Richardson Preyer. "If any more announce we won't have enough food to feed the candidates," Mr. Winston said.

Tom Scism, a University graduate student in Political Science who has at times been active in local integration efforts, echoed Mr. Winston's aversion to Dr. Lake.

"Under no circumstances would I vote for I. Beverly Lake," he said. "I'd vote for Preyer or Jonas first. I just don't know Bert Bennett to tell the truth."

What did he see as the major issue in State politics next year? "The racial situation. I hope it will not be an issue, and I hope Lake doesn't get the nomination, because he's a racist. I think North Carolina has escaped the violence of Mississippi and Alabama because it hasn't elevated demagogues to power. For that reason I hope the demagogues and extremists can be kept out of power, and that it won't become necessary for the Federal gov-

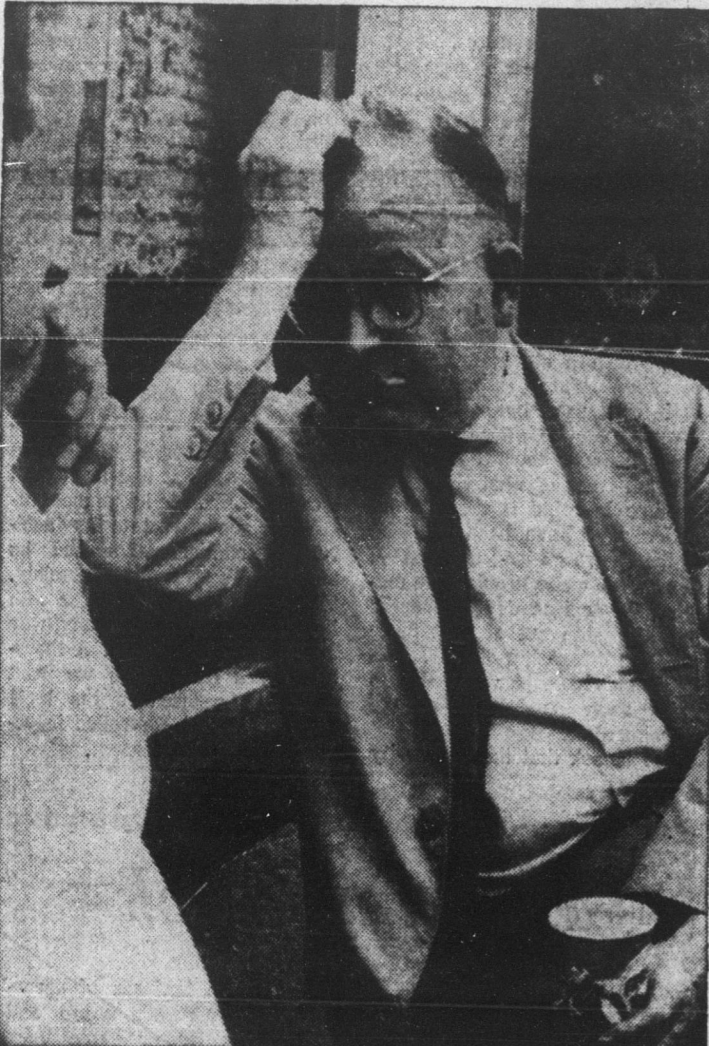
ernment to protect a group of our citizens. If Lake is involved in the campaign, it will be waged on the issue of color.

"If Jonas were to run I'd consider voting for him, first because I think he is a dead-honest person, and second, assuming the State doesn't need 'progress,' he would be an ideal administrator of the status quo. Otherwise I'll vote for the Democrat, except for Lake. I don't believe North Carolina would go for Goldwater unless Jonas were the Republican

candidate for Governor. But I'd rather answer all these questions after the primary. Then you could say for sure."

Billy Arthur, former representative in the State Legislature from Onslow County and former House reading clerk, now sells toys in Eastgate Shopping Center, but his interest in the political scene has not cooled.

"I don't like to use four-letter words," he said when asked his opinion of the next gubernatorial (Continued on Page 8-B)



UNC Publicist Pete Ivey



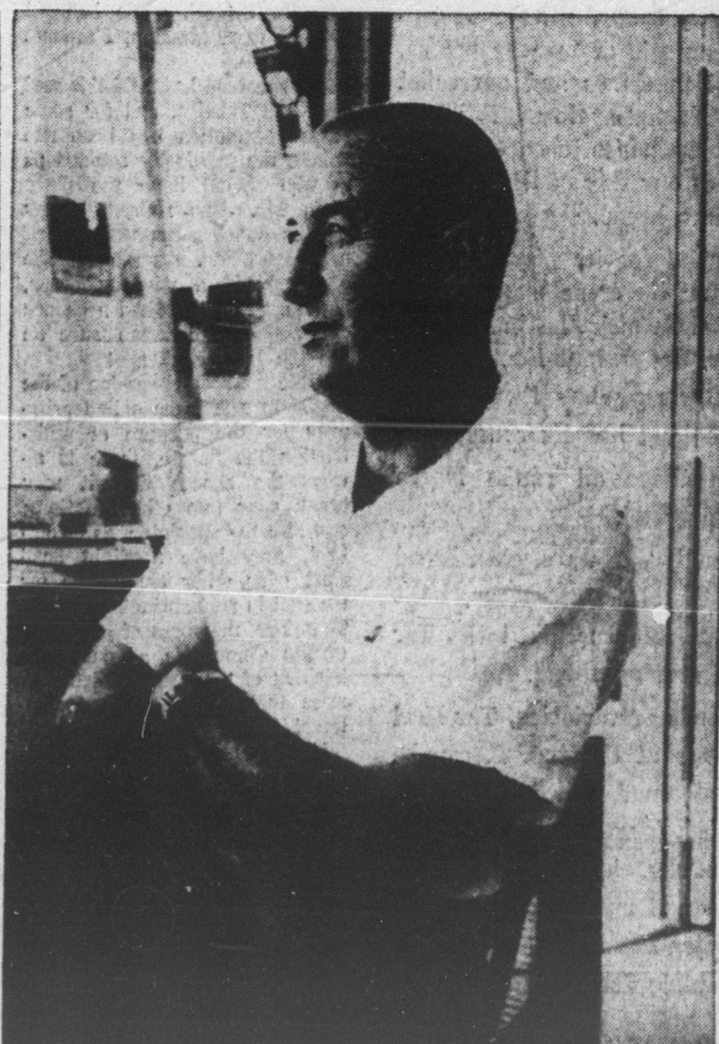
Barber Shop Owner Mack Snipes



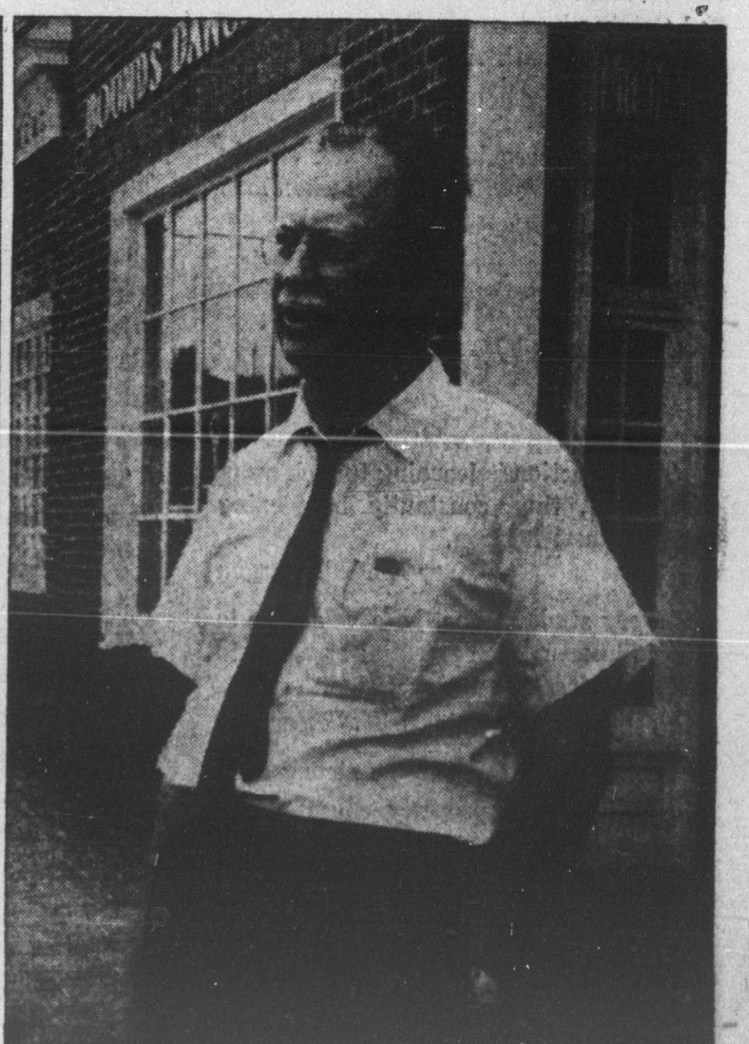
Eastgate Merchant Billy Arthur



Store Owner Willie Marlow



Businessman Charlie Stancell



Former Mayor John Foushee