

CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

Raleigh.—You can hear almost any version you like about the nomination of Jeff D. Johnson, Jr., of Clinton, as the democratic party's selection for the vacant associate judgeship on the supreme court.

One would have you believe it was a kick in the teeth for Governor Scott, a demonstration of what his opponents would like to believe is a sign of a loss in popularity for the governor.

Another version is that the Governor pulled the biggest bluff of the year, politically speaking, and got away with it.

And you can get all sorts of analysis of the situation in between those two ideas.

From this corner, it looks as though the second version comes nearer the truth. Governor Scott is not the political stumblebum that some of his opponents would have you believe. If he were, he would not be governor.

After two years of watching him in action, it appears to me that he often pulls some sleight-of-hand tricks that fool even his closest supporters. In other words, when the cards are in his left hand, it's a good idea to look closely to see what he's holding up his right sleeve.

Not that he doesn't make mistakes. But his batting average is pretty fair, and indications from the congressional rallies are that his popularity is pretty high.

One of the governor's smartest moves has been in the private-public power row. He put the private power companies on the spot and they snapped up the bait. They've been answering him for several months—even to the extent of mailing messages to practically every one in their areas and taking expensive ads in the newspapers to tell about their views.

It occurs to me that the governor's primary target was not the power companies. Not that he feels they are doing everything they could—I'm sure he doesn't feel that way, and their response to his needling makes it look as though there's something in what he says. But North Carolina's lack of public floor control is something the governor has long wanted to see changed. And if you've noticed, there recently has been a rash of congressmen pledging their support for such a program.

It makes me wonder if it wasn't the governor's primary aim all along to stir the congressmen into action. Not that the needling of the private power companies was distasteful to him.

But let's get back to the Johnson nomination to the supreme court. Whatever effect it may have had on the governor's popularity, it brought the democratic party back to the greatest spirit of harmony it has enjoyed in quite a while—certainly since before Kerr Scott ran for governor. The governor apparently favored Jeff Johnson. But he knew the old guard and Willis Smith's boys would fight naming of the Clinton man if it came from the governor. So he named Murray James of Wilmington just before the Democratic Executive Committee met. And it's my opinion that James knew he was not likely to be nominated by the committee. That action threw both Scott's backers and his opponents into a hissy.

Those who backed Senator Graham wanted Johnson, Graham's campaign manager to get the job. The Old Guard wanted Attorney General Tarry McMullan. The Willis Smith faction favored Judge Leo Carr of Burlington. So, the first thing you knew, all three factions were backing Johnson. The Old Guard got to

thinking that McMullan could fight the governor more successfully in his present post. The Willis Smith faction was willing to do anything it thought the governor did not want.

The final result apparently was not displeasing to the governor. He was at the State Fairgrounds when the decision was made. His office called the fairgrounds and I relayed the message to the governor (as soon as I could locate him) that Johnson had been named by better than five to one majority.

When I told him what happened, he shifted his cigar in one corner of his mouth, grinned, chuckled a couple of times, then remarked:

"That's about what I thought they'd do."

Incidentally, the appointment of Murray James Wilmington to the interim supreme court spot will not hurt James, even if he did not get the endorsement of his fellow members of the democratic executive committee.

Aside from the fact that he'll pick up a nice paycheck for his month of service—something over \$1,000—the prestige will help as will the attending publicity, and the buildup could lead to appointment to a state job later.

What is now known as the "McMahan chase" a Raleigh Times more than its share of conversation in Raleigh recently.

As you probably have read or heard, Utilities Commissioner McMahan chased a Raleigh Times photographer out of the commission hearing room. McMahan followed The Times' reporter-photographer Bill Maulsby out into the hall, shouting some choice words at him that included a reference to his ancestry.

Strangely enough, McMahan later claimed he was trying to "uphold the dignity" of the commission. The commissioner, to say the least, threw dignity to the winds as he dashed after the reporter mouthing implications and generally making a spectacle of himself.

Ironically, McMahan took a poke

at a friend instead of an intended swat at an enemy. Fun-loving McMahan—whose pride and joy is in the Lions Club with all its "Tail-twisting" antics—has considered The Raleigh Times as his favorite Capital City Newspaper and had not been unkindly treated by that newspaper.

The News And Observer had spanked the commissioner editorially, and was not on his preferred reading list. Close friends report that McMahan thought the photographer-reporter he was chasing was a representative of Jonathan Daniels' N and O.

The News And Observer sided with its neighbor and took McMahan to task for chasing a newsman to the merry tune of language such as is usually heard publicly only in a barroom late in the evening.

So-called political experts were advancing the opinion last week that McMahan had lighted a fuse that will cause a vigorous effort to get the General Assembly to completely reorganize the Utility Commission. This campaign would seek to wipe out the tentacles of office of all the present five commissioners. Newsmen covering the Capitol were unable to get a comment on the affair from Governor Scott—who appointed McMahan—but it is generally known that the governor does not advocate cursing and chasing as a pastime for high state officials.

Incidentally, reports that the governor has been offered McMahan's resignation but turned it down are not true. Even the most naive onlooker could tell you that Kerr Scott would be happy to have the stumbling commissioner leave town.

Over in Sampson County, the fuss about the county officials has come out into the open as a Democratic-Republican political fight. "The Sampson County taxpayers league" has been making charges against some of the incumbent officials—all Republicans. The other day the county Democratic Executive Committee came out and underwrote the

league and its investigation. All the furor has brought a \$100,000 suit for defamation of character by Sheriff P. B. Lockerman against Mrs. Taft Bass, Clinton Radio News Commentator and Correspondent for The News And Observer, and four chairmen of the Taxpayers League.

These and others were accused of entering a conspiracy to defame the sheriff and best him for reelection.

New supreme court nominee Jeff Johnson is council for Mrs. Bass and the taxpayers league.

Recently there was a lot of publicity about an article in Life Magazine, October 16 issue, charging that it costs the University of North Carolina more than \$275,000 a year to put out a football team.

But I didn't see a single mention anywhere that there was a mighty fine story on how "University serves its state" in the same issue. That story was about the Greater University of North Carolina. It was a fine article about the University's work, its three campuses are in effect a combined workshop for a vast board of experts who instruct the State's farmers, businessmen, housewives and public officials in better ways to go their work.

The story told of the wonderful work the extension service has done: How it saved the tobacco growing industry; How it made the fishing industry more productive; How it has helped tenant farmers to become prosperous dairymen; How eight out of every 10 farm operators in the state now are using some of the improved techniques developed through the school.

It all goes to prove that bad news travels fast but it doesn't seem to be news when someone does a good job.

The Republicans are staging a "Hillbilly" winding up at Morganton Saturday in an effort to draw votes. They'll give some \$1,000 in prizes at the "First Annual Republican World's Championship Fiddlers' Convention".

Bascom Lamar Lunsford of South Turkey Creek, The Mirel of the Appalachians, was asked to come over and take charge. He refused. What the Republicans apparently didn't know is that Lunsford once was elected to office in Burke County on the Democratic ticket and still is a good Democrat.

During the past several months Bill Sharpe, Ex-State Advertising Bureau Chief who now is a well-paid member of Carolina Power and Light Company's Pub-

lic Relations Staff, has done work for the State Advertising Bureau.

It's a little hard to understand why it has been necessary for Sharpe to be called upon to do State work while, at the same time, he has been fighting the administration for his company.

Excessive use of alcohol if fatal for anyone who attempts to live under conditions of excessive heat.

NOTICE
North Carolina, Martin County. In The Superior Court. **C. M. Burden vs. Estelle Burden.** The above named defendant, Estelle Burden, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Martin County, North Carolina, by the plaintiff to secure an absolute divorce from the defendant upon the ground that plaintiff and defendant have lived separate and apart for more than two years next preceding the bringing of this action. The defendant will take further notice that she is required to appear at the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Martin County, in the Courthouse in Williamston, North Carolina, within twenty (20) days after the 20th day of October,

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1950, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This the 20th day of September, 1950.

Mary K. Davenport,
Assistant Clerk of Superior Court of Martin County.

FARM SALE!

ALLEN OSBORNE FARM

AT PUBLIC AUCTION

November 4, 1950

2:00 P. M.

In Front Guaranty Bank
Robersonville, N. C.

Located 5 Miles South of Robersonville
Adjoining Hugh Roberson Farm.

95 acres, more or less, 43 acres crop land; 1950 allotment 7.1 acres tobacco, 9.6 acres peanuts, several hundred thousand feet of gum, pine and hardwood; 1—6-room dwelling, tin top; 3 tobacco barns; packhouse and stables and outbuildings.

Deposit of 10% of purchase price is required pending confirmation of sale by the Court.

Paul D. Roberson and C. W. Everett
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Skid Protection, Blowout Protection, Life Protection

...never possible before!

- You Get **60% MORE SAFE MILES**
With all-weather safety and skid protection, never known before.
 - You Get **COMPLETE TREAD RENEWABILITY**—
At any U. S. Royal Dealer's, at any time.
 - You Get **THE NEW PROTECTIVE CURB GUARD**—
To end all grinding curb scuff and abrasion.
 - You Get **THE NEW U. S. NYLON LIFE-TUBES**—
For blowout protection never known before.
- America's Largest Maker of Tires
UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY

Tire Rubber Economy

Never Possible Before!

THE longer life and greater rubber economy of the MID-CENTURY MASTERS prove them the essential tires of the era!

Every ounce of them is working rubber, without a fraction of waste or excess.

Each of them can give years, instead of miles, of extreme safety, and comfort.

All of their original safety-mileage is continuously renewed and renewable, without recapping or anything of the sort.

With Blackwalls, or Whitewalls, they bring every owner their Mid-Century Curb-guard, to protect their sidewalls and end all grinding curb scuff and abrasion.

They also bring their incomparable Safety Tread (ROYALTEX)—for Skid Protection, Stopping Power, and Life Protection never possible before.

These Royal Master qualities are entirely exclusive. They serve and save at the very heart of the National Economy.

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Presented By The

Martin County Community Concert Association

CAMPAIGN FOR MEMBERSHIPS

Begins Monday, Oct. 30—Closes Saturday, November 4th at 6 p. m.

HEADQUARTERS: Virginia Electric & Power Co.

No Tickets Sold For Individual Performances — Admission By Membership Only

ADULTS — \$5.00 plus tax STUDENTS — \$2.50 plus tax

