

# Editorial Views

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## Candidates face hard role

A number of candidates seeking statewide offices are coming up with many ideas and suggestions for legislative programs. Some might have merit and others sound good as votes are sought.

We have been surprised in a number of instances where the candidate now making drastic legislative proposals once served in the General Assembly, and did not

take the opportunity then to introduce such legislation. Of course, once elected to a statewide office, he would not be eligible to introduce legislation but would have to work through another party.

Perhaps some changes are needed, but the sudden rush of ideas when they once had an opportunity to present their ideas to the lawmakers makes us wonder.

## New industry seeking plan

Natural and Economic Resources set up pilot projects to test the strategies devised by the Phase One report.

In a recent talk to the Rotary Club in Holshouser's hometown of Boone, Secretary Little effectively endorsed continuation of the approach in the Phase One economic growth study ramrodded by Harrington.

To raise per capita income, Little said, the state must recruit higher paying industry at a faster pace... "The answers are right here in this industrial development strategy that has been devised and is rapidly becoming the Bible of economic development in state government," Little said.

Given a definition of high-pay industry (target industries include glass, machinery, stone and clay goods, electronics, rubber, and plastics) officials have set goals for such to be recruited by 1990 to obtain the goal of per capita income in this state 10 percent above the Southeastern average by 1990.

Little said passage of the industrial revenue bond package works toward meeting that goal.

Next, he said pilot programs in eight localities are "aimed at helping them better organize their local economic development efforts. We believe the concepts that evolve in this program can be used by almost every community in this state."

Little promised that within 60 days, North Carolina will begin to "radically change" industry recruiting methods.

Not content to wait on prospects to raise questions, Little said state salesmen "trained with intimate knowledge of specific industries will begin calling on the identified industries wanted in this state."

Frankly, we do not have the formula, but let us hasten to say that one needed in North Carolina, and that right quickly.

What kind of economic and industrial growth, how much of it, and where? Critical questions for North Carolina's future. State officials are promising some answers soon.

After a couple of years of debate in state government, a model is beginning to emerge which pretty well outlines where we go from here.

George W. Little, recently installed as secretary of the Department of Natural and Economic Resources, has obviously picked up the ball from former secretary, James E. Harrington.

Nearly two years ago, a committee of state officials and research people at Research Triangle Institute produced the first phase of that strategy.

Phase two was seen as developing shortly, but did not. It got bogged down in inter-office debates and bickering between state planners in the Department of Administration, and Harrington's people.

In simplest terms, the two opposing positions came down to this:

—Harrington believed in joint state-local action to identify resources and needs and go out and find prospects.

—others believed only "coercive" state action (taxation, roadbuilding, land use mechanisms) could shape development.

Further complicating the picture was a study by a University of North Carolina researcher — commissioned by the Department of Administration for possible use in Phase Two — which suggested deliberate state action to further unionism in North Carolina; obviously a course not likely to be followed.

In the final analysis, Gov. James E. Holshouser — after months of internal policy debate — decided to sit on the Economic Development Strategy.

## Gov. Governor duties Fewer

Objection has been raised, by a political opponent, to the lieutenant governor's campaigning for the governorship while drawing a salary from the state. This has not created much of a stir, as the public is accustomed to office-holders drawing pay while reelection or making a bid for higher office.

If the lieutenant governor seems a bit more vulnerable to this criticism than most office-holding candidates, it is partly because the limited duties of his office leave right much time for campaigning. Now that the legislature has relieved him of appointive powers in the Senate, the lieutenant governor has even less authority to go along with his \$30,000 salary, and fewer critical decisions to make. In practice, the next

lieutenant governor should have even more time for politicking.

The governor, elected statewide, has no veto power and cannot succeed himself in office. The lieutenant governor, elected statewide, has been deprived of much of his influence in the Senate. Thus, the importance of the statewide popular vote has been downgraded in relation to district votes for members of the legislature. A lieutenant governor, exercising votes for members of the legislature. A lieutenant governor, exercising less authority while in that office, could be less well prepared to take over the governorship in an emergency. He could become a sort of functionary crown prince, at a princely salary. The Robesonian (Lumberton)

## Number of reforms needed

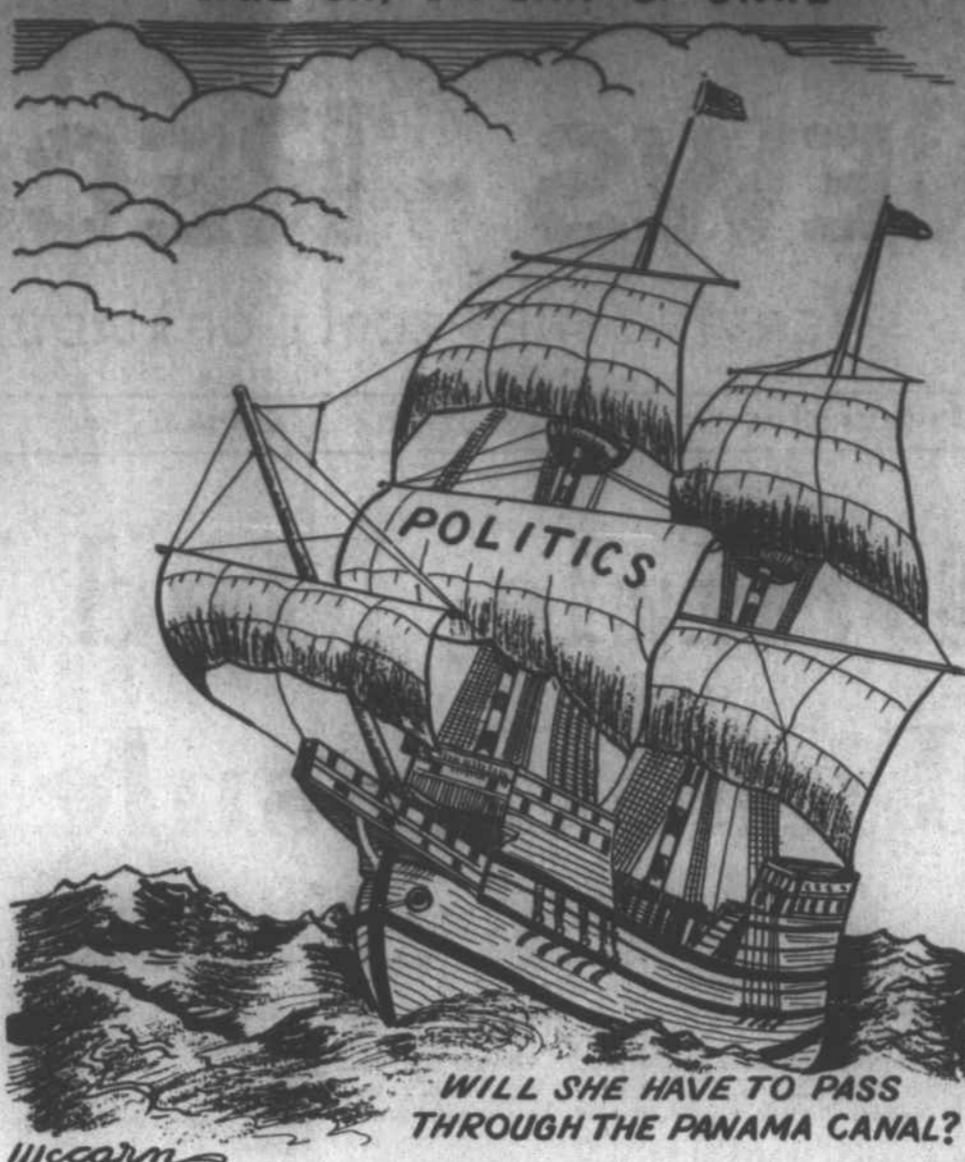
The great tragedy in Charlotte where a young college coed was kidnapped and brutally murdered with a recent parolee charged with the murder has raised new cries about North Carolina's parole system.

The cries are justified, because in the case the man was freed even though he still had 40 years to serve. Sentences given him for assorted crimes. The strange part of it, however, is that the parole board gave a parole psychiatric treatment. — The Pilot (Lumberton/Plains)

and reports for its guidance, and withholding this report from them is inexcusable.

Some reforms are needed in the state's parole system, but reforms are also needed in our prisons and, indeed, our entire criminal justice system. It is not working, but no one has come up with any workable alternatives. That makes it even more imperative that the best minds available be assigned to the task — and we do not mean just lawyers, judges and penologists who seem to think the only cure is longer terms of the same treatment. — The Pilot (Lumberton/Plains)

SAIL ON, OH SHIP OF STATE



## People could help more

An experimental camp for troubled children has folded amidst money troubles and administrative bickering, but the leaders believe the stage has been set for future successes.

Some public attention has been drawn to the failure of the enterprise, both through cancellation of funding by the North Carolina Department of Human Resources and by charges of the property owner that his buildings were left in a shambles.

"But we demonstrated that such an alternative method can produce successes; and we proved that when individual citizens care enough to get involved, there can be better ways to deal with children with social adjustment problems, with drug-related problems, at considerable less expense and with more chance for success than in standard state programs," the Rev. Clifton Daniel said.

### NEW BOARD

Father Daniel is rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Ahoskie, and was one of the organizers of a board of directors which operated Camp Dolphin at Ocean Isle Beach. The board of church people, state employees, and others from communities across the eastern part of the state began operating the camp in February.

It was leased from Richard W. Jennings of Greensboro for some \$50,000, and operated on a grant of about \$200,000 from the N. C. Drug Commission through the state's Mental Health Division of the Department of Human Resources, specifically the Southeastern Area Mental Health Board in Wilmington.

But Daniel and the new directors, including Father Jess Gaither representing the eastern diocese of the Episcopal Church out of Greenville, obviously took over at a bad time.

The camp, in two previous years, had become a victim of bureaucratic wrangling and improper administration. State auditors disallowed around \$47,000 in previous expenditures and the new operators recognized they "faced too many problems and

decided to close it down," Daniel said.

"We took it over only this year and we administered it well, but it was closed because of what had gone on before," Gaither said.

"It was axed before we could get into proving success," he added. But there were successes: an average of 20 to 25 youngsters spent some three to six months at the camp working with a staff of 12 in such activities as learning automotive repairs, wood-working, basic education leading to high school equivalency, water sports and general camp experiences.

### TO COPE

"The object was to teach these troubled children to cope in a community which was close, supportive, and caring. One became accountable for his own actions and agreed to live by certain standards as part of his commitment."

"Each came voluntarily, although many were referred by the courts. Primarily, it was designed to provide alternatives; to keep them out of contact with the jails, and training schools," Father Daniel said.

In the short period of operation, the non-recidivism rate ran 25 percent; usual guidelines label non-recidivism of 15 percent in such approaches successful, the operators said.

Time was too short to claim true success, however, except for that which both Daniel and Gaither consider the major point: that caring individuals can take on the responsibility for themselves to help those needing it, without demanding more bureaucratic responses from government.

"The real potential is to realize that this is what this country is all about. Government is me. People can take on the responsibility for themselves and do a better job at less cost," Daniel said.

### Editor's Quote Book

He knew no fear except the fear of doing wrong.

Robert G. Ingersoll

## The News-Record

NON-PARTISAN IN POLITICS

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## Letters to the editor

Editor, News-Record:

This letter is being sent to you to inform you that the Madison County Volunteer Service Bureau will not continue after June 30. The need for a volunteer program in Madison County has been established, however, there are a number of reasons for this particular program not being continued.

First, Madison County represents a definite challenge to volunteerism as defined in this program. Mountainous roads, several phone systems and a scattered population make it difficult to operate a county-wide volunteer service, with only one staff member and a limited budget.

Next, a grant from ACTION would be needed to continue the bureau. This would mean that the steering committee would have to become incorporated or find an incorporated agency to sponsor it. The county has indicated its willingness to be that sponsor. Even so, there would be a tremendous amount of red tape and administrative responsibility required.

Finally, the steering committee members feel that they will not have the time necessary to administer, fund, and operate an independently functioning agency.

Again, the need for a volunteer program in Madison County has been established. I regret the Volunteer Service Bureau's closing; you have helped greatly in making it a success. I urge you to continue to devote a few hours a week to aid individuals and/or a cause. I'm assured that you will independently carry on, for the spirit of helping others does not need a centralized structure to work through. This is the spirit that helped to build America!

MADELYN R. BETTS  
(MRS. ANSON K.)

Director, Volunteer Service Bureau of Madison County

Editor, The News-Record:

In reference to your article of June 24 on school dropouts, I submit the following observations for the consideration of your readers.

This problem is one that is difficult to solve largely because of a lack of decisive action on the part of leadership, and the tendency of so-called "educational leaders" to stand around parroting the same words, phrases, and solutions that they have heard from the next egghead "educator" around the corner.

Young people today are not so easily fooled or impressed. They know who their real friends in the "adult world" are. They also know when they are being used by those seeking to hold on to political power. They know that it takes more than carpeted buildings and expensive hardware to provide quality education.

Administrators are not responsive to the students. Officials who were elected to represent the people, meet to set policy which is supposed to enhance the opportunities of the students. Instead, they take one look around, see some carpetbagger with a briefcase and a degree, and lo and behold, their eyes glaze over and they are struck absolutely dumb, allowing him and his egghead friends to take over the entire system.

The answers may not be simple or easy, but they are there. The first step is for our leadership to listen to those who are in touch with the people, and who have a genuine interest in the students themselves.

EDMOND PAYNE

## Problem of being last

Nobody likes to be last.

North Carolina, in March, had an average hourly wage in manufacturing jobs at \$3.70 compared with \$5.07 for the nation.

That makes this state dead bottom among the 50 in the nation; and 27 percent lower than the national average.

It is certain from the tone of gubernatorial candidates struggling to get a grip on the problem and some solutions, and from the gnashing of teeth by other politicians and state economic development experts that 1977 will be a year of concern and change in the field of economic development.

George Little, Secretary of the Department of Natural and Economic Resources, has already signaled his intentions to make some major changes, even while on the last legs of the four years of the administration of Rep. Gov. James E. Holshouser who will leave office next January.

### TWO CONCERNS

There are at bottom two

primary reasons for the widespread concern over industrial growth for the state:

—To the politician it means not only helping the people of the state by bringing them income, but it means increasing state revenues without going up on tax rates;

—To the wage earner it means increased income, either at a new job paying more, or at the same job with higher pay because of the competition created by the new jobs.

When North Carolina's chief industry hunter, Bob Leak, quit his job recently to take a similar post in South Carolina, public attention focused on what has been going on, and what needs to be done in the future.

Little, as well as some of the candidates for governor, took another look at the Phase One Economic Development Strategy report prepared by the Research Triangle Institute under the guidance of

former Natural and Economic Resources Secretary James E. Harrington.

That effort first produced in September, 1974, was put on the back burner after a major policy dispute within the Holshouser administration. But it will not stay there.

The meat of that study has now been passed to major legislative leaders in a memorandum on economic development prepared by Economist Lloyd O'Carroll of the General Assembly Fiscal Research staff.

**Eyes Examined  
Glasses Fitted**

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