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House Democrats Renominate Liston Ramsey Caucus Vote Assures Second Term As Speaker Of N.C. House

North Carolina House Democrats met in caucus Thursday and renominated Rep. Liston Ramsey for a second term as speaker of the House. Ramsey's selection by the 102 House Democrats assures the 11-term Madison County representative of a second term as Speaker of the House beginning in January.

The Marshall native will face no opposition from Republicans who control only 18 seats in the state House of Representatives.

Ramsey was nominated by Rep. Charles Beall of Clyde. The nomination was seconded by Rep. Narvel Crawford of Asheville and approved by all 102 members.

When he begins his second term in January, Ramsey will become only the second speaker in modern times to serve two terms. Ramsey's predecessor in the office, Rep. Carl Stewart of Gastonia, served two terms as speaker in the 1977-78 and 1979-80 sessions.

Ramsey will begin his 11th term in the state House when it convenes in January. The 63-year old Marshall native was first elected in the 1960 election. After sitting out the 1965 session, he returned to Raleigh in 1967. Madison County voters have retained Ramsey in his post ever since.

The speaker expects the upcoming session in Raleigh to be a difficult one for the representatives. Speaking after the Thursday caucus, he told reporters, "To say that the 1983 session will be a rough one would be to put it mildly."

The state's economy will be the first concern for the returning legislators. Ramsey said, "Economic conditions have created one of the most severe budgetary problems this state has faced during the 20 years I have been here. We will be hard-pressed to continue funding existing services, much less fund any new or ex-

panding services."

Speaking to the caucus, Ramsey urged the renomination of five House officers from the 1980-81 session. Nominated along with Ramsey were Rep. Allen Barbee of Nash County for speaker pro tempore, Grace Collins as principal clerk, Samuel Burrow as reading clerk, Rep. Jack Hunt of Lattimore as Rules Committee chairman and Larry P. Eagles as sergeant-at-arms.

Formal election of all House officers will be conducted by the full house membership in January.

With his second term as speaker about to begin, many state representatives are urging Ramsey to run for a third term in the 1985-86 session.

Speaking of Ramsey, Rep. Jeff Enloe, Jr. of Franklin said, "I don't think there's any doubt he'll be elected. He knows the rules of the House

better than anybody. He's the only man in the whole legislature who lists his occupation as politics."

Ramsey told reporters that about 75 members of the House have urged him to run for the speaker's post in the next session. Although he declined to confirm his plans, he told reporters, "I never go against the majority of Democrats. He said that he would wait until after the House opens the new term on Jan. 12 to announce his plans for the future. He denied reports that he might seek a higher office, saying, "I'm satisfied as the speaker. North Carolina has two U.S. Senators and 11 congressmen, but they don't have but one speaker."

The speaker announced that he would make some changes in committee chairmanships in the upcoming session, but that the changes would not be announced formally until Jan. 12.

Court Dismisses Hendon Election Challenge

By ROBERT KOENIG

A Federal District Court Judge in Asheville Monday dismissed the challenge to the state election law brought by attorneys for U.S. Rep. Bill Hendon.

Judge Woodrow W. Jones made his ruling on Friday, 1,324 votes to Democratic challenger James McClure Clarke. Hendon has asked for a re-count of ballots in five counties following his narrow defeat. All five counties denied his request, setting the stage for a court challenge of the state election law.

In his ruling, Judge Jones found "no arbitrary or invidious discrimination in the statutory scheme for vote casting and counting under state law."

He also found that voting instructions were made clear. Stating that "The state has a compelling interest in adopting a system of voting which will permit the voters to vote without undue delay, to count the votes within a reasonable time and to prevent fraud and illegal procedures," Jones dismissed the suit.

Last week, attorneys for Hendon amended their suit, claiming that present state election law violated citizens' right to due process under the law. Judge Jones answered the Hendon contention saying that the present law does not reach the point of patent and fundamental unfairness that would violate due process.

In his opinion, Jones expressed reservations about some aspects of the current state election law. He wrote, "While there are valid arguments for and against the

wisdom of the present

statutory rule, it is for the North Carolina General Assembly, and not a federal court, to determine how a straight party crossover vote will be counted. The arguments advanced by the plaintiffs (Hendon) are appealing, and if this court were a member of the General Assembly, serious consideration would be given to voting to repeal the 1979 statute."

The court's decision lifts the ban on the official certification of the November election.

Earlier, the court had delayed state certification of the

results pending a decision on Hendon's motion.

Hendon's attorney, Robert Long of Asheville, notified the court that he will appeal the decision. The next step in the appeal process, which Hendon has said could reach the Supreme Court, is the 4th Federal District Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va. No date for a hearing has been set at this time.

Herbert Hyde, the attorney representing James Clarke in

the case, told reporters Monday that the Virginia court has a special expediting panel of

three judges which will hear

Hendon has also taken his challenge of the election result to the U.S. House of Representatives. On Friday, the Republican congressman filed a notice of intent with the House to challenge Clarke's apparent victory. The U.S. House is empowered to judge the qualifications of its members. The House Administration Committee will

conduct the hearings into the matter should Hendon file a challenge. Clarke has 30 days to respond to the Hendon notice of intent.

Clarke was reported to be in Washington Monday attending orientation sessions for new members of Congress and was unavailable for comment.

Burley Rules Changed

RALEIGH - The USDA Friday rescinded an order on direction of the secretary of agriculture which disallowed grading of burley tobacco in sheets. Leaf without a grade is not eligible for price support loans.

According to North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham, grading will now be permitted on burley whether hand tied, balled or sheeted for the remainder of 1982 season.

"Due to complaints by warehousemen in Kentucky, the secretary of agriculture ordered that tobacco offered for sale in sheets would not be eligible for grading and therefore price supports," Graham said. "The warehousemen claimed not

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Sewer Project Is Delayed

The Town of Marshall's sewage problems was once again the main topic of discussion at the monthly town council meeting Monday evening. Downtown parking, unpaid water bills and the towns increasing electricity bills were also discussed, and town residents questioned the town's engineering consultant on the proposed \$1.2 million sewer project Marshall voters approved in September.

Gary McGill of Butler Associates, the town's engineering consultant for the project, delivered a report to the council on the present status of sewer renovation.

McGill told the meeting, "When we proposed the bond

issue, I had estimated that we could have started the project in the neighborhood of 60 days. We're beyond that now. The approval of the different agencies has taken longer than was expected. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has participated in the design of the project, but is not participating in the construction of the project. We're trying to satisfy two situations. Everything has been shipped to Raleigh. We're waiting for them to tell us to go ahead. Hopefully, we'll have everything situated this month. We're doing everything we can to get it cleared up. Price-wise and time-wise, I don't think the

delay has hurt us."

McGill told the meeting that work on the project won't begin before spring because contractors would not want to start a project of this sort during the worst winter months. He said bids would be taken during the winter so work can begin as soon as weather permits.

Before McGill delivered his report on the \$1.2 million dollar project, he spoke of a smaller project funded by a \$35,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission to provide sewer lines to a number of rehabilitated homes in the Rollins community. The houses to be furnished sewer lines are bet-

ween Rollins Rd. and U.S. 25-70.

McGill urged the town aldermen to approve the project. He reported that Wheeler Construction of Weaverville has submitted a low bid of \$43,145. The bid is \$8,145 above the project's budget, but McGill assured the council that changes could be made to the original contract to bring the cost within budget.

The aldermen voted unanimously to approve the project for not more than the \$35,000 budget.

McGill said the \$35,000 sewer project would eventually tie into the line to be con-

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MADISON COUNTY HONOREES at the Community Development Program's awards ceremonies Saturday were, from left, Jeff Bailey, Upper Laurel Youth,

Marie Osteen, Sleepy Valley, Dr. Larry Stern of Mars Hill, Emma Lou Wambles of Walnut, Lloyd George and Tammie Young of Greater Ivy.

Larry McFarland: Madison County Music Man

By CHERYL KOENIG

Have you ever stood in line at the grocery store and caught yourself humming the tune to a familiar commercial? If you live in Madison County, the chances are good that the fellow in line behind you could tell you every note you missed.

Larry McFarland, a native of Madison County, has come home to found a family music business with his father, Charles McFarland. In addition to a long list of other accomplishments in music, Larry has written the music for some national commercials. He considers it fitting that he should return to the mountains and the people who made his successful career possible.

Larry started when he was six years old, building the foundation that would enable him to travel most of the United States and still have in Western North Carolina a workshop the family music business.

"I went to Flat Creek Elementary School. All the guys used to call me a sissy for playing the piano. Every Wednesday when I had a lesson, I wore old clothes to school because I knew I was going to get in a fight, but I had always wanted to play the piano and to me, learning to play the piano was worth all the teasing and fighting," McFarland says.

Larry continued to take lessons and practice through high school and at Mars Hill College. Before going on to study music in Miami, Larry played his music in Asheville and Madison County. "I played in churches, in funeral parlors, everywhere and anywhere I could. I must have played in every night club in Asheville — some nice ones and some not so nice ones," he said.

"I used to have my own room to play music in a way that was comfortable to my music. I would play every night, and

piano player has a huge bowl on top of the piano for tips. In some places, they have to rely on tips alone for pay, but in spite of the obvious bows on the piano, people have a tendency to buy the piano player a drink, rather than tip him. So I devised a system to get around this. I would arrange with the bartender to bring me tea instead of a drink. At the end of the night, the bartender would give me the money people had spent to buy me a drink. I was able to make a living, and the customers were satisfied."

McFarland went from the night clubs of Asheville to Chicago where he got a job with Chicago Music and Instrument Company as a sales representative.

They first sent him to work in the Rockies so he could become familiar with the climate. But there were problems. Some of them my own people — who did not. These people used to tell me that

Midwest and steadily expanded his territory to include Las Vegas. While he was employed with them, Chicago Music was purchased by a major conglomerate in the music and entertainment field.

While traveling, Larry wrote a promotional record that was used to demonstrate organs, and got to know the people in the recording studio. They liked the music he had written for the demonstration record so well, they asked him to try his hand at commercials. Larry was able to score another triumph in the music business, this time in the area he liked best, writing and playing music.

"It was very important to me to be successful with my music. My parents always encouraged me and helped me to have confidence in myself. That gave me a definite advantage. But there were problems. Some of them my own people — who did not. These people used to tell me that

there were two people who would never amount to anything, one was a fox hunter and the other was a musician. I hope I have proved them wrong."

"My music has allowed me to do what I have done and what I am doing now. I felt as if I had to do well. But at the same time, I also felt as if I had to do well at what I wanted to do, and that was have a career in some area of the music business. I suppose a great deal of the credit for what I have done goes to my family, especially to my parents. They've always made me feel as if I could do anything I wanted to if I worked at it hard enough."

What Larry wants to do now is spend more time with his family and friends in the mountains of North Carolina. He and his father, Charles, are planning to open another store in Asheville within the next six months. McFarland's is a true family venture. Larry and the senior McFarland manage the stores. Mrs. McFarland is a salesperson in the Mars Hill store and Larry's sister, Marsha McFarland Boone, gives music instruction.

The stores carry a wide selection of musical instruments, but as Larry will tell you, his greatest interest is in the music instruction they offer. "Teaching is a major aspect of our business. We want to make it easy for people in Madison County to give their children music instruction. We tried to design a music program that will allow the children to begin playing from the beginning. It would be very satisfying to me to see a child from my home be able to have a career in music. I had some friends who had had some of the same kind of music instruction in the past."