

# Hendon, Clarke Discuss Issues



BILL HENDON

Photo by Bob Koenig

**Editor's Note:** On Oct. 27, Rep. James McClure Clarke and former Congressman Bill Hendon met with the editors of The News Record, Waynesville Mountaineer and The Canton Enterprise to discuss their views. The following is an excerpt from those interviews.

Both Clarke and Hendon support efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. The opponents also agree on support for Israel, though neither man claims to have any magic formula for bringing peace to the region.

Clarke said that the U.S. may have lost a measure of face in the region following the withdrawal of the Marines from Lebanon. He suggests that diplomatic efforts could restore U.S. influence in the area.

Hendon is quick to defend the Reagan foreign policy in areas outside the Middle East, most notably in

Central America. The Republican challenger said the U.S. must take steps to stop abuses by friendly governments throughout the world. Hendon said he would recommend the U.S. take a hard stand with President Marcos of the Philippines.

On nuclear weapons, Clarke said that he would support a nuclear freeze only if verification were possible. Hendon said that he believes that verification is impossible, adding that he doesn't trust the Russians to keep their word.

Hendon said, "Their word is not good enough when it comes to our national security." Clarke told us, "Arms control is a highly desirable goal. As someone has said, 'If arms control doesn't have a chance, neither do we.'"

Both candidates said that the cost of a 'Star Wars' nuclear defense as



REP. JAMES CLARKE

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## Unemployment Declines

Unemployment in Madison County declined slightly during the month of September, according to figures released this week by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC.)

The latest ESC figures indicate that joblessness declined by one-half of one percent during the month, to 10.4 percent of the work force. September's gain ended a four-month increase in joblessness following the closing of the Melville Shoe plant in Hot Springs.

According to the ESC figures, 920 Madison workers are currently unemployed, while 7,900 residents are currently employed. Unemployment during the month rose in Haywood County, declined slightly in Yancey County and remained unchanged in Buncombe County.

Bladen County reported the state's highest level of unemployment (13.2 percent) while Dare County reported the lowest rate (2.6 percent.)

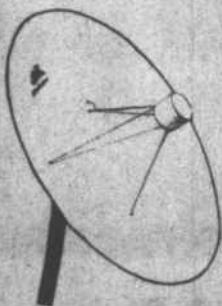
## DA To Investigate Vote Buying

Madison County District Attorney James T. Rusher has vowed to prosecute anyone attempting to buy or sell votes during next week's election. Rusher made the announcement in a press release several weeks ago.

In announcing the crackdown on vote fraud, Rusher said that members of his staff will be situated throughout the district on Election Day to hear complaints from voters. Rusher asked that anyone having information on voting irregularities contact his office at 649-3033. The DA said that all reports will be treated confidentially and that there will be an investigation of all complaints.

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