

CAPITAL REPORTER

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Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 5. — North Carolina read about election-day violence and killings in Harlan County, Ky., and other spots around the nation and shake their heads.

Few Tar Heels seem to realize that we have a similar boiling situation in at least one county in our own State.

By the time you read this, election will be over and an probably explosive situation in Sampson County passed by without incident, because of the good sense of leaders on both sides.

But the red hot Democratic-Republican fight there has elements that could wind up with blood-letting incidents. As a matter of fact, one gang from southern Sampson sent word to some Democratic leaders that they'd better stay off of Clinton's streets election day -- and particularly election night -- if they valued their hides. It was a shoot (or cut) or die threat, and these folks at week end were not intending to go out on Clinton's streets after dark to see whether or not the leaders meant what they said.

Sampson is not the only North Carolina county where such situations exist. There are several where two parties are fairly evenly divided and feeling runs high ever often. But Sampson is red hot this year.

There have been charges and counter charges filling the air waves and newspaper columns. The Republicans have been "in" for the last 12 years. Democrats have had special investigators digging around. They have come up with charges of misuse of office and free-flowing liquor in the dry county.

Among other things, it has been uncovered that there are a number of displaced persons who have registered to vote in Sampson. Most of these DP's are reported living on Republican landowners' farms. If they have registered as "Independents". This despite the fact that they (the DP's) are not American citizens, and as non-citizens are not legally entitled to vote.

Tempers and feelings have been running high in Sampson. Extra Highway Patrolmen were ordered here for election day. And it couldn't be at all surprising if -- before this reaches print -- you are of some blood-letting in that county over politics.

Thoughts in passing: The only official "curtain" in this country is the one in front of the election booth, so other folks can't see how a vote. Isn't that better than the "curtain" in Iron Curtain countries where they only have one set of officials for whom to vote? Americans generally don't seem to realize how lucky they are. More than exercise the right not to vote than the right to vote. The man who stays home from the polls falls at least into the "second-class" citizen category, and certainly has no right to squawk about politics of his country.

The Atlantic and East Carolina lines (state-owned but leased to a private operator) is slated to

lose its U. S. mail franchise on Nov. 21. That will mean a loss of revenue of at least \$75,000 per year on the Goldsboro-New Bern run.

It seems the management of the railway, under General Manager Edwards, has been too penny-pinching. And as a result of many complaints from folks in the area about the service, Uncle Sam has put the snatch on the mail contract.

The area now will be served by mobile highway postoffices out of Rocky Mount.

A&EC President M. G. Mann says there doesn't seem to be any chance that the mail contract can be salvaged for the railroad. Mann and others warned Edwards of the possibility, but to no avail. U. S. Acting Postmaster Walter Myers already has set the machinery working for the mobile highway postoffices, scheduled to take over in less than two weeks.

Another case of "penny-wise and pound-foolish".

All the chatter about a reported statement from Charlotte that Governor Scott will get out of politics when he leaves office is just wasted breath. The Governor has parried questions of his future ambitions with the same answer for some time now.

"My only plans right now are to go home to Haw River and rest," he says.

Kerr Scott has talked about going home and tending to his cows for some time. But this corner thinks he'll stay down on the farm just long enough to get his second wind. He's been fighting too long to be happy in a rocking chair.

So here's a twin-barreled prediction:

1. Kerr Scott will be drafted by the liberal element of the Democratic party to run for office again after his term as Governor is ended.

2. And the biggest plank in his platform will be public development of flood control-soil conservation-power production public projects.

The governor, incidentally, came up with a nickname for L. V. Sutton, CP&L company president.

At his press conference, Scott casually referred to "my friend, Low Voltage Sutton". The reference was so casual that many reporters -- accustomed to listening to power discussion -- paid no attention to the remark.

What the Governor may not have known is that he had hit on the same nickname tagged on Sutton by members of his own corporation. CP&L linemen -- like workers in many another outfit -- think the number one boss should come up through the ranks and learn the business the hard way. Sutton didn't do this, and the pole-climbers for some time (in private, of course, have referred to their boss as "Low-Voltage" Sutton.

Raleigh newspapers and radio stations have been raising Cain with the doctors. A truck driver was injured in a crash near State College and was pinned in his

truck cab for 45 minutes before he could be removed and taken to a hospital.

Several folks tried to get a doctor to come to the scene, according to reports, without any luck.

There was a lot of confusion, but no one could find a doctor who had refused to go to the scene. Doctors who were reached and headed for the scene received conflicting reports that other doctors already were there.

All in all it was quite a do. But it pointed to one thing. That, in Raleigh, it sometimes is hard to get a doctor when you need one in a hurry. Various suggestions have been made to remedy the situation, with the Wake County Medical Society taking the lead. It probably will end with an interne on call 24-hours a day at Rex Hospital for such possible incidents.

The incident's timing was bad for the medical profession, however as the American Medical Association is sponsoring a multi-million dollar campaign against so-called socialized medicine.

But the incident brought an editorial from a very conservative paper, suggesting that socialized medicine might not be so bad, if things have gotten into such a stage that a doctor couldn't be found to go to the aid of a seriously injured man.

And, then, Saturday night President Truman pointedly remarked that he would continue to fight for a national health insurance plan to help folks pay their hospital and doctor bills.

A vigorous and vicious attack on cooperatives of all kinds is being staged by an outfit that calls itself the "National Tax Equality Association" with headquarters in Chicago. And the campaign now has reached North Carolina.

NTEA, according to a lobbying report filed in Washington, draws its money from contributing power companies, hardware companies, fertilizer companies and insurance companies.

Listed among firms which contributed "\$500 or more" during the first three months of this year are Carolina Power and Light Company; the Allison-Erwin Company of Charlotte, and the Smith-Douglass Company, Inc., of Norfolk, Va.

The report -- filed by NTEA Vice-President H. Vernon Scott -- shows the outfit's large contributors numbered 42 during the quarter, for an average of about \$934 each.

Anyway, a number of North Carolina radio stations now are carrying spot announcements claiming cooperative corporations are not paying taxes. The cleverly worded spots imply that the coops pay no taxes at all, which is not true.

The announcements heard here say they are sponsored by "your local taxpaying merchants" or the "N. C. Merchants Association". However, at least one contract for the announcements is signed by a man named Earling from Chicago, and at least one contract is with "NTEA".

The spots charge that Congress upped individual income taxes but let "specially privileged big businesses" (the coops) get by with paying little or nothing on their huge corporation profits.

(Ironically, the spots were recorded in two versions -- one "Yankee" and one "Southern edition", where the announcer speaks with a drawl.)

The implication that the coops do not pay taxes is untrue.

A check shows that the coop pays every tax that any other corporation does, except when it comes to taxation of income.

The entire aim of NTEA seems to be to stir up feeling against the coops; to get more taxes put on them; and to make more money for the agency which dreamed up the idea and is staging the campaign.

One of Governor Scott's closest advisors was given quite an honor recently. That was Mary White Scott, the Governor's wife. She was named N. C. Grange "Woman of the Year".

The Grange citation summed it up pretty well. It told of her recognition of the importance, dignity and satisfaction of gracious rural living. It told how she helped organize Grange groups. It told how she has served as a church worker, as a school teacher, homemaker, and mother "who has contributed liberally to the advancement of community and State."

And it ended with describing her as a "modest, gracious, sincere, and lovable woman, whose life and work have reflected credit upon all women in rural North Carolina."

THROUGH THESE CURTAINS PASS THE LUCKIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD



SEEDY SERVICE MOTOR CO.

LOOK AT MY SPEED AND POWER THAT CAR HAS -- IT MUST HAVE BEEN SERVICED AT SEEDY SERVICE MOTOR CO. MEVY STOP

EXCUSE IT OFFICER -- THEY SAID THEY'D DO A GOOD JOB ON MY BEARINGS -- DID YOU SEE IT STOP ON A DIME WITH THREE CENTS CHANGE TO SPARE

SO I NOTICED, AND HERE'S A NOTICE FOR YOU TO APPEAR IN TRAFFIC COURT NEXT MONDAY AND BRING YOUR POCKET BOOK!

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