

The News-Journal



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TAR HEEL

People & Issues

. . . . by Cliff Blue

HODGES — People who follow politics and government closely can hardly recall when someone who was suddenly thrust into the limelight and public office have met the situation so superbly as has Luther Hodges. He hasn't made premature statements of policy but is clearly walking slowly and carrying a big stick, so to speak.

We expect the new governor to meet the issues squarely and in so doing he will certainly start to build up a group of foes who before many weeks will start shooting at him.

Remember this: Luther Hodges is not the novice in politics that many stories would have you believe. Several years ago he served as a member of the State Highway and Public Works Commission and highway commissioners usually know their way around in politics.

HARRY GREENE — Come January 1955 and Hoke County's Harry Greene will be representing his county for the fifth straight term in the General Assembly. Like his fellow legislator from adjoining Scotland County, Roger Kiser, Greene has proved to be a valuable watchdog in the Lower House where he often asked many questions both in committee meeting and on the House floor. "Gentlemen, I want to ask a question," were familiar words from the Hoke representative.

Last week Greene pointed out to the writer items from Under the Dome in the Raleigh News and Observer telling of Ed Scheidt commissioner of motor vehicles and Joe Garrett, assistant commissioner who were preparing to leave for a week to attend the 22nd annual conference of American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators in Los Angeles,

Calif., of Utilities Commission Chairman Stanley Winborne and Commissioners Harry Westcott, B. H. McMahan and Sam Worthington being in Chicago representing North Carolina at an annual conference of the National Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissioners; and of two State Highway Commission officials — State Engineer W. H. Rogers, Jr., and Bridge Engineer T. B. Gunter, Jr., being in Seattle, Wash. as delegates to the American Association of State Highway Officials.

Greene says he can't understand why it is necessary for the taxpayers to have to bear the expense of the State sending more than one representative from the various departments on these long and expensive trips.

MAKEPEACE — A few weeks ago when this column had something to say about Luther Hodges as a likely candidate for Governor in 1956, we said that in the event of Hodges election Harold Makepeace of Sanford would be close to the political throne in North Carolina. Now that Hodges is in the Governor's chair, we feel no reason to withdraw the statement. Our prediction is that Harold Makepeace will be brought into the State government soon, probably as Administrative Assistant to the Governor. When Hodges was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor, Makepeace not only managed his campaign in Lee County but helped him in other counties as well. They now operate a Howard Johnson Restaurant together.

WILLIAMS — Another Lee County man reported to be very close to the new Governor is Senator Warren Williams, a long-time Sanford mayor and political power in Lee.

WATER CONSERVATION — In addition to segregation and taxes, the water conservation issue is expected to come to the front during the 1955 session. Recent droughts and the serious water shortages in many of the towns and cities throughout the State will cause the General Assembly to give a close look as to what

should be done from the standpoint of the public's interest.

IKE LONDON — Ike London, brisky editor of the Rockingham Post-Dispatch, epitomized Strom Thurmond's victory in South Carolina by saying: "The write-in vote may be deemed a great victory for readin', writin' and 'rithmetic."

WILL WAIT — The death of Governor Umstead and the elevation of Hodges to the gubernatorial chair will cause many of those eager to get into the 1956 race for governor to slow down a little and see how Luther Hodges stands when the General Assembly is over.

GOOD GUESSING — A few days before the General Election John A. Lang, Jr., Secretary to

Congressman Deane dropped by the office of the writer and as has been his custom in past years, wrote down on a sheet of paper his prediction as to how the country would vote. His memo read: House of Representatives, 228 Democrats; 207 Republicans. Senate, 49 Democrats; 46 Republicans; 1 Independent. We must hand it to John that he is almost as good a political prognosticator in '54 as Jim Farley proved to be in 1936 when Farley said Roosevelt would carry every state except Maine and Vermont—which he did.

Farm Question

QUESTION: Why does tobacco grow poorly when it follows les-

pedeza?

ANSWER: Two big reasons. When black root rot is present in the soil, susceptible tobacco suffers severely from root rot disease if preceded by a crop of lespedeza. It has also been found that lespedeza favored the deve-

lopment of nematode root knot on tobacco crops which follow it.

QUESTION: Do Bermuda grass and clover go well together?

ANSWER: In field tests conducted by the USDA clover growing in combination with Coastal

Bermuda grass produced as much forage as was obtained when Bermuda was grown without a legume but with 100 pounds of applied nitrogen.

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