

ELECTIONS 1982

Congress Race Could Be Close

by Warren Johnston

Both candidates vying for the Eighth Congressional seat were unsure whether the present decline in interest rates is a sign of economic improvement, however, in interviews last week both differed sharply over the Reagan Administration's handling of the country's finances.

Despite the nation's \$153 billion deficit and the largest federal tax increase in history, which were cited by 8th District Rep. William G. Hefner, Republican challenger Harris D. Blake believes that the Reagan Administration is doing a good job bringing the economy under control.

"The President has a long term policy to reduce the growth of government, and he is doing that," Blake said.

"I'll leave it to the Republicans to defend the Reagan budget," Hefner said.

"We will have the largest tax increase in history. Unemployment has reached 10.1% and the deficit won't come under \$150 billion," the incumbent congressman said.

One of the biggest mistakes made by the President was a veto of a housing bill passed by Congress earlier this year, Hefner said, noting that the Republicans in Congress who had previously backed the bill shifted to the Administration side and sustained the veto.



Harris Blake

That bill would have created jobs and gotten the housing industry, along with other industries going again, he said.

Over 17,000 small businesses will go broke this year, Hefner added.

Hoke County Problems

The national government has a trillion dollar debt, and paying interest to service that debt is drying up capital and is causing unemployment, Blake said.

To stabilize the economy is going to take a long time and can not be done quickly, he added.

"There is no quick fix. The Democrats want to give us a quick fix, but we get deeper in debt each time they give us a quick fix," Blake said.

The national debt needs to be reduced or the country will go broke trying to service it. If more money has to be printed to cover the debt, people will begin to lose their freedom, he said.

The problems facing the nation are facing Hoke County, he added.

In order to solve the problems in the 8th District and the county, interest rates have to stay down, Hefner said.

"What we have to have is low interest fixed rates for housing and automobiles," the Congressman said. "Housing has got to lead us out of the recession."

While serving in Congress, Hefner said he has been successful in helping bring industry to the District.

If re-elected, Hefner said he would continue to work for the district and Hoke County.

Efforts will be made to visit Hoke County on a regular basis, Hefner said. Voters in Scotland County will attest he has been available, he added.

About The Vote

Hoke County will shift from the Seventh Congressional District and will join 11 other counties this year



8th District Rep. William Hefner chats with Raeford Mayor John K. McNeill and his wife during last Friday's rally here.

in the Eighth District.

If Hefner, who is seeking his fifth term in Congress, is re-elected it will be his first opportunity to serve the people of Hoke County.

The Concord resident now serves on the House Appropriations Committee, the Defense Subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Military

Construction. He also serves House Budget Committee.

The 52-year-old Hefner entered Congress after spending 20 years in the entertainment and radio business.

As of the middle of October, Hefner reported raising \$206,854 for his campaign, and having spent

\$184,879.

A portion of the money came from Political Action Committees (PACs) related to the aircraft industry. Hefner also reported \$1,000 contributions from campaign committees of fellow House

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Buddy Blue



Bill Cameron



Walter Coley



Onnie Bratcher Dudley



Charlotte Kelly



Bobby Wright

Six Hopefuls Vie For Three Board Seats

by Bill Lindau

The News-Journal asked each of the six candidates for the three positions on the Hoke County Board of Education up for election November 2 questions to provide the voters with knowledge of the convictions of each candidate on matters significant to the Hoke County schools and school students. The questions and the answers of each candidate follow.

The candidates will be elected on a nonpartisan basis for terms of four years each. The winners will join the two members whose terms won't expire till 1984 -- Mrs. Mina Townsend and Mrs. Ruth McNair.

The candidates running for the board positions are Bill Cameron, current board chairman, seeking his second four-year term; Walter Coley, board member also running

for his second term; Robert (Bobby) Wright, serving the unexpired portion of Dr. R.M. Jordan's term and running for his first full term; Onnie Bratcher Dudley; Charlotte R. Kelly and J.H. (Buddy) Blue.

The responses follow.

To the question, "Do you have or have you had any children in Hoke County schools, Cameron replied he has a son in the First Grade of J.W. McLaughlin School and a daughter in the Sixth Grade of J.W. Turlington. Coley and Wright also replied they each had three children in Hoke schools.

Mrs. Kelly has two who are students, one at Upchurch Junior High and the other at West Hoke School.

Mrs. Dudley replied, "yes," and Blue said his daughter was a student in the county school system

for six years before she moved to Raleigh last spring.

"What qualifies you to be on the board?" was the next question. "Four years experience on the job, a college degree, regular attendance at all meetings except one (because of a death in the family)," Coley answered.

Cameron said: "I was a teacher for 11 years, four years in the Hoke County school system. I majored in education at the University of Tennessee after my graduation from Hoke County High School. This background has given me first hand experience from the perspective of a teacher, and my previous experience on the board has given me insight into the necessary leadership required of a board member. I understand how a school system should work to be effective. My experience in educa-

tion in other educational systems in and out of state has given me a basis of comparison. I basically care about what happens in our schools."

Wright's answer: "I graduated from Hoke High School and Campbell College. I am a farmer and I know the necessity of hard work, sound money management, and the responsibility of leadership."

Mrs. Kelly said: "I worked in the Hoke County school system for four years, I was one of the four originators of the Hoke County PTA, and I have traveled throughout the state of North Carolina attending workshops that have given me exposure to the educational system and its needs."

"I believe," Blue answered, "that I understand what the goals of our public school system should be and what the role of the Hoke

County Board of Education should be in attaining these goals."

Mrs. Dudley replied, "My sincere desire to serve the parents and children of Hoke County."

Why does the candidate want to be on the Board of Education?

"Hoke County," Cameron answered, "is my home and I love it. I graduated here. My children will graduate from this system. Our neighbors' children will graduate from this system. The education provided to all our children is an investment into our entire county's future. We want our children and grandchildren to prosper now and in the future by the experience provided for them in our schools."

Coley said, "Because I want to be a part of the decision-making process as it pertains to the school system of our county. Several important decisions will have to be

made in the new term of office after the November 2nd election."

Wright replied: "...because I have three children in the Hoke County schools, and I believe education is one of the most important factors affecting the quality of the lives of our children. I want the best possible education for all children in Hoke County. Our children are our greatest resource; our hope for the future of Hoke County."

Mrs. Kelly said: "I believe my experience, knowledge, concern for fairness will help me to better represent the people of the county."

Mrs. Dudley answered: "Because I am concerned about the children of Hoke County." Blue replied, "A majority of Hoke

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Half Hoke Commission Up For Grabs



John G. Balfour



Cleo Bratcher Jr.



James A. Hunt



Evelyn Manning

by Warren Johnston

In interviews last week, three of the four candidates running in Tuesday's election for a seat on the Hoke County Commission said unemployment was the greatest problem facing local residents.

Commissioner James A. Hunt, who is seeking re-election, could not be reached for comment.

Hunt will be vying for votes with Commission Chairman John G. Balfour and political newcomers Cleo Bratcher Jr. and Evelyn Manning, who is on the Republican ticket.

Bratcher and Hunt received the Democratic Party nomination after garnering the top votes in the July 27 primary runoff over incumbent Mable Riley and Raeford druggist Tom Howell.

Although unemployment was cited as the biggest problem in the county, Manning also believes that the physical condition of the schools ranks high on the list of matters needing attention.

Hoke County has been growing slowly over the last 70 years because there are few opportunities here for young people, Manning said, noting that industries need to be brought in to create jobs.

"Most of the people born in Hoke County have left to find jobs," the Republican hopeful said.

If elected, Manning said she would like to accomplish the goal of bringing at least one industry to Hoke County during the next four years.

Overcrowding in the school and (See COMMISSION, page 5)