

Viewpoints

Is waste compact a good idea?

When the General Assembly returns to Raleigh Thursday for a special session on hazardous wastes, it must consider one central question: Is the contract which Gov. Jim Martin proposes to make with four other states a good deal for North Carolina?

The Martin Administration, which forged the contract with South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky, says that it is. Others aren't so sure.

Under Martin's deal with the four other states, North Carolina would authorize a for-profit private company to build a 50,000-ton a year incinerator for hazardous wastes at a state-chosen location. That facility would also include a 15,000-ton a year solvent distillation unit for the treatment and recycling of solvents, and a 10,000-ton a year storage facility for the residue from the incinerator.

These new facilities would be added to existing hazardous waste treatment facilities in the state. North Carolina would guarantee top priority use of all these facilities to waste generators from the other states. Waste generators in North Carolina would then have top priority use of facilities in those states, including major landfills in South Carolina and Alabama.

Dr. Linda Little, director of the



Watching
By Paul T. O'Connor

Governor's Hazardous Waste Management Authority, praises the deal. North Carolina must treat its own hazardous wastes whether or not it joins a consortium. By joining with the other states, North Carolina will have to develop fewer facilities, she says.

Legal questions surrounding the multi-state arrangement are still unanswered. It is not clear if states can ban from their facilities wastes generated in states that are not part of the consortium. It is possible that the federal courts will rule that North Carolina waste generators may continue to use facilities in these four states, even if North Carolina does not join.

But Dr. Little stresses that North Carolina waste generators will be assured of the use of these facilities if the state joins.

North Carolina will also be assured of receiving federal toxic waste clean-up funds if it joins the consortium. If it doesn't, those funds might be a long time coming.

At a public discussion of the proposal in Research Triangle Park, no one opposed the plan outright. But there were skeptics.

Rep. Dan Blue, D-Wake, said that under the arrangement North Carolina would have the capacity to treat all of its own waste in five of the seven different treatment processes. With a little more effort, he said, the state could be going it alone.

Some environmentalists argue that the state should go it alone with small facilities to treat wastes and a vigorous program aimed at preventing the creation of these wastes in the first place.

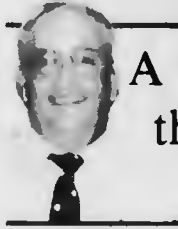
Blue was especially miffed that the other states were so demanding of North Carolina when North Carolina will be handling all of their low-level radioactive wastes. Under a separate compact, North Carolina will host a low-level radioactive waste storage facility for eight southeastern states beginning in the mid-1990s.

Dr. Little said that if North Carolina went off on its own, it would have no place to put its wastes while North Carolina facilities were built. That only prompted Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, to say, "We're trading short term gain for long term disadvantage."



3 birthdays require 3 celebrations

"If God had intended for us to celebrate our birthdays on the same day He would have made sure we were born on the same day." So spoke the wee son of David and Ruth Ann Warren. Makes sense. These words of wisdom came on the heels of his grandmother Ruth Phillips' comments, when she was so bold as to suggest that since her birthday and his father's flanked him, it would be a good idea to celebrate all three at the same time. Love those grandchildren.



A View from the Country
Raz Autry

I replied, "Mama, I am not a lawyer. Besides you had a lawyer."

She answered, "He wasn't any good; you would have done better." I love that mama, she thinks I can't do any wrong. If only her daughter felt the same way.

During my college days, the district attorney of the Pitt County region was Eli Bloom. A fine gentleman of the Jewish faith. He continued in the office for 50 years. It was my pleasure to chat with him at that Thanksgiving dinner. Mr. Bloom is 85 years old and still going strong.

Eli is a great story teller. He swore this tale was the truth. It seems a judge was particularly irritated at a gentleman who was a frequent visitor to his court. Most of his

offenses were not meeting his obligations to his former wife who had him pegged for non-support.

The good judge said, "I am getting tired of you not making your payments. I am going to give this good woman \$25 a week."

The startled defendant replied, "That is mighty nice of you your honor, and I will chip in a dollar or two myself."

When Eli first tried for the office of district attorney his opponent was a Gentile. Mr. Bloom approached a man he thought was a friend and asked him to vote for him. The gentleman answered by saying, "Eli, I like you but I am not going to vote for you, I am going to vote for your opponent. He is some of my people."

Eli said, "Do you believe in Jesus Christ?"

Surprised, the man answered, "Why yes, I believe in Jesus Christ."

Without a backward glance, the future D.A. said, "He is some of my people." Enough said.



"Nancy didn't like this first official portrait. The strings are showing."

This country's farmers must be astute

By W.B. Jenkins
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation

A special kind of person to be a farmer. A broad range of skills is required to operate complicated machinery, use agricultural chemicals properly, use the Board of Trade effectively, and introduce computer technology into animal nutrition, marketing and genetics.

Many of today's farmers are professional, college-educated people with high dollar assets and capital needs. American farm assets totaled nearly \$712 billion in 1987.

Today's farmer must be an astute

business person in order to successfully manage those assets. He must be aware of global markets and how to penetrate them. He must be an entrepreneur willing to compete at the mercy of flood, drought, tornado or early frost.

Today's farmer must be tough-minded manager when caught in a price-cost squeeze. He must be a shrewd purchasing agent and personnel director. At the same time he is often an exemplary humanitarian helping in the fight against world hunger, and lending a hand to his neighbors in times of crisis.

Today's farmer must not only un-

derstand the mechanics of farm equipment but the mechanics of our political system. He must be self-reliant and willing to put in long days with no guarantees of a regular paycheck.

In today's world, the image of farming as a slow-paced, easy lifestyle is far from reality.

Despite the complex risks of modern agriculture, farmers still retain a positive attitude toward their vocation. Most of the families living on the nation's farms and ranches are there today because they want the type of lifestyle and independence that living in the country offers.

Letter To The Editor

Red Cross gets no Raeford leader

To the editor:

You kindly printed a letter from me relative to my giving up the chairmanship of the Hoke County Chapter of the Red Cross. We called a meeting for November 30th at the library and you ran a notice of that meeting for two weeks in your paper. But sad to say, there was no interest because no one showed up except the regional consultant from Ft. Bragg. I was certainly embarrassed by this. All she could recommend that would work for this county is that we merge with either Scotland County or Cumberland County or go on a reserve status until our chapter

could be reactivated. I am sorry that the community is so unconcerned with the situation and it's something that concerns the area Red Cross in North Carolina. I will continue to help until December 31st, 1989 but after that, I'm afraid it will be in limbo.

Clyde Upchurch Jr.

Thanksgiving dinner help appreciated

To the editor:

The West Hoke Auxiliary Club would like to thank everyone who donated to the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving dinner. All donations were appreciated.

Nettie McDuffie

We welcome your letters

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by *The News-Journal* by noon on the Monday of the publication week.

Try your skill with this simple test

It may be North Carolina's most important anniversary.

Two hundred years ago in Fayetteville, North Carolina's legislature granted a charter for the University of North Carolina.

December 11, 1989.

That was the big day. And within four years the cornerstone of the first university building in Chapel Hill was laid. Soon Hinton James from Wilmington made his way to Chapel Hill and enrolled as the first student. Before the end of the century, the university had its first graduates.

North Carolina's public university was the first in the United States to open its doors and the only one that graduated students in the 18th Century.

For many years the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was North Carolina's only public university. But after the Civil War the state organized or acquired a number of other colleges — a total of 16. Since 1972, all 16 four-year institutions have been a part of the University of North Carolina.

Just for the fun of it, take a short quiz to see how much you know about the multi-campus University of North Carolina. Don't look at the answers until you finish the test.

Questions:

1. Name the 16 campuses of the university. Hint: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is one of them.

One on One D.G. Martin

2. How many students are enrolled in the entire university? (Count your answer correct if you are within 10,000 students.)

3. Who runs North Carolina's public television network?

4. How much does it cost North Carolina to operate the University? (Count your answer right if you are within \$100 million.)

Answers:

1. Appalachian, East Carolina, Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, North Carolina A&T, N.C. Central, School of the Arts, N.C. State, Pembroke, UNC-Asheville, UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Wilmington, Western Carolina, and Winston-Salem State.

2. In the fall of 1989 there were about 141,000 students enrolled in the entire university. Some of these were part-time students. They were the equivalent of about 120,000 full-time students.

3. An outstanding board and staff run North Carolina Public Television, but they are a part of the University of North Carolina.

4. The state appropriated almost \$1.1 billion for the university this year. That is a lot of money. Do we get our money's worth? Probably, just in the university's role in making it possible for so many of our young people to get a good college education. Certainly, if you take into account all the other roles of the university from providing expanded medical care through the medical schools, hospitals, and Area Health and Education Centers, to its agricultural extension services, its business development role, its multimillion-dollar research activities in health, agriculture, and technology, and on and on through an endless list of services for North Carolina.

Well, I have stopped giving the answers to my test and started preaching again. I had better quit.

But don't forget December 11. Say a prayer of thanks for those who got our university started 200 years ago.

If you would like more information about the University of North Carolina or any of its 16 campuses, write me at Box 2688, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27515.

If you can get to Fayetteville on December 11, UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Paul Hardin will lead a celebration in the form of a Bicentennial Issues Forum on the Fayetteville State Campus at 7 p.m. See you there.

The News-Journal

Published Every Wednesday by
Dickson Press, Inc., Paul Dickson, Pres.
119 W. Elwood Avenue
Raeford, N.C. 28376



Subscription Rates In Advance
In County Per Year — \$10.00 6 Months — \$5.00
Out of County Per Year — \$12.00 6 Months — \$6.00

LOUIS H. FOGLEMAN, JR. Publisher
KEN MACDONALD Associate Editor
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ANN N. WEBB Advertising Representative

POSTMASTER:
Send Address Changes To:
P.O. Box 550
Raeford, NC 28376

Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.
(USPS 388-260)