

## Kidd Brewer's "RALEIGH ROUNDUP"

**REASONS . . .** Not a very good mixer is State Sen. J. Spencer Bell of Mecklenburg County—and that is one reason given for the last-ditch defeat of the court reform plan in the Legislature last week.

Bell worked like a dog on the project, which never had what you could call rank-and-file endorsement from the attorneys of the State.

In the grassroots, meantime, the magistrates or justices of the peace knitted at the charge which would sharply alter the process of appointment and pay for these august offices.

Here in the Legislature the proposal for the most part stayed perched up there on Cloud Twenty. The House members who would have to carry the ball were not lobbied enough on the bill. It became too much of a Senate thing. So when it got mixed up with constitutional changes, etc., John Kerr, Jr. and Friends—able men, too—could hardly wait to get their hands on Court Reform.

In our opinion, one of the real statesmen in the 1959 edition of the N. C. General Assembly which held forth here for more than four months was J. Spencer Bell. Bald, blue-eyed, cupid-red-faced and cocky in a quiet way is one of the real big men of North Carolina. But he's no lobbyist, no-hail-fellow-well-met, and he had a big load to carry with a short number of shoulders under the log.

Court reform is needed in North Carolina—and it will come. But it seems that nothing connected with courts can ever attain much speed in this State. If you have ever been plaintiff, defendant, witness, member of the jury, judge or attorney, you know what we mean.

**NOT OFTEN . . .** As the Legislature ground to a faltering stop last week, there was some talk amidst farewells that House Speaker Addison Hewlett might become a candidate for Governor next year.

Well, we doubt it. In the first place, Hewlett is completing about 15 months of the hardest work of his career—running an extremely

hard race for Speaker; and then serving as referee, umpire, and head linesman for that always rambunctious House of Representatives.

Also, while now well known and generally liked by most legislators, easy-going and prematurely gray Addison Hewlett is not yet a familiar up the lanes, around the courthouses, and down the streets where votes are made in North Carolina. He knows that.

**THE SPEAKERS . . .** What becomes of North Carolina House Speakers once their tenure in this prominent and powerful position has come to an end?

To our memory, only two of them in modern times have gone to greater things on the political horizon.

Willis Smith went to the U. S. Senate about 20 years after his service as Speaker. Gregg Cherry became Governor ten years after stepping down from the post.

Some other Speakers of recent years were:

Kerr Craige Ramsey of Salisbury, who served just a decade ago, was at 38 one of our youngest men to serve in this place. He died suddenly a few months later.

John Kerr, Jr., Speaker in 1943, has served time both in the Senate and House; and was in the House very much this session.

Larry Moore, Wilson, was the star lobbyist in the vain attempt to bring the dogs and the rabbit back to Morehead and Currituck this time. He served in 1955.

Gene Bost, Kannapolis, was defeated in the runoff with Bedford Black last year. He was the Speaker in 1953.

Frank Taylor of Goldsboro, 1951 Speaker, is an effective lobbyist and attorney.

Tom Pearsall, Rocky Mount, is the daddy of the now famous (and apparently successful) Pearsall Plan for the solution of racial problems in the schools. He has extensive farming interests in Nash and Edgecombe counties.

J. K. Doughton, Sparta, became 75 this past May 18 and, like his kin, looks as much like white oak as a Doughton. He was in the recent House.

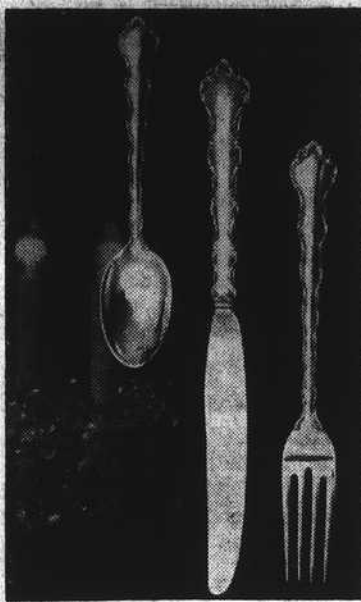
**NEXT TIME . . .** While, as you can see, the Speakership seldom leads to fame or fortune, the office undoubtedly carries prestige—hence the hard battles for it. The fight has already begun for 1961, with candidates seeming to be Honorable Cloyd Philpott of Lexington, Joe Hunt of Greensboro, Marcellus Buchanan of Sylva, and Clyde Harris of Salisbury, to name a few.

Harris, who served as chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the House this time, will have a lot of Hewlett strength in his corner as a nucleus for this campaign.

**HOUND DOG . . .** A couple of weeks back, the Rev. Bones McKinney, Wake Forest basketball coach, was giving the address in his delightful informal way for the special ceremony honoring R. S. Haltiwanger, retiring as principal of Hanes High in Winston-Salem.

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Prof. Haltiwanger is much loved by everyone who knows him. When old Bones bore down once very eloquently on what he had meant to education, one of the good patrons, deeply impressed, shouted "Amen!"

Bones halted for a moment and in his charming way said: "Glad you agree, Friend, but please don't say amen to me—or we just might be here all night. Saying amen to a Baptist preacher is just like saying 'sick 'im' to a hound dog."

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