

Betting on Any Election is Dangerous But Betting on Local Elections is Worse

by Jack Rider

This is the campaigning season and a favorite American hobby is guessing who will be "it" when the votes are counted and the hurrahing and wailing have come to an end.

As a lot of experts found in 1948 it is dangerous to bet on any kind of an election, but if it is dangerous to bet on national and statewide campaigns it is suicidal to wager very much on local elections.

Issues seldom cloud the picture at the local level, and more often than not the local election is a personality contest, with candidates trying to shake the most hands, avoid the most thorny issues and be all things to all people in order to hopefully wind up in the winner's circle.

This year Lenoir Countians have a number of races that they can easily lose their shirts on if they bet very heavily.

The sheriff, the clerk of court, the house of representatives and the county commissioner races are all hotly contested and it would take something close to a magician to pick the winners in all of these four contests.

Compounding the confusion this season is the fact that one has to guess right in the Democratic Primary, which could possibly be primaries, as well as guessing right in the general election in the fall since all of these offices have additional competition in November from Republican and American Party candidates.

In the sheriff contest there are five democrats who will be competing this spring. They include Magistrate Claude Davis, Deputy Sheriffs Raymond Eubanks and Leo Harper and former Kinston policeman James H. Griffin and James Lofton. And in the November general election the winner of this Democratic competition will have to face Republican Candidate Highway Patrolman James A. Crumpler.

All of these sheriff candidates have at least one thing in common: Neither has ever run for office before.

So, none of these would-be sheriffs having run before there is no track record upon which one can base even a semi-educated guess. Three of the five are Lenoir County natives, with large family connections both by birth and marriage. They are Davis, Harper, and Lofton. Davis and Harper will be drawing water out of the political wells in the same end of the county, since they are both natives of the Deep Run community.

The other three candidates have lived for a considerable part of their adult life in Lenoir County, but two are natives of Jones County; Eubanks and Griffin, and Republican Candidate Crumpler is a native of Sampson County.

Five of the six have had experience as law enforcement officers. Griffin for many years a member of the Kinston Police Department left to become Police Chief in Edenton, left Edenton to become Police Chief in Sanford and recently came back to Kinston to rejoin the local police department. Griffin under city laws had to resign from the police department in order to become a candidate for sheriff. Lofton also served on the Kinston Police Department.

Eubanks was for many years a Kinston policeman, but left to work for several years at the Du Pont Dacron plant, and rejoined the ranks of law enforcement in 1966 when Fred Boyd was elected sheriff and named Eubanks as his chief deputy, which he is still today.

Harper has served twice as a member of the sheriff department, of which he is a member at present, and served an interim period as one of the Lenoir County ABC board enforcement officers.

Crumpler has been a highway patrolman for 16 years; 15 of which have been spent in Lenoir County. He is resigning from the patrol on June 1st because of a pinched nerve which makes the constant driving of his patrol job difficult.

Davis, who has had no experience as a law enforcement officer, has had experience as a justice of peace and more recently as a magistrate of Lenoir County District Court, and prior to that he worked for many years as an assistant to long-time Lenoir County Coroner Raymond Jarman.

Those who are unhappy with the present levels of activity by the Lenoir County Sheriff Department argue that Eubanks and Harper would do no better than the department is presently doing, and that a new face is needed.

Griffin has an excellent police record but has been gone from the county for about seven years so he has a lot of fence-mending to do if he expects to be in the running.

Lofton is the only Negro in the race and is generally conceded that he might be one of the top men in the first primary with the usual big "if; if the nearly 5,000 registered Negroes go to the polls in large numbers. But

such "experts" are quick to point out that Negro Governor Candidate Reginald Hawkins only got 1632 votes in 1968 and at that time there were about 4,000 registered Negro voters in Lenoir County.

However, it is generally accepted that even if Lofton were to be one of those sheriff candidates involved in that race, and if not then he would surely be knocked off in the general election in November. No one considers there is the remotest chance of Lofton getting enough white votes to offset the 13,000 white registration over the 5,000 Negro registration.

Among these five Democratic candidates Lofton, however, is considered to be the only candidate who will go to bat with a potentially large bloc of votes. The four white candidates will just have to get their votes where they can find them, and all four are working hard and each carries with him at this juncture . . . slightly less than three weeks from the election . . . an easy air of optimism.

This sheriff's race includes too many imponderables for even a semi-educated guess. Any one of the five Democrats may run high and by the same hedging kind of logic anyone of the five may run low . . . and if that's not straddling the political fence, I'll hush . . . but not for long.

Next week a look at the clerk of court race and the week before the primary a last guessing look at the commissioner and house races.

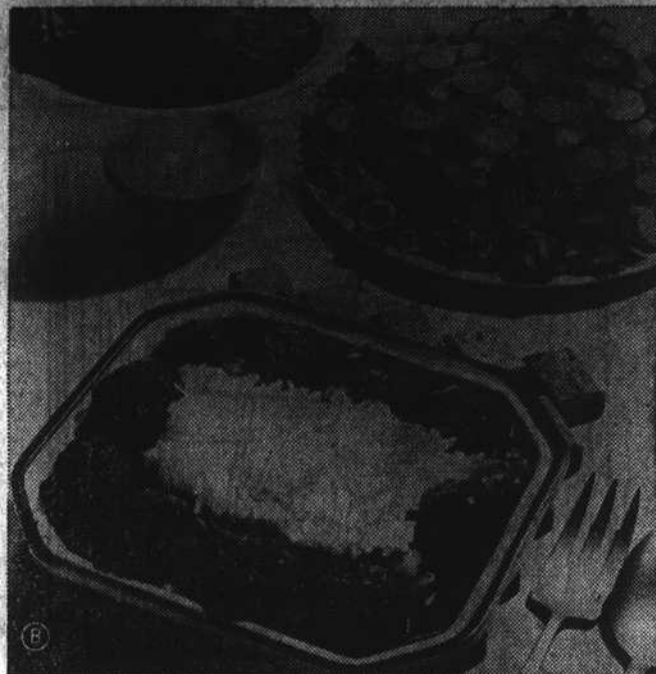
SENATOR
SAM ERVIN
★ SAYS ★

Last week I introduced in the Senate a compromise proposal to reform the Electoral College. Simply put, my proposal would eliminate the "faithless elector," but would insure that a state's electoral votes would be cast for the Presidential plurality winner in the state. Also, it would provide that if no nominee had an electoral vote majority, the deadlock would be broken by a vote taken at a Joint Session of Congress with each Member of the House and Senate having one vote.

While I have introduced for many years a proposal which would provide for a proportional counting of each state's electoral vote, I have offered this modified plan because the Senate will soon consider the direct election proposal along with other electoral reform proposals with the prospect that only two alternatives may have substantial support. These alternatives are "to adopt the direct election plan" or "to do nothing" about electoral reform at this session. These courses are unacceptable to me.

Moreover, I have reached the conclusion that two fundamental considerations should govern our deliberations on this matter. First, there are certain acknowledged defects in the present process of electing the President which have undermined public confidence therein and clearly require reform. One is the ever-present possibility of a "faithless elector" who does not cast his vote as the majority who chose him directs. Another is the method for selecting the President in the case of an electoral college deadlock.

"SOUPER" SAUCING SAVES YOU PENNIES



If you're having a difficult time balancing the budget after taxes, chances are you need ideas on how to cut the cost of eating. Here's a recipe that's heaven sent. Deviled Meatballs not only save you pennies, but are a great way to usher in the spring season with a deliciously different meal.

Treat your family to the taste sensations of tender meatballs sauced with a tangy condensed tomato soup sauce. This double-rich, double-thick "souper" sauce becomes extra flavorful when you spark its rich tomato flavor with horseradish, mustard, and Worcestershire. Serve this good concoction on a bed of fluffy rice and you've got a delightful looking and tasting meal.

A refreshing molded vegetable salad and chewy fudge brownies are all you need to complete a great meal.

For those who are always on the look out for a "good buy", reach for all the condensed cooking soups. Soups such as cream of chicken, cream of celery, cream of mushroom, Cheddar cheese, and tomato are great for saucing leftovers, and making budget meats taste like gourmet fare.

Deviled Meatballs

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| 1 can (10 1/2 ounces) condensed tomato soup | 1 egg, slightly beaten |
| 1 pound ground beef | 2 teaspoons prepared horseradish |
| 2 tablespoons fine dry bread crumbs | 1 1/2 teaspoons prepared mustard |
| 3 tablespoons finely chopped onion | 1 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire |
| | 2 tablespoons shortening |
| | 1/2 cup water |

Mix 1/2 cup soup with beef, bread crumbs, onion, egg, horseradish, mustard, and Worcestershire. Shape into 16 meatballs. In skillet, brown meatballs in shortening; pour off fat. Stir in remaining soup and water. Cover; cook over low heat 20 minutes. Stir now and then. Makes 4 servings.

These defects can be corrected easily under my plan without the danger of effecting a radical change in the Nation's political institutions.

The second fundamental consideration is that despite its defects, the electoral college system has unquestionably provided this Nation with the most successful method for electing national leaders known in modern history. It has brought to Presidency those of uncommon talent and wisdom. It has been instrumental in creating a stable, progressive and responsible national leadership. In spite of all that can be said about its faults, the system has seen us through crisis after crisis.

To abolish the electoral system and to substitute one form of election for another, but to affect in unforeseen ways all those other political processes and institutions, at federal, state and local levels, which have developed over the years in response to the present system for Presidential elections. Any alteration in the institutions and processes of electing the President must be considered with a view as to its possible impact on our two-party system which has made for stability in our nation's government. Harvard Law School Professor Ernest Brown puts this problem simply when he says: "At a time when the country suffers from sharp divisions, we should be cautious lest, through the best of intentions, we encourage further division and discourage coalition."

Finally, the direct election proposal raises the likelihood that the Federal government would establish a centralized power over Presidential elections. While such implementation of the direct election plan

would proceed in the name of "fairness" to all voters, it would also vest control over such elections in Washington rather than in the states. The danger of such concentrated power in a new Federal bureaucracy is obvious.

There are many other reasons why my proposal for reform of the Electoral College is preferable to the direct election proposal. I intend to elaborate on these as the Senate proceeds with this debate.

Julian Smith Gets Promotion to Spec-5 in Germany

Julian W. Smith, son of Mrs. Barbara Smith, Route 4, Kinston, was promoted to Army specialist five while serving with the 3d Infantry Division near Kitzingen, Germany.

A chaplain's assistant with Headquarters of the division's 10th Engineer Battalion, he entered the Army in April 1967 and completed basic training at Fort Bragg, N. C.

The 22-year-old soldier is a 1966 graduate of South Lenoir High School, Deep Run.

The promotion was made Feb. 18.

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