

# Redwine, Soles Ranked Near Top In Effectiveness Ratings

Brunswick County's current representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly both rank in the top 15 percent of their respective chamber in terms of effectiveness, according to results of the latest survey the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research of Raleigh.

Rep. E. David Redwine of Ocean Isle Beach moved up a notch, from 18th to 17th, while Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. of Tabor City rose from 7th to 5th.

Redwine was named to complete the unexpired term of Rep. Tom B. Rabon Jr. in 1983 and then elected in November 1984 to office in his own right. He has steadily moved up in the ratings in each Center survey since 1985, when he was ranked as 44th in effectiveness of the 120 members of the House.

Details of Soles' ranking were not available.

He was ranked as 25th most effective of the Senate's 50 members in a tie in 1979, moving up to 17th by 1983. After being implicated and then cleared in the Colcor investigation of corruption in Columbus County, his ranking dropped to 10th in 1985 and 1987, and then rose to 11th in 1987.

In this year's rankings, Redwine was given a raw score of 67.9 by lobbyists, 62.6 by fellow legislators and 60.6 by the news correspondents who routinely cover the legislature, for an overall score of 63.7.

"I was pleased," he said, speaking from his car phone Tuesday.

Johnathan L. Rhyne Jr. (R-Lincoln), the top-ranked Republican in the House, and Marie W. Colton (D-Buncombe), the second-highest ranked woman in the House, were tied in 14th position, followed by John H. Kerr II (D-Wayne), a fast-rising newcomer, in 16th. Kerr moved from the 62nd spot in 1987 to 16th in the latest survey.

According to the Center, the General Assembly is losing more of its most effective members after the 1991-92 session than at any other time in the last 15 years. How that will affect the legislative careers of Redwine and Soles isn't clear.

Based on the center's latest effectiveness rankings released this week, three of the 10 most effective senators—Henson P. Barnes (D-Wayne), Kenneth C. Royall Jr. (D-Durham) and William D. Goldston (D-Rockingham) are retiring from the leg-

islature. Also, four of the 10 most effective members of the House of Representatives—Dennis A. Wicker (D-Lec), Harry E. Payne Jr. (D-New Hanover), H.M. "Mickey" Michaux Jr. (D-Durham) and R. Samuel Hunt III (D-Alamance) are either retiring or leaving to run for other state offices.

Turnover in the General Assembly will be higher than usual next year, as more than a fifth of the legislature won't be back next session regardless of the outcome of elections in November.

Eleven of 50 senators did not file for re-election to the Senate and 28 of 120 representatives chose not to seek return to the House.

"The legislature is going to see a real change in membership during the next session," said Ran Coble, the center's executive director. "With so many high-ranking legislators already leaving—plus the turnover to come from those who don't win re-election—there will be plenty of opportunities for new people to move into leadership positions. My

guess is that the Senate will change the most in 1993."

Coble said the reasons for the turnover vary in the two chambers. In the Senate, he says, the "Old Guard is retiring and giving way to the Young Turks" while in the House many of those leaving have ambitions for higher office.

The Center's rankings are based on surveys completed by the legislators themselves, by registered lobbyists who regularly work in the General Assembly and who are based in North Carolina, and by the capital news correspondents who cover the legislature every day.

They were asked to rate each legislator's effectiveness on the basis of participation in committee work, skill at guiding bills through floor debate and general knowledge or expertise in special fields. They were also asked to consider the respect the legislators command from their peers, the political power they hold and their ability to sway the opinions of other legislators.

The latest ratings are the result of the Center's eighth comprehensive

survey.

Longevity tends to be a key factor in obtaining a high ranking, whether Democrat or Republican.

The survey supplements the Center's guide to the 1991-92 legislature.

The N.C. Center for Public Policy Research is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation created to study public policy issues facing North Carolina and to evaluate state government programs.



REDWINE



SOLES

## CALLERS GOT NEW MESSAGE

### Cut Disrupted Phone Service

Long distance telephone service was temporarily interrupted Tuesday morning, the result of another accidental cut of an underground fiber optic cable.

But this time customers had a better idea of what was going on as a result of an effort by the local telephone co-op.

Royce Angel, district manager with Southern Bell, said a contractor digging beside U.S. 17 in northern Brunswick County cut the cable.

Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation (ATMC) customers lost long distance service (including WATS) to Wilmington and other areas for several hours.

Angel said he didn't know when long distance service was knocked out or where the cable was cut. Service was fully restored by 2:26 p.m.

Russell D. Price, ATMC general manager, said he understood the cut occurred to the north of the railroad overpass on U.S. 17 near Lanvale Road.

Following up on a suggestion made by a customer following a re-

cent cut in ATMC's own cable, he said ATMC recorded a message received by its customers when trying to dial long-distance.

Instead of a dead line or a message that all circuits were busy, customers were advised of where the cut was located and the approximate time Southern Bell expected to restore service.

"It's the first time we've done that," said Price. "We hope it is going to be helpful."

The day of the last major cut, ATMC's switchboard operator handled 1,244 calls, he said. "And those were just the ones that got through."

Price said the possibility of additional interruptions in service will continue at a higher than usual level for now.

"As long as we have the amount of construction we've got going on in this corridor, more lines are likely to be cut," he said. "But we are patrolling our lines to try to protect the circuits in our territory. If we weren't doing that, we think it's likely we would have had additional problems."

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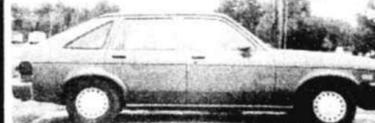
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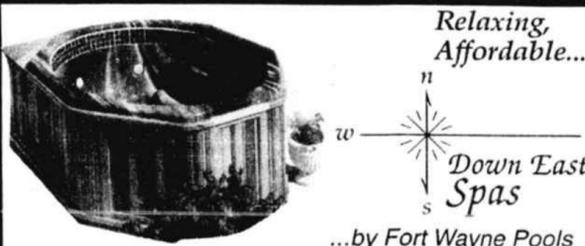
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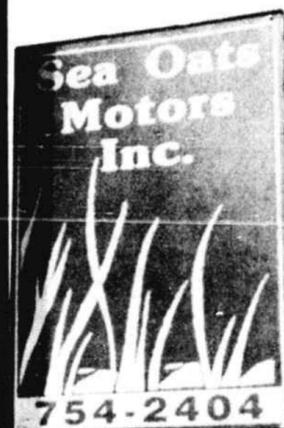
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