

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Helms Introduces Bill To Restore Prayer

U.S. Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) introduced a bill in the Senate today which will restore prayer in the public schools. The Helms bill has several cosponsors, including President pro tempore James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Helms bill will limit the appellate jurisdiction of the U.S. Supreme Court and the original jurisdiction of Federal District Courts. Limitation of court jurisdiction can be accomplished without amending the U.S. Constitution.

In a statement to the Senate, Helms noted that attempts to adopt a constitutional amendment to return prayer to public schools and public buildings

have been unsuccessful. He reminded his colleagues that he is one of 22 sponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 84, which would amend the Constitution in such a manner, and that the Resolution has been before the Senate Judiciary Committee for more than a year.

"The amendment process is time-consuming and exceedingly difficult. The time has come to consider an alternative means of dealing with this problem," Helms said.

"Fortunately, the Constitution provides this alternative under the system of checks and balances," he continued. "In anticipation of judicial usurpations of power, the Framers of our Constitution wisely gave Congress the

authority, by a simple majority of both Houses to check the Supreme Court through regulation of its appellate jurisdiction."

Helms pointed out that the Congress has exercised this power on numerous occasions, since the earliest days of the Republic.

The Helms bill states that the Federal Courts shall not have restricting as unconstitutional, voluntary prayer in any public school.

"The purpose of my bill," Helms explained, "is to restore to the American people the fundamental right of voluntary prayer in the public schools. The bill seeks to promote the free exercise of religion by allowing those who wish to recite prayers—and they are the vast majority of our citizens—to do so with or

without the blessings of government."

"Public school children are a captive audience. They are compelled to attend school. Their right to the free exercise of religion should not be suspended while they are in attendance. The language of the First Amendment assumes that this basic freedom should be in force at all times and in all places," Helms concluded.

### Sign Of The Times

Tourists and travelers on the nation's highways during the Bicentennial era will have an easily recognized symbol helping guide them to Bicentennial activities in many areas of the country.

The Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA), has authorized and encouraged States to use the official national Bicentennial symbol on Interstate, primary and secondary highway signs giving destination directions to local Bicentennial activities.

The national Bicentennial symbol takes the form of a 5-pointed star, surrounded by continuous red, white and blue stripes which form a second star.

They symbol is widely used now in newspapers and magazines, and by officially designated Bicentennial Communities. It also can be used in private sector Bicentennial projects officially recognized by the ARBA and will be used on products and other items licensed by the ARBA to help commemorate the country's 200th anniversary.

The Federal Highway Administration has authorized State agencies to use Federal aid funds to install the Bicentennial highway guide and rest area information signs which must be up by July 1, 1976 and removed before June 30, 1977.

The Federal Highway Administration's authorization does not include additional funding which must come from money already budgeted.

State highway officials will work with State Bicentennial Commissions to identify appropriate destinations which will include those associated with programs accorded official recognition by the ARBA.

## Proposed Change Raises Opposition

Elizabeth City . . . Police Chiefs and Sheriffs from ten Northeastern North Carolina Counties met with Highway Patrol and Department of Transportation Officials, Tuesday, in Elizabeth City, N.C. The Sheriffs and Police Chiefs attending voiced their opposition to the announced plan to change the operation of the Elizabeth City Highway Patrol Communications Substation. Colonel E.W. Jones, who is the Commanding Officer of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, told the Law Enforcement Officers quote "The Elizabeth City High-

way Patrol radio station is substandard and costly to the state of North Carolina. There is not enough radio traffic here to warrant its continued manned service." Colonel Jones along with Major O.R. Roberts, Head of the Patrol's Communications Operations, explained that the system which Patrol Officials say "Will provide Northeastern North Carolina's residents with better service." Colonel Jones said that installation of a telephone relay system at the Elizabeth City Substation will be completed by September 17th and put into operation October 1st. Adding that residents of that

area would still call the same number 335-4309 for highway patrol assistance.

When operative, the system will automatically relay all incoming patrol calls to the Highway Patrol Radio Communications post at Williamston, which is manned 24 hours per day. Currently, Northeastern North Carolina residents can reach the Elizabeth City Highway Patrol Substation only 16 hours per day. Colonel Jones added that a repeater radio relay system also being installed will increase patrols communication with Northeastern North Carolina. Highway Patrol Commander told the police delegation that similar operations in other areas of the state are working satisfactory. Colonel Jones further stated that the three Telecommunication Officers now on duty in Elizabeth City Substation will continue employment at Williamston. The Police Officials and the two and one half hours meeting still argued against the plan change until Colonel Jones said the patrol would send its Chief Radio Engineer, Buck Sloop, to the area to meet with each Sheriff and Police Chief and further to test the new system. "If this operation is not better than what we have now in Elizabeth City then we will design a system that will give your citizens the service we expect from the Williamston operation," Colonel Jones concluded.

## Workshop Is Set For Substitutes

A workshop for substitute teachers will be held Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the County Office Building in Perquimans County.

The workshop is designed for anyone interested in working as a substitute teacher in any of the schools in the county.

The purpose of the workshop is to first provide minimum training and second, to identify those in the community who are interested. This will give school administrators a list of available substitute teachers.

Anyone who has at least a high school diploma is eligible, although some college is preferred. Also, those wishing to serve as substitutes must be reliable, friendly, enjoy children, willing to work and be dedicated and concerned with quality education. Persons meeting these qualifications will be welcomed.

Items covered in the workshop will include: obligations and responsibilities of the substitute teacher, the principal and regular classroom teacher, exercises in understanding children — their characteristics physically, socially, and emotionally, substitute teacher regulations, professional ethics as a substitute teacher, classroom management, and operation and use of audio visual

equipment and materials. Following the workshop, a list of persons interested will be presented to the Board of Education for approval. Then, as the need for substitute teachers occurs, principals will be able to select them.

Additional training may be provided if there is enough interest shown in the first workshop.

Pre-registration for the workshop is encouraged and persons may do so by calling 426-5227.



**SIGNS OF INFLATION** — Albemarle EMC general manager Ed Brown discusses the problems of rising costs to members attending the luncheon prior to the cooperative's annual meeting.



**THE LINE-UP** — These members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation were tempted to line up early for the annual meeting in hopes of being one of the first 75 to register and win a silver dollar.



**AND THE WINNER IS** — Fifty members of Albemarle EMC were awarded prizes in a drawing held during the group's annual meeting.



**SWING YOUR PARTNER** — The Tar Heel Squares were among the many performers who provided entertainment for the annual meeting of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation.

## Albemarle EMC Holds Annual Member Meeting

Approximately 250 members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation met at Perquimans High School on Saturday for their annual meeting.

The day's activities began with a luncheon for the EMC Directors and special guests. James A. Whitehurst, president, welcomed the group and J.A. Wiggins, vice-president presented the invocation. Next, Edward E. Brown, Jr., manager introduced guests. Following the meal prepared by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Bethel Volunteer Fire Department, Brown presented a brief summary concerning the rising costs of electricity. He stressed the point that when the cost of wholesale power increases, then the cost to members must also increase. Albemarle EMC does not generate any of its electricity, but instead buys it at wholesale price from Virginia Electric Power Company (VEPCO). Brown also briefly explained the

fossil fuel adjustment which is much talked about among consumers. In his closing remarks, Brown asked the group if they felt the majority of the EMC's customers understood the reasons for recent increases. In response, a member replied, "Well, isn't everything going up?"

The members' meeting began at 2 p.m. with a call to order by President Whitehurst. W.E. Meiggs, a member of the EMC's board of directors gave the invocation. Floyd Mathews, secretary-treasurer, reported on the day's attendance and read the minutes of the last meeting.

Following this, Carroll Williams reported on his committee's nominations for the Board of Directors and Charles Johnson, attorney explained the secret ballot voting procedure to the members and the votes were cast.

Annual reports were given by the president, treasurer and general manager.

Questions from the floor were then heard and most inquired about rising prices.

Following the business session, a drawing for attendance prizes was held. Entertainment for the afternoon included performances by: Gwayland McClenney and Ellis Hinton, Darrell Stevenson, Karen Bridgman, Danny

and Linda Meads, Darryl Stallings, The Blue Lights, and square dancing by The Tar Heel Squares and Shooting Stars with Earl Steele.

In closing this year's meeting, President Whitehurst called for unfinished business, and read the results of the election.

## Local Man Will Represent Area

MURFREESBORO, N.C. — A local man has been assigned a key role in Chowan College's Annual Giving Fund for the 1974-75 academic year. The goal for the recently established program is \$50,000.

Chowan's president, Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, said the Annual Giving Fund was established by the Board of Trustees following a recommendation of the Board of Advisors to secure undesignated gifts to help underwrite the day to day operation of the college.

President Whitaker said Chowan will be represented in the Hertford area by Julian E. Winslow, Jr. Chowan's chief administrative officer explained that gifts to the Annual Giving Fund will be earmarked for the daily operational costs of the college. "This is Chowan's most pressing need," he explained. "Gifts to the Annual Giving Fund will be used to meet the daily needs such as lights, food, fuel and supplies, thereby benefitting every student on campus," he added.

Whitaker said support of the Annual Giving Fund is important in helping Chowan keep tuition within the reach of students and assisting the college in

providing its services to young people.

"Chowan College is depending on its many friends and supporters to help it maintain and strengthen its program and service to young men and women. The goal is challenging but one that is well within reach. I am confident that our many friends and supporters who believe in Chowan College will give generously in order to share in the important mission of this private, church-related college," he stated.

Whitaker also announced the three division chairmen of the 1974-75 Annual Giving Fund. They are: Irwin Belk of Charlotte, who will head the Corporations and Foundations Division; Norman Beeks of Roanoke Rapids, who will direct the Friends of the College Division; and J.J. Harrington of Lewiston, who will lead the Parents Division. Serving as the drive's general chairman is Bob Hill, Sr.

The Alumni Annual Fund is under his leadership of Miss Betsy Craig of Richmond, Va. president of the Alumni Association, and Mrs. Joy Dilday of Murfreesboro, alumni president-elect.



**NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS** — At the members' meeting, a new board of directors was elected. All were elected with one new director to fill an open position. They are: Row 1 (l. to r.) Tommie Temple, Floyd Mathews, J.A. Wiggins, J.A. Whitehurst, A.T. Lane; row 2 (l. to r.) Joseph A. Byrum, John N. Burch, Jr., W.E. Meiggs and Roy R. Lowry, Jr.



**FALL'S ON ITS WAY** — When the gourds and pumpkins start lining the fence and yard of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Lane, county residents know that fall is on its way. The Lanes live on Hertford-Edenton Highway where Elsie Lane runs "Elsie's Dollhouse." (Newbern Photo)