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Alda and the ERA

ERA Supported by Star

By Tony Jordan

In an emotional plea to the people of the First District, Alan Alda, star of the popular television series, *M*A*S*H*, stressed the importance of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in North Carolina.

Somewhat different from his usual fun-loving role of "Hawkeye" on the show, Alda exclaimed how little proponents of ERA are asking, "the right for women to be considered people."

The attitude of the star shifted throughout the press conference held Saturday at the Holiday Inn in Elizabeth City. His deep, sincere concern seemed most evident when he talked about individuals who truly suffer from the inequality of men and women in this country, the 12 percent of North Carolina families whose breadwinner is female. He pointed out that women, on the average, receive almost 60 percent of what a man gets in the state.

"What frustrates me the most is that the privileges women do have are the privileges given them by men," Alda, father of three teenage daughters added, "I hope that my daughters will not have to work

twice as hard or be twice as smart as a man to receive the same pay."

For Mildred Johnson Saturday was like a dream come true. Johnson wrote Alda months earlier simply asking if he would come and speak at a fundraiser sponsored by the First District Coalition of North Carolinians United for the Equal Rights Amendment. The celebrity agreed to take time out of a busy schedule at his own expense.

Alda was undaunted by the aspect of losing popularity by taking the stand on the issue. "This issue is bigger than all of us. I would feel guilty if I hadn't made a stand. I sometimes feel guilty when it's impossible for me to come."

At the "Coffee and Dessert" held Saturday night, the New Jersey native thanked the people in the area for giving him such a warm welcome. He recalled a very "unfriendly" visit to Illinois, heart of anti-ERA support.

Prior to the afternoon press conference, Alda met with legislators. After the meeting State Senator, Vernon James, who has voted against ERA in the past said, "I don't think any minds have been changed although he made a

positive impression. I feel he offered no new evidence."

Freshman Representative, Charles Evans had other thoughts of Alda's talk. "People tend to be apathetic about it (ERA). I feel it generated some thought on the issue." Evans is leaning toward passage of ERA, but stated he is still open-minded.

The problem of passage lies not in the House of Representatives, but in the Senate. Three times it has been defeated, in 1973, 75, and 77. In 1977, the bill passed in the house. Evans said, "The impression I get in the congress is that the amendment will not come up unless there are votes in the senate to pass it."

At present, 35 states have ratified ERA; only three are needed to make it a national law. Whether it passes or not, the conflict will continue. Alda agreed ERA was not the complete answer.

With the seriousness of the matter, Alda played it straight for the most part. He used figures to strengthen his argument. The fact that a North Carolina male high school drop-out makes, on the average, over \$1000 a year more than the female college graduate as-



Alda at Press Conference

tounded many during the evening talk.

The "Hawkeye" role did shine through at times in his actions and dry wit. With a straight face he said, "Toilets have not been intergrated,

"speaking of the states that have passed the amendment. With a sly smile he added, "I know some are worried about that. The only way a man will see a woman in the bathroom is if she is cleaning it."

Alan Alda came as a friend to the area, and left as no one's enemy. His friendly approach was so overwhelming that one could easily forget the awesome talent this man possesses while in his presence.

Commissioners Meet; Subdivision Discussed

By Tony Jordan

The County Commissioners held their bi-monthly meeting Jan. 15 where the questions of subdivisions and the water system were the main topics of concern. The commissioners face not only immediate decisions on newly proposed subdivision in the county, but also how the board should handle future subdivisions.

Specific items of concern included the board's stand on supplying water to the sites through the County Water System. Tom Harwell of Rivers and Associates was present to assist the members in taking appropriate measures to insure that the county will be protected in legal matters.

Along with Harwell, Leslie Narron and Billy Harrell, owners of the

latest proposed subdivision in the county, were on hand to find out requirements they must meet in order that the water system may supply the 70 lot, 78 acre section on the Yepium River.

First on the list of requirements stated that the county must have access to water lines, probably in the form of a legal right-of-way. Also, the county must inspect or in some way, have knowledge of the pipe which will become part of the County Water System. It was also included that sending out bids for the installation would probably be the easiest way that Narron and Harrell could apply with the standards.

In other business concerning the water system, Harwell concluded water sample testing on Joppa Road near Belvidere. In the past months

many of the customers in this area have complained about the water quality. Twelve samples were collected and in general the water was found to be "as good as water found in other parts of the county." Along with the samples, the consumers were interviewed and many felt the water had improved.

There was some mention to cross connects, which is used to run county water and pump water together. The commissioners would like to remind citizens that cross connects are illegal and in violation of state and local rules and regulations.

Still in the planning stage is a project that, if approved, would study the cost of the county for each user. With the possibility of additional lines being added, the study would help the board decide which would

render the most profitable.

Water, in more ways than one, seemed to be the topic that interested the group. Orange markings on the roads to aid firemen in locating fire hydrants and the water system outlets were discussed. Harwell said, "I think it's a good idea and we'll help in every way we can." The State Highway Department was notified of the feelings of the commissioners.

THE OLD BLANCHARD BUILDING

A sum of \$55,000 was paid to the owners of the J.C. Blanchard building Jan. 16. An additional \$55,000 will be paid to the owners by Jan. 15, 1980. The building will become a storage facility for the county.

from Federal and Greek Revival style structures of the early and mid-nineteenth century to the ornate Victorian Buildings of the postwar era, to the grand, often opulent Neoclassical ones of the early twentieth century, and some WPA buildings of the 1930s.

Whatever their period and style, these courthouses share powerful architectural symbolism to communicate the importance of the court, justice, and government in the county. The size of the building in the community, the high quality of materials, the frequent use of a cupola or dome, the usual reliance on classical architectural elements such as figures of blind justice—these declare the purpose and importance of the courthouse. Some of the courthouses are the county's first; others are the third or fourth building, reflecting growth of the community. But each holds a pivotal place in the history of the county, where the actions of government, justice, and official changes in the lives of citizens have occurred.

The inventory of all the state's courthouses, from which the nomination was taken, was conducted in 1976-77 by the Division of Archives and History as a part of a broader study of the state's courthouse facilities in cooperation with the North Carolina State University School of Design and the Administrative Offices of the Courts.

Approval of the nomination by the Department of the Interior usually takes about six months and will be announced through the state's congressional delegation.

INSPECTOR TALKS

Sam Long, County Building and Electrical Inspector, discussed the possibility of changing the permit rates from \$1 for each permit to percentage-of-the-job-cost rate. The commissioners agreed that his work is needed very much after seeing a piece of "jackleg" wiring taken from a building in the county. Decisions about the change will be

discussed in later meetings.

OTHERS

Commissioner Lester Simpson was appointed to the Mental Health Commission. A letter was received from the Perquimans County Marching Unit thanking the commissioners and the county for the donation of \$300. The band unit will represent the county in a Florida parade in February.

ARPDC hold meeting

The Albemarle Regional Planning and Development Commission held their meeting with the elected and non-elected county and town officials in the ten-county area at the Holiday Inn in Elizabeth City Thursday night.

For the most part, the meeting took no unusual turn of events. The A-95 Clearinghouse Committee, which Bill Cox is a member, reported that all nine projects were

approved. The group agreed with the committee.

Some changes in federal funding could cause trouble for the commission. Discussion as to how to work around those problems helped relieve tension that the group felt.

The commission changed their fiscal year to coincide with the federal fiscal year, ending in September of 1979. ARPDC had previously completed the year in June.

Baseball Players to Speak

State Legion Banquet Held in Edenton

Edward G. Bond Post 40, The American Legion, sponsor of the 12th annual North Carolina American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame Banquet, has announced that Gaylord Perry, Jim "Catfish" Hunter and Mike Caldwell will attend the event on January 27.

Post Commander Carl Freese says the response from present and former major league ball players to attend the Hall of Fame activities has been overwhelming. He went on to say that ticket sales across the state are also ahead of expectations and urge the people of the area who are planning to attend to purchase their tickets by Monday, January 22. Tickets are available from Post 40 members and the Chowan and Perquimans County Sheriff's Departments.

Commander Freese announced that Carl E. Lamm, Owner of WMPM radio station of Smithfield, will be the M.C. for the evening's activities. Lamm, an avid baseball fan, is a personal friend of Whitey Ford and Mickey Mantle. Guest

speaker for the evening will be State Representative Sam D. Bundy of Farmville.

Highlight of the evening's activities will be the induction of John H. Moss, King's Mountain; Lawrence "Crash" Davis, Gastonia; G.W. "Bill" Leonard, Salisbury; and Mike Caldwell, Tarboro, into the North Carolina American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame.



Jim Hunter

Historic Courthouse Included

The Perquimans County Courthouse, built in 1825, has been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by Larry E. Tise, State Historic

worthy of preservation because of their historical or other cultural value. The nomination was submitted as part of the long range program of the Division of Archives and History to identify, document and recognize historic properties in North Carolina.

The courthouse is nominated as part of an innovative type of nomination to the National Register—a thematic nomination. This one is entitled "Courthouses in North Carolina." Thematic nominations include many individual properties related through their common history, through being examples of a significant aspect of history or architecture, or as varied components of an important whole. The thematic type nomination has been suggested

by the National Register of Historic Places Heritage conservation and Recreation Service, to provide National Register recognition, protection, and preservation incentives to a wider range of historic resources.

The courthouse thematic nomination includes 57 North Carolina courthouses, ranging in date from the 1820's to the 1930s. These represent those historically significant courthouses not previously listed in the National Register. They vary



Perquimans County Courthouse