

Godwin comments on transportation issues

I have served on the Board of Transportation, representing the First Division for a little over ten months and I have tried to refrain from answering complaints by the way of the press as I do not believe that that is the proper forum to use on every complaint directed to any governmental agency; however, I feel that I must answer the constant political thumb-sucking and baby-crying that Senator Marc Basnight continues to dole out to the people concerning the Department of Transportation and its lack of concern in the First Division by the use of the press. I feel that I am fairly familiar with politics, having had some experience over a period of 15 to 20 years and I know that the people oftentimes like to hear that they are not being treated fairly and that you have the capacity to do something about it. The one thing that you must do in this sort of rhetoric is not tell the people what is going on and what is really being done in their behalf.

At the regular Board Meeting of the Department of Transportation on November 13th, we approved the contract totalling \$16,419,351.35 for the grading, drainage, paving, marking and the Washington Baum Bridge over the Roanoke Sound and approaches on U.S. 64 and 264 south of Manteo. Nowhere have I seen Senator Basnight acknowledge the letting of this contract nor have I seen his acknowledgement of the fact that the Department of Transportation is spending millions of dollars in the restoration of the Oregon Inlet Bridge, nor have I seen where there has been an acknowledgement of the thirteen million dollars spent at Mann's Harbor on the ferry facility, along with the several millions of dollars that the D.O.T. paid for the right-of-way north of Duck; therefore, it is hard for me to understand how anyone can feel that Dare County has been left out in the First Division and especially Senator Basnight since has served on the Board of Transportation.

If he felt then as he does now, why didn't he place all of the programs into the T.I.P. and why didn't he get U.S. 17 four-laned from Wilmington to the Virginia line and U.S. 64 four-laned from Rocky Mount to Jamesville and why didn't he get N.C. 168 four-laned from Virginia line to Powells Point? I think that the public should realize that Dare County is not the only county in the First Division. There are fourteen counties and they all have deserving projects. Per capita-wise, there is more money spent by the D.O.T. in the First Division than any other di-

vision in the state.

I am personally proud of the Transportation Improvement Program which was adopted for the years 1988 to 1996. In this area I would like to remind Senator Basnight that in the field of bicycling Dare County received as much or more than any other county in the state. In the field of aviation, Dare County Regional Airport received \$62,000 for improvements of their airport. For the first time, N.C. 168 from the Virginia State Line to U.S. 158 at Barco (18.5 miles) has been placed into the program. My main concern as board member of the First Division in regard to N.C. 168 in Currituck County is a lesson that we learned on U.S. 17. When U.S. 17 was four-laned, including the highrise bridge at South Mills, the people of the area were led to believe by Governor Hunt and members of his Board of Transportation that an understanding had been made with Governor Robb of Virginia. In fact, they met under funeral tents at the Virginia-Carolina line and it was truly a funeral in regard to what Virginia has done with U.S. 17 and any understanding that the two governors had was buried that day. U.S. 17 in Virginia is just like it has been for the past 25 years and for those who do not believe the officials of Virginia do not have U.S. 17 in their program and regardless of all of the promises, I don't expect the state of Virginia to do anything with U.S. 17 any time soon. Now should we proceed to be bush-whacked again and four-lane N.C. 168 so that the tourists in the state of Virginia can have a more convenient way to get to the Dare County beaches or should we tell Virginia that some good faith should be exercised on doing something with U.S. 17 if we are going to spend millions of dollars on NC 168. In fact, the last time I travelled 168 in Virginia, our road was a much better road than theirs and if they are going to widen the road, why have they only put a two-lane bridge in over the Northwest River.

I attended a meeting in the city of Chesapeake, Virginia which was sponsored by Senator Basnight and Senator Bill Parker of Virginia. The proposition was put forth that water from Texas Gulf would be pumped to Chesapeake in return the state of Virginia would four-lane U.S. 17. My only comment was, "Let's cut the ribbon on U.S. 17 before we cut the valve on the water."

It is my understanding that Senator Basnight is credited with saying that the Transportation Improvement Program is put together in smoke-filled rooms and only few people have

any in-put in its formulation. If in fact he made this statement, he might have been referring to the time when he served on the Board of Transportation. I can truthfully say that that is not the case today. Public hearings were held; however, Senator Basnight did not appear at the public hearing in Ahoskie. It is true that many meetings have been conducted and I have done the best I could to include everything that I could possibly get with the money supply that is available for the First Division. We have not included programs that cannot be funded. I am at a loss to understand what the senator was speaking of in the November 14th article when he stated, "If you are going to get someone to move to Hertford County and bring new industries in...you are going to need that 4-lane road all along Highway 17 and we are not getting it and that is not good." I can readily understand how 4-laning U.S. 17 will affect the counties that it services; however, I cannot understand how it would affect Hertford County when it is serviced by U.S. 13.

I am very pleased that the section of U.S. 17 between Hertford and Edenton is now in the program. Senator Basnight had an opportunity to put it in the program but failed to do so. When I first came on the Board, I truly wanted to improve and upgrade U.S. 158 and I pledged myself to that end; however, Senator Basnight completely took this idea and ran into the wilderness with it by putting forth the idea of a super highway from the Outer Banks to Interstate 85. I certainly wholeheartedly endorse such a concept; however, I had to ask the question, "Where was the money coming from?" to which I received the answer that that would be "no problem", and I know different. It is a tremendous problem and I still want to upgrade U.S. 158 to the end that there can be safe travel upon it and I continue to pledge my support to that end.

The First Division is a large division; however, no county is too small to be recognized and no town so unpopulated that their needs should be ignored. It is true that Senator Basnight's home county of Dare has some mounting problems; however, those problems cannot be solved until local governments recognize that they must control the growth which has already gotten out of hand. Promises are one thing. Fulfillment is another. I have made no promises that I knew I could not fulfill and as long as I serve on the Board of Transportation, I plan to keep that objective foremost in my mind.

Students help needy family during holiday

The job of sharing blessings was felt by the fourth grade students in Mrs. Modlin's class last week. During a regularly scheduled class meeting, the students overwhelmingly voted to help a needy family in the county. The local Social Services Department was very helpful in iden-

tifying a family to help.

Bonnie's Be-Lo Supermarket donated a nineteen pound turkey, parents gave canned and boxed food, and the students made Thanksgiving cards.

A parent volunteer drove the class

officers to the home of the family to present the basket.

The students were very enthusiastic about the experience and will further expand their "sharing" attitude with others throughout the school year.

Santa to visit Durants Neck community

SANTA VISITS
There will be a special visitor in New Hope on Sunday, December 13th. Santa's coming for a visit to the

Durants' Neck Volunteer Fire Department. He will be there from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. So get your list ready and come on out to see Santa. Refresh-

ments will also be served. Remember Santa knows if you've been bad or good. So be good for goodness sake's!

Educational loans available now

Educational Loan Funds for 1987-88 Still Available through College Foundation

Realeigh-College Foundation Inc. (CFI) announced this week that educational loan funds are still available for the 1987-88 academic year. CFI has financial commitments from North Carolina banks in excess of its current estimates on loan needs for funding its three educational loan programs for 1987-88.

N. C. Insured Student Loans are for dependent or independent students and are based on financial need. N. C. Supplemental Loans for Students are for independent self-supporting students and are not based on financial need. N. C. PLUS Loans are for parents of dependent students and are not based on financial need.

The loan funds are available for applications received by the Foundation up to 30 days before the end of

the academic period specified in the loan request. According to their enrollment situation and financial situations, students may specify the full academic year, or specific semesters or quarters, as their loan periods.

Additional information and applications are available from financial aid offices at higher education institutions or directly from College Foundation Inc., P. O. Box 12100, Raleigh, N.C. 27605.



Joan Frazier and Lana Arnold rehearse their roles as Amahl and his mother for the upcoming production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors." The opera will be performed on December 11th and 12th at S. L. Sheep School Auditorium in Elizabeth City.

Hertford police department activities

The Hertford Police Department has reported the following activity over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, and the past week.

Denise Welch Cooper, Route 2, Box 66-AA, Edenton, N.C., age 25, was arrested Thanksgiving day for disturbing the peace and resisting a police officer. The arrest was made at 306 Stokes Drive, Hertford, N.C., at 9:00 a.m. and arose over a dispute involving the custody of an eight (8) month old child, the daughter of Samuel Lee Cooper, Jr., and Denise Welch Cooper. Welch was released in the custody of her mother by Magistrate B.T. Dails, Sr., trial date is set for December 23, 1987. Arresting officer in this case was Chief Marshall Merritt.

Gilford Maurice Roberts, age 22 of Route 1, Box 132, Hobbsville, N.C. was arrested on November 21st after an accident for driving while impaired. Officer Stephen Terrill, a witness to the accident stated that he was taking enforcement action with another driver he had stopped in the area at 2:15 a.m. when he heard a loud crash and observed Mr. Roberts had failed to turn left or right at the intersection of Church and Dobbs Street. Officer Terrill stated that Mr. Roberts went straight at the intersection slightly striking a sign post and barely missing a large metal utility pole. His car then crossed over the curb, hitting the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church's fence. Officer Terrill estimated the damage to the fence at approximately \$2,000.00. Damage to the car was estimated at \$1,500.00. Mr. Roberts was transported to Albarque Hospital by the Perquimans County Rescue Squad for treatment of a broken nose. While at the hospital a blood alcohol sample was drawn at the request of Officer Terrill. Mr.

Roberts trial date is set for December 9th, 1987. A secured bond of \$200.00 was set by Magistrate J. H. Symons.

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