

Ed O'Herron Pays

A Visit To KM

Photos & Story By Gary Stewart

Business acumen is one of the traits Ed O'Herron, Democratic candidate for Governor, is trying to sell as he meets the people in a campaign which carries the advertising slogan, "Ed O'Herron, he knows how to get things done."

The Charlotte businessman was in Kings Mountain Wednesday for afternoon of politicking, accompanied by his Kings Mountain campaign manager, Hugh A. Logan, Jr.

O'Herron's business background is apparent and he thinks it will be an advantage in fulfilling as governor the major goal of his administration, raising the state's per capita income.

The 60-year-old chairman of the board of the giant Eckerd's Drugstores of North Carolina wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

As a youth, Ed O'Herron delivered newspapers to earn spending money. His first full-time job was in the stockroom of a small drug store. During World War II he volunteered for the Marines and sent his paychecks home for house payments.

Mr. O'Herron says he knows the value of an honest day's work and this was key to his success during his 30 years in business and 14 years in government. It will be the key to his success, he says, in providing the firm, mature leadership needed to get North Carolina moving forward again.

He hasn't made any political promises, he adds, as he says some of his opponents are doing to gain support for the Aug. 15 primary.

"I'd like to raise tax exemptions for the working people of this state. That hasn't been done since the Dan Moore administration," O'Herron said as he chatted with businessmen in downtown stores.

And he said the effort to raise per capita income would provide the framework for most of the initiatives of his administration, whether in education, industrial development, road building or other functions.

His liabilities as a candidate include the fact that his name was virtually unknown when the campaign started. His advertising program and personal campaigning have taken care of that.

"North Carolina is a \$3,400,000,000 business," he declared, "and we need a businessman to run it."

Some of his platform proposals:

1) North Carolina can save at least \$100,000 a year and have more efficient government by putting the Lieutenant Governor's office back on a part-time basis. "I will ask the 1977 General Assembly to make this change," he says. "In these days of billion dollar budgets, I know that \$100,000 a year may seem like small potatoes, but to the taxpayers, it is a lot of money and it should be saved," O'Herron continuing. "The Lieutenant Governor's chief duty is to preside over the Senate."

2) The shifty shifting of personnel by the Holshouser transportation department only emphasizes the necessity for changes in the whole department. He would eliminate the

district personnel officers the Holshouser administration has put on the public payroll.

3) North Carolina should establish the principle of restitution to the victim by the convicted criminal. It is time that we become more concerned with the rights of the victims, as well as witnesses, including law enforcement officers. Where there cannot be monetary restitution there can be restitution in the form of a number of hours work committed for a worthwhile purpose.

4) He has consistently favored the death penalty for heinous crimes, such as killing a person during the commission of a felony or such as aggravated rape. He believes that the death penalty in such cases will act to keep others from committing such crimes. Application of the death penalty will protect society as a whole.

5) A detailed study of the state's multi-million dollar public relations expenditures will be part of his cost-cutting program. Cost of the public relations empire which has grown up in state government has gone into the million dollar range. He said his study will include all state departments and educational institutions.

6) He will support steps to improve the discipline situation in the classrooms and will ask the 1977 General Assembly to enact legislation which will make absolutely clear the rights and responsibilities of all concerned in school discipline. He is on record as favoring salary increases for teachers which can be accomplished without higher taxes.



O'Herron accompanied by Hugh A. Logan

SECTION B Mirror-Herald

Thursday, August 12, 1976



Otis Falls listens as O'Herron, Wilson Griffin discuss drug store business



Tom Roberts quizzes the candidate on the issues



Plato Hearner chats with the candidate



"Hello, Tricia. My name is Ed O'Herron and I'm running for governor."