

The Readers Write

NOTICE TO LETTER WRITERS

Because of the action of the city board of commissioners last week to ask the Elections Board to approve an ABC referendum, the Herald expects many opinions on the issue from its readers.

We welcome your letters, but ask that you abide by the following guidelines.

Keep your letters brief. The shorter the letter, the better it's chance of being printed.

Stick to the facts. Don't use this means to verbally attack any individual or parties involved.

Every letter must be signed and must include the writer's complete address and telephone number.

All letters must be legible. The Herald reserves the right to edit any letter for spelling, liable or any other reason, and the Herald reserves the right to refuse to print any letter for any reason.

Any letter which is judged to be a "free advertisement" for either side of the issue will not be printed.

Under no circumstances will more than one letter be accepted from any one person.

No letters will be accepted for publication during the week before the election.

Won't Get Off Ground

To the editor:

Hopefully the following predictions will weather the storm: I have a feeling that the ABC issue isn't going to get off the ground within the present administration, as there is too much at stake political-wise.

The present board of city commissioners will have more to lose than to gain.

Even should the issue reach the ballot boxes, the time span between the actual voting and the upcoming city election in the fall, the wounds will not have healed, and this will cause a complete turnabout of possible new candidates filing for office and a possible uprooting and unseating of a number of the present board. And future aspirations and ambitions for political office may become nil.

This issue is going to be quite interesting since it's a moral issue. It's going to be a testing time as to how committed the churches are and the members' dedication, and their true grit and determination to defeat further outlets of alcoholic beverage consumption to our youth as well as adults.

The city hasn't been able to control past bootlegging, nor the drug traffic which prevails presently. Where is the reasoning and logic on the part of the wets?

This whole mess has the overtones of a last ditch effort of holding political office and someone is running scared.

The revenue for this ungodly act will never compensate for all the harm it's going to cause. A city built upon blood money.

As for myself, I'll vote against it.

Everette Pearson
Kings Mountain

Cut And Dried

To the editor:

On the night of January 24, Governor Jim Hunt made a very touching television address to the people of N.C. on drunken driving. He spoke of how our innocent motorists are being killed on our highways as the result, and his bill if passed would hopefully put a stop to it.

Governor Hunt never mentioned the possibility of some new legislation that would stop the flow of liquor into our state—one that would stop every town and hamlet from having a referendum on the issue.

At the time the Governor was making his address, our town commissioners with the exception of Norman King were approving a liquor referendum for Kings Mountain to be held on April 12th, without the consideration of the citizens opposed to liquor. They were so eager to approve the vote, the petition wasn't examined to see where the signatures came from. It seems to have been cut and dried.

Horace Walker
Kings Mountain

Disappointed In Board

To The Editor:

I write to express by deep disappointment in the action of the City Commissioners in voting to call for a "Liquor referendum".

The referendum itself is bad enough because it divides the people of a city over a very emotional issue, it causes feelings of animosity between friends and relatives that sometimes never heal. Also it costs money, tax money, that could better be used elsewhere.

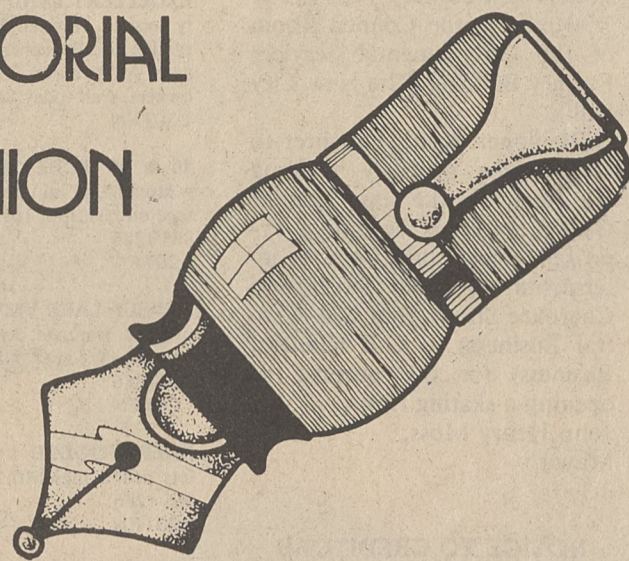
But the real disappointment I feel concerns the procedure that was used by the people involved. It seems that no one would clarify the State law about how a referendum is to be called for. When one of the commissioners asked questions, he was given to answers or, at the most, very vague answers. Did we elect those men to represent us by voting on issues that they have no legal knowledge about? According to the NC ABC statutes, a referendum may be called for by two distinct and separate procedures:

1)The City Council may vote to ask the Board of Elections to have the referendum. (This, of course, means that a few people take it upon themselves to force the people of their city to go through the physical, emotional, and financial experience of such a referendum.)

2)A person, or persons, may ask the Board of Elections to draw up a petition for such a referendum. The Board itself then words the petition, dates it, and returns it to the person(s) requesting it. Then the people requesting the petition, have 90 days in which to get 25% of the registered voters to place on that petition their signatures, name, address and precinct, IF THEY DO NOT HAVE 25% IN 90 DAYS THE PETITION IS VOID! If they present the petition back to the Board of elections, the Board must verify those names within 30 days. Then the Board of elections sets the date for the referendum.

The petition that was waved before the City Council, and which they thought they thought they were referring to the Board of Elections wasn't worth the papers it was printed on as a legal document. It was a completely invalid petition.

EDITORIAL OPINION



Why did the City Commissioners not notify some people in this community whom they knew be opposed to such a referendum, to be in attendance at the meeting. Surely, the Commissioners want to have all the citizens of this city to have a voice. It seems, in this case, at least, that a large part of this city's citizens were not represented. I know for a fact that the agenda for the Monday commissioners meeting is drawn up and presented to the commissioners on the preceding Friday. Knowing the deviousness of this issue, it seems to me to be, reasonable to expect that at least one person of the opposing view should have been notified and have at least been given the opportunity to speak in opposition. Some of us could have given the Commissioners the truth about the law so they would not have the excuse of voting in the dark.

Why and by who, I don't know, but I honestly feel that the people of his city have "been had". The responsibility of this referendum rests solely, entirely and completely upon the shoulders of the majority vote of the City Commissioners. If that is not true, if the commissioners did not know that they were calling for a referendum...then I call upon them to rescind that vote and let the "Liquor crowd" get a petition and see if they can call for a referendum LEGALLY instead of by the uncertain, invalid, shady smoke screen method that was used. Do the citizens of this city have to monitor the Board meetings to be sure we get a fair shake?

Well, the majority of our people voted AGAINST this issue before and the reasons we did so are stronger and more numerous than before. You can rest assured that the people's voice will be heard...by ballot!

Gene Land,
citizen-tax payer

Board Wasn't Misled On ABC

The City Board of Commissioners last week approved a request by local Attorney Scott Cloninger that an ABC election be held on April 12.

Now, it appears some or all members of the board may consider rescinding that action.

Some members of the board say they were misled by Cloninger and City Attorney George Thomasson at last week's city board meeting. They say they believed they were actually voting to pass petitions along to the elections board and it would be the elections board's decision on whether or not the vote would be called.

That may be the case, but we doubt it. Actually, the city board is being urged by citizens who did not have a chance to voice their opinions in the open meeting to rescind their vote.

The commissioners should have known full well that they were calling for an ABC referendum. The procedures for calling such a vote were explained very clearly by Attorney Cloninger before the vote was taken. The procedures were also explained very clearly the Thursday before in a front page article in the Kings Mountain Herald.

Responding to a question by Commissioner Norman King, Cloninger stated that the petitions he carried into the board meeting did not have to be examined by the City Elections Board, and that if the city board did not call for an ABC referendum, he would be required to submit petitions directly to the Elections Board and that those petitions must contain the signatures of at least 25 percent of the registered voters in the city limits of Kings Mountain.

King voted against the motion. Any other commissioners who are against the sale of alcoholic beverages in the city should have done the same.

It should be pointed out that this is the third time in the past 16 years that an ABC referendum has come before the citizens of Kings Mountain. Some of the members of the city's governing body were also on the board on at least one other occasion of an ABC vote. They have no excuses for not knowing the procedures.

What we have here is a case of hindsight. Commissioners who would consider rescinding this action on an excuse of being "misled" are only looking for excuses.

If they are having second thoughts, they are having them only because of the pressure being applied by some citizens.

In future matters of such emotions, the city board should publicize such matters before the city board meeting in order to give both sides a chance to voice an opinion before the vote is taken.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION	
Home Federal Savings and Loan	
(Name of Association)	
Kings Mountain, N.C.	
(Location)	
Date	12-31-82
ASSETS	
1. Mortgage Loans and Contracts	(101) 49,727,761
2. Nonmortgage Loans	(102) 1,826,665
3. Real Estate Owned & In Judgement	(103) 1,870
4. Stock in Federal Home Loan Bank or NCSGC Deposit	(105) 416,400
5. Cash and Investments	(106) 3,999,873
6. Investment in Service Corporation/Subsidiary	(107) 259,825
7. Fixed Assets (Net)	(108) 90,531
8. Other Assets	(109) 1,152,467
TOTAL ASSETS	(120) 57,475,392
LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH	
9. Savings Accounts	
Accounts at Passbook Rate or Less	(201) 13,778,576
Accounts Above Passbook Rate	(202) 40,643,321
Total	(205) 54,421,897
10. Federal Home Loan Bank Advances	(206) -0-
11. Other Borrowed Money	(207) 410,667
12. Loans in Process	(208) 757,801
13. Specific Reserves	(209) 50,000
14. Other Liabilities	(210) 426,359
15. Capital Stock	(211) -0-
16. Additional Paid-in Capital	(212) -0-
17. Permanent Capital Reserve	(213) -0-
18. Unappropriated Retained Earnings	(215) 1,408,668
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH	(220) 57,475,392

Certified to be true and correct by

Nancy S. Seaman
Vice Pres-Sec

Title

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