

The day The President didn't come to town

(From Page 2A)

to give us an answer. It looks like they are waiting for us to announce The President is not coming to let them off the hook."

About 1:30 p. m. Don Wilson called from Broyhill's Washington office, "The President has cancelled. They didn't give a reason. And the chances of getting the Vice President are about a million to one."

Wilson went on to say "The boss is upset about this. You have no idea of the amount of pressure that's been applied here in Washington to urge The President to fill his Kings Mountain commitment."

Back in the meeting plans went ahead to have a parade and to leave the invitation open to whoever wants to come to be here and they would be welcomed.

The decorations were cancelled, the expensive speaker system, half of the portable chairs, the folding chairs were cut from 5,000 to 2,500 and King had to call and cancel the reservation for 20 to 25 rooms, two offices and a suite being held at The Royal Villa.

The mayor got on the horn and began calling possible replacements, Sen. John Glenn, former Secretary of Treasury

John Connelly, Sen. "Scoop" Jackson, Dr. Billy Graham and Dr. Norman Vincent Peale.

Glenn was the only probable.

Then about 4 p. m. Don Wilson called The Mirror-Herald office.

"Tom. I can't get through to the mayor's office..." Don said.

"I know. He's talking to John Glenn," answered I.

"Well, The White House just confirmed it. Vice President Nelson Rockefeller will come to Kings Mountain on Oct. 7. The same schedule as The President had. We were working on it, but I didn't want to get your hopes up..."

I called the mayor's office and told his secretary to tell him to hang up so Wilson could call him. I said Rocky's coming in Ford's place.

My God! Here we go again.

So, the committee was called up and all of the original plans were back into operation. I was happy. At last, I'd gotten two news stories and would be able to print both of them within hours of their happening. So far in this road race our weekly publication was being outflanked left and right on the news of The President's visit.

Then Sun., Oct. 6 King called to say the

Secret Service would not allow Rockefeller to ride in the parade downtown. Instead, he would be helicoptered to Gamble Stadium in time to see the parade from the reviewing stand and deliver his speech.

With that announcement the need to have the Bomb Squad come in to check every window, door, trashcan and manhole along the parade route was gone. It also wiped out a large number of people expected in the downtown area to view the parade.

Mon., Oct. 6 I was having breakfast at a local cafe when I read in a Charlotte paper about the Ashbrook Senior High band being miffed about being disinvited to be in the parade. The band members claimed it was because they had no uniforms and would wear blue jeans, T-shirts and green and white sneakers.

From that moment on newspapers all across the country picked up the story, then the editorial cartoonists went to work. Following that were letters from concerned Americans (We got one from Kansas) issuing protest of the action.

In all of the hullabaloo it seems no one stopped to ask why the story about Ashbrook's band not being in the parade appeared on Mon., Oct. 6 when the band

and the entire school had known about it for two weeks.

Gaston County school officials here Oct. 7 chuckled about it and said they hadn't thought about it one way or the other.

If the eleventh hour hue and cry is in fact a big sympathy play to get new uniforms for the Ashbrook band, then it's a good one.

Personally, I think they should have been allowed to come and play if they wished to even if they were wearing gym suits. But, I wasn't on the parade committee and, fortunately, I was not faced with having to draw the line at which band would come and which would not.

Tues., Oct. 7. The day The President didn't come to town...

Four choppers of varying size swooped over the trees and setdown on the Kings Mountain Senior High practice field. The mayor, Gov. Holshouser, Congressman Broyhill and Jerry King went out to greet Nelson Rockefeller as he stepped off his chopper.

From that point on all of that tight security was shot to hades.

"The Vice President trotted away from his protection the minute he spotted people lining the fence," Jerry King said. "The Secret Service almost went bananas. They yelled for him to come back as they ran after him. He got to the fence before they did."

Then coming down the steps into the stadium Rocky waded into the crowd shaking hands, grinning, chatting. He could easily have shaken a thousand hands before he worked his way half way to the speaker's platform.

The rest of the story from that afternoon most of you know.

That evening I got a call from a man who would not identify himself saying the police officers from Winston-Salem and the drill team from Fort Bragg had been turned away from the junior and senior high cafeterias following the festivities.

Martha Wright, who was in charge of the junior high cafeteria, said, "We fed the local police officers after Rockefeller was gone. They were the only ones who showed up. There were no soldiers coming in after the festivities."

Joyce Hord, in charge of the senior high cafeteria, said, "We were told to prepare to feed about 100 police officers after the celebration. We fed over 200 policemen and about a dozen soldiers. No one was turned away."

Bill Bates, of the local school administration, said there was very little damage to the school property from so many people and that about 10 hours worth of work made the stadium look as if no one had been there.

Now, it's time to evaluate just what was accomplished by all of the furor.

First, Jerry King got a marble paperweight with the Vice Presidential Seal inside, cufflinks with the VPs seal and a pen autographed by Rocky. He also got the experience of his life which will probably ruin him for life as far as volunteering his services as a coordinator for anything.

Second, Ashbrook High's band got needed publicity to bring to the fore the fact they need uniforms and the city received an apology from Ashbrook Band Director John Culp. "I don't know who contacted the newspapers and gave them

the story in the first place. Sure, we were disappointed, but that was the end of it as far as I was concerned. The publicity will certainly make it easier to get new uniforms, but I hate it was done by embarrassing an entire community. That would be the last thing I would want to happen. I don't think the band members wanted that, either."

Third, the community has received a political brand because only the GOPers were recognized even though there were plenty of elected Democrats on the premises.

Fourth, half a dozen students from Appalachian got to hold up their anti-Rockefeller posters and handout leaflets expressing their stand.

Fifth, a wet-behind-the-ears reporter from a big daily paper found out quickly that he had permission to leave the city immediately if he found it so trying for him to ever be in Kings Mountain (that permission was granted by the local press reporters and photographers).

Sixth Rockefeller walked away with a two hundred year old hunting horn and Bible, presented by the Overmountain Marchers, Bicent commemorative coins from the city and state and the impression that Howard Jackson's name is Howard Johnson.

And, possibly seventh — representatives from other communities might read this and immediately cancel any plans they have for inviting The President of The United States to visit with them.

And to anyone harboring such thoughts in other communities — suffice it to say the citizens of Kings Mountain now have some idea of how the French must have felt when Hitler's troops invaded and told him how to act in their own country.

ELECT

HUMES HOUSTON

DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th



Class Of '56 Plans Reunion

Attention: High School Graduates, KMHS Class of 1956.

A class reunion is in the making for 1976 and addresses are badly needed for some members of the graduating class.

Call Mrs. Linda Sanders, 739-5203, after 7 p. m. if you have addresses of these classmates: Don Hord, Joyce Kiser Pressley, Patsy Ledbetter, Jerry Ledford, Tommy McAbee, Shirley Ann Mcintosh, Judy Neil and Judy Owens.

Young adult estate plan

If you're 15 to 22 years old, you can start your life insurance program with \$20,000 in term insurance for just \$88.00 a year! When you're 25, your policy converts to permanent insurance at rates you'll be able to afford. It's called Nationwide's "Young Adult Estate Plan" and it's worth checking into. Call:



Bob Smith, Jr.
East King Street
Kings Mountain,
N. Carolina 28086
739-3253

NATIONWIDE INSURANCE
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Home Office: Columbus, Ohio

Traffic Accident Report

The State Highway Patrol reports a total of 24 accidents in Cleveland County from unsafe vehicle movement resulting in five injuries during the week of Oct. 6-12.

Since Jan. 1, 1975 15 persons have died in Cleveland County traffic accidents.

DID YOU KNOW: "Every motorcycle shall be equipped with at least one and not more than two headlamps... The headlamps on a motorcycle shall be lighted at all times while the motorcycle is in operation on highways or public vehicular areas." GS 20-129(c).

VISITORS HERE

Mrs. Cynthia Grice Wray and daughters, Mary and Anne, of Shelby, spent last Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Holtshulte, coming especially to attend the Bi-Centennial Parade. Mrs. Wray is niece of Mrs. Holtshulte.

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CITIZENS OF KINGS MOUNTAIN:

I am deeply honored for your vote of confidence and support in the election of October 7th.

I would like to thank everyone for their help and vote and I am asking for the same support again in the run-off election on November 4th.

I will support all programs that will accomplish the mission of growth and progress for our city. I will continue the search for new industries and work toward a budget plan that will keep our taxes at the lowest possible level.

Have a lot of faith in our city and our citizens and if your concern is the same as mine, get out the SECOND TIME and VOTE.

Sincerely,

Humes Houston

HUMES HOUSTON
CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 11

I will Appreciate Your Vote and Support

Paid Political Advertisement

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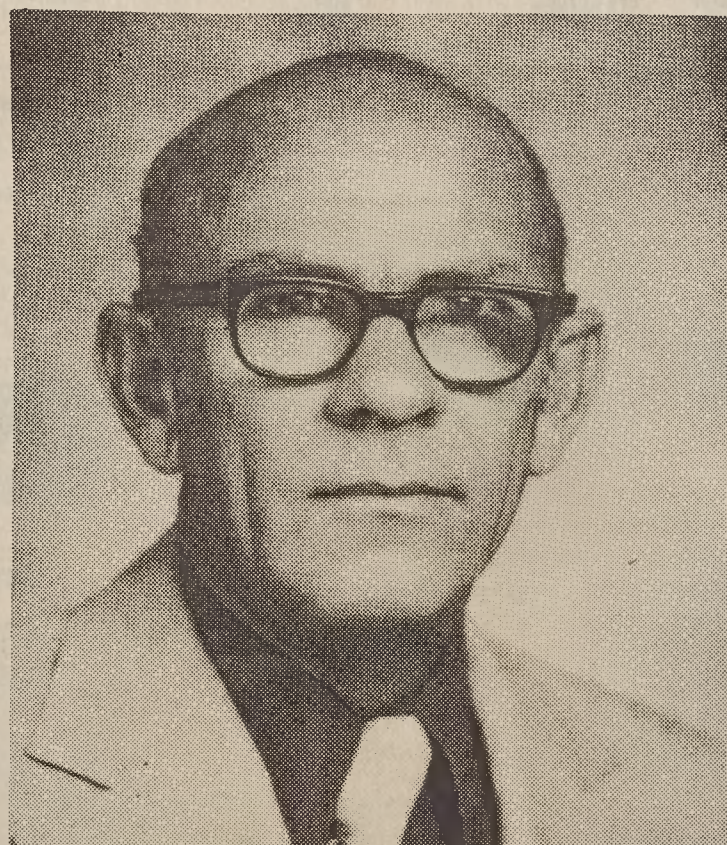
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JAMES A. CHILDERS

CANDIDATE FOR

DISTRICT 1

COMMISSIONER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th

It is with heart felt appreciation and deep sense of humbleness that I say thank you to those of you who worked, supported and voted for me on October 7, 1975.

I deeply appreciate the confidence and trust that you the 838 voters placed in me on October 7, 1975, and this is the reason that I called for a run off election on November 4, 1975.

I will continue to need your support and vote on November 4, 1975.

I renew my pledge to you the voters, if elected by you as your District 1 Commissioner, I will, with the support of you the voter, and with the help of the Lord, serve you to the best of my ability.

Thank you again.

James A. Childers

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