

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1957

Editorial Correspondence

Shufflings And Stompings Of Old Pols Give Legislature A Sonorous Send-Off

By CECIL PRINCE

RALEIGH THROUGH the swinging glass doors of the Hotel Sir Walter lies the center ring of this political circus. The headlines are harvested uptown at the Capitol, but the seeds are sown in a lobby no bigger than a Tryon Street

a obby spining are than a Tryon Street an obby spining are than a Tryon Street Even before breakfast today, the air was rife with the-shuffling and stompings of old pols, the shouts of greeting, the whispered mischief, the professional folksiness of robust, redfaced giants who represent the branch-head boys.

It was suddenly open sesson for heartiness, rhetoric and splendid gesturing. Here was the whole gorgeous fabric of Tar Hele manhood—the blending of accents and attitudes, the outrageous spectacle of a galussed dirt farmer from down east jawing confidently with a dude of a lawyer from Greensboro, the heroic and highly picturesque profamity of mountain men.

T IS NO WONDER that the first-timers and visitors—the helpless, pliable minority on the edge of the crowd, ears open, guard down—gape and wonder at the goingson. Nor is it any wonder that the whole of North Carolina sits like a patient in the downser of the state o

The Capitol's a funny place,
Where statesmen congregate to legislate,
y come to "cure" the people's

To let their own get by. For-

Every honest statesman has some interests of his own, Every legislator wants his good things left alone; And all the hot air and agitation Over water and conservation. And Nigara's illumination Has a meaning all its own.

Has a meaning all its own.

North Canolina's General Assembly is probably no better or no worse than its counterparts meeting now in 42 states (the other six meets in the syring or duit of the other six meets in the syring or duit of the other six meets in the syring or duit of the other six meets in the six meets in the six meets of the syring of th

and its folklore. It can, on occasion, per-form with all the grace and efficiency of a dinosaur. Then again, during rare moments of expansive generosity, it can speed through its chores with breath-taking speed and agility. It all depends on what preparations have been made in the Sir Walter's lobby.

have been made in the Sir Walter's lobby.

There are 120 members of the House of Representatives and 50 senators. Every one of them who could crawl is here today to sit in judgment on the political destiny of Lether Hartwell Hodges. This will indeed be the acid test for the governor.

"This time he has bitten off more than be can chew," said a state official who prefers, for obvious reasons, to remain anonymous.

There is no doubt but what the state's chief executive has an ambitious program to place before the legislature. This will be nothing at all like last summer's shadow play at the special session—with its tryouts on the road, prompters in the wings and a pat, well-rehearsed finale. Responses to governmental reforms are not as predictable as they are to racial issues in North Carolina. And reforms galore will be proposed by the governor in the days and weeks ahead.

THE Sir Walter's lobby was quivering

THE Sir Walter's lobby was quivering lever so slightly today about the length and breadth of the governor's expected program:

1—A complete overhaul of the corporate tax structure to make North Carolina more attractive to new industry.

2—A stem to stern reorganization of the State Highway and Public Works Commission to rid North Carolina of the "little kingdoms" of district commission to rid North Carolina of the "little kingdoms" of district commissioners and stress statewide planning in roadbuilding.

3—Separation of the prison system from the State Highway Department.

4—General governmental reorganization contained in ten separate reports. In addition, there will be much safety legislation submitted, together with recommendations for teacher pay raises, as tate millimum wage law. Iggislative reapportionment and that sturry perennial, the state liquor referendum.

To BAT 1.000 in this league is impossible.

But there are some who say today that the governor will not even bat his weight in 1957.

ancient wheeze about the sophomore jinx.

This is but the second legislature Gov. Hodges has faced as the state's chief executive. He knows the toil and trouble that lies abead. He knows that he has been the recipient of extraordinary good fortune in the past. He knows that luck alone cannot save him from the political wolves forever. If he goes down swinging, he will at least spank up an awful lot of dust.

Omit Dictation In Choice Of Senator

THE selection of a successor to Sen.

Jack Blythe must be accomplished with the utmost care and discretion.

The new senator from Mecklenburg must be willing and able to conduct a disinterested and continuing battle for the best interests of the most populous—and often the most abused county—in the state. It will require a citizen of rare tact, determination and proved leader—ship ability.

In our opinion, neither Rep. Jack Love nor former Sen. Fred McIntyre possess these qualifications in sufficient degree, nor in degree comparable to other citizens mentioned for the post.

Rep. Love perhaps has enough control of the Mecklenburg Democratic Executive Committee to dictate appointment of either of his two favories for the post—himself or Mr. McIntyre. But disherested deliberation—nor dictation—is the only basis for a wise selection.

And it should be noted that Mr. Love's

reputed popularity with precinct leaders is not matched by popularity with the electorate. In the May primary he ran a poor fourth—3,538 votes behind third man Frank Snepp—to get on the general election ticket. In November he missed defeat at the hands of Republican ingenue Charles F. Coira by only 575 votes.

The Democratic Executive Committee would serve neither the party nor the community by placing political allegiances over the need for effective and responsible public service in Raleigh.

The public service records of other citizens mentioned for the post—attorneys J. Spencer Bell, Fred Helms and Robert Lassiter—are long and distinguished.

Mecklenburg's best interests would be served best by an appointment of one of them, or of some other citizen whose devotion to public service is more notable than his political ambitions.

Sen. Jack Blythe Bespoke Us Ably

THE quiet man will be missed.

Jack Blythe served Mecklenburg loyally and well for three terms in the state

Serate.

He earned the respect of his colleagues swiftly and held it through crucial years of political change and realignment.

In a legislature dominated by the agricultural East, this was no small task.

Mecklenburg, the metropolitan giant, at traditionally susspect its motives and its interests are blocked almost by in-stinct.

Sen. Blythe's influence could not dis-

solve all of the rural bloc's prejudices But it nevertheless had a soothing effect on the kind of builtin fears that have fractured urban aspirations for decades Sen. Blythe's resignation, at a time when Mecklenburg and all of North

Cabinet Exits Open For Dulles, Humphrey And Wilson



IKE INDIGNANT

PROTECTING THE REAR

Of Statues And Teachers, Pets And Profundities Platform

Your Inclusion of Confederate monuments was heart-warming. 'Lest we forget' was not an ide phrase, but an illuminating char-acteristic of the personality of the body public. Recently an Abbeville. S. C. Recently an Abbeville. S. C. C. Alleristmass tree to the dis-trees of many descendants. I am ône. I wish you lived in Abbe-ville!

Devil's Own Irony Plagues Professors

'Can You See The Second Line At All?'

IN EUROPE

-SANDY McROBERTS

Ignorance Breeds Destruction Of Dogs

Charlotte

- MRS. R. S. PHILLIPS

Age Loses More Than It Profits

Charlotte

Mr. Hester is living in the past, In a time when his "white thoroughbreds" reigned supreme through force and terror. That day is nearly over here in North Carolina. The same indignation that is said to have cleared the temple once is clearing it again.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Russell's Question

Sudden Hush

U. S. Base

HERBLOCK

Senators will find in their files a reto the Bright Senators will find in their files a reto the Bright Senators will sind in their files a reto the green Donald P. Booth, asstant to the undersceretary of war,
ted 1946, which is classified secret.

it, Gen. Booth attached the followgwarning:

Che. wash later the Buse

One wash later the

Clearance Needed

GOP Protested Foreign Policy Probe