

Jacob Eased Tension of Bell-Love Fight

If you had been there last night, you would have faced and voices to remember today.

It was the smoke-filled, high-ceilinged courtroom of the County Courthouse.

There was large, heavy-eyed Hugh McMillan of Huntersville who draped an about the "funeral of the Democratic party."

EXCITED SNEPP
There was excited Frank Snapp who demanded the meeting be open to the public.
There was neat, nervous Jack Pridden who almost timidly placed the name of Jack Love before the group.
There was short, quiet James McMillan who made sound expositions to the chair's rulings.
There was the "Little Man,"

W. M. Nicholson, a gavel-rapping, crisp-voiced, flamboyant chairman.

GLADIATORS WAIT
Behind the scenes were the anxious gladiators, Spencer Bell and Jack Love.

But out of the stuffiness and the hickory and the tension there emerged a hero.

To prove that he was real, he pulled a wallet out of his pocket and dangled a long chain of plastic covered membership cards.

They were all made out to one Jacob Thompson, 204 N. McDowell St., a retired railway postal clerk.

DEMOCRAT GROUP
To the small group of Democrats there, he was the winner last night, an aging, determined, unwavering little Negro man



W. M. NICHOLSON who remembers the operatic-shoemaker Jim Frata. The drama was enacted at

the Democratic Executive Committee meeting at the courthouse where Bell knocked over Love to win the party's State Senate seat.

Thompson, 78 years old and a three-time grandfather, came merely as a supporter of Mr. Bell from Precinct No. 1, the Courthouse precinct.

When he got to his feet to exercise his right to vote—he was barely visible over the tops of the heads of those seated before him. Chairman Nicholson—himself a shortly—moved swiftly to the front seats.

EXAMINE LETTER
"Mr. Thompson," he demanded, "will you examine this letter and tell me if it is your signature?"
"Yes, sir, it is," Thompson answered.
"Then," Nicholson said, turning

on his heels and heading back to the front table, "I disqualify Mr. Thompson as a precinct chairman."

Thompson remained on his feet. He was puzzled and he turned to Dr. R. A. Hawkins who was seated next to him. Hawkins was ready to get to his feet.

James McMillan, the man who had nominated Bell, asked to see the letter Nicholson held.

LETTER SAID
The letter said, "There is some misunderstanding as to my being precinct chairman. I at no time sought such office. I did it at any time give my consent to this action."

Nicholson noted that Jacob Thompson had returned campaign literature, but McMillan said the letter mentioned nothing of resignation.
Nicholson stuck by his ruling. Thompson wanted to know



JACOB THOMPSON

why he had received a letter addressed to him as precinct chairman inviting him to the meeting if he was not chairman.

Nicholson, a skillful lawyer, countered quickly by asking him to produce the letter.

McMillan protested and so did Judge Fred Helms, but Nicholson stood firm, calling on the vice chairman to vote in place of Thompson. "Hattie" Zanders voted for Love.

Few noticed the little man when he slipped out of the second row seat and shuffled out of the courtroom.

LETTER ACKNOWLEDGED
Nicholson acknowledged that the letter would be received by the chair.

Before the meeting ended he wept.

Hawkins got to his feet again. "Mr. Chairman," he said, "Mr. Thompson has returned with the 'corpus delicti.'"
Laughter filled the courtroom. The letter was received.

After the voting was over, Nicholson acknowledged that the letter indicated Thompson was precinct chairman.

NOTE FOR BELL
"Then I have a vote," Thompson said. "I would like to go on record for Mr. Bell."

There were cheers and Jacob Thompson was being slapped on the back, his hand was pumped, and he pulled out a wallet to show that he was a duly registered member of the National Association of Retired Civil Employees.

Strictly Political

What Was Role Of Sid Croft In Contest?

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer
There are still a lot of unanswered questions concerning last night's circus at the Courthouse. For instance: What was the interest of Sid Croft and Abe Bogan in the affair?

NOBODY EVEN thought of Phil Van Every — of course — but the word has been out for a while now that he would be interested in a State Senate seat next time.

THOSE LONG oaths of office. Do members of the State Supreme Court remember them? Justices Rodman, Denny and Higgins used index cards when they administered oaths of office in Thursday inaugural procedure.

EX-MECKLENBURG George Patton received a good hand when he took his oath of office. He has become quite a favorite in Raleigh just as he was in Charlotte.

EVER WONDER about the Seal of the State? The seal says, "The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina — Esse Quam Videri."
Seems to me it ought to read "The Seal of the State of North Carolina." With Latin, too, of course.

DESPITE ALL the color associated with the inaugural ceremonies, it was a rather uninspired show. The pre-inaugural ball was far from gala and the inaugural ceremonies were routine. Norman Cordon even sang the Star Spangled Banner without musical background. Parade was nice, though.

INCIDENTALLY, how many people can name all three governors of North Carolina from Mecklenburg?
Answer: Nathaniel Alexander (1895-97), Zebulon B. Vance (1877-79) and Cameron Morrison (1921-25).
There'll be a dispute over Vance, but the county was Mecklenburg at that time.

THREE NAMES to join in General Assembly: John Kerr, P. T. Falls and J. W. Caldwell. Key committee posts should go to these three favorites.

GAME: One of the hottest and longest poker games of the century is a running affair at the Sir Walter these days in Raleigh. Players barely have time for legislative duties. Losers won't let winners get to sessions. All hoping, they say, for some committee assignments so they can continue uninterrupted.

C. B. DEANE, the gentle lawmaker from Rockingham who was defeated by Paul Kitchin, is back in Washington. Not as a Congressman, for sure, but as a partner in the law firm of Chapman, Wolfson and Criswell which will add Deane to the name on the door. He will have law offices in Rockingham. The Chapman of the firm is former Secretary of Interior Oscar Chapman.

What's Inside

Books	9A
Classified	1-8P
Comics	1-8P
Crossword Puzzle	6A
Editorials	4A
Obituaries	2A
Radio-TV	7A
Serial	6A
Sports	4-5P
Theaters	4-5P
To Your Good Health	6A
Women	4-5P
Worry Clinic	4-5P
Select Foremost Milk Products at your favorite store—Adv.	

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Bell in May Bring Party Snakeup Here

Love Forces Fall In Senate Vote

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

J. Spencer Bell, one of Mecklenburg's outstanding civic leaders and attorneys, swept to a clean cut victory over Rev. Jack Love for State Senator last night in a showing which may have set the stage for a reorganization of party machinery here.

Bell, a 50-year-old lawyer who has never had serious political aspirations, swamped Love 33-18 in a voice vote at the Mecklenburg Democratic Executive Committee meeting at the Courthouse.

Howard Arbuckle received three votes.
Bell will succeed P. J. (Jack) Blythe who resigned less than a week ago because of his health. Mr. Bell may be sworn in as early as Monday by Gov Luther H. Hodges and expects to assume his new position Thursday.

Losser Jack Love said today, "I plan to go back to Raleigh on Monday and continue to work in the House of Representatives as an elected public servant."

GOOD FIGHT
"It was a good fight and I wish Mr. Bell the best of success in his new undertaking."
"I am not mad-at anybody. I sought the Senate position and lost. That's that."

The victory came on the first reading of the roll of precinct chairmen by Secretary Charles Evans. The roll call, marred by many interruptions, challenges and rulings by party chairman W. M. Nicholson and exceptions by Bell supporters James McMillan was nip and tuck until A. J. Brewer of Pineville cast his vote for Bell.

UNRAVELED
With the Sharon boxes following and Bell taking the edge in the other county boxes, the meeting's tension suddenly unraveled. There was mild surprise that other party favorites received no backing. It was expected that for the sake of prestige and friendship a few other names would be tossed into the pot.

BELL-LOVE FIGHT
It was strictly a Bell-Love fight and was witnessed by the Executive Committee and 200 other spectators who sat at the rear of the courtroom. The meeting was opened only after verbal vying between Nicholson and Rev. Frank Snapp. David Peterson, a meeting spectator, asked the committee to throw the doors open and the committee finally voted favorably on his suggestion.

Bell awaited word at his third floor office in the Law Bldg. just across the lawn from the Courthouse.
See BELL on page 10-A

Evening Prayer
Almighty God, bestow Thy blessings upon the churches of our community. In all things may they be conformed to the mind of Christ that, enhanced by the Light of the World, they may be a strong beacon light to our community through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

STRENGTH LACKING
Look back over the Love record since W. M. Nicholson was named chairman and nowhere is there a real show of strength. He faced one major test and lost it last night.

The traditional display of "political" power has never been Jack Love's. He has never dictated any po-

litical appointments or had other plans to hand out.
He has never made personal profit from his so-called command of the party.
Love has been interested mainly in assuring himself of a position in high state circles. His scramble up the political ladder has been a matter of prestige and vanity, more than any hope of personal profit to wield power for power's sake.
Apparently aware of his own limitations as a politician, why



Jack Love Got 18 Votes . . .



But Spencer Bell Won With 33



But Spencer Bell Won With 33

U.S. Quietly Seeks Deal With Nasser

By TOM HOGGE

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States is reported putting out quiet feelers to learn whether President Nasser of Egypt would agree to make a conciliatory policy statement which might help in the effort to get Israeli troops out of Egypt.

Informed sources said Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. and other members of the U. S. delegation have been sounding out Egyptian diplomats on this possibility. A U. S. delegation source acknowledged Lodge had been in contact with the Egyptians over the past few days, but declined to disclose any details.

These moves were reported as Arab delegates urged a similar statement by Nasser at this crucial stage might persuade Israel to ease her adamant stand against withdrawal. The Americans reportedly have suggested to Egypt's delegation that such a move by Nasser would increase his stature and enhance Egypt's prestige in the west.

The informants said there has been no formal move to put this delicate proposition to Nasser, but that it was being touched on in the course of private talks with Egyptian representatives here. The Americans also are said to have been sounding out other Asian-African delegates on the feasibility of such a step.

Egypt's refusal to make any commitment or even suggest her future intentions regarding the Israelis, has been one of Israel's main arguing points. In refusing to withdraw their troops from Egypt or the Gaza Strip the Israelis have stood firm on one demand — assurance of nonbelligerence from Egypt.

Walter Eytan, director general of Israel's foreign ministry, again told newsmen in Tel Aviv that Israel will not quit Sharm el Sheikh at the mouth of the Gulf of Agaba until guaranteed that Egypt will not impinge Israeli shipping interests. Egyptian fortifications kept Israeli ships out of the gulf prior to the October-November invasion of Egypt.

More Thief Thought, More He Gave Back
By DONALD McDONALD
Charlotte News Staff Writer
A masked thief with a conscience returned twice to the scene of his crime today and politely gave back most of the cash he had stolen at gunpoint.

It happened at George's Grill, Caswell Rd. and 5th St., a restaurant operated by Llyones E. Stassinos, whom everybody calls "George."
George had left the grill in the care of Philip Triantis, night man, who locked the door from the inside while he worked.

About 2:40 a. m. Mr. Triantis said a Negro man, about five feet, 10 inches tall, wearing a colored bandkerchief over his face and dressed in a dark suit, and carrying a sawed-off shotgun, broke the glass in the door and entered.
The gloom preacher said also that he had several "attractive offers" from universities to serve as a fund raiser.

Our Weather
Cloudy and mild with occasional rain or drizzle today and tonight. Sunday partly cloudy with widely scattered showers. set today 6:01 p. m.
Low this morning 45
Low tomorrow morning 49
High today 63
High tomorrow 68
High yesterday 75
Sunrise today 7:16 a. m.; sunset today 5:01 p. m.
More Weather Data on Page 10-A

Love-The-Boss Bogey Man Smashed By Bell's Victory

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer
Some are saying today that Jack Love has lost his "power," that his "machine" is dead.

But, the questions arise: Was Jack Love a power? Was he a "boss"? Did he control anything?

An analysis of events since the May reorganization of the Democratic executive committee leads to an inescapable conclusion: The "boss" was a myth all along.

Jack Love had no power, was never successful in a major political struggle, and had no dominant following of devoted political workers.

Even some of the men who worked for him when he did succeed in placing his supporters in some of the top executive committee jobs last May have detected. Some of them showed up this week on the side of J. Spencer Bell and worked to help Bell defeat Love for State Senator.

Four Killed, Two Hurt In Lumberton Wreck
LUMBERTON (AP) — The head-on crash of an automobile and a tractor-trailer car carries near here early today left four persons dead and two injured.
The dead were identified as Mrs. Mary Lou Mathews, 29, of State Highway Patrolman D. O. Pearce of Roland said the Mathews' were on route from Norfolk to Lumberton when they collided with the truck about 3:45 a. m. on U. S. 301 seven miles south of here. Pearce said the accident occurred at a point where the highway merged from four lanes to two and that the Mathews car crossed the center line and met the carrier head-on.