

A Faltering American Majority?

Educating All Citizens Is Critical To U.S. Economic Future

In an interview excerpted on today's Viewpoint Page, Harvard's Robert Reich warns of an American economy dividing into two unequal parts: a prospering 20% at the top, a declining 80% at the bottom.

Two studies earlier this year made a similar point: The income gap is widening between the well-educated few and the rest of the workforce, threatening the economy that sustains us all. America does not invest enough in, or expect enough of, the majority of its young who will not earn a four-year college degree.

One of those studies, from the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, put it this way: "The choice that America faces is a choice between high skills and low wages. Gradually, silently, we are choosing low wages."

The other study was conducted by the General Accounting Office (in whose magazine the Reich interview appeared). It looked at the education of noncollege youth in four of our competitors, including Germany and Japan. It found high expectations for all students; much better transition from school to work; national training standards used to certify vocational

competence; and heavy investment to reclaim jobless out-of-school youth.

Investment is the key word: An educated populace pays dividends. But in today's global economy, the whole populace must be well educated — not just an elite few.

A well-educated populace won't be easy to achieve. Ours is a diverse society. We don't agree on where to draw the line between universal education and specialized vocational training, or how best to accomplish either. But the point of the workforce and GAO studies is that there are models we can learn from, if not transplant directly into our unique culture.

What is at stake is not just the fate of the disadvantaged and dropouts that have long concerned and frustrated policymakers, but of the majority — the 70% to 80% of American workers who are not successfully riding the global economic tide. Today's prison crunch — including a proposed \$100 million-plus bond issue for Mecklenburg jails — is one indicator of the costs of an economically divided society. Another, equally chilling, comes in Mr. Reich's list of growing jobs, ending with "the fastest growing category of all — security guards."

Sept 4, 1980

Char. Observer

Appalachian
STATE UNIVERSITY
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA 28608

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Anthropology
(704)262-2295

September 14, 1990

Rep. David Diamont
P.O. Box 784
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041

Dear Dave:

Last May I wrote you stating the scope of and the reasons for the faculty-student opposition to the proposed ASU Student Activity Center (enclosed). The letter requested that you not support the next \$2,000,000 appropriation for the SAC.

As yet, I have not received a reply from you on this matter. I realize and appreciate that you must be very busy with all the duties of your position in the General Assembly.

I also know that you chose to continue your strong support for the SAC. I would like for you to explain your reasons for this support, especially in reference to the points of our opposition. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Harvard G. Ayers

Harvard G. Ayers
Chair, ASU Environmental Issues
Committee

asa 1-704-264-4367

Please do not continue the funding for the SAC at this time. We need at least a year to decide just what we do want and the state budget could certainly use a breather. We urge you to withhold the remaining \$2.0 million of planning and site preparation money for at least one year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Harvard G. Ayers

Harvard G. Ayers
Chairman, Environmental Issues
Committee

Rep. David Diamond
P.O. Box 754
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041

Dear [Name]

I am writing this letter as the Chairman of Appalachian State University's Environmental Issues Committee to inform you of the full extent of the disapproval of the proposed Baby Jones Student Activity Center (SAC) and the main reasons for that opposition.

The faculty recently responded to a questionnaire by opposing construction of the SAC as planned by a 2:1 majority. This Monday, the Faculty Senate voted 15-7 to oppose the construction and called for a halt to all pre-construction and construction activities. Two recent student polls went 46-42 for the SAC (phone survey of 161) while a year earlier with 105 respondents went 60-40 against.

Two major areas of opposition exist for the facility:

Placing of this large facility in the steep environment planned will involve mammoth cuts and fills and degrade one of Appalachia's greatest assets, its beautiful mountains. While I fully accept that this area will be developed, smaller structures could be built without destroying the aura of our mountain environment.

Appalachian students and North Carolina taxpayers will each be asked to pay \$10 million for a facility that has very little to do with the university's purpose which is academic. The \$10 million in state funds can only be used for the SAC, not academic facilities - this is a misguided determination by the N.C. General Assembly and in no way respects the priorities of Appalachian as an academic and not a sports institution.

Dave, I know you feel you have served Appalachian well by helping to obtain the promise of the \$94 million. I realize it is your job to get this for us and I am aware of the circumstances under which the opportunity arose for you to push for these funds. I also realize that you have been a staunch supporter of one of my passions, the environment. I am not trying to bust you in the chops for seemingly doing your best for us. But this is something we don't want! Perhaps a scaled down version of the SAC - especially if we could find a better (read, less environmentally damaging) site for it off the main campus.

Leonard H. van Noppen

1 Court Square
Danbury, North Carolina 27016

September 26, 1990

The Honorable David Daimont,
Member, House of Representatives, N.C. General Assembly,
Pilot Mountain, N. C.

Dear David,

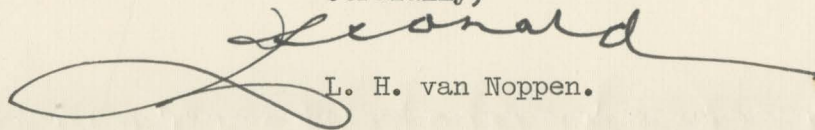
I apologize to you for discussing with you the failure of the General Assembly to provide sufficient money for the Court system. It was incumbent on me to know the facts before making the statement I did. I still have not been able to talk to Franklin Freeman, because he is out of Raleigh. The newspapers had given you such a high profile that I assumed that you had used your influence for the decrease in funds for the courts.

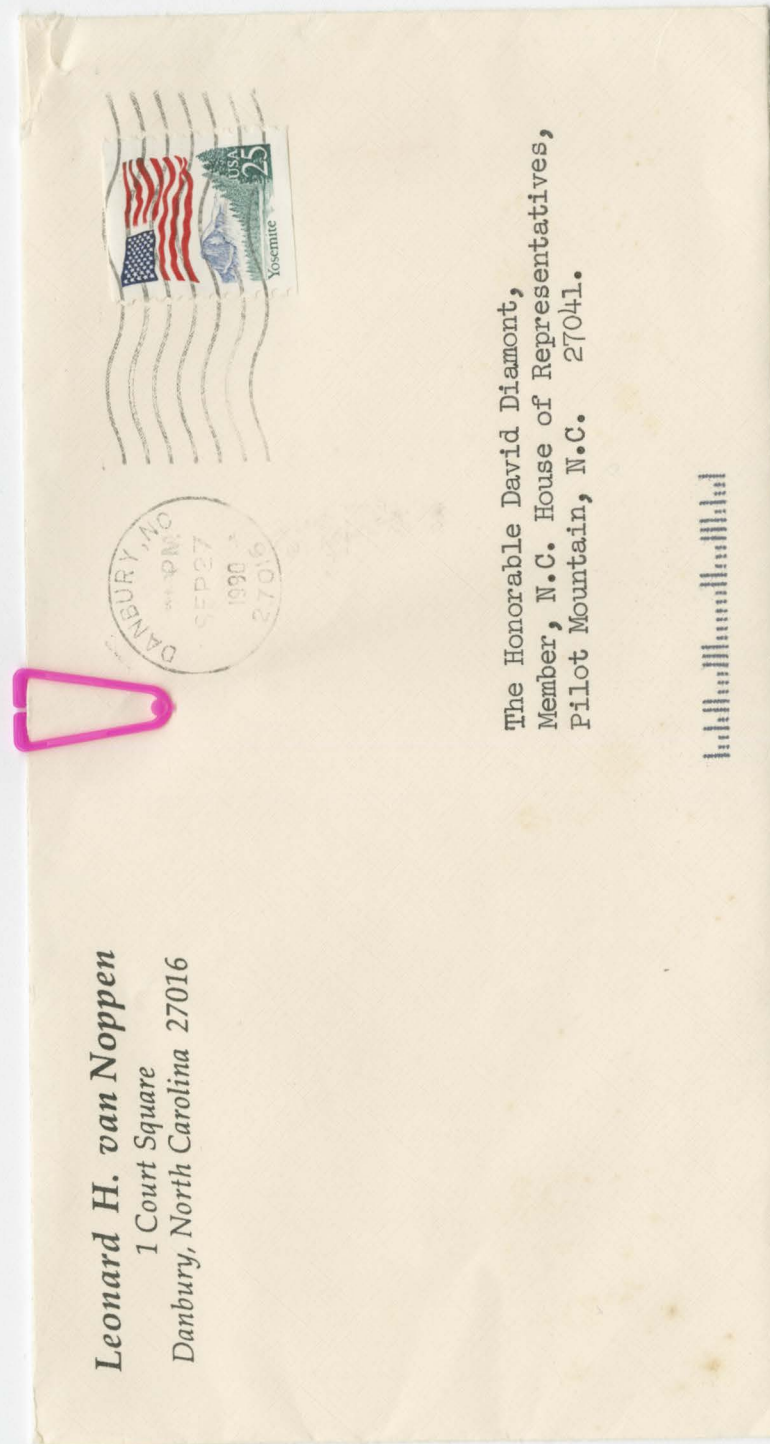
I have not held court since July 6. I have not been assigned since then. My daughter Pepper and I took a trip to Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switherland, France, and Belgium in August, and I plan to go to Portugal for 3 weeks on Oct. 10.

I think that it is important that I stay occupied. I may work for one of the Arbitration associations as a judge. (panelist).

Best wishes.

Cordially,


L. H. van Noppen.



JAMIE ORROCK
VICE PRESIDENT

LOIS WINSLOW
TREASURER

ANNETTE COOPER
SECRETARY



JERRY A. SMITH
PRESIDENT
(919) 291-5819

FRANCES E. BRYAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(919) 821-7181

204 N. PERSON STREET
P.O. BOX 25546
RALEIGH, N.C. 27611

Nominee's Name Representative David H. Diamont
Address P. O. Box 784 State NC Zip 27041
Telephone (Home) (919) 358-4591 (Business) (919) 378-2751

September 26, 1990

Please attach the following to this form using no more than three (3) additional sheets:

Please describe: the accomplishments and/or contributions of this individual that justify consideration for the Dr. Ellen B. Winston Award.

Representative David H. Diamont
P. O. Box 784
Pilot Mountain, North Carolina 27041

Dear Representative Diamont:

Please note: The following must be submitted for nominees to be considered:

On behalf of the North Carolina Social Services Association, I offer you my most sincere congratulations upon your selection for the 1990 Dr. Ellen B. Winston Award by the State Council for Social Legislation. This well deserved recognition of you is most appropriate in view of your support of our many social services issues.

Again Representative Diamont, congratulations and I look forward to seeing you on November 9, 1990 in Raleigh for the award ceremony.

NOMINATED BY:
Name (individual or organization) North Carolina Social Services Association

Sincerely,

Office held (if organization) _____
Address P.O. Box 25546 City Raleigh Zip 27611

Frances E. Bryan
Executive Director

FEB :jpl (Home) (919) 358-2559 (Business) (919) 821-7181

Enclosure

cc: Jerry Smith, President, NCSSA
Executive Board, NCSSA
Social Services Legislative Consortium
Nancy Wooten Green, Committee Clerk,
House Appropriation Committee

Nominations for the Dr. Ellen B. Winston Award require duplicate materials. Please indicate if this person has previously been nominated, and you may supplement the information as needed.

Please return five (5) copies of the nomination form and supporting materials to:
Dr. Ellen B. Winston Awards Nomination
Carolina Association Services
PO Box 547
Raleigh, NC 27611

THE STATE COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL LEGISLATION

1990 DR. ELLEN B. WINSTON AWARD

1990 Nomination Form

Nominee's Name Representative David H. Diamont
Address P.O. Box 784 City Pilot Mt. State NC Zip 27041
Telephone (Home) (919) 368-4591 (Business) (919) 368-2251

Please attach the following to this form using no more than three (3) additional sheets:

Please describe: the accomplishments and/or contributions of this individual that justify consideration for the Dr. Ellen B. Winston Award.

Please specify: (1) significant contributions or achievements in carrying out the goals and objectives of the State Council for Social Legislation, (2) any awards received, (3) impact or potential impact of contributions or achievements upon the lives of the citizens of North Carolina.

Please note: The following must be submitted for nominee to be considered:

1. Supporting materials (e.g., resume, magazine or newspaper clippings)
2. At least two letters of endorsement

NOTE: Attachments, including clippings, resume and descriptions of accomplishments, must not exceed three (3) 8½" X 11" sheets. Letters of endorsement will not be counted in the maximum three additional sheets. Nomination materials must not be bound in a binder, scrapbook, or otherwise bound so that they cannot be fed through a copy machine. Letters of endorsement must be for this award; copies of endorsements for other awards will not be considered.

NOMINATED BY:

Name (Individual or organization) North Carolina Social Services Association

Office held (if organization) _____

Address P.O. Box 25546 City Raleigh State NC Zip 27611

Telephone: (Home) (919) 893-2859 (Business) (919) 821-7181

Signature Frances E. Bryan

Deadline for return of nomination forms is September 1, 1990.

Nominations submitted previously for this award do not require duplicate materials. Please indicate if this person has previously been nominated, and you may supplement the information as needed.

Please return five (5) copies of the nomination form and supporting materials to:

Dr. Ellen B. Winston Award Nomination
Carolina Association Services
PO Box 843
Garner, NC 27529

JERRY A. SMITH
PRESIDENT
(919) 291-5819

FRANCES E. BRYAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(919) 821-7181

204 N. PERSON STREET
P.O. BOX 25546
RALEIGH, N.C. 27611



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION**

September 20, 1990

Selection Committee Dr. Ellen B. Winston Award
The State Council For Social Legislation
P.O. Box 40014
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Selection Committee Members:

It is a honor and pleasure to support the nomination of Representative David H. Diamont for the 1990 Dr. Ellen B. Winston Award. As a State Representative for the North Carolina House of Representatives and Chairman of the House Appropriation Committee, he has served the citizens of North Carolina as an exemplary elected official with a deep and abiding concern, particularly for the children of our state.

Despite serious revenue problems facing the General Assembly this year, Representative Diamont's skillful and persuasive leadership championed the additional funding appropriated to reduced North Carolina's high infant mortality rate and funding which will begin addressing the educational problem of 3-5 year olds with special needs.

It is noteworthy that Representative Diamont was formally recognized by each organization of the North Carolina Social Services Association, North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services and North Carolina Association of County Boards of Social Services for his effectiveness and support in the successful campaign of HB401/SB327 which saw passage of funding for additional professional child protective service social workers.

As a member of the House of Representatives he has raised the prestige of this auspicious chamber with a simple integrity, common sense approach and quiet courage. With complete confidence in the qualifications of Representative David H. Diamont, I endorse without reservation his nomination for the prestigious Dr. Ellen B. Winston Award.

Respectfully, I am

Sincerely yours,

Frances E. Bryan

Frances E. Bryan
Executive Director

FEB/jpl

NORTH CAROLINA SOCIAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Social Services System is designed in part to investigate and where appropriate, take action to protect abused, neglected and exploited children in the State; and,

WHEREAS, David H. Diamont, State Representative for the North Carolina House of Representatives was recognized as a leading advocate for the enhancement of the Social Services System throughout the state in the form of additional funding for child protective service social workers; and,

WHEREAS, it is a testimonial to his convictions for the betterment of the lives for the children of North Carolina by his continual demonstration of support to education and human service issues; and,

WHEREAS, despite record revenue shortfall during the recently concluded session of the General Assembly, Representative Diamont led in his commitment of additional funding to reduce North Carolina's high infant mortality rate and funding for preschool children with special needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of Directors of the North Carolina Social Services Association on September 14, 1990 by unanimous vote recommend the nomination of Representative David H. Diamont for the 1990 Dr. Ellen B. Winston Award.

cc: Jerry Smith, President, NCSSA
Executive Board, NCSSA
Social Services Legislative Consortium
Nancy Weston Green, Committee Clerk,
House Appropriation Committee

JERRY L. SMITH
PRESIDENT
JERRY L. SMITH
FRANCIS E. BRYAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JERRY L. SMITH
1014 PINEHURST STREET
R.D. BOX 2046
RANDOLPH, N.C. 27111

Sept 5-90

WILMA C. WOODARD

David, I sure want to write
before now, but wanted you
to know that I noted the
press conference and
praised you for your
courage and concern for
our state.

I wish you the very
best in your race for Speaker

WILMA C. WOODARD
P. O. Box 189
GARNER, NORTH CAROLINA 27529



Rep. David Diamond
P.O. Box 784
Pilot Mountain, N.C. 27041

North Carolina
Association of Educators, Inc.



President
Julia Kron
President-Elect
Rose Marie Lowry
Executive Director
Donald H. Morrow

700 South Salisbury Street
Post Office Box 27347
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611
(919) 832-3000

September 4, 1990

Dear NCAE Member,

It would be inappropriate for me not to relay to you the valuable contributions that Representative Dave Diamont made to education during the 1990 Session of the General Assembly. As most of you know, Dave is one of our own - a classroom teacher and an NCAE member.

As the budget picture darkened, Dave forcefully advocated for finding new revenue to adequately fund programs necessary to meet the needs of children, particularly children in public schools.

Dave Diamont, as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, was able to prevent education from taking as big a reduction as that imposed on other state programs. He was instrumental in protecting the funding for the salary schedule, the Basic Education Plan, and Senate Bill 2 differentiated pay. Dave Diamont represented the teaching profession well during a most difficult session.

I urge you to write or call Dave and thank him for his efforts on behalf of educators, the public schools, and NCAE.

Sincerely,


Julia Kron
President

David H. Diamont

Residence: PO Box 784
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041
919-368-4591

Business: 705 W. Main Street
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041
919-368-2251

NORTH CAROLINA NOW

N.C. National Organization for Women
2606 Raeford Rd., Room 6 • Fayetteville, N.C. 28303 • 919/484-4289



September 3, 1990

The Honorable David Diamont
P.O. Box 784
Pilot Mountain, 27041

Dear Representative Diamont:

Thank you so much for your tireless work in the North Carolina House this past session particularly on the issue of Reproductive Freedom. I know that your influence was key in our maintaining the abortion fund for indigent women in North Carolina this year.

Obviously this was not an easy session and you had a position of great responsibility. Apparently you did a great job.

I understand you talked briefly with our lobbyist, Pat Bullard about an endorsement from the NC NOW Political Action Committee. It would give me great pleasure to be able to give you our endorsement. However, it seems to me that we may have had some differences on some other issues in the past, such as the Equal Rights Amendment. I hope you will be able to talk with a representative of the NC NOW PAC when she calls in the next week or so and that any differences we have had will have disappeared.

Again thank you for the superb work you did in the 1989-90 General Assembly.

Sincerely,

Roberta Waddle
State Coordinator

United Fund Gets Spirited Kickoff

Fund Goal Is \$278,000

Sept. 21
1990
MA
News

By NICOLE HATCH
News Staff Writer

The United Fund of Greater Mount Airy would contribute more than \$59.2 million to society if its local contributions were figured on a statewide basis. And without the United Fund, those funds would not be available from state, county or city governments.

That is what State Rep. David Diamont of Pilot Mountain, also the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said at the kickoff luncheon for this year's United Fund campaign Thursday. Diamont was the guest speaker at the luncheon.

The United Fund of Greater Mount Airy's campaign to raise \$278,000 officially has begun. The United Fund hopes to meet its goal and appropriate the monies for operating funds to 12 agencies in the community.

Talking about the United Fund, Diamont said the 12 agencies would be without the additional monies if it

were not for the campaign. "If you were not there, local, city, county and the state of North Carolina (officials) would be in serious trouble," he said.

As the chairman of the committee that prepares the state's budget, Diamont said he figures that the United Fund's goal of \$278,000 which reaches a population area of 30,000 people "translates into \$59.2 million across the state that the United Fund contributes to society.

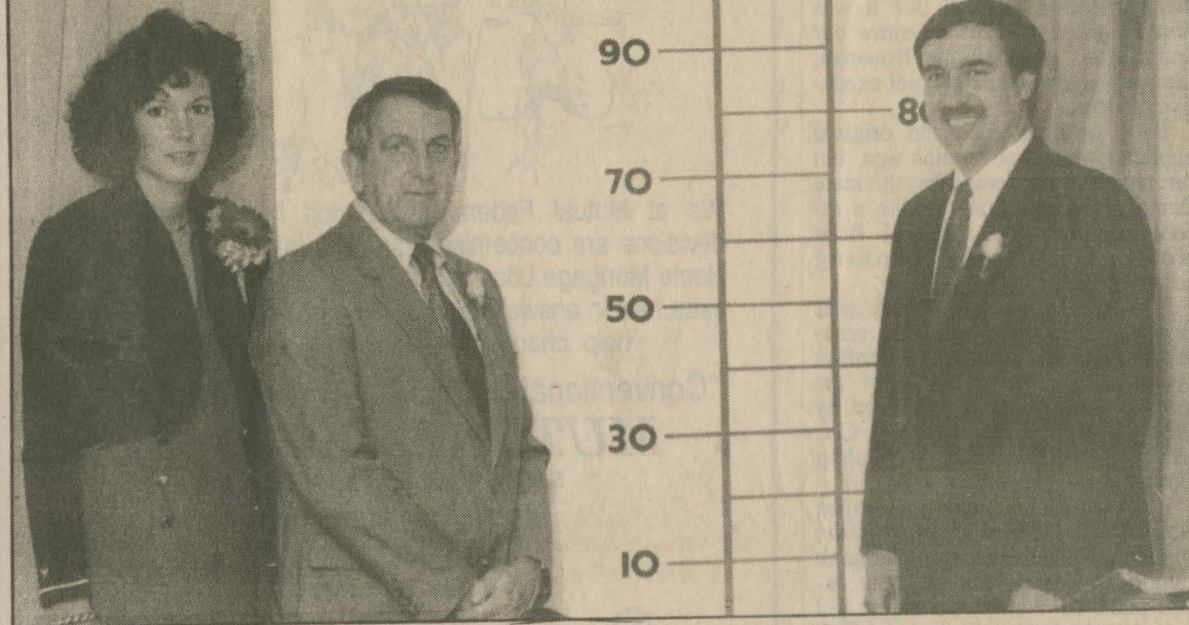
"My approach to the United Fund is to look and see what would happen if they were not here. I may have a different perspective from chairing the Appropriations Committee at a time when the state has many needs and little revenues," Diamont said.

He said the United Fund is essential to the community, especially in a time when North Carolina, like many other states, is facing a tremendous budget crunch. "And if you were not here, I don't think we could fund what

See UNITED FUND, page 10A

OUR GOAL

278,000



Staff photo by Judy Dickerson

The United Fund of Greater Mount Airy's 1990 campaign to raise \$278,000 officially was kicked off at a luncheon held Thursday. State Rep. David Diamont of Pilot Mountain (right) was the guest speaker for the luncheon. N.A. Barnes (center) is the chairman of this year's campaign and Kathy Pruett (left) is the co-chairman.

United Fund

Continued from page 1A

the agencies' needs are," he noted.

"I am sure, with the economic wants and needs, your board looks at your budget and determines the difference between wants and needs. We all want more but somebody has to make a decision on what the true needs are."

Diamont said that each of the agencies being helped through the United Fund could be categorized in at least one state department that would normally fund similar programs.

For example, Surry Friends of Youth and Reeves Community Center would fall into several state departments, he said. "And The Salvation Army is the epitome of what we should be about — a year-round Christmas spirit of giving.

"All of the agencies would fit into some kind of government unit. And thank goodness you are out there providing the revenues," the legislator added.

Also a teacher, Diamont said he recently had a discussion with his sociology students about values and morals. "And I think that what this group provides is a very vital role model about how things work and how they think things should work in

our community," he said.

"Young people need people like you. I applaud you for doing what we should all do today but many of us say that we don't have time for. Your job is vital. And you are not getting rewarded except for the way you feel inside. And that is really the bottom line of our values."

The Surry County resident thanked all the people involved with the United Fund for the time taken to raise money for the agencies. "You show a special kind of care and I hope that you reach your goal," he said.

Reaching the \$278,000 is not something United Fund Chairman N.A. Barnes said he thinks the group will do. "The word 'think' does not fit. We will meet our goal," he said.

Barnes compared his position as chairman of the United Fund campaign to that of a coach who chooses his chairman and puts the coaching staff together. "And like spring training, this is the first time I have seen many of the players.

"But from looking at the players sitting out there today, I know that we have put together a winning team," Barnes said, later adding that "you are a special person yourself just by sitting out there in our group."

"The Fair Share Plan" is a campaign theme initiated this year by Barnes' group. He explained that the plan encourages people to donate to the United Fund what they would make in a day at their jobs.

This year's United Fund campaign will focus on getting a lot of donations during a three-week period beginning Oct. 10 and running to Nov. 3. Although the final reporting meeting is not scheduled until Nov. 21, Barnes said he hopes to be seeing everyone at a celebration for meeting the goal by Nov. 3.

The 12 agencies (and donations) being helped by the United Fund include The Salvation Army (\$62,200), Reeves Community Center (\$56,000), Boy Scouts of America (\$32,500), the Mount Airy Rescue Squad (\$31,000), the American Red Cross (\$27,000), Girl Scouts of America (\$15,000), Hospice of Surry County (\$6,500), Surry Friends of Youth (\$6,500), the Dobson Rescue Squad (\$4,800), Yokefellow Foundation (\$2,500), Webb/Southern Carroll Community Center (\$2,000) and the Surry Task Force on Domestic Violence (\$2,000).