

Northwest  
Edition

# WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Weather  
Fair. High around 80.  
Details, Page 2.

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## House Panel OKs Tough Compromise on High-Rise Bill

By Art Eisenstadt  
Journal Raleigh Bureau

RALEIGH — A state House subcommittee approved a compromise bill yesterday that would require 35 North Carolina counties to adopt tough controls on high-rise development on mountain ridges or have such development banned by the state.

The bill would apply to buildings more than 40 feet tall on or within 100 feet of ridges more than 500 feet above the adjacent valley floor.

The compromise merges the different approaches in two ridge bills that have already been introduced in the General Assembly. But the compromise is strict-

er than either of the bills because it prevents an affected city or county from having no regulations.

That would have been possible under the competing ridge bills that had been introduced by Sen. R.P. "Bo" Thomas, D-Henderson, and Rep. Margaret B. "Pinky" Hayden, D-Alleghany.

According to the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, which would be responsible for identifying the protected ridges, at least 35 counties would be affected by the bill.

They include all counties from Stokes, Yadkin, Iredell, Lincoln and Gaston west to the Tennessee state line, and David-

son, Montgomery and Stanly counties, which include parts of the Uwharrie mountain range.

Rep. David H. Diamont, D-Surry, the chairman of the subcommittee, forced a vote on the bill by repeatedly reminding the panel that the mountain region's most powerful legislator — House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey of Haywood County — wanted a ridge law passed before the General Assembly adjourns next month.

The subcommittee had met three times earlier without taking any action.

Western North Carolina legislators reached a consensus in February that a ridge law was needed because of the

controversy over a 10-story condominium being built on top of Little Sugar Mountain in Avery County.

But members from the region have been split over what types of controls should be in the bill.

The compromise merges the approaches of Thomas' bill, which would have banned high-rise mountaintop construction except in cities and counties that opted out of the bill, and the Hayden measure, which would have enabled cities and counties to control development through building permit requirements.

The compromise was drafted at Diamont's request by Milton S. Heath Jr., an environmental-law specialist with the

University of North Carolina Institute of Government. Heath said he stayed up until 4 a.m. yesterday to have the bill ready for the subcommittee meeting.

A city or county could have remained unregulated under the Thomas or Hayden bills. But under the compromise, all affected cities and counties would have to hold a public hearing and adopt a permit ordinance by Jan. 1, 1984, or come under a state ban on tall buildings on ridges.

The natural resources department would be required to prepare maps showing all protected ridges in each affected county by Nov. 1, 1983. Copies of the maps would be placed with the regis-

ters of deeds in the covered counties and the secretary of natural resources and community development in Raleigh.

Broadcast and utility towers and narrow extensions from the roofs of short buildings, such as steeples and chimneys, would be exempt from the 40-foot building limit. The bill also would not apply to existing buildings or repairs to them, but the buildings could not be made taller.

If local government chooses to adopt a permit ordinance, it would have to designate an official or agency to enforce the standards, which would have to be at least as strong as those contained in the bill.

See House Panel, Page 2

# Bill Would Aid Area Program WATAUGA DEMOCRAT JUNE 20, '83 pg. 1

BY JANET KENNEDY  
Staff Writer

State Rep. David Diamont, D-Surry, has introduced a bill in the state House that would provide funding for Watauga County's elderly screening program.

The program, known as House Bill 405, is an act to encourage counties to develop a community-based alternative to institutionalized care.

Through the program, elderly persons will be able to utilize a variety of services by going through one screening process. The goal of the program is to divert those persons from entering an institution when community services can be applied.

Watauga County is one of eight pilot counties involved with the program. It involves a complex screening procedure that will be carried out by case workers from the Project on Aging or Watauga

County Hospital, and by nurses from the district health department.

Funding for the implementation of the program is being requested for Watauga and Ashe counties. Diamont, who is the chairman of the appropriations expansion budget committee on human resources, requested these counties receive \$30,000 per year to offset the costs of screening.

He said that the resources to fund between \$20,000 and \$25,000 to each county has been found, so the requested amount will likely be cut somewhat when actually appropriated.

"An incredible amount of taxpayer's money is being spent to fund institutionalized care," Diamont said. "House Bill 405 presents a humanitarian alternative by helping people stay in at home whenever possible."

Tricia Wilson-Clark, director of

Watauga County's Project on Aging, said that in one instance, institutionalized care provided for a Watauga woman would cost \$1,560 per month.

"We've been providing her with home-based care services for \$600 per month," Mrs. Wilson-Clark said.

She said that in most cases, home-based services can be provided at 25 to 30 percent of the cost of comparable institutional care.

Ms. Wilson-Clark said that the funds appropriated by Diamont's bill would be used in a variety of ways, including the creation of a sliding fee scale for services.

"Funding will enable us to address the needs of indigent adults who do not meet Medicaid requirements," she said. "We also plan to establish a revolving fund because eligibility determination can take up to 60 days. For those

— Please turn the page

## Area Program

people, we need to make a funding source available until the paperwork is complete."

The funding could also be used to buy certain necessary items that would make home-based care a feasible alternative.

"There have been two instances where households were in need of a telephone in order to adequately keep the patient at home, for emergency contact," she said. "Also, some of the money could be used to provide training for volunteers and part-time help."

If the funds are made available, Ms. Wilson-Clark said that some would be used to develop promotional and educational services to make people aware that the screening program is in effect.

"The bulk of the funds would be used to purchase services for eligible individuals," she said.

Each year in Watauga County, 95 people enter a rest home or nursing home. Ms. Wilson-Clark estimates that of that number, one-quarter could be cared for adequately at home, and would opt for such care.

"In 1982, Watauga County spent \$1.4 million on institutionalized care through Medicaid," she said. "If we can serve 25 people a year, we estimate a savings of \$200,000 to the county, in addition to allowing people who want to stay home the opportunity to do so."

Ms. Wilson-Clark said that another advantage of the program is that the screening process is of tremendous help to families making a decision about whether a loved one should be institutionalized or whether adequate care can be given at home.

"There will be cases where home-based care is simply not feasible," she said. "Going through the screening process and having that recommendation made should relieve family members of some of the guilt they might experience otherwise."

The screening process examines both the medical and social needs of the patient and indicates where services could be utilized.

"The object of the screening process is to develop a plan of care," Ms. Wilson-Clark said. "It aids families because they are made aware of all the services they might be eligible for all at the same time. A case worker would be working with the family to relieve them of having to seek out those services."

Ms. Wilson-Clark said that Diamont has been conscientious in his efforts to see House Bill 405 become a reality, and by introducing a funding bill, he has moved Watauga County closer to that goal.

# Diamont Files Bill For RCC Funds

Friday, June 24, 1951

RALEIGH—Rep. David H. Diamont, D-Surry, filed a bill this morning requesting \$10,000 to be used for capital construction and renovation of Reeves Community Center in Mount Airy.

To get the state money, RCC must raise \$10,000 in matching funds.

A capital improvements program has been under study by RCC officials for some months. Diamont said he participated in a recent benefit basketball game at the RCC, and came away enthused about the building project.

"I was very pleased with the new generation that has taken on the community center renovation," Diamont said. "The enthusiasm they had was tremendous."

Diamont said he participated in RCC activities as a youngster, when

his father was a Reeves YMCA employee.

"When the facility is renovated, it will be a center of a tremendous amount of activity," Diamont said. "I

am excited about this, and I think the town should be, too."

Diamont said the bill will be introduced Monday night and sent to the House Appropriations Committee.

# The Skyland Post

## Opinion

The editor invites letters to the Editor, and hopes that members of the Ashe County community will make good use of this public forum; opinions from all citizens about any subject are welcomed.

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, P.O. Box 67, West Jefferson, N.C. 28694.

## Pass the Ridge Law

The House Water and Air Resources Committee has approved a compromise version of the Ridge Law, and is expected to be voted on this week.

It was interesting-- and most encouraging-- to see that the compromise is actually stricter than either of the two bills introduced in the House and Senate.

Last week, we reported that the compromise would force cities and counties in the 35-county western region to have regulations on the books governing high-rise developments on mountain ridges. Under the bills introduced by Rep. Margaret "Pinky" Hayden and Sen. R.P. "Bo" Thomas, D-Henderson, regulation could have been avoided.

Only one amendment was passed by the committee before passage. It changes the way buildings are measured, allowing them to be somewhat taller than was permitted under the original bill. Under the amendment, the measurement of a building may begin at the top of the foundation, if it is not more than three feet tall on the uphill side.

Another controversy arose when the developers of the Sugar Top project-- the project that started the movement for a Ridge Law-- tried to have any building construction approved before June 1 exempted from the bill, but the effort failed.

The developers have begun work on an additional 80 units which they are trying to protect, but several members of the committee were suspicious of the motives behind the amendment.

According to Rep. David Diamont, D-Surry, the bill won't apply to buildings already under construction anyway, so the extra 80 units won't be affected.

As Rep. Bruce Ethridge, D-Onslow, reportedly said, "I think we might be unconsciously opening something up. If you think they can complete their project without this amendment, I think we ought to leave it out."

Amen.

Absolutely no loopholes should be allowed to find their way into this important piece of legislation. The fact that one of the most powerful lobbyists in Raleigh, John R. Jordan, Jr., has been retained by the developers indicates that Resort Investment Corp. isn't going to sit idly by without attempting to influence the outcome of the bill.

Milton Heath, the environmental law specialist with the UNC Institute of Government who drafted the bill, did an excellent job of writing a bill that addresses the problem of high-rise development in a realistic, effective manner. It leaves no easy out for city and county governments, and if we're going to have a Ridge Law, it certainly should have some teeth in it.

Both Rep. Hayden's and Sen. Thomas's bills were admirable efforts in dealing with problem, but both had weaknesses that needed to be addressed, and Heath filled in the gaps.

Now, it's up to the State House and Senate to stand up, refuse to bow to pressure from developers, and pass this law in its present form.

Any watering down of restrictions would only do a disservice to all of the people of this state-- not just western North Carolinians.

Our mountains are a fragile, and very valuable resource, not to be tampered with.

Let's get on with the business at hand, and pass a Ridge Law before the end of this legislative session.

# Ridge Law Under Discussion

The North Carolina General Assembly has now completed one-hundred and three legislative days. Over twelve hundred bills have been introduced into the State House of Representatives and over five hundred into the Senate. The passage of SBI, the Good Roads Act, was viewed as one of the major accomplishments of the session. Legislators appear to be just as relieved as the public with acceptance of the Governor's proposals. After a long drawn out fight and many frustrations, everyone involved is glad to have this important issue behind us.

Rep. David Diamont, Democrat from the 40th House District, again attended all of his committee meetings this week. On Tuesday, Rep. Diamont chaired a subcommittee of the House Water and Air Resources Committee dealing with the "Ridge Law". The hour-long meeting allowed western legislators to consider a compromise between the House and Senate versions of this bill. Several questions must be resolved in this subcommittee.

For instance, how high should a ridge be before it would qualify?

Another question is, how do you measure the crest of a ridge? Also at issue is the amount of authority which would rest with the county and the state over building restrictions. Rep. Diamont has been in constant contact with Speaker Liston Ramsey. He has also attempted to keep western Senators and Representatives informed about

the subcommittee's deliberations. He hopes that next week will bring some basic decisions about the "Ridge Law."

The main issue which has slowed the process of this legislative session is the making of the state's budget. An apparent decision by the leadership to increase revenue has brought about some decisions about how that revenue should be raised. They are still having difficulties agreeing on a revenue package.

Two big areas of expansion that must be funded with increased revenue are 1) \$38 million needed to give all state employees a 5 percent salary increase and 2) the \$50 million needed to repair roofs on government buildings throughout the state. The latter has been determined to be an emergency.

The five Appropriations subcommittees have continued to review special bills. Special bills are items which individual legislators feel need to be funded. Rep. Diamont has three special bills for the Appropriations Committee: ) HB 931 The Pilot Mountain Recreation Park Fund, HB 1020 Blowing Rock Arts Center Funds, and 3) HB 1063 Ashe and Watauga County Elderly Screening Funds. Rep. Diamont is working with Rep. J. Worth Gentry in support of HB 820, the Stokes County Historical Survey Funds, and with Rep. Margaret Hayden on HB 109 the Large Animal Diagnostic Lab Funds.

During the Appropriations Chairmen's meeting on Friday morning,

the decision was made to begin the Expansion Budget requests next week. Rep. Diamont, as one of the chairmen, feels that this decision indicates that the leadership has finally made some tough decisions on which revenues to increase. Previous to this time, Rep. Diamont felt the same frustrations as other legislators with the slow budget process over the past three weeks.

On Wednesday, HB 559, the Hazardous Waste Landfill Act, passed the second reading by a vote of 76-27. Rep. Diamont gave a speech on the floor in opposition and voted against. As did Rep. J. Worth Gentry. Rep. Margaret Hayden voted in favor.

This bill allows certain hazardous waste to be landfilled (including dioxin.) Rep. Diamont prefers a total ban on hazardous wastes which he feels could be stored in temporary above-ground containers. In his speech, he said that hazardous waste landfills will never be located in the big counties which have the industry that generates these wastes. Those counties get the property tax and the jobs; but when it comes to putting the by-product in the ground, the wastes will be transported to rural counties or those having the least political influence. In his comments, Rep. Diamont said that burying hazardous wastes is a very short-sighted solution that will come back to haunt us in the next 15-20 years. All experts agree that hazardous wastes eventually leak out of landfills and sooner or later will get into the ground water. At Friday's session the bill passed its third by a vote of 66-36.

# The Skyland Post

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## Compromise Ridge Law tougher than first bills

A compromise Ridge Law bill which has been approved by a state House subcommittee was presented to the Western N.C. delegation Tuesday by Rep. David Diamont, D-Surry, chairman of the subcommittee.

Rep. Diamont briefed the delegation on the contents of the bill which would require 35 western counties to adopt strict controls on high-rise development or have the state step in and restrict such development.

On Wednesday, the bill was presented to the House Water and Air Resources Committee.

The compromise bill, which combines the two ridge bills that have been introduced in the Senate and House, is stricter than either of the bills since western cities and counties would be forced to have regulations governing high-rise developments on mountain ridges.

The Senate version, which passed that body earlier this session, was introduced by Sen. R.P. "Bo" Thomas, D-Henderson, and the House

version was introduced by Rep. Margaret "Pinky" Hayden, D-Alleghany. Rep. Hayden's bill

has not been put to a vote because the subcommittee of the Water and Air Resources Committee has been working on the compromise bill.

Milton S. Heath, an environmental law specialist with the UNC Institute of Government, drafted the bill.

Under the Hayden or Thomas bills, cities and counties could have avoided regulation, but under the compromise, all governmental bodies in the 35-county area would be required to hold a public hearing and adopt a permit ordinance by January 1, 1984, or automatically fall under a state law banning high-rise developments on mountain ridges.

The Thomas bill would give cities and counties a way to opt out of his bill, and the Hayden bill would give local officials the option of passing regulations restricting such development.

The bill would cover buildings

over 40 feet tall on or within 100 feet of ridges more than 500 feet above the adjacent valley floor.

Under the bill, the State Dept. of Natural Resources and Community Development would

prepare maps showing all such ridges in each county by November 1, 1983. The register of deeds in the 35 counties would keep copies of the maps on file.

If a local government decided to adopt a local ordinance, the regulations would have to be as strict as those in the state law. A local official or agency would be designated to enforce the regulations.

The bill would also allow a violator to be challenged in court by any person or business in the county, or in an adjoining county.

In order for a permit to be issued to construct a building on an affected mountain ridge, the development would have to meet strict standards, including giving "adequate consideration to protecting the natural beauty of the mountains."

Rep. Hayden has expressed her full support for the measure, calling it "absolutely wonderful."

She expressed confidence that a Ridge Law will be passed during this session of the General Assembly.

# Week Dominated By Ridge Law

(JUNE 20-24)

The 1983 session of the North Carolina General Assembly has now completed 118 legislative days. 1,352 bills have introduced into the House and 641 into the Senate.

Rep. David H. Diamont, Democrat from the Fortieth House District, had his week dominated by the "Mountain Ridge Protection Act of 1983" (commonly known as the Ridge Law). Since Rep. Diamont had been appointed chairman of the Water and Air Resources subcommittee which re-wrote SB 188, he was responsible for explaining and handling the bill on the House floor on Thursday.

Throughout the previous week's deliberations on SB 188, Rep. Diamont had kept House Speaker Liston Ramsey informed. Since the Speaker is from the 52nd District (Madison, Haywood, Jackson, Swain, and part of Graham counties), he had a special interest in the development of a Ridge Law. During the week, Rep. Diamont realized that the far western legislators wanted an "opt-out" provision added to the bill. Rep. Martin Nesitt, D-Buncombe County, became the main negotiator for those mountain legislators. Rep. Diamont and Rep. Nesbitt worked together to structure an amendment which would be acceptable and still provide a strong Ridge Law for North Carolina.

The deliberations continued right up to the beginning of Thursday's 1:30 session. Rep. Nesbitt's amendment was added by a vote of 94-0. The



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Mountain Ridge Protection Act of 1983 passed its second reading, 93-7, and passed the third reading by voice vote. Rep. Diamont and Rep. Nesbitt have gotten commitments from the western Senators to concur with the House version of SB 188. It now appears that N. C. will have a Ridge Law.

Rep. Diamont's Appropriations

Committee on Human Resources has met only once in two weeks. The entire budget process has come to a screaming halt. The North Carolina Constitution requires a balanced state budget. Since the Senate and House have passed two very different finance bills, the amount of revenue which will be available to spend in the 1983-84 fiscal year is unsettled. House and Senate conferees are meeting daily to hammer out an agreement between the two tax packages.

Rep. Diamont feels that as soon as a compromise is reached on a tax bill, the main budget bill will take about a week to be passed. After the budget has passed, then special bills will be considered. This process will take an additional week. Rep. Diamont hopes adjournment will be Friday, July 8, at the latest.

**SEAT 93****Over 1,200 Bill Have Been Introduced**

(JUNE 6-10)

The North Carolina General Assembly has now completed 108 legislative days. Over 1,200 bills have been introduced into the State House of Representatives and over 600 into the Senate. With the House leadership now pushing for a comprehensive tax package the prospect of adjournment became more of a reality.

Rep. David H. Diamont, Democrat from the 40th District, chaired a subcommittee of the House Water and Air Resources Committee which completed its deliberations on a "Ridge Law." This subcommittee held hour-long meetings on Tuesday and Thursday, putting together a House Committee substitute which incorporated provisions from bills introduced by Rep. Margaret Hayden, Democrat from Alleghany, and Sen. Bo Thomas, Democrat from Henderson County.

As chairman of the subcommittee, Rep. Diamont's role was more demanding than simply presiding at the meetings. Throughout the week, he maintained close communication with Speaker Liston Ramsey, whose entire district is within the Appalachian mountains. Rep. Diamont also acted as mediator, helping various proponents of the Ridge Law philosophy to reach a general consensus. Having gained the confidence and respect of both sides, he was able to ramrod a compromise through the subcommittee.

Basically, the subcommittee's version of the "Ridge Law" allows counties and cities to establish their own ordinance system by January 1, 1984. The bill further establishes certain criteria which local ordinances must follow. Since the definition of the "protected mountain ridges" now includes all mountain ridges whose average elevation is 500 feet or more above the average elevation of an adjacent valley floor, all five counties in the 40th district are included.

Another feature of the bill is a requirement of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development to provide maps which will help counties identify the protected mountain ridges covered by the act. These maps must be provided by November 1.

If the counties choose not to adopt and put into effect an ordinance which



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meets the requirements of the act by January 1, 1984, then state law would prohibit the construction of tall buildings on the protected mountain ridges.

At the request of Speaker Ramsey, Rep. Diamont will brief all western legislators before the subcommittee reports to the house Water and Air Resources Committee on Wednesday, June 15.

The Appropriations Expansion Budget Committee on Human Resources met at 8:30 each morning, and Rep. Diamont chaired three out of four of these meetings. Members of this committee looked at expansion items totaling \$2½ million and the block grant money which was new federal money. The legislature has made some changes in the Governor's

original recommendations as to how this money should be spent. This committee also continued to hear special bills.

Much time was spent on a \$40,000 expansion items which would be used to hire an Environmental Chemistry Consultant to develop rules which will include threshold and volume criteria for land treatment and land disposal of classes of hazardous waste. Rep. Diamont feels this amount of money is not nearly enough to accomplish the job. California is the only state which has established such thresholds, and even they have now had to start all over again and look for a new approach.

One of Rep. Diamont's main concerns with the block grant deliberations is making sure that Ashe and Watauga counties' Elderly Screening funds are passed. Careful deliberation with the Department of Human Resources resulted in success when Rep. Diamont was assured that funds will be provided for this important project.

Rep. Diamont regrets that the pressure of this hectic schedule have caused him to lag behind in responding to correspondence.



## State, Local Officials React To Accusations Against Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green

# Should Public Officials Facing Charges Be Asked To Resign?

By WILLIE PATRICK  
News Staff Writer

Scrutiny of elected and appointed public officials often results in their having to fend off accusations.

The greater an official's public visibility, the better chance there is that he or she will be accused of wrongdoing.

Accusations and indictments against Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green—and the fact local officials have faced accusations in the past, and could again in the future—prompted our News staff to survey some state and

local public officials about how they would deal with a similar situation.

Our questions:

•“Should an elected official or another person serving in a public capacity, such as an educator or law enforcement officer, be called upon to resign or take a leave of absence if charged with a crime?”

•“How about Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green?”

### State Legislators

**Sen. George W. Marion Jr., D-Surry** — “I would say, emphatically, no. One of the principles this country was founded on is that any person is in-

nocent until proven guilty. I was not a supporter of his in the primary, but I think Jimmy Green has presided over the Senate in fairness.”

**Rep. David H. Diamont, D-Surry** — “First, a man is innocent until proven guilty. From there, we must remember that a person in a public position, that carries a great deal of responsibility, is viewed differently than one holding a regular job. If the accusation is undoubtedly altering the performance of the person in his duties, then you would have to take a leave of absence into consideration. (About Green) I haven't read

anything in the paper that they didn't know here in July of 1982. The prosecutor here has passed the buck to the grand jury, and it has gone back and forth. I don't understand why it has taken so long to prosecute.”

**Sen. Conrad R. Duncan Jr., D-Rockingham** — “He's always told me the truth, and he tells me he's innocent. That's enough for me.”

**Rep. Margaret S. Hayden, D-Alleghany** — “In all fairness to the Democratic Party and his colleagues here, I think he should resign. Then, if he is acquitted, he can go down in history as a great statesman.”

**Rep. J. Worth Gentry, D-Stokes** — “I couldn't care less. I've seen so damn much in the papers, I'm tired of reading about it. It's up to him.”

### Surry County Commissioners

**Chairman Fletcher Harris** — “I agree with Worth Gentry.”

**Sam Couch** — “I believe we're still in America, where a man is innocent until proven guilty. Each individual case is handled on its own merits. The individual has to make up his own mind. If I were guilty, I would resign. If not, leave it to the courts.”

**Nancy Robertson** — “There is a

difference in being charged and convicted. Just being charged makes it look bad, but if you are just charged, you should not have to resign. Any innocent person can be charged, but should not have to resign without a chance to face the accusations.”

### County Political Party Heads

**Carroll Gardner, Democratic Party** — “You have two categories of people serving public office—those who are elected and those who are hired and serve in the public trust. Those ap-

(Continued on Page 2A)

Friday, June 24, '83

# How to win friends and influence legislators

Want to get the law on your side? Here's how to encourage a politician to vote your way.

By KENDALL GUTHRIE  
Times staff writer

When the students in a Mt. Airy High sociology class decided changes were needed in the child abuse and neglect laws, they contacted their legislator.

Rep. David Diamont — who just happened to be their teacher — took their ideas to Raleigh. By the end of the session, their suggestions, including a proposal to increase the number of professionals required to report child abuse cases, had become law.

That was back in 1974. Diamont, now a five-term veteran of the lawmaking process, has been listening to his constituents ever since.

But a citizen doesn't have to know a legislator personally to influence the lawmaking process.

"Anyone who believes the single average citizen can't make a difference doesn't understand how the system works," said Sen. Gerry Hancock, D-Durham.

Legislators often depend on their constituents for information. Thousands of issues come up each session, and "there is some citizen out there familiar with every one," Hancock said. "When you get the informed citizen together with the legislator, the results can be dramatic."

"I tend to weigh more heavily what constituents say if they have experience or first-hand knowledge, as opposed to a paid lobbyist," said Rep. Dan Blue, D-Wake.

However, some of the techniques used by lobbyists and insiders will help ensure a legislator gets your message loud and clear.

- **A PERSONAL VISIT** will make the greatest impact, according to most legislators. A 10- or 15-minute conversation usually influences a lawmaker's vote better than any letter or telephone call.

But do your homework first. Read up on the subject and learn the opposition's views so you can build a stronger case.

With approximately 2,000 bills coming up each session, it's important to refer to your concern by specific bill number. If you don't know, ask the legislative library at 733-7779.

Target the legislators most directly connected with the issue. Many bills die before making it to a vote by the full House or Senate, so that means the members of a particular General Assembly committee may be whom you need to contact. The library can also provide their names.

## Portrait Unveiled Of David Diamont Sr.

# Man Of The Work Ethic Honored

By WILLIE PATRICK  
News Staff Writer

PILOT MOUNTAIN—Rep. David H. Diamont, D-Surry, remembers his father as a man who was happiest when busy.

And he stayed busy.

During the 12 years preceding his March 22, 1977 death, many of his proudest moments were spent heading Boy Scout Troop 545 here.

"He did more for the youngsters in this town than anyone I know," said Herman Griffin, principal of Pilot Mountain Elementary School. "He was really proud of the boys he had in that scout troop. He had more Eagle Scouts than any other troop in the district."

After last Sunday's morning church services, the Diamont family and Griffin gathered at the elementary school lobby to unveil a portrait of Diamont Sr.

It was a short, simple ceremony, attended by Mrs. Hyacianth Diamont, Rep. Diamont and his fiancée, and his brothers, Ronald and Donald Diamont

and their wives.

Rep. Diamont said his mother knew of the plan to unveil the portrait.

"She was pleased," he said. "She really did not want to make a big fuss about it all."

Some money from a memorial fund, started after Diamont's death, paid for the painting.

"I didn't feel like we should spend a memorial fund on volleyballs, and things like that," Griffin said. "He was too good to too many people for that to happen. We just thought this was a better idea. He was more of a man, than just being in athletics."

Rep. Diamont said his father "exemplified the Puritan work ethic."

"He was not happy sitting still," he said, adding that his father died two days after his 65th birthday. "He was going to retire at the end of that school year, and he was not looking forward to it."

Griffin recalled that Diamont Sr. pitched for a local Methodist church softball team the summer before his

death.

A Gibsonville native, Diamont Sr. attended High Point College on an athletic scholarship, playing football and baseball.

"He was a catcher, and baseball was his true love," Rep. Diamont said.

He spent 39 years as a teacher and coach; 25 of those as a member of the N.C. High School Coaches Association.

Diamont Sr. presided over that group in 1954. In 1950, he coached the North Carolina team in the annual North-South Shrine Bowl game in Charlotte.

Rep. Diamont said his father started coaching with the legendary Bob Jameson at Greensboro-Grimsley, and later coached military football teams. From 1947-54, he coached at Statesville High—including at some point, undefeated teams in football, basketball and baseball.

The elder Diamont later moved to Pilot Mountain, where he coached at the high school in pre-consolidation

times, and ran the pool at Pilot Mountain State Park during summer months.

The family moved to Gastonia during Rep. Diamont's senior year in high school, but soon returned.

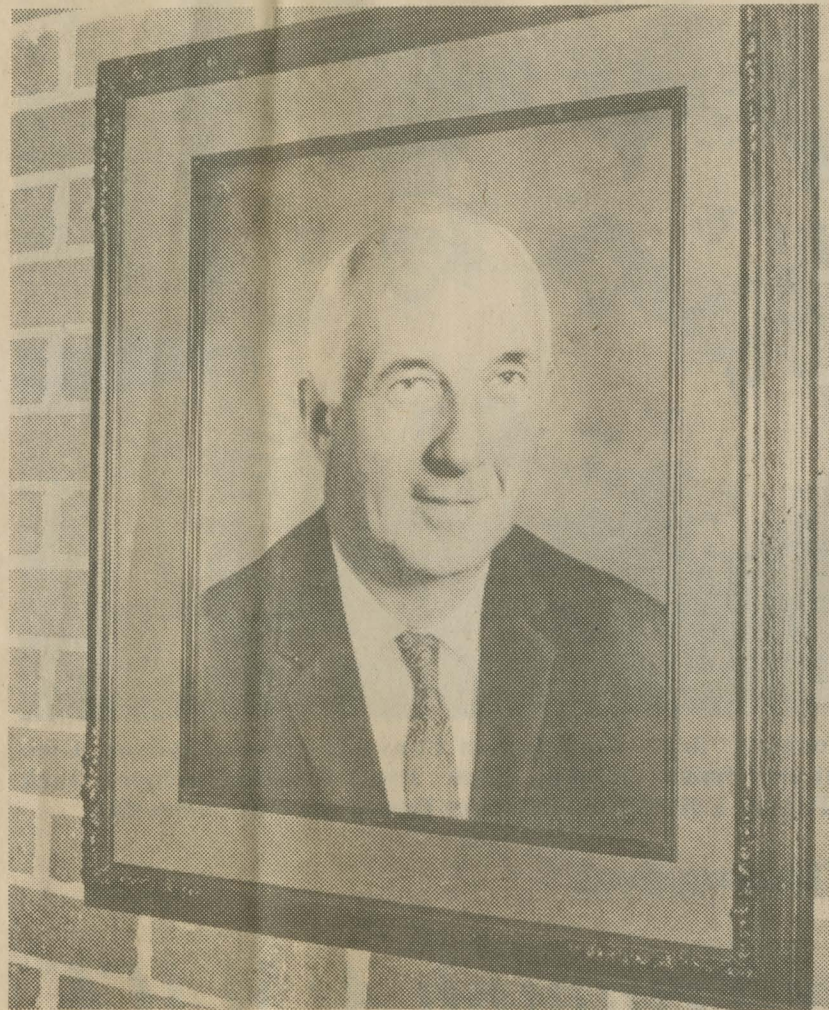
"He liked it here," Rep. Diamont said. "So we moved back."

The competitive fires burned to the end. Rep. Diamont recalled a day when he, as a Mount Airy football assistant, was leaving the practice field and encountered his father, coaching a game against a Mount Airy team.

"Something messed up with the clock, or something, and he got on me about it, as I walked in from the practice field," Diamont said. "You wouldn't have known I was his son."

As a co-worker, Griffin said Diamont Sr. was one of the best.

"I could send him with a team anywhere, and never worry," he said. "He was in charge, he was a solid person, and typified the Christian faith in the way I think it is meant to be."



Portrait Of David Diamont Sr.

# Diamont Criticizes Waste Landfill Bill

MA News June 7, 83

From Staff and Wire Reports

RALEIGH—Rep. David H. Diamont, D-Surry, has criticized a bill he said will result in politically weak counties being targeted as hazardous waste-dumping sites.

House Bill 559, the Hazardous Waste Landfill Act, passed its second

reading Wednesday by a 76-27 vote, and its third reading Friday, 66-36.

During Wednesday's House session, Diamont spoke out against the bill. He and Rep. J. Worth Gentry, D-Stokes, voted against it and Rep. Margaret S. Hayden, D-Alleghany, voted for the measure that is backed by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.

"From the things I've read, we do not need to bury hazardous wastes in North Carolina," Diamont said. "Industry wants the cheap way out."

He added, "Where's that landfill going to be? I'll tell you where it's going to be—in the county that has the least political influence in North Carolina...it might be in one of my

counties."

The bill, sponsored by Rep. William Clark, D-Cumberland, allows certain hazardous wastes to be landfilled—including dioxin.

Diamont said he prefers a total ban on hazardous wastes, which he feels

(Continued on Page 2A)

## Landfills

(Continued from Page 1A)

could be stored in temporary, above-ground containers. He said the landfills will never be located in the big counties that have the industry generating the wastes.

"Those counties get the property tax and the jobs, but when it comes to putting the by-products in the ground, the wastes will be transported to rural counties or those having the least political influence," Diamont said. "Burying hazardous wastes is a very short-sighted solution that will come back to haunt us in the next 15 to 20 years."

Diamont said all experts have agreed that hazardous wastes eventually leak out of landfills and sooner or later will get into ground water.

Diamont also criticized the use of

concentration thresholds to determine which materials would be permitted in landfills. The Environmental Protection Agency has found it difficult to establish those limits, he said, and he questioned the state's ability to do so.



# THE TRIBUNE

## Editorial opinion

Monday, June 6, 1983

# Dobson Dandy

Set a typewriter before a chimpanzee, let him peck long enough and eventually he'll type out the first volume of the Encyclopedia Britannica, someone once theorized.

There's a corollary: Send a dandy down to the legislature long enough and eventually he'll stumble into the people's business.

But don't expect our illustrious senator from Dobson to make it a habit. Gorgeous George Marion made it into half a dozen terms in the General Assembly without a consequential accomplishment, unless you count his notoriety as a flashy dresser.

The focus on him during the drunken driving law debate was shocking.

Marion had a good amendment, though, a very good amendment that should have been retained in the Safe Roads Act adopted by the assembly Thursday.

The senator proposed that open containers of beer and wine be outlawed in automobiles. Liquor already is. Marion's provision would have done more than any element of the new law to reduce drunken driving, yet, one-by-one, Marion's supporters in the Senate pulled out on him.

Last Tuesday, with the legislature deadlocked on the act because of opposition to the Marion amendment, the senator was at the peak of his legislative career. He was a man to be reckoned with. Overnight, he had moved from contemptible obscurity to center stage in the hotly-debated drunken-driving drama.

Not used to the pressure, and with his support eroding, Marion couldn't stand the limelight. His "clarification" of the amendment two weeks ago doomed the provision. Marion said he never intended his amendment to make an open container of beer or wine in a vehicle presumptive evidence that the driver was drinking.

It was supposed to be a compromise, but the clarification stripped the amendment of its power. Finally, Marion abandoned the amendment altogether.

The assembly passed a provision making it illegal for drivers to drink beer or wine while operating a motor vehicle, but allowing passengers to drink. The provision would be laughable if the issue weren't critical. Police won't be able to effectively enforce the law, since drivers can easily hand a container to a passenger at sight of police.

Credit Marion at least for recognizing the folly of the new law.

Now that the Dobson Dandy has worked up his first sweat in one of those fine, white suits, maybe he'll move out to center stage more often in a performance for the folks back home.

Of course, once a chimp has typed out a volume of Britannica, it might be too much to expect him to come up with two.

## SEAT 93



REP.  
DAVID H.  
DIAMONT

### *Busy Week*

Rep. David H. Diamont has had an extremely busy week and did not have time to write his regular column. As co-chairman of the Joint Appropriations Expansion Budget Committee, he has had an 8:30 a. m. meeting every day.

Rep. Diamont is also chairman of the House Water and Air Resources Subcommittee assigned to negotiate differences between the House and Senate versions of the "Ridge Law." In this capacity, he is bearing the main responsibility of negotiating between the House, the Senate and Speaker Liston Ramsey.

Sessions on the House floor lasted until 4:40 and 5 o'clock each day during the week.

Rep. Diamont addressed the N. C. Alliance for Public Education, attended by 1,200 people at the Raleigh Civic Center on Wednesday (May 25).

He also attended the sports banquet at East Surry High School on Thursday night (May 26). On Friday, he left his office in Raleigh and drove straight to Salisbury for the second round of the State 3-A baseball playoffs between East Surry High School and Salisbury.

# House Sets Thresholds On Wastes

The Associated Press

RALEIGH — The state House narrowly averted delaying tactics Friday before voting 66-36 to approve a bill allowing some hazardous wastes in less concentrated forms to be buried in landfills.

The bill, introduced by Rep. William Clark, D-Cumberland, now goes to the Senate for consideration.

The bill bans certain wastes from landfills and sets up a procedure for establishing concentration thresholds above which other hazardous wastes cannot be buried. It also would allow the state to begin enacting hazardous waste laws that are more stringent than federal laws.

Rep. David Diamont, D-Surry, said the House needed an alternative to the bill and recommended waiting a week until a bill to ban all hazardous waste landfills comes out

of the House Natural and Economic Resources Committee.

"Put them side by side on this floor," he said. "Let's really have an alternative to putting that stuff in the ground."

Rep. Dwight Quinn, D-Cabarrus, tried to table Diamont's motion but it failed, 48-49. Then Diamont's motion failed 56-46.

Clark was subjected to repeated questioning by opponents of the bill. Several asked whether the bill would allow dioxin to be buried in North Carolina landfills.

"Dioxin is an exceedingly hazardous waste in my opinion," Clark said. "I do not think it would ever be a waste landfilled in North Carolina."

# Landfill regulations given tentative OK

By GENE WANG

United Press International

The House gave preliminary approval Wednesday to legislation regulating hazardous waste landfills in North Carolina. The approval came despite protests that those facilities are not needed and would be forced on politically weak counties.

The measure, which is backed by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., passed 76-27, but opponents delayed a final House vote until today.

Rep. William Clark, D-Cumberland, called his measure a comprehensive approach to the problem of hazardous waste disposal.

It provides "adequate safeguards yet allows industry to continue to develop in North Carolina," he said.

But Rep. David H. Diamont, D-Surry, said: "From the things I've read, we do not need to bury hazardous wastes in North Carolina. Industry wants the cheap way out.

"Where's that landfill going to

General  
Assembly

Round-up

be? I'll tell you where it's going to be — in the county that has the least political influence in North Carolina .... It might be in one of my counties."

Clark's bill would ban the landfill disposal of ignitable and corrosive hazardous wastes and those that can react with other compounds.

Other materials, including toxic wastes, would be banned from landfills only if their concentration levels exceeded standards to be set by the state Health Services Commission and the Governor's Waste Management Board.

The measure also contains a provision repealing a controversial section of the 1981 hazardous waste management law prohibiting the state from adopting stricter programs than those operated by the federal government. Critics contend the section will handcuff the state's efforts to create an effective program.

Clark said the bill encourages the use of detoxification and other treatment procedures to prevent or reduce hazardous wastes, but no single technology will take care of all wastes.

"Landfills are a necessary part of it, but we should use them in a very restrictive manner," Clark said.

Diamont criticized the use of concentration thresholds to determine which materials would be permitted in landfills. The Environmental Protection Agency has found it difficult to establish those limits, he said, and he questioned the state's ability to do so.

He also argued that landfills would leak.

Officials of the state Department of Human Resources are seeking a \$40,000 appropriation from the Legislature to hire an environmental chemist to assist in determining allowable concentration levels for landfill disposal of hazardous wastes.

During debate on the bill, the House rejected an amendment by Rep. Josephus Mavretic, D-Edgecombe, to include cyanide wastes in the list of items banned from landfill disposal.

Mavretic, who introduced a tougher bill this year only to have it stalled in committee, hit Clark with a barrage of technical questions in an effort to win support for his amendment.

But Rep. Paul Pulley, D-Durham, led a move to table Mavretic's amendment and avoid the "tedium" of a prolonged debate on issues that were resolved in long committee deliberations.



# Budget Problems Remain

The North Carolina General Assembly has now completed ninety three legislative days. Over eleven hundred bills have been introduced into the House of Representatives and over five hundred into the State Senate. This pace of legislation is far behind the same point in the 1981 session. Legislative records show that at this point two years ago, 438 bills had been ratified

compared with 328 as of this Wednesday.

Both Speaker Liston Ramsey and Lt. Governor Jimmy Green have begun prodding to speed progress in the coming weeks. One Representative had particular reasons for working toward a mid-June adjournment date. Rep. David H. Diamond, Democrat from Surry County, is scheduled to be married on July 16th.

Despite these concerns, the past week has seen a slight lull in activities while leaders in the House and Senate, such as Speaker Liston Ramsey, Lt. Governor Green, Appropriations Chairmen, Rep. Allen Adams, Rep. Billy Watkins, Senator Kenneth Royall and Senator Harold Harison, conferred with representatives from the Governor's budget office to negotiate about anticipated increases in revenue.

An important part of these negotiations had to do with the tax package and estimates by the leadership as to how much revenue will be needed to balance the budget. Rep. Diamond was not present at these negotiations, but he understands that discussions centered around an increase in the sales tax ceiling on new autos from \$120 to \$300 and the possibility of making the sales tax applicable to the retail sale of cars. The combination of these two taxes would increase revenue to around \$60 million per year. Another possibility is a 20 percent increase in the alcohol tax which would produce an additional \$20-25 million per year.

Another important subject of discussion among leaders in both the House and the Senate is the switch from unfreezing the freeze on salaries for state employees and teachers to a straight across the board raise of 5

percent for both of these groups. Such a commitment would require over \$130 million rather than the \$97 million needed merely to lift the freeze which would have left 25 percent of all state employees without a raise over the past two years. Legislative leaders felt this would be unfair and apparently have convinced the Governor that the straight across the board raise is more equitable.

# The News and Observer

Raleigh, N.C., Wednesday, June 22, 1983

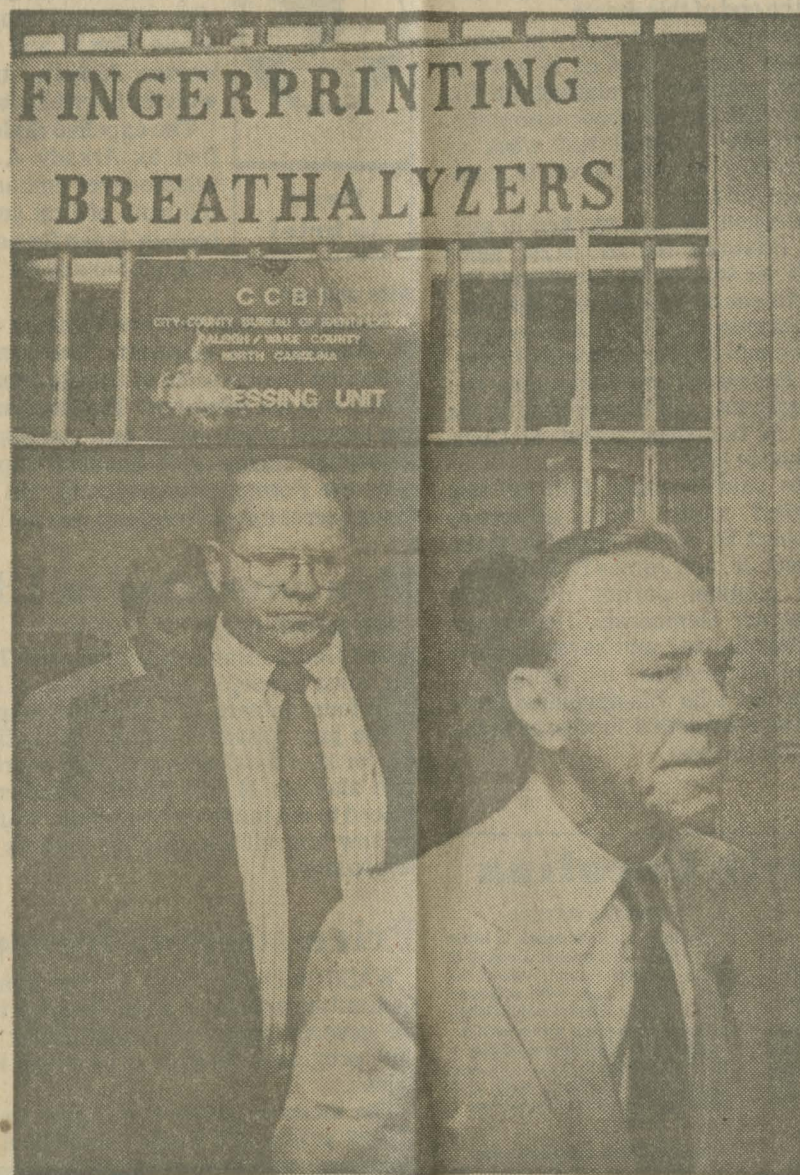
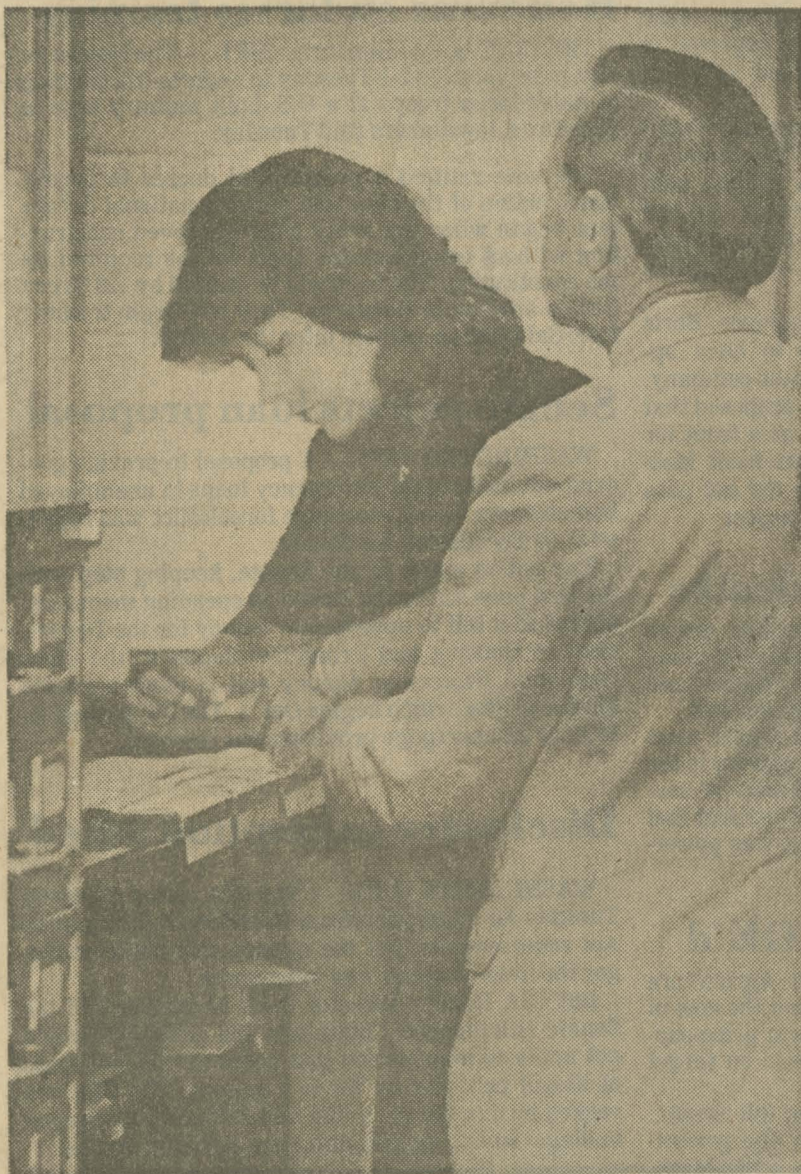
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Staff photos by Bob Bridges

Charlene Navarro fingerprints Lt. Gov. James C. Green, left, before he leaves processing area with SBI agent W.F. Dowdy

## Soles indicted on federal charges of conspiracy, vote-buying, lying

By ELIZABETH LELAND  
Staff Writer

State Sen. R.C. Soles Jr., already charged with extortion conspiracy, was indicted Tuesday on federal charges of vote-buying, lying to a grand jury and aiding an extortion conspiracy.

A federal grand jury in Raleigh reindicted Soles, D-Columbus, on the extortion conspiracy charge

and added three charges:

■ Paying or offering to pay for votes in the 1982 Democratic primary.

■ Lying to a federal grand jury in May 1982 by saying he had never bought a vote or been present when one was bought.

■ Aiding in extortion conspiracy by helping Edward Walton Williamson, a former chairman of the

Columbus County commissioners, obtain \$5,800 from an undercover FBI agent.

The four charges in the new indictment replace the original single charge of extortion conspiracy against the eight-term legislator. The maximum penalty Soles faces is 50 years in prison and a \$40,000

See GRAND JURY, page 8A

## Green turns himself in, is released

By ELIZABETH LELAND  
Staff Writer

Sporting a red rosebud in his lapel, Lt. Gov. James C. Green turned himself in to Wake County authorities Tuesday afternoon to be fingerprinted, photographed and released without bond on bribery and conspiracy charges.

Green dipped his fingers 30 times — three times for each finger — in black ink for the prints to be kept by the City-County Bureau of Identification. He was photographed for courthouse records, allowed to wash his inky hands and whisked away for a brief court hearing.

Throughout the proceedings, Green remained composed before a battery of cameras and reporters but did not respond to questions. He was accompanied by his attorney, Howard F. Twiggs, and was flanked by family members and associates.

In a court appearance that lasted only a few minutes, Superior Court Judge Anthony M. Brannon of Bahama asked Twiggs whether he had explained the charges to Green. Twiggs said he had.

Raleigh attorney James L. Blackburn, a former U.S. attorney hired to prosecute the case, told Brannon that he had no recommendation about bond, saying it was up to the judge.

Brannon then released Green in Twiggs' custody, saying he had "no reason to believe the defendant, Mr. Green, will not, in fact, appear" in court when required. No court date has been set.

Green, 62, sat upright throughout the hearing, twisting his hands in his lap. His wife of 40 years, Alice, sat directly behind him. As Green quickly turned to leave at the end of the hearing, she reached

out to him and the two walked out together, arm in arm.

Green was indicted Monday by a Wake County grand jury on charges of accepting a \$2,000 bribe, conspiring to accept a bribe and consenting to receive bribes.

If convicted, Green faces a maximum penalty of 23 years in prison and an unspecified fine.

The indictments charged that Green agreed to use his influence as lieutenant governor to help an undercover agent obtain a liquor license.

The agent, Robert J. Drdak, had posed as a businessman with Mafia connections during the Colcor investigation into corruption in southeastern North Carolina. Drdak claimed he wanted a liquor-by-the-drink referendum passed in the Columbus County town of Bolton so he could establish a nightclub to launder money and conduct gambling and drug activities.

In exchange for money from Drdak, the indictments said, Green agreed to help the agent by "influencing and manipulating the N.C. Alcohol Beverage Control Commission, local ABC boards, the N.C. Department of Revenue and other governmental agencies or departments."

There was no indication Tuesday of a date for the trial. Blackburn has said that he would try to expedite the case in fairness to Green, who is a potential candidate for governor.

Green can continue presiding over the Senate unless he is convicted of a felony.

Twiggs, who is representing Green along with Raleigh attorney Howard E. Manning, said in an in-

See GREEN, page 6A



Sen. R.C. Soles Jr.

# The News and Observer

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Staff photo by Karen Tam

George W. Marion Jr., left, congratulates Henson P. Barnes after Senate votes Tuesday on DUI bill

## Senate modifies, approves drunken driving legislation

By A.L. MAY

Chief Capitol Correspondent

The state Senate passed Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.'s drunken driving bill Tuesday and sent it to the House after adding an amendment long sought by alcoholic beverage opponents in the state that would ban open beer and wine containers in most cars and light trucks.

By lopsided votes, however, the Senate defeated other attempts to weaken or strengthen the bill, which Hunt has made his top legislative priority.

The House has been considering similar legislation in committees. The House version of the bill is scheduled to be considered today by the Appropriations Committee. House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey, D-Madison, said he did not expect the legislation to reach the House floor for a vote this week.

The bill's centerpiece, which

was unaffected by the Senate action Tuesday, would eliminate plea-bargaining in drunken driving cases by abolishing existing driving-under-the-influence laws and lesser related offenses, replacing them with a single driving-while-impaired statute.

The bill also would impose mandatory seven- to 14-day jail terms for serious violations and toughen the sentences and fines for less serious cases. It would create a two-stage trial, with a penalty phase following conviction in which the judge would weigh aggravating and mitigating factors.

The state's minimum age for buying beer and wine would increase under the bill to 19 from 18, but the 21-year minimum age for buying liquor and mixed drinks would remain.

Sen. Henson P. Barnes, D-Wayne, the bill's prime Senate

sponsor, said he was concerned that the amendment added by the Senate to ban all open beer and wine containers from private passenger cars and trucks could delay House action.

"It's going to give us problems," Barnes said.

The amendment was proposed by Sen. George W. Marion Jr., D-Surry, and was adopted 30-19 over Barnes' opposition.

Under current North Carolina law, it is legal for a driver to have open beer or wine containers while driving. It is illegal to have an open bottle of liquor in the passenger compartment.

As proposed, Hunt's bill would have made it illegal for the driver to have an open beer or wine container in his possession, but passengers still would have been able

See SENATE, page 7A

## Soles charged in indictment

By DANIEL C. HOOVER

Staff Writer

State Sen. R.C. Soles Jr., D-Columbus, was indicted on extortion conspiracy charges, and the Brunswick County sheriff and the Shallotte police chief were charged with aiding a large drug smuggling operation, in indictments returned Tuesday by a federal grand jury in Raleigh.

Soles, 48, an affluent Tabor City attorney, eight-term legislator and chairman of a Senate judiciary committee, was indicted on a charge stemming from the FBI's Colcor investigation into corruption in southeastern North Carolina.

The indictment charges that Soles accepted a \$500 bracelet from an undercover agent in exchange for influencing legislation on the regulation of precious metals. He also is charged with assigning three political associates to promote the passage of a mixed-drink referendum in the Columbus County town of Bolton after FBI undercover agents told him they wanted to open a nightclub there.

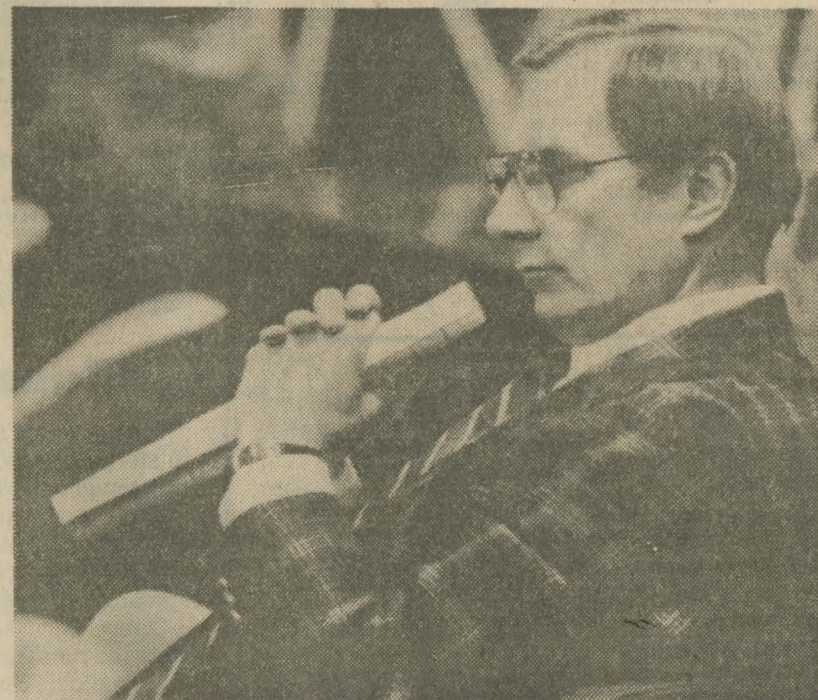
"I don't have anything to say," Soles told a reporter at the Legislative Building after his indictment was announced at a news conference at the Federal Building. "Please respect my position at this time."

Soles had sat quietly through more than two hours of Senate debate over Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.'s drunken driving bill before leaving the Senate. He displayed little emotion when approached by reporters.

He can continue to serve in the Legislature pending the outcome of his case.

Under an agreement with federal authorities, Soles was not taken into custody but is scheduled to surrender to U.S. marshals at 10 a.m. today in Raleigh for processing and posting of a \$10,000 bond.

Arrestment will be in April. If convicted, Soles could be sentenced to up to 20 years in prison



Staff photo by Karen Tam

R.C. Soles Jr., D-Columbus, listens to debate in Senate Tuesday

and fined up to \$10,000.

State Sen. Russell G. Walker, D-Randolph, chairman of the state Democratic Party, said he did not know enough about the charges to comment on whether Soles should resign from his Senate seat.

Also Tuesday, the federal grand jury, in an unrelated case, indicted Brunswick County Sheriff Herman Strong, Shallotte Police Chief Hoyal "Red" Varnum Jr. and 20 others on drug-related charges. The indictments followed a state-federal investigation code-named "Operation Gateway" that is aimed at curtailing drug smuggling into Brunswick County.

Strong and Varnum provided security to the \$60 million smuggling operation, the indictments charge.

Brunswick County Manager William Carter said that Strong would continue to serve as sheriff unless convicted of a crime from office.

Mason H. Anderson, the Shallotte town attorney, said the Town Board would meet Thursday to consider whether to suspend Varnum.

U.S. Attorney Samuel T. Currin said Operation Gateway "focused primarily on the public corruption aspect of the drug business (and) represented a new approach ... to find out who's been financing, directing and protecting drug operations."

"Brunswick ... for some time, has been the major highway, or gateway, for drugs entering our state," Currin said.

Soles was indicted under the Hobbs Act, which makes it a felony for a public official to extort funds for personal use or benefit. The charge was "conspiracy to affect commerce by extortion."

He is the second legislator charged in the Colcor investiga-

See SOLES, page 6A

# The News and Observer

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## Grand jury charges that Green took a bribe, agreed to others

### Senators express sadness and relief after indictment

By A.L. MAY

Chief Capitol Correspondent

The indictment of Lt. Gov. James C. Green drew a mixed response of sadness, relief and a little anger in the Legislature Monday night as Green continued to preside over the Senate.

Senators voiced sadness over Green's personal trial and its effect on the state's image.

Sen. J.J. "Monk" Harrington, D-Bertie, shuddered when told of the indictment.

"I feel sorry for him," he said. "He's been through a lot. I admire his courage."

Expressions of relief came from Green supporters who had been expecting the indictment and said it opened the way for Green to clear himself.

"I'm glad," said Sen. Elton Edwards, D-Guilford, a close Green supporter. "It will bring the matter to a head... and it enables him the opportunity to clear himself."

Green's supporters voiced anger over the length of time it has taken the investigation to result in charges against Green, who is expected to run for governor in 1984.

"If they were going to indict him, they should have done it six months or a year ago," Edwards said.

"I don't think they'll ever convict him," said Sen. Harold W. Hardison, D-Lenoir. "I think the people are beginning to recognize

what this is. He's been harassed by the news media and everyone else."

No one suggested that Green should resign from his office pending the outcome of his legal problems.

"If he's not guilty, he should not resign," said House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey. "He knows that. I don't."

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. declined through a spokesman to comment on the charges.

Green continued to decline to answer questions about the charges or their political effect.

Asked whether he would continue to preside over the Senate, Green said, "I do a reasonably good job, they tell me."

Green was charged by a Wake County grand jury with five counts of bribery, conspiring to receive bribes and consenting to receive bribes.

The indictment charged Green with receiving a \$2,000 bribe from an undercover agent in 1982 and with conspiring and agreeing to receive other bribes.

The agent was Robert Drdak, an undercover investigator in the FBI's Colcor investigation into corruption in Columbus and Bladen counties. Green is from Bladen County.

Earlier Monday, before the indictment was handed down, Green



Staff photo by Greg Gibson

Lt. Gov. James C. Green, daughter Susan leave Mission Valley Inn after meeting with supporters

By ELIZABETH LELAND  
Staff Writer

Lt. Gov. James C. Green was indicted Monday on charges of receiving a \$2,000 bribe and of conspiring and consenting to receive bribes.

The Wake County grand jury charged Green on five bribery-related counts, saying he agreed to use his influence to help an undercover agent obtain a liquor license.

Green was charged with four counts of bribery — one of accepting a \$2,000 bribe, two of consenting to receive bribes of \$10,000 a month and one of consenting to receive a \$2,000 bribe — and one of conspiring to receive a bribe.

Each of the four bribery counts carries a penalty of five years in prison and an unspecified fine. The conspiracy charge is punishable by up to three years in prison and a fine.

Green, a potential candidate for governor, declined to comment. Last week, after the grand jury issued "presentments" accusing him of bribery and conspiracy, Green said he had been "falsely accused."

Howard F. Twigg, Green's attorney, also declined comment.

The indictment stated that in exchange for the bribes Green agreed to help undercover FBI agent Robert J. Drdak and others by "influencing and manipulating the N.C. Alcohol Beverage Control Commission, local ABC boards, the N.C. Department of Revenue and other governmental agencies or departments."

In his undercover capacity, Drdak maintained an apartment in Whiteville and operated a gold and silver-buying business as a front for the investigation. According to court testimony in other Colcor-related cases, Drdak told people that he had been

See 'I HAVE NOT,' page 7A