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Tar Heel Politics

Falwell Aide Speaks

Every major city in North Carolina will "someday soon" have a minister who will serve as the local spokesman for the Moral Majority.

"We're working on it now," says Harold Knowles, special assistant to Dr. Jerry Falwell, whose Moral Majority movement blossomed into a powerful influence in national politics in President Ronald Reagan's election last year.

Knowles said eastern North Carolina will begin to feel the impact of Falwell's "get involved" philosophy this year.

Knowles, who lives in Fayetteville but travels throughout the Southeast as contact man for Falwell's Old Time Gospel Hour, believes more and more pastors in the Fayetteville area are going to be more personally involved "in a vocal way" in local and state politics.

He lists the Moral Majority's opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment and its interest in the state's school text books as items of top priority with Moral Majority supporters in Carolina during the coming year.

Rev. Lamar Mooneyham, pastor of the Tri-City Baptist Church in Durham, has been designated as Falwell's number one spokesman for North Carolina.

"I believe that it will not be too far in the future that the Moral Majority will begin selecting a minister-leader in each major community in the state," Knowles says.

He says Falwell doesn't plan to run for political office himself. "He has said that even to be president of the United States would be a step down from his life's work as a pastor."

Knowles says: "Jerry doesn't plan on grooming anybody to run for political office. But he will speak out and tell the people what candidates stand for and express his opinion."

"Sen. Helms and Jerry are close friends," Knowles says. "Jesse keeps us in touch with what's going on in Washington."

"Jerry certainly isn't going to involve himself in local issues," Knowles says, "but local ministers are encouraged to speak out as private citizens on matters that are important to every Christian."



HAROLD KNOWLES

Knowles feels that the Moral Majority movement will grow stronger and stronger with ministers of all faiths becoming supporters. "This isn't just a Baptist movement," he says.

He predicts the development of a "hot line" telephone to Falwell's Virginia headquarters where local ministers can discuss issues of importance with Falwell.

In the last state elections, the Moral Majority gave strong support to three Republicans — Helms, Sen. John East who defeated then-incumbent Robert Morgan, and I. Beverly Lake, unsuccessful GOP candidate for governor.

A PUBLIC meeting on the abortion issue will be held Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the former county courthouse on Gillespie Street.

The meeting has been scheduled to allow local citizens to voice their opinions on abortion issues.

REP. BILLY CLARK of Fayetteville has been re-appointed to the North Carolina General Statutes Commission by House Speaker Liston Ramsey.

The commission is responsible for publishing, codifying, revising and recommending changes in

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state laws, and operates within the State Department of Justice.

Clark, an attorney, serves as vice chairman of the House Courts and Judicial Districts Committee.

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IN KEEPING with its new appointments policy, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners made nominations this week for vacancies on four boards. The nominees will be voted on at the regular commissioners meeting in August.

Nominated for a vacancy on the Board of Adjustment was Floyd Shorter, an executive with United National Bank. No other nominations were made for the post, and Shorter will complete the unexpired term of L. Bradford Morton, UNB executive who was murdered early this year. The adjustment board decides special zoning matters and variances.

Nominated for a second term on the Industrial Financing Authority was Robert A. Edwards of Hope Mills. Edwards was the only nominee for the post.

Nominees for the county's six representatives on the Region M Aging Advisory Committee include: Mary Thomas, Ia Ross, Richardo Nuñez, Pinky Jackson, Rosa Brown and Sarah Gonzales.

Commissioners named five nominees for four vacant seats on the Educational Development Advisory Board, which serves as a liaison between the public and the school board of the city school system. Nominees include Joyce Loughlin, Betty Major, Arnetha Robbinson, Leslie Griffin and Robert Weathers.

The new appointments policy requires commissioners to file a brief description or resume of nominees with the board's clerk. Commissioners however have so

far failed to file any information of the nominees listed above.

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LEFT DANGLING in the run of recent board appointments is the fate of Cumberland County Joint Planning Board member Roberta Waddle, whose term has officially expired.

Waddle was asked to remain on the board until an impasse is resolved, which may have to await the return of Commissioners Chairman M.M. "Mac" Beard, now recovering from a heart attack.

Commissioners recently appointee Johnny Gillis to one of two vacancies on the board, but reached a tie vote on nominees Waddle and Charles E. Smith Jr. for the second seat. Waddle, one of two women on the 13-member board that handles zoning matters, has already served one term.

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Moore County Republicans will meet Monday to chose a new sheriff, but Pinehurst Police Chief James Wise appears to be the GOP's top choice.

No one is willing to make such predictions public, but those close to the decision-making process say there are several reasons why Wise is favored over his maior competitor, Robins Police Chief Willie Hill.

Both men have organized supporters behind them, and both men are registered Republicans. But Wise hails from Pinehurst — a Republican stronghold and, equally important, the resort community offers more GOP voters than does Robbins.

Although Wise is a Republican, he is a newcomer to the party. Until early July, Wise had been a registered Democrat. Hill is a life-long Republican.

Jerome Whipple, former sheriff, resigned for "personal reasons" in early July.