

A QUIZ In May 2005, the North Carolina State House of Representatives hired its first historian. The historian spent 20 months writing a report on the Speakers of the House that served our state from 1963 through 2006. The historian never finished the task, but the 23-page report cost taxpayers \$80,000. One page of the report contains only a reference to lyrics from a song sung by the Hall of Fame rock band The Who. Just that page cost taxpayers \$3,478.26. Several errors in the report also caught our attention. Here's a quiz to see just how closely you read the report. . . .

- Which famous song by The Who is quoted in the report?
 - Pinball Wizard
 - Eyesight to the Blind
 - Little Billy
 - Won't Get Fooled Again
- What shapes the climate of North Carolina?
 - Forces of nature
 - The topography of the state
 - Global warming
 - The Speakers of the House of Representatives
- One of former House Speaker Jimmy Green's tobacco warehouses was destroyed by fire. His associate was _____ for arson. Fill in the blank.
 - Indicted
 - Ignited
 - Idealized
 - Implemented
- When is power a wonderful thing?
 - When you have lost electricity.
 - On the basketball court.
 - At a monster truck rally.
 - When used to make life better for the majority.
- What do people at the legislature have in common?
 - They are *homo sapiens*.
 - They live and work in North Carolina.
 - They frequent the legislative cafeteria for lunch.
 - Who knows?

The Speaker

"Meet the new boss, same as the old boss."

The Who

and with each session the speaker has contributed their share of history. With this journal you will find a cornucopia of personalities which reflect distinctive leadership styles. The unique creativity of each speaker helps to determine the outcome of the laws on North Carolina. Each has shared their ability and skill to shape the climate of North Carolina. With their help North Carolina has grown to be the state that she is. Through the years North Carolina has gone back in history to once again become one of the more

Note: In the 1990's Green's tobacco business was in trouble. Several of his warehouses had burned and were totally destroyed. Prior to this incident another warehouse had been destroyed by fire and one of his associates was implicated for arson. Now, Green and his son were under investigation. After a highly publicized trial, his son was convicted of arson and received a short prison term. Jimmy Green was convicted for tax evasion in 1997 and served his conviction in house arrest for several years.

Power is a wonderful thing when used to make life better for the majority. . . .

Entering the front doors, of the large, white North Carolina Legislative Building on Jones Street can be overwhelming. Finding ones way around can be confusing. Some people seem to just belong; some are like a guest who will never leave, while others never quite feel as if they are welcomed. Taking a step into the world of the legislature can draw you into another example of human nature. Nothing quite fits. Here you will discover people from all backgrounds. Together they have one common element. But, to this day I have yet to figure out what it is. Being a part of the legislature can either be happy and rewarding or it can be mean and

The answer to each question is D. Makes us wonder what kind of grade this report would receive on the North Carolina Writing Assessment required for 10th graders.