

MEMORABLE MEMO

MEMORANDUM TO CAPITAL PRESS CORPSE
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December 9, 1986

In all seriousness, I would very much appreciate your attendance at that briefing, even though I know the timing couldn't be worse. There are a number of changes in this year's TIP which we would like an opportunity to explain. Frankly, I think you will find the briefing to be time well-spent. What will be said will be relevant to the department's legislative agenda and other items which will be noteworthy and newsworthy in the coming months.

Thanks in advance for helping me out by being there.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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RALEIGH 27611

JAMES T. SUGHRUE
SPECIAL ASSISTANT

JAMES E. HARRINGTON
SECRETARY

December 9, 1986

MEMORANDUM TO: Capital Press Corpse

FROM:

Jim Sughrue *Jim Sughrue*

SUBJECT:

DOT Board to Cause Problems by Taking Up Important
Matters While Away from Raleigh

In an obvious attempt to confuse and complicate the lives of reporters and public affairs people, the North Carolina Board of Transportation will adopt a new Transportation Improvement Program at its meeting in Charlotte, December 12, 1986. There have been several inquiries concerning how and when copies of this valuable but boring document may be procured by those of you who wisely elect to remain in Raleigh.

Here's my offer. Copies of the TIP will be available from my office, room 156 of the Highway Building, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Friday morning on the condition that you embargo it until such time as it may be presumed to have come before the board (11:00 a.m.).

When you pick up a copy of the TIP, you may also receive at no charge a copy of its executive summary designed to permit you to take a long lunch hour on Friday and still appear to have actually looked at the program.

You might wonder why I am bending over backwards to be so nice. I am doing it for the oldest reason known to the long-standing relationship between press people and PR people: I need something from you.

The pleasure of your company is requested at a media briefing to be conducted by my boss, Secretary James E. Harrington, concerning the TIP at 3:00 p.m. this Friday. That briefing will be held in the Board Room (Room 150) of the Highway Building.

The least that we can say about the accompanying memo from Department of Transportation spokesman Jim Sughrue is that it has a certain air of integrity about it. Not every bureaucrat is honest enough to admit that a document might be boring, however valuable it might be, or to confess that he's trying to make the boss look good, either. Alas, we know not whether the Capital Press Corps—or Corpse, as it is known—sembled en masse for the DOT TIP PDQ, but we're betting that reporters took a long lunch that day in vain attempts to digest the Transportation Improvement Program.

Meanwhile, if you've spotted a Memorable Memo somewhere along the road, and you'd like to bridge the gap between government and gobbledygook, transport it to Insight via the quickest common carrier. Anonymity guaranteed, and we'll pay the freight.

... And in this corner ...

... we have official state stuff. North Carolina has been collecting official state stuff since at least 1893, when the legislature adopted "Esse Quam Videri" as the State Motto. That was followed in 1927 by the legislature's adoption of "The Old North State" as the State Song. That was followed in 1941 with the dogwood as the State Flower; in 1943 with the Cardinal as the State Bird, and in 1945 with Red and Blue as the State Colors. No kidding. No Official State Stuff was adopted in the 1950s, but in 1965 the honorables got back on track with the Scotch Bonnet shell (that's pronounced bonay, as any mother's child can tell you). A few others have been added along the way (including the Honeybee as the State Insect in 1973 and the Eastern Box Turtle as the State Reptile in 1979). But obviously, things have gotten out of hand, and the 1987 General Assembly may be noted for doing nothing more than adopting more state stuff, as these bills indicate.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1987 SESSION
RATIFIED BILL

CHAPTER 38
SENATE BILL 116

AN ACT TO PERMIT THE TAKING OF ONE ANTLERLESS DEER DURING A MUZZLE-LOADING FIREARMS SEASON WITH A BAG LIMIT OF FIVE OR MORE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 113-291.2(a) is amended by adding a second paragraph to read:
"Where there is a muzzle-loading firearm season for deer, with a bag limit of five or more, one antlerless deer may be taken. Dogs may not be used for hunting deer during such season."

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on the 1st day of October, 1987.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE SWEET POTATO ALSO KNOWN AS YAM AS
THE OFFICIAL STATE VEGETABLE.

Whereas, the sweet potato is widely grown in North Carolina in both home gardens and for commercial sales; and
Whereas, North Carolina farmers have gradually brought North Carolina potato production with over 35,000 acres grown by over 2,000 commercial producers who combine with packers, processors, and shippers to generate direct revenue of approximately sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) annually; and
Whereas, sweet potatoes provide a healthy and nutritious food product that can be served raw or cooked, baked or fried;

March 27, 1987

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO MAKE THE SHAD BOAT THE OFFICIAL STATE BOAT.

Whereas, the Shad Boat is a type of craft indigenous to North Carolina having its origins at Roanoke Island; and
Whereas, the Shad Boat was developed to meet the particular needs of the pound net fishermen in the Neuse River;

March 27, 1987

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE SHAG AS THE OFFICIAL STATE DANCE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, all North Carolinians are proud that the shag, one of the great developments in terpsichorean culture, is native to this State; and
Whereas, it is appropriate that the contributions that the shag makes to the cultural life of North Carolina, the United States, and the world should be recognized;

April 2, 1987

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE COLLARD AS THE OFFICIAL STATE VEGETABLE.

Whereas, the collard (Brassica oleracea var. acephala) combines all the best attributes of the Brassica family's esteemed attributes, notably and to wit the ability to survive, a frost-bit flavor that is unsurpassed, and nutritional values beyond compare, what with an abundance of all the known vitamins that are salubrious and good for you too, plus vitamins not yet identified or available elsewhere; and
Whereas, Southern culture and cooking have had a centuries-old love affair with collards; and
Whereas, in North Carolina last year 2,700 acres of collards were harvested commercially, enough to fill 810,000 35-pound boxes, yielding a total production of 28,350,000 pounds, with a cash value in excess of \$4,000,000--and these numbers are but a reflection of the quantity of collards produced in old plantbeds, pig lots and side-yard gardens; and
Whereas, on September 13, 1975, the North Carolina town of Ayden hosted the first Collard Festival ever held in this or any other nation, and

April 14, 1987

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO NAME "MILK" AS THE STATE BEVERAGE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, milk is a primary and necessary food for the citizens of North Carolina; and
Whereas, experts in health and nutrition proclaim milk as "Nature's most nearly perfect food"; and
Whereas, research reveals that milk provides the best source of calcium, an essential element of our diets; and
Whereas, citizens of North Carolina, both young and old, consume over 143 million gallons of milk every year; and
Whereas, approximately 1,000,000 gallons of milk are produced in North Carolina;

April 28, 1987

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE SHAG AS THE OFFICIAL STATE DANCE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, all North Carolinians are proud that the shag, one of the great developments in terpsichorean culture, is native to this State; and
Whereas, it is appropriate that the contributions that the shag makes to the cultural life of North Carolina, the United States, and the world should be recognized;

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