

It's Official Today: Edmisten To Sit Out Senate Race in '78

RALEIGH — Today's the day that Attorney General Rufus Edmisten makes official what he's been saying privately and hinting at publicly for weeks: He's not running for the U.S. Senate next year.

Edmisten told his supporters in a letter mailed earlier this week that, although he believes he would win the Democratic primary and have "a good chance to defeat the incumbent," Republican Sen. Jesse Helms, he's not going for the brass ring.

He cited the number of elections — two — in the last three years for which he has had to call on his friends and said it would be "a great deal to ask" to go for three in four years.

Besides, in the next two years he'll be traveling the state "to become more familiar with the needs of North Carolina."

That reference could be interpreted in any of several ways. He could run for reelection in 1980. He could run for governor. He could run for the Senate seat occupied by Democratic Sen. Robert Morgan, also up for election in 1980.

The interim period also should give Edmisten time enough to raise \$8,000 outstanding on a \$15,000 poll conducted for him in late summer.

It should also give him time to do the job for which he was elected, Edmisten will note in a statement to be delivered today. "I can see no way in good conscience to fulfill the duties and responsibilities entrusted to me as attorney general while running the vigorous campaign for months on end that would be required to unseat an incumbent U. S. Senator."

Parks Group Packed

If the N.C. State Parks Study Commission doesn't come up with a recommendation for a park in the Piedmont Triad area, it won't be because that area is underrepresented on the panel.

Of the commission's 12 members, five are from the Triad area — Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem — and a sixth is from nearby Burlington.

The group includes state Sens. Rachel Gray of High Point and Lawrence Davis of Winston-Salem; state Reps. Charlie Webb of Greensboro and Daniel A.C. Hall Jr. of Burlington; Greensboro May-



**Political
Notebook**
By
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or E.S. "Jim" Melvin and Charles T. Port of Winston-Salem.

Of the other six members, two are from the lower Piedmont, two are from the east and two are from the west. The deck wasn't meant to be stacked in favor of the Piedmont, but when the Governor, the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house named their appointees to the committee, each had in mind the fact that the Triad area is the most populous in the state without a state park.

The commission was created in the waning days of the legislature after Rep. Mary Seymour's bill to provide \$25,000 for planning a Triad Park was axed in the rush to balance the budget.