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YOU DON'T SAY...

"It did say, 'A brand new suit is a hundred plus.' I had to change that."

*Sen. Charlie Albertson, D-Duplin, talking about a re-recording and lyric changes to a song, "Inflation Blues," that he first recorded in 1979.*

THE INSIDER, 10/08/08

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## **News Summary**

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### **Union Label**

Last month's election of Tony Smith as president of the State Employees Association of North Carolina caused more than a few observers of the group to wonder what the decision meant for its affiliation with the Service Employees International Union. Smith, a maintenance supervisor at Foothills Correctional Institute outside of Morganton, came from SEANC district that had been a critic of the decision to affiliate with the national union. But a week after taking the new office, Smith said that the decision is past history, and that it's his job now to support it. "I just happen to be elected from a district that voted against it," Smith told The Insider on Tuesday. "I do think things have healed. I think they've moved on."

But much of the opposition to SEIU affiliation decision came from the three SEANC districts in and around Morganton. Smith acknowledged that at times opposition to the decision -- one pushed by SEANC executive director Dana Cope -- was intense and vocal. But he said the decision wasn't a topic of discussion by the time the group met in September to elect new officers. "I think it's settled immensely," he said. "There was no real uproar." With affiliation decision, reached in May, SEANC became one of the largest SEIU locals in the country. The state still prohibits public employees from collective bargaining, but SEANC has been advocating that the prohibition be overturned. (THE INSIDER, 10/08/08).

### **Ranking Conservatives**

Senate leader Marc Basnight and Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand out-liberal Sen. Ellie Kinnaird of Orange County; Sens. Andrew Brock and Eddie Goodall, and Rep. Bryan Holloway out-conservative all their colleagues in the General Assembly. Those are among the findings in a new ranking of conservative effectiveness by the