

**"Mr. Speaker,  
There Oughta  
Be Somewhere  
A Person Can  
Cuss Without  
Breaking The Law."**



*An audacious, hilarious and eloquent defense of human liberty that recognizes modern day vexations and the need of human beings to give voice occasionally to their strongest feeling without fear of public censure or legal reprisal — just as it was delivered on the floor of the North Carolina House of Representatives.*

*By State Representative Herbert Hyde*

## Notes about the famous "Swain County Cussin' Speech" and the man who made it.

Right at the outset, so there won't be any confusion about it, let it be noted that Herbert Hyde does not advocate cussing or the public use of profane language.

Back when he occasionally drove a steer or plowed a mule, he might have been vexed enough at times to express himself in plain and earthy Anglo-Saxon terms. And even today, as a legislator, as a lawyer, as a candidate for the state's number two office, he recognizes that there are times when a person ought to be able to express himself without fear of breaking a law.

In 1973, only two of North Carolina's 100 counties — Swain and Pitt — were exempt from a statewide law making it a misdemeanor for anyone to use "in a loud and boisterous manner indecent or profane language" on the public streets and highways.

During the 1973 session of the General Assembly, Republican legislators from Swain sought to bring that county under provisions of the state law.

Herbert Hyde is a native of Swain County. He's kin to the people of that beautiful region of the Great Smoky Mountains — the farmers and lumbermen and Cherokee Indians whose language does not even contain profanity. And he recognized

that the effort to impose an anti-cussing law on the fine folks of Swain was insulting and demeaning.

Moreover, the law was so vague and ambiguous as to be unenforceable or, if enforced, to be unconstitutional.

In the tradition of Disraeli and British Parliamentarians of rapier wit, Rep. Herbert Hyde took to the floor of the House and with humor honed to scapel sharpness shredded the bill and its onerous provisions.

When fellow members of the House were able to stop laughing long enough, they did what Herbert Hyde asked them to do: They left his native homeland exempt from the bill.

In the days following what became known as the "Swain County Cussin' Speech," many newspapers and radio stations either printed the text of the speech or broadcast recordings of it. In addition, many individuals have asked for copies.

This recording of that remarkable statement was produced as a means of earning funds for Herbert Hyde's campaign for Lt. Governor. A specific price tag has not been placed on the recording. However, Herbert Hyde will be most grateful for the contributions you make to his campaign, and he hopes you will find this recording to be interesting, informative and amusing.

*The Hyde for Lt. Governor State Committee  
G. Andrew Jones, Finance Chairman  
P.O. Box 30305, Crabtree Valley, Raleigh, N.C. 27612*