

Earl K. C. Stenderud;

Sir: I ask the use of your columns for the following card -  
Mr Senator Sweet, on Friday Dec -  
Stated in his place in the Senate that if I had made certain statements attributed to me in a public print, I had uttered a falsehood; That he would write me and ascertain the facts &c. In answer to his letter I forwarded to that gentleman a full and explicit statement of the whole matter, with a request that it be published. I have waited more than a week and have neither seen the said letter in print nor heard from Mr. Sweet. I deem it due to myself therefore to make this explanation.

The article contained published in the Winston Sentinel contains several inaccuracies of statement.

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I never stated that I was Chairman of the Committee on the Legislative Article in the Constitutional Convention of 1868. That position was filled by Mr. Sweet. Neither <sup>and</sup> lapse of memory nor any conceivable motive could have led me to make such an unimagined statement.

2<sup>nd</sup> If Mr Victor C Gurninger was on the train from Raleigh to Greensboro on the night of Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> 1869, I was totally unaware of the fact. I did not see him nor speak to him on that night. I have no idea that he was on the train at all.

3<sup>rd</sup> I did not say that Mr Sweet had wilfully misrepresented the matter, or that he had been guilty of a fraud on the people. I do not believe that he would do the one or that he could have done the other. I do not think he would make intentionally false statements or that it was possible for any one to perpetrate a fraud in the wording of a section of the Constitution.

4<sup>th</sup> I did say, that if Mr Sweet had made the statements which were attributed to him by a Senator then present, that he was mistaken. I say so now and the record very clearly sustains ~~my~~ my recollection.

The Legislative article as it passed its second reading, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> 1868 very clearly ~~and~~ in unmistakable terms provided that the Legislature

electoral when the vote was taken on the Constitution should hold until August 1870. Any one who will take the trouble to read the amendments offered on the second reading in connection with the original Report will see that this is true. It is not even a question for construction. The common comparison of a pikesluff is not plausible. It is simply undeniable by the weakest intellect or the most unwilling mind. I thought it best that the Legislature then elected should hold four years and when the article came up on its third reading I prepared an amendment to section 29 deferring the first regular election until August 1872. I was confident that I could have carried it through. Mr. Keaton and Mr. Sweet urged me not to introduce it. Mr. Sweet agreed that if I would not, he would introduce section 27 - except the word, "ensuing" which I inserted, I think. I thought it meant just the same thing as my own amendment, and if it does not it is entirely meaningless. Mr. Sweet introduced the amendment, I suppose

ed it for the purpose of continuing the term of the first Legislature. I supposed that Mr Sweet had the same motive from the fact that I could see no other motive for introducing the Amendment -

I did not at any time understand Mr Sweet as objecting to the result of my amendment, but thought that he was all the time objective to the means by which I sought to accomplish it.

I cannot say what was his motive. I have never intended to declare that. I have said several times that I then supposed that his motive was identical with mine, and have given the reasons briefly set forth above which induce me so to think. I have not meant to declare his motive, but simply what I then supposed it to be, and have given my reasons for that belief as above. If the facts seem to support that belief I am not responsible for deductions made from them.

I call the attention of Mr. Sweet and the public to the fact that material amendment of the above is supported strictly and fully by the record. Con. Journal to

I do not accuse Mr. Sweet of falsehood but believe his recollection to be sadly at fault. His motive is a matter of entire indifference to me. My own I know. His I merely guessed at because his proposition seemed to run with my intent.

As to the charge of fraud on the people in the wording of this Sec. 27, the man "writes himself down as ass." who makes it, and if a Conservative only stultifies himself and his party beyond the power of words to express. Spoon or Jay Cooke might as well claim that they did not know the force and effect of a promissory note he had signed!

I sincerely hope this "fraud" may succeed. If it does not I am convinced that next June July and August will witness as many murders in the State as there are members to be elected to the Legislature; that the real <sup>and</sup> the rope will be the arguments of the cartoon and assassination the keystone of success.

I hope that this ordeal may be spared the State of any adoption until time shall have healed some of the evils of the present hour.

Draft of Card for  
N. C. Standard  
In regard to the  
"Sweet Affair"  
& Article 37  
of Const.

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