

Friday, November 21, 2008

Perdue's full agenda taking shape

Governor-elect using pages from former governor Gardner

Charlotte Business Journal - by [Lee Weisbecker and Leo John](#) **Triangle Business Journal**



photos STEVE WILSON

Governor-elect Beverly Perdue is busy outlining her top priorities for when she takes office. On the top of her list, she says, is the economy and jobs.

[View Larger](#)

Just weeks away from taking the helm of a state confronting the most serious economic mess it has faced since perhaps the 1930s, Governor-elect Beverly Perdue is undergoing a self-taught history lesson for guidance.

As part of her late-night reading, she has devoured all she has been able to find on O. Max Gardner, the governor who led North Carolina through the deepest part of the Great Depression.

By confronting the problems he faced head on, Gardner transformed the state in many ways. Perdue wonders whether her role will be to do the same.

Still hoarse from a sometimes contentious campaign, the 60-year-old who makes her home in New Bern has been watching unemployment rise, banks struggle and consumer spending sink — along with state revenue collections.