

Bald Head Resort Plans Are Disclosed

By JACK CHILDS
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GREENSBORO — A High Point-based corporation unveiled Thursday a \$288 million plan to develop Bald Head Island in the face of renewed opposition from the administration of Gov. Bob Scott.

William E. Henderson, chairman of the newly created Cape Fear Corp., told reporters at a press conference that the company

plans to exercise its option to buy the island "in the very near future" and begin work on the first \$20 million phase of the development.

Henderson said his firm plans to transform the 12,000-acre, uninhabited island off the coast of Brunswick County near Southport into a resort-residential-recreation area "in the style of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina."

It would include, he said, a large convention center,

single family and multi-family housing, motels, a mile of public beach, a yacht basin and yacht club, an 18-hole golf course and other facilities.

The first phase, he said, will take an estimated 30 months and people will be on the island by the spring of 1971.

Henderson declined to comment directly on Gov. Bob Scott's statement Wednesday that the Cape Fear Corp. appeared to be out to make a "fast buck" at the expense of the state by acquiring an option on the island and then selling it to the state.

He did disclose, however, that his corporation had agreed to turn its option over to the state for the sum of approximately \$400,000 to cover "expenses" he said his firm had incurred in planning for the project.

Later Sale

Asked whether "under any condition" his group would consider a later sale to the state, Henderson said:

"I haven't discussed this with my colleagues, but personally, I would regret the state making such a request again. But if it is requested, I would strongly recommend giving them the courtesy of considering their request."

As for conservationists' opposition to development, which led to the Scott administration's position that the island should be preserved in its natural state, Henderson said: "We are not insensitive to the ecology aspects of the situation."

Henderson, a former commerce and industry division director with the State Board of Conservation and Development under former Gov. Luther Hodges, said his group would consult state and federal agencies as well as private conservation groups in search of a "perfect marriage of conservation and development" on the island.