

# THE GUILFORDIAN

Guilford College

Greensboro, N.C. 27410

April 8, 1975

## The Food Sales Tax and You

by Carolyn Williams

Picture yourself five years from now. You are out in the big bad world, with some \$6,000-a-year job, and a spouse and child. The landlady is pounding on your door for the rent, the doctor is billing you, and ALWAYS, those grocery bills are draining your pockets.

For a family of four, a typical grocery bill for a year is \$3,000. Maybe yours is about that much. Or maybe it is only \$2,880 -- that's \$120 less. The difference is in the North Carolina food sales tax.

A bill to repeal the food sales tax is in Raleigh now, but the legislators aren't moving. They won't, until we start needling them. If you act now, it could mean \$120 extra for you every year when you are struggling along with \$6,000 and a family. That \$120 could buy the dental treatment your kids so desperately need.

Why repeal the food tax? Because it burdens lower-income people heavily while barely touching the rich -- in economists' words, it is "regressive". With your \$6,000 income, if you spend \$3,000 (half of your income) on

food (which is taxed 4%), you are being **taxed on 50% of your income**. Meanwhile, the Welloff family, with a comfy income of \$100,000 and a grocery bill of \$5,000 (they love steak), is only **taxed on 5% of their income!** This is especially perverse when you consider this fact: A dollar taken from you may deprive your child of a nutritious meal, while a dollar taken from the Welloffs only means that they won't buy that lovely brass door-knocker for their mountain resort home. They have a greater ability to pay the tax than you do, so why aren't they paying it? Because the food tax doesn't ask if you can afford to pay; it always hits the poor hardest.



What are your chances of eating this well? 4% N.C. food sales tax hits hardest those who can least afford it.

## Preregistration For Fall

All students planning to attend the Fall term of the 1975-76 academic year are urged to preregister and thereby simplify their Fall registration. Preregistration materials will be placed in the mailboxes of students who have applied for readmission. Ample time should be used to facilitate a sound preregistration. Preregistration materials may be submitted to the Registrar's office any day following the beginning date for the student's class through Monday, April 21.

\*Eligibility to preregister is limited to students who have: (1) Applied for readmission and paid their \$100 registration deposit. (2) A satisfactory Business Office account. (3) Cleared all library fines.

Provisional Grades - Outstanding grades of XB, XC, XF cannot be upgraded after a student graduates. The letter mark to the right of X is permanently recorded upon the student's graduation.

Student Transcripts - In accord with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, we must have a student's written permission for us to release a transcript. Written requests to the Registrar will be processed at least once each week. Telephone calls or requests through other offices will delay processing.



Registrar Floyd Reynolds

Preregistration for Semester I 1975-76 Hours: 8:30 A.M. - 12 Noon and 1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Rising Seniors: Mon. & Tues. April 14-15

Rising Juniors: Wed. & Thurs., April 16-17

All Other Students: Fri. April 18 and Mon. April 21

Senator McNeill Smith has proposed that North Carolina abolish the regressive food sales tax and replace that revenue by increasing the N.C. income tax on very high net incomes by 3%. This way, revenue would be collected from the people who can better afford to part with the money. North Carolina's over-all tax structure would still be regressive, but not quite as regressive.

## Sharing World Resources

The Social Concerns Committee of Friendship Meeting is urging participation in the Right Sharing of World Resources, of the Friends World Committee. R.S.W.R., established by the 1967 World Conference of Friends, serves as a channel for contributions for projects in developing countries. The aim is for long-range improvement in the quality of life for the world's poor through economic, social, and human development.

Samples of projects include: loans to rural Latin American craftsmen; resettlement of Sahara drought victims; community education in farming, health, and family planning in India; community leadership

97% of the citizens of N.C. will save money if this tax reform is passed. And if you are like the Welloffs (who are part of that 3% whose income taxes would be raised), you can recover most of what you lost to higher N.C. taxes by taking it off of your Federal income tax!

training in the Dominican Republic; Friends College in Kenya; a Rhodesian interracial community; maternal-child health care centers in Belize; and a Zambian project of self-help housing.

For more information call Marilyn Neuhauser at 294-0477.

The editorships of the Guilfordian, the Quaker, and the Piper are open for next year. If interested (the positions are paid), one should apply to Herb Poole in the library by Wed., April 16. There is also a need for willing workers to staff all three organizations on a volunteer basis.

The legislators are letting this vital issue slip by because the people don't know enough about it to demand some action. But you know about it, and you can write one of the Representatives listed below, at the N.C. LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, RALEIGH, N.C. 27511. Probe him: what is he doing to repeal the tax? Express your support for McNeill Smith's enlightened proposal. Tell him that North Carolina is labeling itself a "backward" state by clinging to such a regressive tax.

This could mean a lot to you once you get out into the big bad world where you have to buy your own groceries. For a savings of \$120 every year, this will be a well-spent 10-cent stamp!

Write one or more of these Representatives:  
Henry E. Frye  
Thomas Gilmore  
C.W. Phillips  
Thomas B. Sawyer  
Charlie Webb  
Marcus Short  
Leo Herr