

Thursday, October 13, 1966

The Smithfield Herald

In The Best Interest Of All

The Army had a word for the present tobacco situation. SNAFU—Situation Normal, All Fouled Up.

The tobacco grower has for years not known what to expect with each coming selling season. Now, it appears, the warehousemen and companies are in the same boat. No one seems to know what to expect.

It is hard to see how the three groups can continue to operate almost completely apart from each other. The grower has no assurance of what his crop might bring when it is planted. The warehouseman has no assurance of enough leaf to sell to enable him to meet his expenses and the companies seem to be at a loss as to how much in the way of facilities they are going to need.

Any farm agent can readily tell, at almost any given moment exactly how much leaf is expected to be produced in his county. This information is available to the warehousemen and companies alike. Warehousemen, of course, rely on their own personal appeal or the appeal of their services to determine the amount of leaf to be sold with them. This, like other competitive businesses, is subject to fluctuations.

The company is in the best position of

all to determine how much tobacco it wishes to purchase. The company knows well in advance when and where the tobacco is to be sold. It is inexcusable that firms as large and successful as tobacco companies have been, many times at the expense of the grower, are unwilling to build drying plants and other facilities in order to avoid annual losses in dollars to farmers.

All three make their living at this business of tobacco trade. The grower is growing tired, very tired. Many have indicated they do not plan to continue in the business. It is time for the three to get together in fact, and no longer in theory.

The crop will not wait. It must be planted at a certain time and it must be harvested at a certain time. Warehousemen and tobacco companies will have to adjust to these times. If the period is short, more facilities are necessary. Some readjustment seems to be in order.

Mainly, however, it appears to be a problem which good common sense and a cooperative view of the other fellow's position can solve. The three are going to find it in the best interest of all that this take place.

Three major candidates for Governor of North Carolina sought the Democratic nomination in 1964, and at least that many strong contenders may bid for the nomination in 1968.

Lieutenant Governor Bob Scott, son of former Governor Kerr Scott, appears to be a definite candidate, though he is not likely to make any formal announcement of candidacy

prior to late 1967 or early 1968. He has a strong following among farmers, just as his father had when he won the governorship and later a seat in the U. S. Senate. Lieutenant Governor Scott also will attract considerable support from the so-called "Sanford wing" of the Democratic Party—the backers of Governor Terry Sanford who mostly favored Richardson Preyer in the 1964 primary. Bob Scott doubtless will welcome support from all segments of the Democratic Party as he insists that he is running independently and is nobody's handpicked candidate.

Opposition to Scott could come from two directions.

Political leaders close to Governor Dan Moore surely will challenge the Lieutenant Governor's bid for the gubernatorial nomination, by pledging their support to a conservative who generally would follow the policies of the Moore administration. There is talk in Raleigh that former State Democratic Chairman Mel Broughton Jr., son of former Governor J. Melville Broughton, could be the man. The Moore group's blessing possibly could be bestowed upon David Britt, who will be Speaker of the House in the 1967 Legislature. And others have been mentioned, including State Senator Lindsay Warren Jr., who insists he has no ambition to become Governor.

Political observers who have

an eye on 1968 are watching developments in East Carolina College's effort to become a university independent of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, an effort opposed by the Moore administration. It is conceivable that a heated controversy over the status of East Carolina College could produce a major contender for the governorship. Former House Speaker Clifton Blue, who writes a column for a number of North Carolina newspapers, wonders if State Senator Robert Morgan, who is chairman of the board of trustees of East Carolina College, will be catapulted into the 1968 gubernatorial race if the 1967 Legislature rejects the East Carolina College bid to become an independent university. The Greensboro Daily News mentions the possibility of Dr. Leo Jenkins becoming a candidate for governor. Dr. Jenkins, the president of East Carolina College, is an aggressive spokesman and worker for the East Carolina cause. It is conceded that he could arouse a lot of voters to join his personal cause should he elect to seek the governorship.

The 1968 gubernatorial picture probably won't take shape until after adjournment of the 1967 Legislature, but it seems certain at this early date that North Carolinians will experience another lively contest for Governor when primary time rolls around spring after next.



NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK

"Press Helps Cause of Freedom"—LBJ

Washington-- Following is a statement by President Johnson recognizing the importance of the newspaper in the lives of American people. The statement was made in conjunction with National Newspaper Week.

"An unfettered press helped spark the course that made us free. Today, this same press remains our freedom's sentinel.

"So as once again we observe National Newspaper Week, we rejoice in a blessing that is the foundation stone of American liberty. And

we reaffirm our dedication to the civic responsibility that it incurs.

"Too seldom do we think of the miracle that causes America to give an account of itself every house of every day. Too often do we take for granted the feat that daily brings the entire world to our doorstep.

"Great is the role that newspapers play in our lives. But great, too, is the corresponding responsibility of the press in fulfilling this role.

"Successful democracy calls for effective public education. It calls

for the presentation of news in perspective. It calls for a vigilance whose clarity and integrity of expression will enhance the fiber of national life.

"As I participate in this observance, then, I direct myself not only to the American reader and to the freedom that is his living heritage. I also address my best wishes to the American newspaperman and to the obligation that is his to keep that heritage alive."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Praises Times

Letter to the Editor

This being "National Newspaper Week" I would like to express my appreciation to your entire force for being so very nice to me these past years.

I believe that free and continuous exchange between government and the citizens makes for better government, for popular understanding of its problems, and for confidence in its fairness and competence.

One of the necessary ingredients that weigh heavily on the kind of public image a county official may put forward is the news media. You have reported the activities of county government to the public frank and open. Fortunately, our small town and county can rely on the fairness and honesty of your force to do the good job. This is the most important means of acquainting the citizens of Franklin County with our government and its programs.

You have been helpful in promoting economic development in our county and no business can reflect the attitude of the community better than "The Franklin Times" newspaper. With your alert and co-operative group I am sure that the best is yet to come. With warmest personal regards, I am

Lee Murray
Louisburg, N. C.

w/m, escape from prison. \$1,000.00 appearance bond to November 15.

Larry D. Smith, w/m, escape from prison. Hearing waived; defendant to be held for Grand Jury.

Glenn Lee Wilkins, c/m, speeding. \$15.00 fine and costs.

George Benjamin Crudup, c/m, careless and reckless driving. \$25.00 fine and costs.

Recorder's Court

The following cases were disposed of during a session of Recorder's Court on Tuesday, October 11:

Allen Fields, c/m, Non-support. Defendant not having complied with judgment, commitment is ordered.

William Harrison Fleming, w/m, speeding. State takes Nolle Pro with leave.

T. L. Gupton, w/m, propane language. Case remanded to J. P.

Mack Edgerton, c/m, assault with deadly weapon. Hearing waived. Defendant to be held for Franklin County Grand Jury.

Virgil Tracey Grissom, w/m, speeding. \$10.00 fine and costs.

James Oliver Johnson, w/m, speeding. \$15.00 fine and costs.

Owen Leon Carter, w/m, speeding. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Walter Edward Champton, w/m, speeding. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Little Cline Gill, w/t, speeding. \$10.00 fine and costs.

Russell Wright, w/m, escape from prison. Hearing waived; defendant to be held for Grand Jury.

Floyd Strickland, w/m, escape from prison. Hearing waived; defendant to be held for Grand Jury.

William W. Harrison, Jr.,

Jury List Released

The County Commissioners with the assistance of the Sheriff drew the following jurors for a one week Civil Term of Franklin County Superior Court according to General Statutes 9-1 beginning November 28, 1966.

Dunn - Jimmy Ray Jeffreys, J. S. Gay, Jr., Bruce Patton, Mrs. Rachel Bunin Brantley, Samuel F. Pippin.

Harris - Ronald Johnson, Robert Crudup, Jr., J. B. Lands, Robert Branch, C. H. Tant.

Youngsville - Elmo Barham, Otha O'Neal, Ben D. Hudson. Franklinton - Sidney J. Green, Mrs. Lallie Critcher, Essie Mae Henderson, Norris Clifton Brodie, Charlie Crudup, George Burnie McAllister, Jr., Jones B. Williams, Bernard S. Pergerson, Sr., Edward L. Tomlinson, Rupert Page.

Hayesville - John A. Edwards.

Sandy Creek - Edward L. Hight, Ernest Ayscue.

Gold Mine - J. L. Murphy, Fred O. Parrish, S. V. Burt.

Cedar Rock - Mrs. J. F. Brewer, R. S. Currin, A. J. Collins, Jr., Curtis C. Crowder.

Cypress Creek - J. W. Bunn. Louisburg - Palmer Yarbrough, Mrs. Lottie Young.



"My Husband Told Me Not To Drive Through Franklin County"

The Franklin Times

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REPORTER NEEDS A HARD NOSE

Salmon (Idaho) Recorder-Herald

Few sights are more distressing to public officials than the reporter who comes into a public meeting, takes out pad and pencil and takes voluminous notes—particularly notes about "controversial" matters. If the discussion gets particularly hot and heavy, the chairman may exercise a great deal of ingenuity and force to terminate the discussion.

He may say, "We want this off the record." The reporter, if he is a good one and has been properly trained, will then stand up and remind the chairman that there is no magic spigot which—during a public meeting—can turn public information off and on. He may say that his newspaper doesn't recognize the validity of the phrase "off the record" when uttered by officials at public meetings.

The chairman may decide to "go into executive session." Again, the cantankerous reporter will rise to object, reminding the chairman that an executive session cannot be regarded as a haven of safety for any and all controversial discussion and that he intends to sit in on the meeting to use his own good judgment about printing what goes on.

The inventive chairman may move for a "study session," "brainstorming session" or a "committee of the whole" to consider the matter later, in private. The tax-paid attorney may

even come up with a legal opinion that such committee meetings are not technically "public meetings," that no formal action is to be taken, and therefore, the press and the public can be excluded. But, again, the reporter shows up at the door, declaring that where public business is being discussed, he has a right to be with his pad and pencil.

There's no doubt about it: Newspapers cause problems for public officials. It's been that way ever since the English newspaper publisher, John Wilkes, in 1771 won his battle for the right of printers to carry full proceedings of the House of Commons.

Where does the reporter get the idea he has a right to cover public meetings?

It comes straight out of the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, guaranteeing a free press; it also comes from "open meeting" and "open record" statutes, although some newspapermen regard such statutes as unnecessary because of the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech and press.

It also comes from our written laws. Editors know that the easiest way—at least on the local level—to open up "secret" meetings is simply to report that secret meetings occurred, perhaps with appropriate editorial comment.

Fact And Opinion

During the national airline strike, U. S. Senator Frank J. Lausche (D-Ohio) said: "I think the time is at hand when courage must be exercised by public officials. We cannot continue to tolerate sovereign power being exercised by labor unions in defiance of the rights of 190 million Americans. More than the isolated airline strike is involved. Involved is the message that goes out to the

people of the nation as to whether government is supreme or whether labor leaders are supreme."

News dispatches from London state, "... 800 hospital doctors are ready to emigrate in search of higher salaries and better conditions. Emigration on such a scale could deal a blow to Britain's state-run health service."

"Which You, Yourselves Do Know"

On September 15, we wrote in a front-page editorial that Durham and Wake counties "have been spending the bulk of all funds allotted to this Division for years." We also said, "We will welcome a denial of the above statement provided it contains accompanying proof that the statement is in error."

In answer to a question by a newsman in his news conference last week, Governor Moore said, in reference to the statement of September 15 on these pages, "I believe that I will have to admit this is true."

Rare indeed today, is the politician who will admit that such a discrepancy exists. Rarer is one who will do so without hedging. We salute Governor Moore for his frankness and his straightforwardness. He admitted that Franklin County has not gotten its proper share of

road funds. He said, in effect, that what we have been saying in this series all along, is true.

He also said, "Franklin County deserves consideration and I AM SURE THEY WILL, IN DUE TIME GET THEIR PROPER SHARE OF HIGHWAY FUNDS."

This is the most reassuring news Franklin County has received in many years.

We have shown here that no matter what fund allocations might be based on, Franklin County is short in receipt of its share. On motor vehicle registration, for example, we have shown that a car owner in Wake is allotted \$46.78 per vehicle for road improvements while a person owning the same make and model, paying the same price and taxes in Franklin County receives only

\$16.04.

We have shown that Franklin County motorists are getting back about 2½ cents for every 11 cents paid into the state gasoline tax kitty, and we have pointed out that had highway allocations been divided equally by counties over the years, Franklin would have received over three times as much as it actually was allotted.

We have also shown that while Franklin is second in the number of primary road miles, Wake received in 1965 alone, \$5,468,654.46 and Franklin received only \$149,364.97.

What we have shown is true. Governor Moore has, himself, said as much. Our figures are their figures. These facts have been available all along to the High-

way Commission. All they had to do was look for them.

The question now that all are aware of the Franklin road situation, is what is going to be done about it. Governor Moore has promised some action, but has not said just when. He has indicated other improvements, but did not spell them out. We must now wait and see.

Bill Shakespeare, who probably had no road problems of his own, summed up the situation very well when he wrote, in Julius Caesar: "For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth, action, nor utterance, nor power of speech, to stir men's blood. I only speak right on. I tell you that which you, yourselves do know." Even though they "do know", we shall continue to remind them.