

Tuesday, April 8, 1969

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Price Can Be High

Franklin County has taken steps to become a participant in the North Carolina plan to combat crime under the federal Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act passed by Congress last year. Last month, the Board of County Commissioners appointed Sheriff William T. Dement as the county representative on the Planning Board.

Last week, Richard Alston, an alert Gold Sand Community resident brought to public attention via a Letter to the Editor published on this page, some of the dangers involved in this act. Mr. Alston's points were well taken.

Memories are short and most of us live with an attitude of it-can't-happen-to-me. Nevertheless, one need only take a look at the total mess which plagues the public schools of this country to realize that when dealing with Washington bureaucrats, it most surely can happen to us all.

As with many laws passed by Congress over the years, the stated intentions of this one appears good. Certainly this country needs a concerted effort to curb crime. And many local law enforcement agencies are in need of additional funds. However, if past history is any example, once this law goes to the bureaucrats for administration, Congress might as well not exist. It's been quite a few years since Congress has decided it passed a bad law. Once on the books, laws are seldom repealed. It is not the kind of thing one can say let us give it a try. Once hooked, the die is cast. There is no escape.

Several sections of Public Law 90-351 are suspect regardless of what subsequent sections might say. Among

them is the fact that the President appoints an Administrator and two assistants. These people will have the power. If a plan fails to come up to their expectations, they can cut the money off. If the agency wants a hearing, one will be granted by the Administrator. When he rules against the local agency, he will grant a re-hearing. When he rules for the second time, the locals may go before the appeals court. If this sounds at all familiar, it is. Just ask any school board member.

Then there is a section which says no racial quota will be necessary or any racial balance will be required. This, it seems, is also contained somewhere in the 1964 Civil Rights Act. One has only to check the Supreme Court rulings to see how that little phrase is being interpreted.

When the money is being used to buy equipment or to pay additional officers or to construct a building, it will be almost impossible to allow it to be cut off. Rulings by the Supreme Court on employment practices and use of federal funds will quickly scratch the assurances included in this law.

There are many other suspect clauses contained in it. It appears to be the first step in the take-over of local law agencies by the federal government. It doesn't have to be by force. Under this law, it can come with brain-washing in training courses, with extra and badly needed funds and in many other ways.

We would not second guess the Commissioners in acting to have the county included in this federal hand-out. We would only remind everyone that the price can be very high.



## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

### Frightening Lesson

The Courier-Times, Roxboro, N. C.

Horrible and morbid as the circumstances may be, there is a lesson for all parents in the tragic kidnap-murder of 13-year-old Jackie Stone of Wallace, N. C.

The terrifying fate that befell this innocent young girl points up all too vividly the importance for parents to instruct their children NEVER to allow themselves to be picked up by strangers, no matter what these strangers may tell them.

It's easy to rationalize this sort of thing away, to tell ourselves that this is something that happens only to other people in other places, that it would never happen in Person County.

Maybe it won't; we pray God not. But the case of Jackie Stone illustrates that the risk is not worth it. Alert your children to the sad fact that there are bad, unpredictable people in this world. Impress upon them that their getting into a car with a total stranger is an unwise and dangerous thing to do. And when they ask you why, tell them. Tell them that there is a pretty little Easter dress in Wallace, N. C. that will never be worn, that there's a seventh-grade classroom in Duplin County with a vacant desk and that a mother and father who a week ago had three reasons to live now have only two.

### Sermon May Not Come

The News Reporter, Whiteville, N. C.

While talk goes on and hopes rise sky high concerning the building of Soul City in Warren county, nothing has been said and no plans promoted as to how residents of the proposed municipality would be sustained in the matter of maintaining the city and making a living.

Have promoters looked beyond Main Street and storefronts and people coming a-shopping on a Saturday afternoon with plans for payrolls to provide the where-with for filling shopping bags?

Presently, this second and essential phase seems to be something akin to the country preacher who doesn't prepare his sermon but waits for it to come when he gets into the pulpit.

And what sort of justification is the U. S. Housing and Urban Affairs Department going to find when the appeal arrives for some \$30 million to buy the land, put in streets, sidewalks, water and sewer facilities and buildings for businesses and homes?

Oh, perhaps they are saying, good jobs with regular work and high pay

will come when these essentials for living and doing business become a reality. But will they?

What sort of skills, if any, would residents of Soul City have to offer industry? Corporate wealth is sufficient all across the land to take a fling at establishing a plant out on the fringes, but the facts of economics coupled with the profit-motive do not indicate industry would be of a mind to take such a shot in the dark.

The expected request for \$30 million to get the proposal going would be a selling of securities with the government guaranteeing payment if the dare failed. Then What? Thirty million dollars of taxpayers gone down the drain.

This doesn't make sense and any more than other similar ventures Uncle Sam has jumped into and got his feet burned.

Why should not promoters and well-heeled friends, of which there are plenty, put something into the pot to show good will?

Raleigh - A deadline for introducing local bills in the 1969 legislature is rapidly approaching.

I am glad to report that almost all local legislation affecting the 16th House District of Vance, Warren and Franklin counties has been expedited and given favorable treatment.

Among these bills introduced by your representatives, Rep. James Speed and myself, is one authorizing the Vance County Board of Education to convey certain surplus school property to the county; one to increase the size of the Norlina board of

commissioners from three to five members; to permit 14 per cent alcoholic content wine sales through the ABC system in Warren County; to permit local ABC boards to sell at public auction real and personal property.

The latter bill was introduced as a local measure requested by ABC officials in Vance County but later became a public (statewide) measure and it was ratified on March 25.

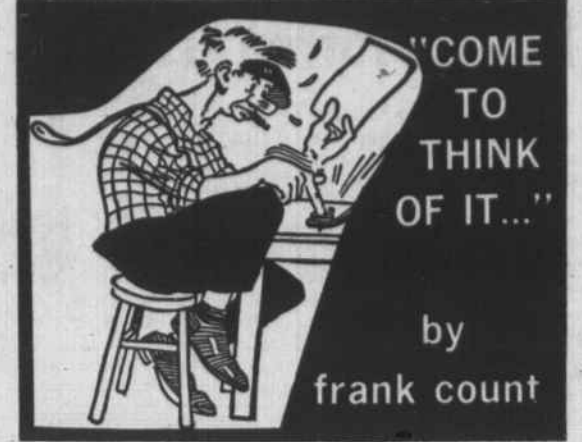
A somewhat unusual local bill which Rep. Speed and I introduced was one to amend the charter of the town of Littleton.

More than 75 years ago, in 1893, the founders of the town of Littleton decided they wanted an incorporated town but that it should remain a little town. They

placed a limit of \$300,000 upon all future evaluation of estate and property for tax purposes. Littleton has remained a modest, small town, a good place to live and it has prospered. By today's standards, the \$300,000 evaluation limit is not realistic and the purpose of the bill, ratified March 24, was to allow evaluation based upon today's yardstick. Times have changed.

Actually there has been a great deal less local legislation in the current session of the General Assembly than in recent years. Very likely, with a trend to give more "home rule" in North Carolina there will be even less in subsequent sessions.

The governor addressed a joint session of the House and Senate on this particular sub-



I ain't got no objection to spring coming, if it wants to. Fact is, I think it picks a pretty good time of the year to do it. It comes when it just starts to get warm and things are budding and grass is starting to grow and the baseball season is ready to start. Yep, I suspect that if I could chose a time to visit around here, it'd be about the same time of year that spring comes.

I ain't got no argument with spring except for what it does to the little woman. It makes her plain miserable. She can't stand it. You'd think she'd like it since she gets cold the last of July and don't get warm until the last of the next June. She always has had a short summer.

But just let her hear that spring is here. I don't know where she gets her information. I sure don't tell her. Fact is, I tell her very little. I know I ain't gonna tell her spring's here. That's because it makes her so miserable. Not her exactly. Me. It's me that she makes so miserable every spring.

Take last week. And you could have had it. First thing, "Mow the lawn?", she says. "Mow the lawn?", I countered. "There ain't a blade of grass within a mile of our yard". There wasn't either except a few sprigs of onions and I told her flat out I won't go to cut no onions. They make me smell.

"Well, paint the house", she shouted. "Where?", I asked. "Up there", she said pointing. I told her she ought'n point. It ain't polite. I shouldn't a done that. She didn't like it not nary bit.

"Why can't you paint the house. Look next door. George painted their house", she said. Right off I made a mental note. I got to kill George.

"I can't paint way up there in all this wind", I pleaded. "I could get blowed off the ladder and no telling what'd happen". She kept making her point until I reminded her my insurance premiums is three months behind.

"Well", she said. "Come inside. You can paint the bedrooms". "Paint the bedrooms?", I shouted. "I just painted them week before last".

"No you didn't. It's been two months since you done any painting. It's time you got up off your lazy backside and get to work. You been setting around until you are beginning to creak", she said. I couldn't argue with her. I can't stand to cry.

"Where's the paint and what color you doing this time?", I asked getting ready for the worse. "Purple", she said. "I'm going to paint it purple". "Fine", I said. "I'll be back in a couple of hours".

She didn't really mean she was going to paint it purple. She meant I was going to paint it purple. Who ever saw a purple bedroom? Me. That's who.

Fact is, I had purple floors, purple rugs, purple hands, purple pants, purple shirts and purple hair before I got through. One time I spilt some on her foot. She ought'n have had it up on the ladder. She was trying to push me over. That's when I spilt some. Ever seen a mad woman with a purple foot? I have.

I painted the ceiling first. That's the way us painters do. Paint the ceiling first. That way you can paint the rest of the room with the drippings.

Well, to make a miserable story short enough to live with, after about five hours of plain torture, shut up in that little room with that purple-footed woman and peeping through two little unpainted holes in my eyeballs, I finally finished. I just fell flat on the floor and asked to be left there to die or whatever happens to finished painters.

Then she done it. Then she viewed her world which she had just conquered, beat herself on the chest and yelled like Tarzan. "We have saved five dollars", she said. "Saved five dollars? And me working, like this for five hours? How much did the brush and rollers and all this stuff cost?" I was afraid of the answer but I knowed I had to hear it. "I paid \$6.95 for everything but the paint. We saved five dollars by you doing it. That painter wanted a dollar a hour and for us to supply the paint. I'm gonna buy me a new hat."

Ah, spring. What a time of the year for you to come.

## Report From Raleigh

By Rep. John T. Church

ject on Thursday. I believe the general reaction was favorable.

One area of controversy, however, is in the governor's proposal to permit statewide "local option" on increasing the sales tax for local governments. Several alternative methods of increasing local government revenue have been submitted. I am not in favor of the statewide "local option" plan, but I am inclined to favor a statewide increase of one per cent to be returned to the localities on a basis of population.

It was quite encouraging to those of us opposed to further taxing of tobacco that so many interested citizens came to Raleigh for public hearings by the joint Finance Committee on this matter. I feel that such a large

turnout certainly was of help in persuading legislators who were undecided, or "on the fence," so to speak, on how the people feel about a tobacco tax. It was a magnificent showing of strength by a very influential group of people and, in my opinion, it helped the cause.

It was unfortunate that there were not enough seats in the legislative building auditorium and that the hearings were not moved to larger quarters, and that other inconveniences occurred. I am hopeful that better arrangements will be made in the future.

### Tourist Trade Off

Paris - The French Tourist Commission has reported that tourist trade last year was off 17 per cent, according to French hotels. The biggest drop was seen in tourists from America and Britain.

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