

Goodbye To Helena

VIEWPOINT By Jessé Helms

The weekend included an all-too-hurried Saturday evening trip to the pleasant and hospitable community of Timberlake, eight miles south of the Person County seat of Roxboro and just north of the line separating Durham and Person counties. The setting sun danced across the fields and pasture land, and along the neatly-trimmed lawns of the rural homes which border Highway 501, playing hide-and-seek in shadows that deepened with the twilight.

It was a charming interlude for one unconsciously tuned to the clang and clatter of urban living. And it was instructional, too—this visit with some 600 gracious people, young and old, whose affections and memories, and hopes and dreams, have for a very long while been proudly tied to their Helena High School.

The occasion was the last meeting, one presumes, of "The Hornet Club", an organization which for years has been a manifestation of pride and a recognition of the achievements of the boys and girls at Helena High. So they gathered there, in the school gymnasium, this past Saturday evening, some 600 of them, to mark what may well be the end of an era.

Next year there will be no Helena High School. The high school students of the community will hereafter be transported daily up the highway to Roxboro to become a part of another one of those school consolidations. It will be crowded, and the young people from Timberlake made clear Saturday night that they will miss their identity with Helena High School. This is the standard price of the centralization that has so infected our time. One can only hope that it is worth it.

What has happened at Timberlake, and to Helena High School, is happening everywhere. The fashion is to centralize, to emphasize bigness, across the board. The argument is that efficiency comes more easily with consolidation and centralization. But what of community pride, and community interest? And even more important, what happens, in the process, to the community's ability to influence the kind of education its children will receive? What will happen to the building of leadership qualities among the young?

But it is a flashy, well-publicized, almost overwhelming trend—this business of centralization. For a generation, efforts have been increasing—and they have been fearfully successful—gradually to strip first the states, and

then local communities, of their authority and to vest more and more power in the federal government. The by-products of this trend have been a painfully parallel destruction of the rights of the individual citizen, and a weakening of the citizen's ability to protest and oppose what is happening to his freedoms. Decisions are made in faraway places, laws are passed and regulations handed down. Whether the citizen happens to like them or not is of no consequence. He obeys them, or else.

It is difficult to argue with the advocates of centralized education, or centralized anything. They present windy and wordy reports produced by distant "experts" who cite what purport to be endless advantages to be gained from consolidation and centralization. These were the same voices, of course, who assured us years ago that federal aid to education would solve our educational problems. And there would never be, they said, any such thing as federal control of education.

So one is bound to look at Helena High School, in the rural community of Timberlake in Person County, and wonder if the experts are right. Where else, one might ask, would more than 600 parents and students gather on a Saturday evening to pay enthusiastic tribute to the student leaders and proud achievements of their school? Will the same devotion and affection be present at a consolidated school up the road?

One cannot escape the reminder, of course, that a group of faraway educators have "studied" the Raleigh and Wake County school systems, and have recommended their consolidation. Everything will be better and easier and cheaper, the report says. A single school system, the report frankly says, will be easier to integrate and more easily comply with future federal regulations and controls.

It may be what the people want, and it may be all to the good. But a springtime trip on a pleasant Saturday evening to Helena High School in rural Person County was enough to raise some questions about it.

One tiptoes when discussing questions such as this. The campaign for centralization of all things is a carefully calculated one, and it is now rolling fast and furiously. And, as has been the case with countless "expert opinions" of the past, if and when we finally learn that the experts were wrong, it'll be too late to do anything about it.

Fountain

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dous number of grants enacted piecemeal over a period of time into a much smaller number of functionally-related grants. The President's bill is similar in purpose and method to Title III of H. R. 7366—the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1969—which I introduced on February 20 of this year. The differences between these two bills, both of which seek to facilitate the consolidation of Federal assistance programs, are largely technical and will be resolved to achieve the best possible measure when our subcommittee holds hearings in a month or so.

Congressman Fountain is chairman of the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee to which these bills have been referred.

In his message to Congress, the President pointed out the growing problems in effectively administering the system of grants-in-aid and other forms of Federal assistance to State and local governments, public and private institutions and individuals.

He stated: As grant-in-aid programs have proliferated, the problems of delivery have grown more acute. States, cities, and other recipients find themselves increasingly faced with a welter of overlapping programs, often involving multiple agencies and diverse criteria. This results in confusion at the local level, in the waste of time, energy and resources, and often in frustration of the intent of Congress.

Both the Grant Consolidation Act of 1969 and Title III of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1969 would provide a major means of dealing with these problems. Patterned after the procedures now available to the President for reorganizing Federal departments and agencies, legislation of this kind would permit the President to initiate proposals for consolidating grant programs, while preserving the power of Congress to disapprove such action.

Other members joining Congressman Fountain in introducing the Grant Consolidation Act of 1969 are: Congresswoman Florence P. Dwyer of New Jersey, Congressmen Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, Frank Horton of New York, John N. Erlenborn of Illinois, Clarence J. Brown, Jr. of Ohio, Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan, Paul N. McCloskey, Jr. of California, William B. Widnall of New Jersey, William C. Cramer of Florida, Seymour Helpern of New York, William V. Roth of Delaware.

Commissioners Make Appointment

The Board of County Commissioners, meeting in regular monthly session here Monday, reappointed nine members of the Industrial Development Commission and reappointed two members of the Hospital Board of Trustees.

Named to the Industrial Development Commission were: J. Harold Talton, Simon Collie and W. F. Collins, one-year terms; James T. Moss, Macon Morris and K. G. Weldon, two-year terms and T. O. Nelms, Joe Denton and Allen deHart, three-year terms.

Avery Stallings and Ben Perry were reappointed to new terms on the Franklin Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees. Their terms expire in 1975.

The Board adopted a resolution "favoring Franklin County becoming a part of an Economic Development District in conjunction with the Coastal Plains Regional Commission and the Economic Development Administration." The action, according to the resolution, "Would provide opportunities for new and constructive approaches in federal-state relations and establish Franklin County as a planning and economic development unit."

The Board also adopted a resolution in support of the N. C. Association of Registers of Deeds in that organization's opposition to Senate bill 389 which requires additional indexing of financial statements. The Register of Deeds Association refers to the requirements as "unnecessary duplication" of the work now done by their members.

In other actions, the Board heard

and approved routine reports, discussed the Welfare Department budget and approved a request by W. R. Richards,

School Advisory Councils Named

Members of the six district local advisory councils were announced by the Board of Education Monday night. All members were appointed for a one-year term earlier by the Board. A full listing of council members by schools follows:

Bunn Elementary School and Bunn High School: H. A. Clemons, G. C. Crudup, Leonard Frazier, Glenn Mitchell, O'deyne Mullen, W. R. Richards, Jr., Benny Williams.

Edward Best Elementary School and Edward Best High School: J. W. A. Jenkins, Melvin A. Nelms, W. B. Pearce, Phillip Sykes, W. Donald West-er.

Epsom: Tommy Asycue, Ronald Renn, Robert Rowland.

Gold Sand Elementary School and Gold Sand High School: Allen Crudup, Jr., Joe Denton, Harold Dickerson, Bob Richardson, Owen F. Tharrington.

Louisburg Elementary School and Louisburg High School: James R. Grady, L. C. Hasty, Esther Loan, Wilton B. Perry, Margaret B. Pruitt.

Youngsville High School: Wesley D. Bailey, Gary C. Carter, E. J. Pearce, Howard White, Stephen Wiggins.

Chairman of the County Planning Board to employ "someone to perform the administrative duties" of the Board. The Commissioners appropriated \$600 for this purpose.

Sign-Up Data Given

Franklin County farmers have expressed interest in 1969 ASCS annual programs by signing up to take part in these programs. Following is a summary of participation in the 1969 Feed Grain, Wheat and Cotton programs:

Feed Grain - 2,446 farms with 1596 enrolled and 13,730 acres diverted. Wheat - 1596 farms with 1169 enrolled and 2,535 acres diverted. Cotton - 2,163 farms with 2,059 enrolled and 9,628 acres diverted.

Producers on these farms who comply with program requirements will receive government payments.

"It is very important that they carry out their intentions as stated at time of sign-up. There will be payment reductions for those who are deficient in diverted acreage or plant over their permitted acreage. False acreage reports will cause a loss of program payments, so farmers are encouraged to make accurate reports when filing crop acreage reports at the County ASCS office," said an ASCS spokesman.

Place Second In Tourney

Chowan, as expected, won the Cavalier-Tarheel Golf Tournament, but not as easily as they would have wanted to. At the end of 9 holes of play, the 'Cane golfers were leading the field by 3 strokes. However, when the going got

rougher, Chowan's balance came through, and they beat out Louisburg for the lead. The scores were high and Chowan finished with a 307, compared to Louisburg's 309. Finishing far down the line was Ferrum (318), Mount

Olive (336), and COA (346).

High point of the day was Dave Stamper. The 'Cane's number one man was the medalist with a round of 73(35-38). There were four medalist trophies to be won and LC had two golfers to win. Stamper took top honors, and Leadbetter came through, placing fourth after a play-off against Chip Sullivan of Chowan. Dwight won on the third extra hole when he pored it and Sullivan bogied the hole. Other scores for LC was Rick Green's 79(38-41), Deane Hege with an 81(40-41), Klingel's 80(41-39), and Radford's 82(41-41).

Next in line for the team is the Regional Tournament to be held May 19 in the Charlotte area. The Cane golfers have high hopes of a good showing in this tournament and when it's over, they should be right near the top.

Juvenile Logic

"I want you to understand," said the teacher, "that it is the law of gravity that keeps us on this earth."

"How did we stick on before the law was passed?"

Stem Races

The Jet Motor Speedway will feature a 35 lap late model and time trials this Friday night, May 9. There will also be a 25 lap sportsman, 2 - ten lap heats and a 15 lap hobby rookie.

The track is located between Creedmoor and Stem. Gates will open at 6:00 p.m. and the race will start at 8:30 p.m.

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Rams Lose To Oxford

Oxford - Oxford Orphanage eked out a 5-4 Franklin County Conference decision over Franklinton here Tuesday behind the stellar relief pitching of Nelson Broyal.

Broyal, picking up his sixth win against no losses, stopped Franklinton on three hits in four innings, striking out six in the process. Broyal

drove in two runs while Warren Collins had three RBIs on a pair of doubles for Franklinton.

Youngsville Falls To Vikings

Youngsville - South Granville outlasted Youngsville, 13-11, here Tuesday in a non-conference game.

Billy Tillotson cracked a homer and drove in three runs as did Steve Ward, for the Vikings. Phil Piggins had a double, triple and single for Youngsville.

Wakelon Clips Bunn

Zebulon - Earn Bunn tossed a two-hitter to pace the Wakelon Bulldogs to a 5-1 victory over Bunn here Tuesday afternoon in a Franklin County Conference baseball contest.

Sure Nuff

Cook - So you complain of finding sand in your soup? Did you join the Navy to serve your country or complain about the soup?

Boot - To serve my country - not eat it.

The pretty young thing with curves has a choice between work and play - as few of us do.



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All GREEN LIMA 5 FOR	25¢
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Look For Week-end Specials in Your News & Observer.