

# The Franklin Times

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## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Worth A Try

In nearby Person County, an unidentified white man has challenged the rural churches to funds to build a recreation area for the young people. Within eight hours of the challenge, some people had already begun clearing land for the project. It is too early to appraise the total effect of the challenge but to date it looks like a going thing.

Person has been plagued in recent weeks with racial disorders and this is apparently the reason for now doing more for its young people.

Franklin, fortunately, has not thus far been faced with such disorders and hopefully, never will be. However, this type of thing is not needed to warn citizens that there are needs in this county.

In recent weeks, there have been a disturbing number of reports of distressing nature concerning, for the most part, young adult and teen-age boys. How much of this might have been avoided by a total community effort directed at giving them something constructive to do, is unknown. But, we'll never know until we try.

The problem concerns white and Negro youths alike. One white youth and one Negro youth have been killed in single car accidents on Franklin highways in recent weeks. Three young men were arrested for throwing bottles through church windows. Another has been charged with felonious assault in a knifing incident at school. Three others were charged with breaking and entering a cabin. Two more ran away from home.

### Little Harder To Take

There have been a number of people who have said—some jokingly, some not—that it will be a blessing when the General Assembly finally adjourns. Already, this year's session has been the longest in history.

It has accomplished much, some of which—depending on where you stand—has been good. And, as in past years, some, regardless of where the old foot is placed, apparently will serve very little purpose.

Taxpayers have been hit with a two-cent gasoline tax which goes into effect next week; a two-cent tax on cigarettes and a one-cent tax on soft drinks, both expected to gain final approval today. The additional revenue is needed, so they say, to finance all the goodies promised Tarheels for the next two years.

There have been other actions aimed at making for a better life. Several colleges, left out two years ago, were brought up to date and made universities. The usual number of laws designed to help highway safety were enacted and bring with them hope that the slaughter on our highways might lessen and the minimum wage coverage was broadened, among other things.

Now comes the frosting on an otherwise fallen pie crust. The honorables, who cannot by law raise their pay but who have regularly increased their allowances, are tinkering with

Another killed himself and still another was drowned.

All this is the course of only a couple of months in this one small county. Certainly, it should be enough to make us think.

With many young people being what they are today, older people might not satisfy their needs with adequate recreation and social facilities but it seems time somebody gave it a try.

One central elaborate facility is perhaps not the answer. The answer could lie in each community and particularly those offering nothing at all for their young people.

The challenge to the churches might be somewhat unfair here. Churches here and, we suspect in Person as well, are interested in the young and in most instances are doing what they can to help. However, the church could be the starting point for anyone interested in moving ahead in this area.

Most communities are tied together through their churches and a joint effort might be a good thing.

Young people are going to be together today just as young people have always done. No effort, however well intended, is going to reach them all. But, if only a few are reached; if only a few are given meaningful direction; if only one is kept out of trouble, it will be worth the effort any of us might put forth.

It's worth thinking about. Is it worth giving a try?

the idea of awarding themselves a \$5 retroactive increase for this session.

The current pay is \$15 per day and the present allowance is \$20 per day, six days a week, present or not. And, except for the Wake delegation, very few are present after Friday noon although all are paid for Saturday. They are also paid for Mondays when the session doesn't start until Monday night. Some reports reveal that lawmakers are paying from \$50 to \$65 per week for rooms in the plush hotels and motels and these bills are running about \$1500 to date in this session. At \$35 per day, however, six days per week and with the session now in its 23rd week, legislators have drawn \$4830 to date.

Needless to say, there are a number of North Carolinians living an entire year on far less.

These lawmakers knew what the pay would be when they sought the office and while it is true that mingling in the upper crust of lobbyists and legislative hangers-on and with inflation hitting even the most honorable of the honorables, the waning days are not the time to vote a flat \$715 tax-free bonanza to themselves.

Taxing gas, cigarettes and soft drinks for necessities, we can live with, however difficult it may be. Using the money for such last-minute shannigans as an increase in allowances is a bit harder to take.



## Welfare

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adequately represents the wide gamut of services offered by the Agency.

Mrs. York describes some actual instances in what she terms a "typical day in the welfare office". They make some interesting reading and, hopefully, could lead to some clearer understanding of what goes on in the Department of Social Services:

Telephone: Sheriff's office called wants a caseworker to accompany a woman to the State Hospital as the family refuses to go.

Four Juvenile Court petitions received with regard to recent break-ins—caseworker has to visit home before hearings which is set by the Judge and in most instances submit a written social history to the court.

Man comes in particularly in tears as his child needs to go to the hospital and he has no means with which to send her.

Woman calls refusing at first to give her name, stating that three children are being neglected, parents leave them alone at night, drink and carouse, do not feed them properly, they are hungry and have no clothes to wear. Eventually children were removed from the home and placed in a licensed foster care. This foster home was licensed by the agency.

Letter received stating daughter is emotionally ill, fearful for her life, "what can I do, who do I see?"

Tearful mother carrying a mongoloid child comes in with "I have come to the end of my rope please help me."

Seventy-five year old woman whose daughter turned her out wants some where to go or someone to care. Who is going to help her?

Man and wife are desperate as daughter 13 is expecting a baby. They said, "This happens to other people but we never thought it could happen to us. What can we do?"

Bright young couple comes in with "we want to adopt a little boy, we can't have children of our own."

Woman tells caseworker that Department of Public Health sent her over, her husband has T.B. and has to go to the TB Sanatorium.

Telephone rings: child has been abandoned. "I'll bring it right over."

"I sincerely hope that by changing the name of the agency to the Department of Social Services people will be motivated to learn more about services which poor and rich alike. Our goal is not only to improve our image but continue to sharpen our effectiveness as a helping profession," Mrs. York commented in conclusion.

## Hearing

(Continued from Page 1)

those who are proposing this bill". He added, "I have the information in my files and they are wide open for anyone to see."

In his prepared statement, Rep. Speed which he says is written "in order to prevent being misquoted", he said he had considered the annexation matter at "great length" and said that requests by Franklinton and Lenoir "Have been overshadowed by opposition from the people who would be most affected..."

"I am not here to support or oppose the bill", Speed said, "I came to hear the views of the opponents and proponents who are appearing before this Committee."

The statement says that Rep. Speed "Asked the Chairman not to consider the bill... but later wrote him a letter stating that I would leave the matter to his Committee and Rep. Church."

"I was surprised to learn from The Franklin Times that this indicated a reversal on my part in the matter," Speed said. The Times reported earlier this week that Rep. John Church said that Speed's action "indicated a reversal on the part of Speed in the matter."

Speed also states in his prepared release that "I have at no time tried to influence any member of this Committee nor have I at any time told Senator Griffin or Representative Church that I would oppose or support the bill—nor have I told anyone specifically that I would do either."

Saying "Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, the case is in your hands," Rep. Speed concluded his prepared statement with, "If this bill passes this Committee, I reserve the right to take such action as I deem practical when it appears on the House floor."

Rep. Church read a letter he had written to the Lenoir County Council which stated his position that it was a Franklin County matter and he would support the bill if Rep. Speed and Senator Griffin did. In closing remarks, Church told the Committee, "I would remind you that Senator Griffin lives in Lenoir County."

**GRANDFIELD, OKLA., NEWS:** "Although probably the major share of blame for the breakdown in our court system can be placed squarely on the legal profession and social do-gooders, much of it can also be blamed on citizens who fail to accept their responsibilities when called to jury duty and testifying in court."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

This is in response to a letter written by Mrs. Rose W. Marshall of Greensboro, North Carolina printed in the June 17 edition of The Franklin Times with my expectations thereto. I also found your editorial comment of June 12 interesting as well as thought provoking. I might add that most of your editorial comments are that way.

As a Franklin County native and now living in a county that has suffered along with Franklin County from lack of highway improvement funds as well as political appointments, I am aware that

we have not been receiving our fair share.

However, I do not believe by any stretch of the imagination could it be said that this is due to our not being adequately represented by our legislators.

It is my opinion that both Representatives Church and Speed have worked hard and have ably represented our district. Further for as long as I can remember we have had capable legislators.

Unfortunately our counties are not as big as the county in which Mrs. Marshall lives and is without its voting power; therefore, we just don't count. I would bet

that Guilford County has had its share of the "goodies".

Maybe someday if we hold our noses, the state administrations might even find us on the map or some state official might even drive on N. C. 56.

Yours very truly,  
Linwood T. Peoples  
152 Lynn Haven Avenue  
Henderson, N. C.

The House tax writers have tentatively agreed on a restriction to gradually do away with the privilege of wealthy donors to write off their whole income against charitable donations. Many tax revisions are expected to be made.



I stopped by to see an old friend the other day. Rob Blind. I know that's a unusual name, but that's what he's been called for as long as I know him. His real name is Genevieve. I guess that's why they call him Rob.

Rob runs a small store down at Slop Creek and I used to trade with him. My folks didn't think you could get something-teat any place but Rob's. He did have a pretty good supply and he was cheap. I don't mean old Rob was cheap. His stuff was.

I hadn't been in them parts for quite some time so I thought I'd stop in and see if he still was selling Bracers and Black Cows. I found him sitting beside the stove. Didn't make no difference it was ninety degrees outside. Old Rob had a little fire in the heater. He used to say it kept the chill off. He's right. It was sure keeping the chill off when I was there.

"Hello Rob", I said. "Remember me? How long has it been? You're looking good." (That won't exactly right. He looked like death would be an improvement, but I wanted to make him feel good.)

"Yeah, you're old man Count's boy... what's-his-name. Yesh, I remember you. Where you been son?"

"We moved to town, Rob. Been living in town for a long time but it's bad on a fellow, Rob. Town ain't got the advantages you got out here. No, sir. Prices are out of the world, Rob. You wouldn't believe it. Things is higher 'n a kite."

"Well, you knowed better. I told your pa you wouldn't never amount to nothing. You always wanted to go to town. Go to town, that's all you use to say. You thought if you could get to town, you'd be in heaven. I ain't never seen a boy want to get to town so bad. Glad you got there. Glad you don't like it. Serves you right. Hope you got to stay."

"I reckon I got to stay for awhile longer, Rob. I got to eat. And besides the little woman won't move and I can't afford what it takes to leave her there and move myself. How about a nice cold Bracer, Rob. Got any in the ice box?"

"Ain't got no Bracers. They don't make them anymore. Got a big orange if you want one."

"Well, alright. Give me a big orange. How much are they, Rob? Still a nickel?"

"Man you have been gone. They're 15 cents now and fixing to go up. There's a tax on them now. They ain't passed it yet but I'm gonna start collecting tomorrow so's I can get ahead of the game. I always try to stay ahead when I can, boy."

"Well, I guess things and prices change, Rob. Give me a pack of cigarettes while you're up. How much are they? A quarter?"

"Not exactly, son. You know there's a tax on them now, too. I got to get forty cents today. I already added the tax to them."

"But, Rob that's agin the law. You can't collect tax on stuff before the tax is put on. Cigarettes don't cost you but twenty cents. How come you got to double your money?"

"Overhead, son. Got to keep coal in the stove. Got to keep the place spruced up. Got to pay the government. Ain't you city folks paying no tax, son?"

"Well, yeah, Rob, we're paying all we can. But it ain't no use of you merchants trying to rob folks. Forty cents for cigarettes ain't fair, but give me a pack of hump-backs."

"Git 'em yourself, son. I done set back down."

"I hate to ask you this Rob, but you reckon you could git up long enough to sell me enough gas to git back to town?"

"I declare, boy. You ain't changed one bit in all these years. All I use to do was jump up and wait on you. You always the worriestome, customer I had. I always did hate to see you coming up the road. How much gas you want?"

"Might as well fill it up, Rob. How much is it a gallon?" I shouldn't a asked.

"Forty-five cents a gallon and if you make any complaint, I ain't gonna pump the pump. There's taxes, you know."

Yes, sir. I know. I drove off thinking that sure as you're born things done changed at Rob's. NO Bracers. NO Black Cows. Just big oranges. There ain't nothing for a nickel no more. Ain't it sad?

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