

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

What We Might Be Missing

It is pleasing to see that Franklin County is continuing its growth in retail sales as reported this week by the North Carolina Department of Revenue. It is disturbing to note, however, that the growth for this latest period was considerably below that of the preceding 12 months.

Much-but not all-the decrease came in the building material category. The County's sales in this field dropped around \$2 million in the year ending last June 30. Some of this is understandable. The tight money market has slowed building across the country.

However, the latest figures available-which happen to be for the year 1967-show that Franklin has an Effective Buying Income of \$42,607,000. It also shows that for that same year retail sales here were \$27,417,000. The slight difference in the figures here and those reported by the Revenue Department is probably due to the different source and to a different measuring period.

Regardless, if we project the EBI and the total retail sales up to today's figures, we find quite a discrepancy. The obvious question; Where is the difference being spent? If not here at home, where?

The equally obvious answer is: Out of town. While all purchases of goods and services are not subject to the sales tax and therefore not reported as a retail sale, one cannot deny that several million dollars in business is getting away from Franklin merchants.

Since no major changes have been noted, it is safe to assume that if Franklin's Buying Income was over \$42 in 1967 and its retail sales were over \$27 million and that the sales reached nearly \$35 million this year, it might be safe to assume that the Buying Income also rose in proportion. Assuming that it did, Franklin could have lost out on something like \$15 million in 1967 and in the 1968-69 fiscal year.

Granted a certain degree of guesswork goes into such assumptions, it still gives a great deal of food for thought. Think what this much more local business could mean to this county. More jobs, more tax, more people employed.

It's certainly something to think about. And it might well be that while we are thinking, we begin doing something about it. Like, maybe, trading at home?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

Now that the General Assembly has adjourned and the dust is settling over the land, there are a few comments I feel should be made about the gentlemen from Franklin County. It was a real privilege and pleasure to observe these men getting all the facts available on each issue.

Both men displayed real concern for all of their district and dedicated their efforts to real progress for their people. Certainly there were things each would like to have done which they were unable to do and some things they would like to have done differently. We must realize, however, there are limits to what any man can accom-

plish. After all, even the Governor was forced into some compromises and defeats on some issues.

Certainly our men were tuned in on our wave length when they voted against the "financial desert" the majority of the General Assembly passed for themselves. In their years of service our men have distinguished themselves as men concerned about the welfare of their state and people. Farm leaders and farm organizations across North Carolina have come to know Representative Speed as a true friend and a valued advisor, and, in this session, came to know Senator Griffin as sympathetic and understanding of their problems. Both Representative Speed and Senator Griffin are men

of unwavering integrity. They are thorough in study and sure of their convictions. Their service to their district is a credit to them and to us. All persons interested in tobacco are grateful for their stand against the tax. The past General Assembly is worthy of the wrath it has stirred across the state. However, let us give our good men-credit-they did a fine job. They came home from Raleigh with their integrity. They did not trade it for political appointments or personal gain. It is men such as these that make us say, "I'm from Franklin County and Proud of it!"

John H. Ihrle, III
Route 4,
Louisburg, N. C.

'Don't laugh . . . there's a lot to this fairy godmother bit'



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Citizens Disappointed

The Warren Record, Warrenton, North Carolina

Warren County citizens who know Tom Ellis of Henderson are disappointed to learn that Warren County is not among the counties under his supervision as a new highway commissioner. He has many friends in Warren County and if Warren County had been placed in his district our people would have felt that we had one of our own as commissioner.

It is ironic that after the Warren County commissioners has endorsed Mr. Ellis for highway commissioner and his subsequent appointment that the county was not placed in his district.

Instead of being placed in a district with Vance and Franklin counties, with whom there is a natural affinity, as well as composing the House District in the General Assembly, Warren finds itself grouped with Halifax, Nash and Johnston. Our people have no ill feeling toward these counties, and no doubt will find W. S. Williams a helpful commissioner, but the grouping is not what Warrenton would have preferred.

One sometimes wonders about the way things work out for Warren

County. We have a senatorial district which includes Pitt County, and a highway district which includes Johnston County. With all due respect to these fine counties, to Senator White and to Commissioner Williams, the fact remains that both counties are quite a far piece from Warren.



Colorado Editor
'... And then, kids, in 1970 Congress finally outlawed all advertising ...'



I don't git around as much as I oughta, but when I do I sure do hear some mighty pleasant things being said about old Frank. And I ain't the kind that don't appreciate it. I do. Ever bit of it is appreciated. Even them muttering sounds that stop so quick when I suddenly show up.

For instance, I overheard a high county official tell another feeder from the public troth the other night, "I'll sure be glad when he gets through with them d... chickens." Now see. Don't that warm the cockles of yore heart? He's worried about old Frank worrying over a bunch a chickens. He shore is a considerate sort, ain't he? I might vote for him agin. Might even get some of the chickens to vote too. That is if they don't steal the ballots.



I could pass on the word that I ain't quite through with them cool chickens yet but that might cause some folks some undue lost sleep. They shore do yell when they git pinched though, don't they?

Then there's another fellow right here in town who worries a powerful lot about old Frank. He ain't slept since I wrote that little piece about going to the moon. You remember, I said I pushed the wrong button. Well, I didn't really. I just said that. I wouldn't a have if I'd known his honor was going to get bags under his eyes. They do look nice, though. They match them in the knees of his britches.

And to that sweet old lady at New Hope who don't read nothing but Frank Count I want to say a fine hello. There ain't a better informed woman in the county.

And I got a message for them two football players I seen in that grocery store the other night. Men, I know you won't reading Frank Count. You just said that to save me embarrassment. You was looking for your names in the paper. Now read Frank Count like the coach told you. Keep in shape. Be ready. You can't tell the plays without old Frank's timely advice. Go to bed early. Don't eat nothing and leave them girls alone. They can't tackle worth a dime.

I seen a local business lady the other night and she asked me where was my zoot-suit. Right there in a crowd she asked me. I shore am sorry that she didn't git a chance to see me in it. I was a sight to behold, if I'd say so myself. Some other folks said I was a sight. They left off the behold. I told the kind lady I knowed how old she is. She remembered zoot suits, from the last time they was out, that is. She's honest though. Most women claim they don't remember them and since most women ain't over 25 years old, I don't reckon they do.

Somebody frm the newspaper's been giving out some Frank Count scratch pads. They're strowed all over town. I been expecting to git arrested for littering, but so far I ain't been caught. I think kindly of the newspaper spreading old Frank's picture around. And I know this is going to wound the boys in the back room, but them pads is being put in secret drawers all around town. Folks think so much of old Frank's picture, they ain't about to write on it. They're saving it for their youngins and their grand-youngins. Kinda like moon dust. There ain't much of them around.

And finally, all them letters. I appreciate all them letters. There ain't nothing much in them but they give me a chance to see the mailman up close. He's pretty. I thought he was General MacArthur the other day. That was until I seen all them dogs he was leading around. Then I knowed he won't no General. When them uniforms git wet, they look like a policeman. With all this rain lately, I been scared to death more 'n once over that very thing. I told him not to knock no more. Just leave the mail and git until he dries out. He's pretty though and if he ever gits that cap off 'n his ears he's gonna like old Frank, too. Most everybody does.

Asks Views Of The People

Fountain Questions Nixon Welfare Proposals

Congressman L. H. Fountain, D-N.C. has questioned some of the proposals advanced by President Nixon in last week's national televised speech. The Congressman makes several points in a statement released today, apparently questioning the workability of the Presidents proposals.

The text of Congressman Fountain's statement follows: "I hope many of our people listened to the President last Friday evening when over nationwide television he proposed some basic changes in our public welfare programs. I am never satisfied with the terms 'liberal' and 'conservative,' because they never adequately describe anything or anybody. However, I think the President's recommendations might be described as a mixture of liberal and conservative approaches to the problem of public welfare.

I think most people agree that these programs have not worked satisfactorily for many years. My own reaction might best be characterized as one of 'guarded hopefulness' for the present, inasmuch as the details of the President's proposals are not yet available and I can see some problems on the horizon:

(1) The President proposes setting a national minimum level of payment for all welfare programs. For OAA (old age assistance), for example, this would be a standard payment of \$65 for each aged person regardless of the cost or level of living in his community. Admittedly, the approach has appeal because we all have a deep sympathy for our elderly in need; but I am not sure just how feasible this will be.

I am concerned that the proposal does not appear to come to grips with the glaring inequities among States in their recipient rates. Over ten years ago the Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee, of which I am Chairman, examined this problem in public

hearings throughout the nation. We found that OAA is, in practice, virtually a pension system in some States, while relatively few elderly qualify for assistance in other States. And this is still true today.

For example, more than 4 out of every 10 persons 65 years and older receive OAA benefits in Louisiana, while the comparable figure for North Carolina is 1 in 10. The basic reason for the great disparities in OAA rates between States is that most States have relatives' responsibility laws, which they may or may not enforce vigorously, while a number of States do not hold children and other relatives responsible for the maintenance of the elderly. This is a serious problem, especially since most of the money for the OAA program comes out of the Federal Treasury. Yet, I do not believe the President proposes to deal with it at the same time that a national minimum payment is proposed.

(2) It appears that a new "family-assistance" plan is to be substituted for the existing program of "aid to families with dependent children" (AFDC).

This, of course, is the program that has caused most of the friction and discontent in recent years, and the program in which costs have been rising sharply.

The benefits of this new and broader plan would go "to the working poor as well as the non-working, to families with dependent children headed by a father as well as to those headed by a mother and a basic federal minimum would be provided, the same in every State." I have serious doubts about the advisability of a guaranteed annual minimum-especially if 13 million more citizens will be eligible for help.

We must also consider the social ramifications of a national standard in terms of its potential effect on population migration from high to lower cost areas. This, in turn, raises some very

basic questions about manpower training. I subscribe fully to the principle of getting people off relief into jobs, but we cannot ignore the question of what jobs will the welfare recipients be trained for, and will the jobs be available once they are trained?

We must bear in mind that welfare recipients are largely people with limited skills and limited education who are the first to lose their jobs when economic conditions get bad. Further, unless the job attraction is very strong, there will be considerable incentive for some recipients to forego the little extra pay for a guaranteed income with leisure. The Congress has enacted a multitude of manpower training programs in recent years, including programs intended for welfare recipients, but these programs seem to have had rather limited success. In fact, they are badly in need of consolidation and simplification. I will be greatly interested in learning the details of what the President has in mind with respect to job training.

(3) Linked with minimum welfare payments and job training is the President's proposal for revenue-sharing.

We have had revenue sharing bills in Congress for several years. We can't anticipate the reception the President's proposal is likely to receive until we see the details. My own feeling is one of wait and see.

Personally, I like the general idea of the Federal Government's sharing resources with the States and local communities. However, the specifics concerning the impact on the Federal budget, and the distribution formula are sensitive issues. After all, it is being proposed that the burden of raising taxes be shifted to some extent from the Governor and State legislature to the Congress.

In any event, I will be happy to receive the views of our people in connection with all or any part of the President's proposal.

Soviet Tali Talks

President Nixon has announced, that retired Llewellyn Thompson, former ambassador to Moscow, will be called to help negotiate proposed curbs on Strategic arms

Franklin

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\$5,381,662.

Building Material is off, probably reflecting the decrease in construction in recent months due to the tight money market. The retail sale of building material in 1967-68 was listed at \$6,105,611. It is reported for the year just ended at \$4,412,707.

The Unclassified category, which includes beauty shops, funeral homes, printers, machine

Hear Winston

Youngville - Mr. Clifton Winston, Agriculture Teacher at the Youngville School, presented a program at the Youngville Lions club meeting held on Monday night, August eleventh. Slides were presented about family living as Mr. Winston narrated.

Lion President Earl Hart presided at the business session and presented a list of new officers and committee chairmen for Lions District 31-G.

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shops and many other businesses, shows an increase from \$2,432,549 to \$2,728,209.

The drop in building material sales accounts for the drop in Franklin's growth percentage when compared to that of 1967-68. In the five-year period, however, this particular year was a banner one for the building industry. The retail sales here nearly doubled from slightly over \$3 million in 1966-67 to over \$6 million in 1967-68.

A report by the Revenue Department, released in March of this year shows that Franklin's sales tax collection during the period February 1968 through January, 1969 amounted to \$677,246. This latest report shows a gross tax collection of \$658,706.20 for the period July 1, 1968 through June 30, 1969.

FHA

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of loans. They were Operating Loan s-for use in purchasing needed farm equipment and to provide operating capital; Farm Ownership Loans-with low interest rates and a 40-year repayment period; Rural Housing Loans and Soil and Water Loans. Now there are

eight. Added to the original four are: Recreation Loans-such as individual development of a golf course, swimming pool or other income producing ventures; Associational Loans-such as the Franklinton project; Rural Rental Housing Loans and Economic Opportunity Loans. To be eligible for many of these loans, a person does not necessarily have to be a farmer, it was explained.

In addition, FHA has an Emergency Loan Program to serve areas hit by drought, too much rain, storms and the like.

Last year 142 family farmers borrowed \$448,220 to purchase needed equipment and Franklin County received a \$12,000 grant for a comprehensive water and sewer plan.

Marshall says, "The program has expanded rapidly in the past four years and has culminated in a 270 percent increase in the unduplicated caseload of borrowers." He has four people, including himself, in the office at Louisburg. In addition to Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Edith Shearin words for FHA's Assistant Office Clerk and Harold Peelman is the Assistant County Supervisor. The office is located upstairs in the Perry Building on North Main Street.

An agency leaflet says the agency programs "strengthen family farms and rural communities." It seems to be doing just that here in our county.