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Perhaps Late Summer

School Bond Vote Possibilities Aired

By BOBBY HILL

The county commissioners and board of education Monday discussed the possibility of holding a county \$8 million bond issue.

After the joint meeting, the education board passed a motion requesting the bond issue between August 15 and September 15 this summer. The commissioners must call for the referendum. Chairman W.A. Kopp, Jr., said the commissioners would discuss the subject at their next meeting Tuesday.

Although the commissioners were reluctant to commit themselves, the education board members urged the election at an early date.

"Strike the iron while it's hot," said education member May Barbee.

All the commissioners expressed approval of the \$11 million, six-year school

improvement plan. However, the group cautioned against concrete financial planning. They pointed to the re-evaluation of appraised property value to be effective January 1, 1975. "We just don't know what lies ahead," said Commissioner J.T. Clemmons.

"I'm in favor of the program," said Kopp. However, he left open the question whether the bond election should be held this summer or next spring after re-evaluation.

Education chairman Wilbur E. Rabon said the re-evaluation could only bring about a "sizeable increase" in county funds available.

Education member William Sue said Brunswick is now the second wealthiest county in the state in terms of tax base per pupil.

Supt. Ralph King later presented the education

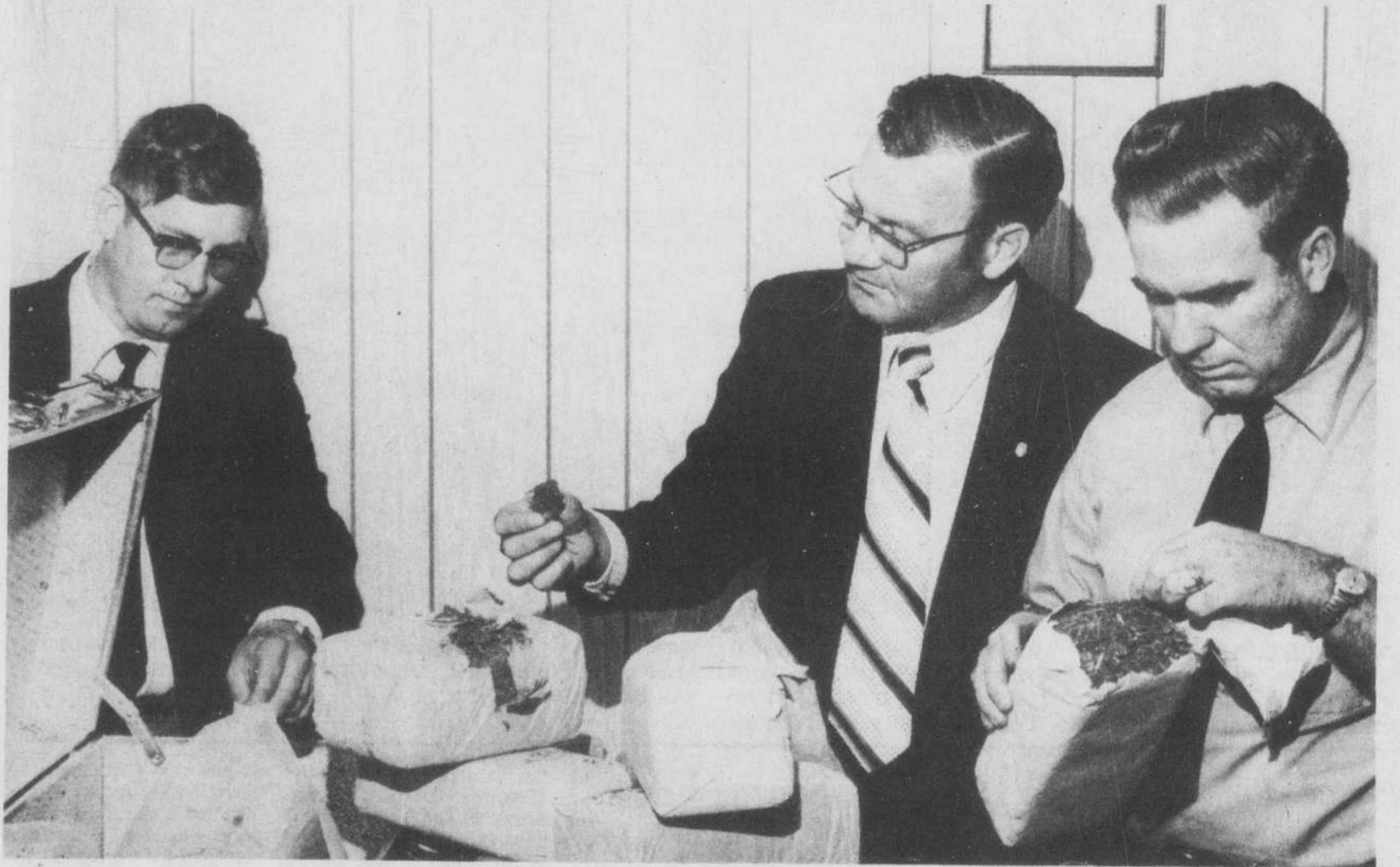
board with the procedure that must be followed to hold a bond issue. The Local Government Commission, he said, "must advise and approve all facets of issue process."

The bond procedure would be divided into two parts of application and a bond order, King said. The application must be published and applied for at least 40 days prior to the election, he said.

The county commissioners must introduce a bond order after the application is submitted, according to King. The commissioners then must hold a public hearing after giving 10 days notice, he said.

The commissioners then would set the date for the election, King said. The election must be held within one year and at least 46 days after the bond order is

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REPORTEDLY THE BIGGEST HAUL of marijuana ever in Brunswick County was made Friday by police chiefs Herman Strong of Southport, Julian Bowman of Holden Beach and Hoyal Varnum of Shallotte. Approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000 (street value) worth of the grass was found in a vacant house

on the Long Beach Road across from Fort Johnston Academy. Bowman and Varnum are chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the Brunswick County Law Enforcement Association.

Big Marijuana Cache Busted

Police chiefs from Southport, Shallotte and Holden Beach confiscated about 50 pounds of marijuana Friday from a vacant house on Long Beach Road.

Estimated in value at \$8,000 to \$10,000 when "on the street," the bust is "believed to be the largest shipment confiscated in Brunswick County," according to police.

The police heads seized the illegal drug after receiving "reliable information" that the marijuana was being stored in an unoccupied

home on NC 133 across from Fort Johnston Academy.

The chiefs were Herman Strong of Southport, Hoyal Varnum of Shallotte and Julian Bowman of Holden Beach.

The chiefs emphasized that the cooperation among the three police departments made the confiscation possible. Varnum said the action was initiated by Strong after he had received information about the marijuana.

"This shows what cooperation

among police departments and help of interested citizens can do," said Strong.

The policemen said a "full investigation" is continuing and that "several arrests are anticipated." "We're not going to give up (until arrests are made)," said Varnum.

The policemen established surveillance at the building about 7 p.m. Friday. They said they viewed the dwelling "most of the night." The confiscation was made, they said, after traffic in the area convinced them they had been "spotted."

For Brunswick Schools

State Survey Asks For Funds, Central Staffing

By BOBBY HILL

A recent state report on county schools recommended more local funding, centralization of the staffing structure and a central office complex.

The survey was conducted by a committee from the Division of School Planning, State Department of Public Instruction.

The report termed Brunswick County "one of the wealthiest counties in North

Carolina" (in terms of property valuation per student). A major contributor to the large tax base, the report says, is the CP&L nuclear power plant presently under construction.

The report also endorses a recent county board of education request for a \$6 million local school bond issue. The bonds would help finance an approximate \$11 million, long-range school construction program.

The education board about a month ago presented plans for the \$11 million bond issue to the county commissioners for their approval. The commissioners have not yet officially answered.

Also in the report, the county's bonding capacity is listed at \$28,833,700 for schools and other capital outlay needs. The present county-wide debt is \$4,166,300, of which \$2,626,000

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County Keeps EDA Eligibility

Brunswick County has been deemed eligible to continue an assistance program under the Economic Development Administration.

Under the U.S. Department of Commerce, the local arm of EDA is represented by the Southeastern Economic Development Commission.

The eligibility puts the county "in a position to go to EDA for grants and loans for various things," according to the county Resources Development Commission Director Jackie H. Stephenson.

The program will continue without further approval until March 31, 1975.

The county recently received about \$700,000 in a grant from the EDA for a county water system.

Sunrise Service Easter Morning

The Rev. William T. Deneke, rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Southport, will be the preacher for the sunrise service Easter Sunday morning.

The scene will be the lawn in front of the Community Building on the Garrison. The service will begin at 7 o'clock.

Representatives from other churches in the community will participate and an invitation is being extended to all visitors to this area to join in this special service.

This will be the first program in the observance of Easter. Special music has been prepared by the choirs of several local churches for presentation later in the day, both at the 11 o'clock hour and for evening programs.

In Extraterritorial Zone

Condominium Proposed East Of Yaupon Beach

The Yaupon Beach town council held a public hearing Tuesday and adopted a zoning ordinance after several key amendments.

John Barbee, represented by a trio of attorneys, was given assurances a "triangle" of oceanfront property east of town will be considered for zoning for a condominium complex.

The triangle is south of NC 133 and the Oak Island Estates, directly east of the city limits. It extends eastward to a bathing area in front of the Oak Island Golf Club. Barbee said the plot contains about eight acres.

Developers are interested in placing a condominium complex on the triangle area, Barbee said. He said he would soon arrange a meeting between the developers and the town council and the planning and zoning board.

"We'd like to keep the town informed of what's happening," said Barbee. The developers and council have already met once, according to Barbee.

Yaupon zoning attorney Obie Lee of Lumberton did not oppose the condominium zoning. He said such zoning "would be reasonable."

However, Lee recommended that the town adopt the high density zoning only as an ordinance at their next meeting. It would not be incorporated on the map until specific plans are shown to the planning and zoning board, he said. The board

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Road Design Is Submitted

The state Department of Transportation has submitted for federal approval construction designs for US 17, 74 and 78 from Alligator Creek to Belville.

DOT plans call for two 24-foot lanes with a median. The road would have a "right-of-way adequate to contain the construction," a press release states.

The highway would have an interchange with relocated NC 133, plans show.

The plans were submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for approval.

Creech Resigns Democratic Post

V.A. Creech, Jr., resigned today as chairman of the county Democratic party.

Creech was elected to the post earlier this year, before filing as a candidate for state representative from Brunswick and Pender counties.

The resignation announcement followed local news stories claiming Creech's candidacy and chairman position constituted a conflict of interest barred by Democratic party rules.

In his letter, Creech praised followers of the Democrat party. He urged those participating in the May 7 primary "to please conduct their activities in an exemplary manner."

"After the primary, we must and shall work together for a victory in November," he concluded.

Creech also thanked "those

candidates and serious contenders who decided not to run for office in order that our Democratic party could be more unified and thereby made stronger."

He said he was "much impressed" with Democrat college students in the county. He said he is "thankful" for the students' "enthusiasm and keen interest."

The party chairman expressed appreciation for help received in filing five Democratic candidates for the county commissioner seats. He said his party has "always asked our citizens to please reason together and work toward encouraging qualified, capable Democratic candidates to file for office."

The county executive committee of the Democrat party must name a successor to the vacant chairman seat.



Artie Banks of Goldsboro (seated, right) was guest speaker at the Thursday night meeting of the Southport Lions Club. He is state chairman of the White Cane Committee and spoke on the work of White Cane and the Eye Bank program sponsored by Lions International. Shown with him, (seated, left) is Col. William Sunder, president of the Southport Lions Club. Standing are Mark Connaughton, chairman of the White Cane Committee for the local club, and Col. Fraser Law, who has headed the White Cane drive for the club in other years.