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After November, Action Needed

Sometimes "wait and see" in public affairs is the excuse used for lack of having any policy at all. In the case of the new federal voting rights law this however is probably not the case. There is no one, either here at home, in Raleigh or in Washington, who is exactly sure what the new law means or requires or what its ultimate effect will be. Especially is this true in areas like the Roanoke-Chowan where there has been little or no complaint with voter registration procedures in many years. It is not too hard to know what the effects of the new law will be in areas of Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana where Negro registrations for voting have been systematically discouraged and denied for many years. It was these areas and their un-American, unfair attitudes toward registration which brought on the new federal law. In these areas wholesale registrations of hosts of people who had every right to be registered years ago are being put on the voter rolls every day now. But here in the R-C, even though all four counties are subject to the triggering provisions of the law there have been no denials of the right to vote. And the supposition at all levels of government is that no federal registrars will be sent here, that nothing much will change as

a result of the new law because nothing much in the way of voter registration needs changing. Under these circumstances perhaps the announced policy of waiting until after the November road bond referendum to take any action toward getting out from under the new law is well founded. At least it will strengthen the legal case which can be made for removing the R-C counties from the law. But then the case does not need strengthening. There is ample justification already for the contention that our house is in order when it comes to voter rights. As soon as the November experience is behind us, action ought to be initiated to have each county in this area taken out from under the law. It would be a sad day indeed for this area to have to accept illiterates on its voting rolls in order to get added all those who rightfully belong on the registration books. It was a bad law to start with, designed to accomplish the national will that the Negro in the deep south have his rightful right to vote. Since this poorly conceived force bill is unnecessary here, each county should take the needed steps to have our area taken out from under it.

Use Of New TV Channel Urged

The Roanoke-Chowan area has just this past week begun to receive television reception from a station destined to improve the general public idea of what television is all about and can be about. The University of North Carolina educational television station, channel 2 from Columbia, has just gone on the air. No doubt for many this will not mean much. But for those who have had their fill of stereotyped westerns, private eyes, situation comedies and doctor programs, the coming to our area of television programming with a purpose will mean the rebirth of a medium that holds much greater promise for raising the level of civilization than it has ever delivered. Typical of the programs either already shown during the first days of operation of the UNC station or scheduled for the next few days are the Buffalo and Cincinnati symphony orchestras; Aaron Copland, one of America's greatest living composers performing and telling about the music of the 1920's, special tours of Edenton, Washington and Elizabeth City made on a recent TV filming expedition; taped presentation of the UNC-Michigan football game; and the start of a series of programs for on-the-job training for supervisors and management of North Carolina industries. Until now northeastern North Carolina, along with the southeast and west, has been left out of the television coverage area of the state's educational television setup. Within another year the

whole state is expected to be within receiving distance of one of the ETV towers. When this time comes the state will be better off for it. It will bring all sections of the state closer together with its specialized programming. There will always be a place in a free society for commercial television and radio. But these media, run of necessity for mass tastes, leave many unserved. The great popularity of stereo-type record players has filled the needs of those unable to take radio's steady diet of rock 'n roll and country music (as opposed to true "folk music"). Until now there has been no way the many thousands in this area of the state, disgusted with the sameness of much TV programming, to get more utilization from their sets. Many are they who, except for current events programs—like news and sports—have ceased to use their sets at all. Now with the coming of ETV to the northeast there is the possibility of a revival of interest in the medium. The state is indeed fortunate the Legislature saw fit to approve the money requests which are making the UNC network statewide. Even those who can still take "Gunsmoke" after all these years or have the time for "Dr. Kildare" as a continued show night after night would do well to switch over to Channel 2 now and then—there's always the interesting possibility of learning something while being entertained.

Job Chances For All, All Over

Somehow there was irony in the fact that job discrimination complaints were filed last week against a number of North Carolina's larger employers while at the same time New York City was ballyhooing its program to hire more Negro school teachers. From what we know of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act the complaints filed with the Equal Rights Commission are more for the purpose of arousing public opinion to support the cause of Negro job opportunities than for securing any court judgment against the firms involved. The procedures involved in enforcing Title VII are so involved that, only in the rarest of circumstances, do students of the law expect it to result in court actions favorable to a complainant. The real point of course is that more job opportunities should be opened up for Negroes—not just in North Carolina but everywhere in the nation. The federal government can pass new laws every year from now until the current crop of militant beatniks associated with the extremist wing of the rights movement grow up to "family and suburb" age without much really ever changing. Only the raising of the economic level—which means in many cases new and upgraded skills being needed—will ever produce basic changes in Negroes as a group being absorbed into the mainstream of American life. This proposition that at the bottom of the differences between the races is economic inequality is generally accepted by most North Carolinians. The efforts of the Governor's Good Neighbor Council and other groups to open more and better jobs to Negroes has fairly well been taken to be a good policy for the state. Only time will tell whether the filing of the formal complaints helps or hurts this effort. Probably it will

do neither. What seems ironic about the New York City ballyhoo of its program to hire teachers from the South displaced by the Civil Rights Act coming at the same time as the job complaints is some of the statistics involved. New York City says it is making its very noble effort as a gesture on its part to increase Negro employment. This is all very well but further down in the announcement is the reason why. In 1963 in New York City 27.3 per cent of its school pupils were Negro and 18.2 per cent Puerto Rican. However only 8.3 per cent of its teachers were Negro and 0.6 per cent Puerto Rican. By contrast with this in North Carolina where teachers are allocated by number of pupils, up until this year Negro teachers have equaled almost exactly the number of Negro pupils. In the Roanoke-Chowan this amounted to about 70 per cent. Job discrimination it would seem is not a problem limited to our state or the South. This discrepancy in numbers of teachers, coupled with restrictive apprentice practices of most Northern craft labor unions would seem to make the question of who's the worst offender academic. Employers in this area are not perfect by means. But they need not feel like they are alone in the matter—they've got plenty of company elsewhere around the country. The average person knows next to nothing about birds. As far as he is concerned, almost any bird is an unidentifiable flying object. Some of the poor don't like the way the Administration is going about waging its war on poverty, in that it is trying to secure jobs for those capable and train others for work.



Carlton Morris Writes- September Makes Us Remember Passage Of Time

It seems strange for snow to fall in Wyoming as this is written, while our temperature hangs around 90 degrees in the shade. September is one of our hot months. September makes us remember the feet passage of time for as surely as day follows night, winter will follow summer, so our fishermen turn out stronger in September than they do in spring. They feel they have to get in just one more fishing trip before frost stalks down from the north, giving our countryside the kiss of death. A visit anywhere along the coast reveals fishermen wading deep in the pounding surf and casting their fishbait upon the troubled waters, hoping it will return with one big enough. Any fish is big enough if you don't have to lie about it. Of course thousands of dedicated fishermen now get in the chance they get, and in any kind of weather, and they stick to it even when the fish don't bite. You can see them going out and coming in all year long, but the run of the mill fisherman like warm weather. Right now everyone is busy trying to catch the ones that got away last spring. Bill Sharpe, publisher of The State, says he's convinced most fishermen simply fish to kill boredom or to get out with the fellows. He tells of a group that left his home town one hot Friday, with all sorts of gear stowed on top of their car. At the edge of town, a farmer plowing his field, waved languidly and forlornly at them. "Just look at that durned fool," said one of the ocean bound fishermen, "just plowing like hell in the hot sun, and I bet he hasn't got a fish in the house." Many men will do many things in the name of fishing. They'll risk life and limb, family and friends, and many have been divorced because of plain old fishing. Recently a friend told me of an experience he had on a little river we've both fished all our lives. This illustrates what we men will do in the name of fishing. In the early years he thought he was lucky to get time off from plowing to go fishing once or twice a summer. With the ushering in of the great society, he has become more affluent and now owns a big boat with 60 horses to take him any place he wants to go. But he has to live in the city and has added on heart trouble and can only go fishing during that great long known to city dwellers as "vacation." Recently while on vacation he took his oldest daughter for a fishing trip. They went far down the familiar river, probably 10 times as far as he could have rowed a boat back in other years. Then they discovered something was wrong with their motor, and next thing you know, they ran out of gas. Rowing an old skiff was hard work, but paddling a boat big enough to have a 60 horsepower motor was something else. He said he paddled and paddled for hours on end and scarcely seemed to move. Well into the night, he got the boat up a creek probably a half

Now It's Our Own Media

By SHELBY HOWELL News Editor Gates County Index Gatesville Practically the whole country has gone liberal in politics and if proof is needed, we suggest you study the 1964 General Election returns. But even the liberals are beginning to gag on some of the facets of present government policy, just as a small boy who loves cake but has been cramed to full of it, it sickens him. There are few conservatives in the country, also proved by the last election. There are few conservatives in the Roanoke-Chowan area, but we predict the number will increase. They're telling the liberals, "I told you so," but they're just as fed up and probably more sick, because federal control of their every move in life goes against the grain of their inborn temperament even more so than it does with the liberals. The latest development doesn't come as a surprise. It would have 10 years ago, but not now. Publisher Frank R. Mills of the Chronicle-Herald in Hoopston, Ill., reports that the government has donated itself \$188,000 of our tax money to set up a federally-subsidized newspaper in Willow Run, Mich. Its avowed purpose is to provide "honest and true reporting of the government feels of interest." You'll say, what does a small town in Michigan have to do with us? Well, just that. It is a small place that would never have been heard of but for the late Henry Ford, who, incidentally, was one of the most outstanding individualists and free enterprisers of this century. The Roanoke-Chowan is also made up of small towns and rural communities. We are not isolated. It could happen to us. It could happen all over the country, eventually. If it weren't such an ominous move, it would be quite funny. In the first place, it would seem rather superfluous to set up such a paper at public expense when the majority of the great metropolitan dailies have been gearing their operations for some time to "reporting the government feels of interest." Publisher Mills reports that it is also to be a cultural center where local talent will act out internal expressions of the community. There will be federal sponsorship of town meetings where participants will debate national politics. Professional workers will canvass the Willow Run community so they can tell people what they need, for so far they don't seem to need anything. This subsidized newspaper is viewed an educational tool experimenting in the techniques of reporting social, economic and cultural affairs, and INTERPRETING THESE TO THE COM-

Looking Backward

September 25, 1919 A Thought For the Week - A little that a righteous man hathis better than the riches of many wicked. - Psalms 37:16. Misses Clara Lassiter and Beatrice Hunter have accepted positions to teach in Craven County under Supt. R. S. Proctor. Horses and mules - good reliable stock. If you need a horse or mule at any time we will be glad to serve you. Just let us know your wants and we will do our best to please you. If we haven't what you want on hand we will get them for you. Holman Brothers, Rich Square. The high school grades of Woodland-Olney High School met in the auditorium Friday afternoon, September 12, for the purpose of organizing a literary society. The society was called to order by Professor White, who acted as temporary chairman during the meeting. The first in order was the election of officers. Miss Spivey, Bette Jones, president; Howard Revelle, vice president; Claire Putrell, secretary and treasurer; Ella Outland, critic; Christine Vick, marshal. It was decided that we have our regular meetings twice a month in the auditorium. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lassiter and Miss Dora Spivey left this week for Raleigh where they have positions with the State Institution for the Blind. Miss Addie Elliott left last week to enter the North Carolina College for Women at Greensboro. From Conway - The Wilson Society met and organized Friday afternoon. The following officers were elected: President, DeWitt Rice; vice president, Martha Vinson; secretary and treasurer, Bennie Hedspeith; chaplain, Wilson Garris; program committee, Miss Spivey, Bette Jones and Martha Vinson; social committee, Ida Sue Wheeler, Lee Bridgers and Bennie Hedspeith.

Guest Column Stephenson Urges Moderation

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our guest columnist is Dr. Gilbert T. Stephenson of Warren Place, near Pendleton in Northampton County. A banker of national stature before retirement several years ago, Dr. Stephenson has maintained an active interest in Roanoke-Chowan affairs since. The following column is text of a talk he made before the Rich Square Rotary Club on Monday, August 9. Its subject is the area's forgotten man - the racial moderate. That interracial relationships can be readjusted by legislation alone - make no recognition and express no appreciation of the fact that the ultimate and permanent readjustment of relationships between the two races will be the responsibility of the moderates. The Forgotten Man as the Responsible Man When the demonstrations have subsided and the legislation involving interracial relationships has been enacted by the legislature and interpreted by the courts, the moderate of both races will emerge from his obscurity and assume full responsibility for establishing or reestablishing good relations and relationships between the races. Then he will grapple with problems that now are obscured. Problems the Moderate as the Responsible Man Will Face The moderate, no longer the forgotten man but now the responsible man, will face two groups of problems. One will arise from the nationalization of interracial problems; the other, from a group of inter-related problems themselves. 1. Nationalization. The readjustment of interracial problems no longer is a Southern problem alone. It is a national and, indeed, an international problem as well. One favorable aspect of the nationalization of the problem is that it will make the peoples of other sections of our country and of other countries even better understand our problems and, perhaps, be more sympathetic with us in solving them. A possibly unfavorable aspect may be that the peoples of other sections or other countries may try to apply the same yardstick to our problems as to theirs, disregarding the fact that conditions may be different. 2. Inter-related problems. Unemployment, poverty, lack of training, idleness, restlessness, and susceptibility to extremist leadership are closely inter-related problems. People are poor because they are unemployed. They are unemployed because they are untrained for the occupations that would be open to them if they were trained. They are idle because they are unemployed. They are restless because they are idle. They are susceptible to extremist leadership because they are restless. All six of these inter-related problems must be tackled as a group and solved together. This will be the gravest responsibility of the moderate converted from the forgotten man into the responsible man. Distinctions That Must Be Made In the readjustment of inter-

Beads 'n Deeds

In suggesting a settlement between steel management and labor, which was accepted, President Johnson was said to have been neutral. If so, many feel he was neutral in favor of labor.