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Table with 2 columns: OUTSIDE MACON COUNTY and INSIDE MACON COUNTY. Rows for One Year, Six Months, Three Months, Two Years, and Three Years with corresponding rates.

JULY 19, 1956

What Is Our Goal?

For this newspaper to try to tell the General Assembly, as it prepares to wrestle with the difficult problem of race and public education, just what specific measure should be adopted — to do that would be gross presumption.

It is not presumptuous, though, for a newspaper or any citizen, to suggest to public officials how the problem should be approached. And we believe most thoughtful citizens, if they could talk to their legislators, would offer substantially these general suggestions:

1. The Legislature should not be in too great a hurry to accept the program proposed. It may be, as it has been described, "the best we can do under the circumstances"; but it should not be adopted until the legislators have convinced themselves no better program is possible.

2. Toward that end, there should be full, free, open debate. Moreover, the public hearings to be held on this legislation should be utilized to the best possible advantage. Instead of being mere gestures, they should be the vehicle for bringing out every shade of opinion; and each opinion should be examined with open minds.

3. What is our long-range goal, gradual integration or continued segregation? When that question was asked at a press conference last week, the answer was, the decision is left to individual communities, the state has no policy on segregation. Well, it's time it had a policy; it's time the state provided some leadership in determining where we are heading; and time the people were told plainly what are the state's ultimate aims.

4. Finally, if we are determined to retain segregation, there seem only two roads to that goal, evasion or defiance. And if that hard choice must be made, we hope it will be the latter. For evasion is essentially dishonest, and so tends to destroy the character of the evader. Defiance of constituted authority, on the other hand, when the citizen is convinced the authority is wrong, at least has the virtues of candor and courage. It is, too, in the best American tradition; without it, there never could have been a free America.

Let's Name The Babies

For the town development program, Franklin is divided into five zones. And how are those zones designated? By numbers: Zone 1, Zone 2, etc.

That is about the least satisfactory of all ways to designate areas. To illustrate: Ask yourself, "Where is Zone 3?" If you can answer promptly, you are the exception; the chances are half the people who live in that zone don't know its number.

And it's important that we be able to identify the zones, because the success of this promising project will depend largely on competition. And who can get steamed up about competing with Zone 3 or 4 or 5, if they don't even know where those zones are?

Let's give the babies names. Here's how that would help: Few of us know instantly which is Zone 1, but everybody would know if we called it "the East Franklin Zone".

All five could be identified by their directions. Better still, we could use a little imagination and give them Indian names, or name them for some well known landmarks, or in some other method.

But by all means, let's name them! Nothing means so little to so many as mere numbers.

You'll never witness a more exciting and unpredictable race than the human.

—Decorah (Ia.) Public-Opinion

Federal Aid To Schools

II

For this session of Congress, federal aid to education seems dead. But the question remains: Should congress appropriate funds to be distributed among the states for the construction and/or operation of the schools?

That question boils down to two others:  
(a) is federal aid to education desirable?  
(b) is it necessary?

There seems general agreement that it isn't desirable if there is any danger of federal control. Schools are different from such things as roads and public health. Education, by its very nature, requires the maximum of freedom, and freedom means diversity. Furthermore, to be effective, there must be some control of the schools at the local level, to insure the local interest and support so essential in such a three-way human situation, involving children, parents, and teachers.

So the most enthusiastic proponents of federal aid qualify their support; "federal aid without federal control", they say. Isn't that a contradiction in terms? Surely any appropriation bill providing federal aid to schools should carry the provision that the funds must be used for education; yet that itself is control. The question is not whether, with federal aid, we would have control; the only question is, how much?

If the bill recently defeated is typical, we'd have a lot. For it placed stout strings, tightly tied around the money, in the hands of both the U. S. Commissioner of Education and the Department of Labor. And even if it ever were possible to get a bill through giving aid without control, who can say that later Congresses—after the states had adjusted their economies to federal aid—would not write in more and more control provisions?

Recent history provides two examples of what state government control can do to the schools; and if a state government can engage in thought-control, why is it so improbable that sometime the federal government might? In the cases of the states, it was possible for those demanding freedom of the mind to flee Louisiana and Georgia, but where would we flee, once any form of thought-control was nation-wide?

Is federal aid necessary? It would be "nice"; Macon County, for example, would find it mighty pleasant to get a few hundred thousand dollars from the federal government, and there are plenty of places where we could spend it to advantage.

But we have to look no farther than Macon County to get the answer to the question: Is it really necessary?

In the past decade, this county has spent a million and a half dollars for new school facilities. We are still crowded, we still need more facilities; but the casual reading of any article about school facilities, nation-wide, suggests that we are far better off, in this respect, than the average county over the country. And while it has taken effort and some sacrifice, it has been done without real hardship to anybody.

It is true that approximately a third of the million and a half spent here was in the form of state aid, our share of the money raised by sale of state bonds. That, however, hardly proves the necessity for federal aid; for North Carolina itself is one of the so-called "needy" states—near the top in proportion of children and near the bottom in per capita income.

In other words, one of the poorer counties in one of the poorer states has lifted itself well above the

REPORT FROM MOSCOW

Many Sweeping Changes In Soviet Russia - Do They Mean Reform?

Edmund Stevens In Christian Science Monitor

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following dispatch to the Monitor was written by that newspaper's Moscow correspondent.)

In the general astronomic increase in volume of cultural exchanges and travel to and from the Soviet Union is perhaps one of the most striking features of the "new line."

Apart from statesmen, Moscow currently welcomes an endless procession of visitors from many lands and of every conceivable category.

VIPs and nonetities, with intermediate gradations—natural scientists, musicians, artists, writers, journalists, businessmen, tourists, students, dilettantes, and an infinite variety of delegates and delegations—have crossed the Iron Curtain border.

Picking at random the copy of Pravda for June 6, one finds on the same page the following items:

Members of the Brazilian Parliament arrive in Stalingrad; the secretary-general of the Inter-

national level; so long as that is possible, federal aid is not a necessity.

The situation suggests, on the other hand, that poor schools result not so much from a lack of financial ability to do better, but lack of desire.

Letters

Protests Against School Situation

Editor, The Press:

The last link of the Wayah Road is to be paved, and it is coming in close by the school. We have been a long time waiting for it; and we are proud we are going to get it at last.

On the other hand, we are all very sorry to see our school get in the mess it is in. In the last school, we had the best group of teachers we have ever had, but just before school closed the superintendent fired part of them, and most of the rest quit. Mrs. Sursavage was one of those fired.

I was one of a delegation of four that went before Supt. McSwain. We took a petition signed by 148 citizens and patrons of the Nantahalas, asking that Mrs. Sursavage be kept, but he ignored the petition.

Mr. McSwain promised us he would stand by whatever the local school committee did, but he did not do it. All the evidence we have indicates there was no basis for discharging her. From what we can learn, it was nothing but politics—in Andrews, where she lives.

All the high school students also signed a petition that she be kept; now several have said they are going to quit school.

This school is hurt and hurt badly. I am sorry we did not take that petition before the County Board of Education; I am sure it would have acted on it.

J. R. SHIELDS

Nantahala, N. C.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: It has been the long-time policy of The Press, when a public official is attacked, to give him the opportunity to reply, in the same issue of the newspaper. In line with that policy, Mr. McSwain was shown Mr. Shields' letter, and made the statement that follows.)

"Although I dislike newspaper controversy, the information contained in the letter from Mr. Shields is so misleading I think an explanation is in order. The statement that I fired a part of the school teachers at Nantahala School is absolutely untrue. Under the school law, the local school committee, upon recommendation by the principal either fires or elects school teachers. With respect to the Nantahala School, I made no recommendation to the committee or to the principal as to whether or not any of the teachers should be dismissed or rehired.

"In regard to Mrs. Sursavage, the committee at their first meeting reelected her. Later the committee held another meeting, on May 14, at which time they went on record as asking the County Board of Education not to approve the election of Mrs. Sursavage. This action was taken after receiving some information from the new principal, who had been employed to succeed Mr. Pipes, who had voluntarily resigned.

"Later, members of the committee stated that they did not believe a school principal should be required to take a teacher in whom he did not have confidence.

"From what I have heard about Mr. Shields, I believe he is a fair-minded person and, on the basis of this, I will state that if he had received the same information that I have received from school teachers who have taught in the Nantahala School for the past four or five years, he would never have written the letter."

'Transition'

(New York Herald Tribune)

A social system, whatever ills may be imbedded in it, cannot be struck down overnight without a kind of chaos that must be avoided. The Supreme Court recognized this practical fact; it did not call for immediate desegregation in the schools, but a "transition to a racially non-discriminatory school system".

challenge without qualms while stipulating certain ground rules for the contest.

Instead, clear-cut official discussion of the terms of coexistence has so far been avoided in the West, and the five principles of coexistence set forth at the Asian-African conference at Bandung, Indonesia, last year, have been largely ignored.

Far from welcoming the trend away from the cold war, some Western quarters seem more alarmed than ever over the apparent success of Soviet efforts to win friends and influence people in newly liberated colonial countries through economic and technical aid, compared with the setbacks sustained by Western efforts to involve these same countries in political and military commitments.

Perhaps the major obstacle to understanding of what is happening in the Soviet Union is adherence to fixed ideas and static concepts. Westerners often overlook the underlying dynamism of Soviet society which has been evolving steadily ever

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VIEWS

By BOB SLOAN



In the Steel Strike now going on most people expect the same old pattern to be followed. Several weeks of negotiation will be followed by a settlement in which Labor will receive most of the benefits for which they have been asking. The companies will then raise the price of steel to take care of the increased labor cost with a little extra profit added in. The manufacturer, who buys the steel, and all the various middlemen who handle the product, add to the price enough to cover the increase in cost plus a little extra profit. Thus, quite a bit will be added to the price of articles containing steel by the time it reaches the ultimate consumer. The irony of all this is that the price added to the articles, because of the strike may take more away in the end for the working men in steel than the benefits he thought he got at the conference table. Of course, leaders of labor, will try to make him believe that he received considerable benefit, but the fact remains that if there is a wage increase in a basic industry like steel a round of price increases will follow and I believe that practically always the price increases will more than take care of the wage cost.

Another thought too. Think of all the people who don't work in the steel industry and haven't received a wage increase yet. They will have to pay more for many many articles, yet, their income remains the same.

Perhaps it should be a law before a company can grant a wage increase they should grant a similar reduction in the price of the commodity they are selling.

I am no economist, but I am pushed harder to make ends meet than ever in my life on what I once thought would be a fine salary. I think that maybe what has happened is that on so many items the profit has been increased "just a little" to take care of an even smaller pay raise that we poor devils are caught in the middle.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Miss Hannah Lee Hughes, of Greenville, S. C., arrived Friday for a visit of five or six weeks to her aunt, Mrs. A. L. Leach.

The first sound of the whistle of the work train on the Tallulah Falls Railway, so far as we have learned, heard in Franklin, was on last Saturday, July 14, 1905, when it was wafted on the south winds into the Press office.

The Siler family meeting will be held this year at the home of Mr. Henry Slagle, and they hope the friends from far and near will be present. They will meet on the first Thursday in August instead of the first Wednesday, as heretofore.

25 YEARS AGO

The Rev. Raymond McCarty, of Highlands, the Rev. J. A. Flanagan and the Rev. S. R. Crockett, of Franklin, motored to Asheville to attend Presbytery, which met there recently.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Young, of Portland, Ore., arrived in Franklin last week for an indefinite stay with Mrs. Young's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Blaine.

Mr. W. L. Hurst, of Toccoa, Ga., spent Sunday here with his mother, Mrs. Ivalee Hurst, at her home on Harrison Avenue.

Mrs. W. A. Rogers and little daughter, Betty, left last Wednesday for Canton, Ohio, where she will visit her sister, who is seriously ill.

10 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Ferguson, of Franklin, Route 4, left Tuesday for a two weeks' trip to Washington, D. C., Camden, N. J., and Philadelphia, Pa., to visit relatives and friends.

William T. Russell, a native of Franklin, who has made his home in Kingsport, Tenn., for the past 30 years, is here for a 10-day visit with his uncle, George Mashburn.