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By M. R. Dunnagan, The Pilot's Raleigh Correspondent

The N. C. Highway and Public Works Commission is knowingly and deliberately violating the express work and spirit of a statute enacted by the 1933 General Assembly to prevent it from doing exactly what it is doing—spending money for "construction" of highways in the state.

But the commission is spending probably a quarter of a million dollars in order to secure about \$10,522,000 in federal funds, \$9,522,000 of it from the NRA funds and about \$1,000,000 in regular federal aid. And it is not considered likely that anyone will bring it to account for this violation. The commission must spend three or four per cent of the total expenditures in order to survey roads and make other preliminary preparations before the federal money can be secured and spent, and this is classed as "construction" costs.

Up to February 15 the State had placed under contract enough highway work to utilize \$5,069,296.53 of that ten and a half million dollars, \$4,482,016.22 of it NRA funds and \$587,280.30 from regular federal aid funds. Another letting set for February 28 still utilize close to \$455,000 more of the total fund, making the total through February \$5,514,000, or some more than 50 per cent of the total federal allotment to this State. Hope is expressed that contracts will be let to utilize the entire amount in two or three months.

The emergency money is divided into three classes, to be used on primary, secondary and municipal highways. Belief is that probably 80 per cent of the primary and secondary funds allotted have been utilized, while probably not more than 30 per cent of the municipal funds have taken up. This is due to two things first, that the commission wished to get as many people to work as early as possible and the municipal projects are subject to too many delays, and second, that these delays have arisen on the projects contemplated.

Of the \$2,300,000 allotted for municipal work in this state, at least a million dollars of it is tied up in larger cities, six or eight of them because street car tracks, telephone poles, sewer and water lines, and other troubles that have to be adjusted, John D. Waldrop, chief engineer, states. These are being ironed out rapidly now, however and the municipal projects, many of them in small towns and for small amounts, will be under way soon, he said.

Urging national legislation to protect merchants and state treasuries of sales tax states against advantages for non-sales tax states, Governor Ehringhaus has written to Senator Bailey and Reynolds and the 11 N. C. Congressmen to support a bill drawn by Director Harry McMullen and adopted by the National Association of State Tax Administrators in Indianapolis this week, to support the measure at this session of Congress.

"The bill, as you will observe, applies the principle of the Wilson and Webb-Kenyon bills to sales by outside merchants of merchandise for use in North Carolina by making them subject to sales taxation adopted by the General Assembly exactly as intra-state transactions are liable," Governor Ehringhaus wrote. "Its merits, it seems to me, will appeal both to those states having at present a sales tax as well as those which do not have it but which of necessity must face the possibility of such a tax at all times. In your own state I believe that both advocates of and objectors to the sales tax will approve, for the bill, if adopted, will obviate the disadvantages now most seriously urged by objectors."

North Carolina's plan of shifting the burden of taxes from land and at the same time carrying on more extensive functions, including schools, and with all of its balancing the budget, has been heralded through the nation, evidence this time being the request of Congressman Brooks Fletcher of Ohio to Governor Ehringhaus that he tell how it is done.

"I am informed that your state, North Carolina, is the only state that has completely overhauled its system of taxation, lifting the inequitable burden from land, centralizing responsibility and cost of education, economizing drastically, but saving the public schools," Representative Fletcher writes the Governor.

"Next week we are beginning a series of hearings before our education committee in Congress, and being a member of this committee I am anxious to have all the information available on just what you did in changing your taxing system so as

to save your public schools in the present crisis.

"Also, I will appreciate any suggestions you care to make concerning the best method of reducing taxation costs.

"We are considering legislation for the purpose of federal aid to education and many of us feel that before we authorize the appropriation of much money for education, we should make a careful check-up of the possibility of much of it being wasted in financing educational non-essentials."

Dr. A. T. Allen, State superintendent of public schools, and Jule B. Warren, secretary of the N. C. Education Association, have been in Washington with educational forces relative to appropriation of federal funds for public schools, both as a relief measure and as a permanent policy. Dr. Allen thinks the State has a good case, but is not sure of the results.

The North Carolina Bankers Association will meet in 38th annual convention Thursday and Friday, April 26, 27, at the Carolina Hotel.

The Week in Vass

"Promoting World Friendship Among the Children" was the topic of the February meeting of the Methodist Auxiliary at the home of Mrs. Alex Smith on Wednesday evening with Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hollifield Fry as joint hostesses. Mrs. H. A. Borst, introduced the topic with an instructive talk on the methods used in bringing the youth of various nations in closer touch and this was followed by talks by Mrs. C. L. Tyson and Mrs. W. C. Leslie and a prayer-poem by Mrs. S. R. Smith. Mrs. W. J. Cameron conducted the Bible study from Luke.

Saturday was a red letter day for Marie Tyson. In the morning, "Old Man Happy" of Raleigh donned his magic boots and with a host of birthday children paid her an imaginary visit, and in the afternoon she entertained eleven very real children at a very real birthday party at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Tyson, in celebration of her arrival at the advanced age of eleven years. After numerous games there were refreshments of ice cream and a birthday cake, and the presents were just right, roller skates and everything. Marie's guests were Sara Edith Matthews, Margaret Bettina, Marian McMillan, Mary Mae Scott, Hazel Hendricks, Juanita Thompson, James Ray and Hugh McLean, Curtis Bettina, Lawrence Furr and A. Mac Cameron.

Among those from out of town here to attend the funeral of little Martin Spencer Simpson on Thursday of last week were Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Simpson, Miss Nancy and Paul Simpson and N. Ponds, all of Ansonville; Mr. and Mrs. Will Simpson and Mrs. J. Bullins of the Mount Pleasant section of Hoke county.

Mrs. Walter Moore and little "Sonny" Moore are spending some time with relatives in York, S. C.

Willard Sledge went to Raleigh Saturday to visit his father who is ill.

Horton Keith and "Ike" Smith of Durham were supper guests of Horton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Keith Wednesday evening.

Miss Bertha, Cameron of White Hill spent the week-end with her sister, Mrs. Calvin Crabtree.

Miss Neolia McCrummen and John McCrummen spent last week-end with their parents near West End.

Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Buffalo and daughter, Bobbie, of Durham were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Smith.

Mrs. A. G. Edwards and "the twins," Max and Baxter, visited relatives in Raleigh from Thursday until Saturday of last week.

Misses Beulah McLean, Lois Buchanan, Katharine Graham and Elizabeth Cobb spent Saturday in Raleigh.

Miss Vera Newton of Stoneville, a former teacher in the local school, visited friends at Hotel Charmella an evening last week.

Mrs. O. M. Spurlin of Sharon, S. C., Mrs. Seth W. Lassiter and daughters of near Smithfield and Miss Jewell Edwards of Lucama were week-end guests of Mrs. Mary E. Edwards.

Mrs. W. D. Matthews, Mrs. C. J. Temple, Mrs. H. A. Borst, Mrs. C. L. Tyson, Mrs. S. R. Smith and Joseph Matthews were Sanford visitors Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Griffin and

Pinehurst, Paul P. Brown, secretary, announces. Details of the program will be worked out, but the bankers' code and service charges under it and the new insurance of deposits, as well as other new developments in the banking field will be considered.

Violation of the letter and the spirit of crop reduction contracts, especially that for tobacco, is apparently being violated in some North Carolina counties, specifically by landlords cutting off tenant farmers they apparently will not need as a result of the reduction of acreage for next year, Capus Waynick, federal reemployment director for the State announces.

An earlier statement of that nature by Mr. Waynick brought a protest and a denial, so Mr. Waynick asked a few of his county directors to send him names of any such droppings they might be familiar with. One county director sent him a list of about 50 names of tenant farmers and landlords where such had happened in the one county. Landlords are permitted to fire one tenant farmer and hire another, and some of these may be of that nature, Mr. Waynick said. He pointed out that the money paid by the government for crop reduction contemplates using the full number of tenant farmers on the reduced acreage, and that it is so stated in the contract. The plan seeks to prevent a flood of unemployed tenant farmers, Mr. Waynick pointed out.



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NIAGARA

J. A. Blue and party motored to Rockingham and returned one day the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan J. Maddock of North East Harbor, Me., and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Gillis were callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Stanyan the past week while enroute from Palm Beach, Fla. Mr. Gillis is connected with the Eastern Steamship Company.

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Williams motored to Greensboro and returned Sunday night.

The windmill for the town has been erected over a deep well and it is expected that the townspeople will soon be using this pure water.

Roy Smith and party motored to Rowland and returned on Monday.

The entertainment at the Church last Friday night proved quite interesting and a neat little sum was collected for church purposes.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends for the kindness shown us during the sickness and death of our little son and grandson, also for the beautiful floral offering.

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—MR. and MRS. J. B. EVANS.

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