



"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Where there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

**The School Budget Controversy - IV**

As this is written, the county board of education has accepted the decision of Clerk of Court Carlton Kennedy, statutory arbitrator in the school capital outlay funds dispute.

While the board of commissioners had not, at this writing, gathered to discuss the decision and to decide whether or not they will approve, it appeared likely that they would go along with the clerk's ruling. The additional \$8,359.50 allowed the board of education by the decision would require about two cents increase in the tax rate. Possibly it could be found within the budget as it stands, in view of the fact that the budget, as we understand it, has been made up very conservatively and there is a likelihood of more revenue than was figured in the budget estimate.

With seven of the nine school districts of the county system due to receive benefits from the added appropriation, it appears that this small increase in the rate would meet acceptance throughout the county.

Mr. Kennedy, it seems to us, rendered a fair decision under the most trying circumstances.

We can well understand that the county commissioners felt they could not raise the tax rate from the \$1.35 established in the budget to over \$1.77, which would have been necessary had the full requests of the board of education been granted, assuming no reductions were made in other appropriations in the budget as it stands.

Residents of the Southern Pines school district should thank Mr. Kennedy for his rejection of the county board of education's proposal to cut \$75,344.32 from the appropriation of \$135,000 in capital outlay funds for Southern Pines and transfer this \$75,344.32 to the county school system, thus putting the distribution of the total capital outlay funds for the county, Southern Pines and Pinehurst systems on a strictly per capita basis.

This amazing proposal was the number one point in the board of education's statement of issues and contentions in the dispute, presented to the clerk for his benefit in reaching a decision. It would have given the county system \$344,344.32; the Pinehurst system \$13,400 (no change) and the Southern Pines system \$59,655.68.

The court clerk in his ruling on the controversy cited school law to show that capital outlay funds are not to be allotted on a per capita basis, as are debt service and current expense school funds, but are allotted on the basis of necessity. He made the point that "from the evidence presented, both oral and written, the undersigned can find no violation of the duty imposed upon the Board of County Commissioners of Moore County by statute respecting school funds in the allocation of \$135,000.00 to the Southern Pines administrative unit for capital outlay purposes, nor can the undersigned find from the evidence that said allocation was arbitrarily made and that no need existed for the allocation of such sum."

While it may well be true that the county school system should have more money than it was allowed for school plant construction and alteration, we fail to see how the commissioners could be expected to serve the cause of education in the county as a whole by taking from Southern Pines, at the suggestion of the board of education, more than half of the money officials here are depending on to build the second

half or "Phase B" of the new high school—the old high school having been torn down.

In the entire \$422,471.43 requested by the board of education for capital outlay in this year's budget, of which the commissioners allowed the board \$269,000, the only actual classroom construction proposed was a new Carthage elementary school building, for which \$154,500 was requested and which would replace a building that is old and outmoded but in a temporarily serviceable condition.

Total estimated cost of the Carthage elementary school is \$175,000, the balance over the \$154,500 to be provided by the State. The commissioners allotted \$110,052 to this project, rather than the amount requested, on the theory that Carthage, like other school districts in the county—notably Southern Pines with its new high school—could spread the cost of the structure over two or more years. This seems to us like fair treatment.

We feel that the board of education has performed a valuable public service in rejecting the school budget as it was first drawn up. The board deserved the increases allowed by Mr. Kennedy—and quite possibly more, too. Where the line is to be drawn depends primarily on how much the people of Moore County can and will pay for school plant construction each year.

The focusing of public attention on how school money is allotted is a healthy thing for the county and, in the course of the recent discussions and hearings, much has been revealed that should be more widely known and understood.

Board of education members say that it is revealing and significant of the attitude of the board of county commissioners on school matters that the chairman of the commissioners testified in one of the hearings that "... after deducting all the other expenses of the county, we found that that was all the money we had for capital outlay. . ." School needs, the board of education members say, should not be figured last in making up a budget—although, of course, it is obvious that many of the other budget items are inflexible.

Here again, the decision rests with the people of the county. If they want their school plants constructed and altered at a faster pace than has been possible with tax rates as they are and have been in recent years, they should let the county commissioners know how heavily they are willing to be taxed for schools.

It appears to us that both boards have acted throughout this controversy as they sincerely believed the people who elected them would want them to act.

The entire proceeding has been conducted with dignity and without the interjection of personalities and extraneous issues into the controversy—something that has not been true in some other similar school budget disagreements elsewhere in the state.

Controversy is inherent in the nature of the matter and we by no means think the events of the past few weeks will end disagreements in this county on school appropriations. We do feel, however, that the public interest has been served by the whole affair and that because of it, the matter of school financing in the future will be carried on with greater understanding, both on the part of the two boards and the public.

**PTA And Segregation**

The Group Relations committee of the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers, meeting recently, went on record with the statement that the segregation decision of the Supreme Court is in harmony with the objects and policy of the State and National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

The policies of these organizations, it was pointed out, have always paramounted the welfare of all children.

Regardless of whether or not there is agreement with the findings of this committee, there is no doubt that organizations of parents and teachers, in both white and Negro communities, will play a key part in making whatever adjustments will be necessary after it is known how the Court decision is to be implemented.

The welfare of all children—white and Negro—is certainly the goal in whatever actions may be taken as the Court decision is applied at the community level.

Those who oppose breaking down the segregation barrier in the schools cite welfare of the children as one reason for opposing integration. Both groups, these observers say, would be made less tolerant, more unhappy by the conflicts which are assumed to be inevitable in such a situation.

Yet it was the welfare of children that was cited in the wording of the Supreme Court decision itself:

"To separate them from others of similar age and qualifications solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone."

Some time ago, The Pilot suggested that

school integration begin, if it must begin, with younger children in whom a pattern of racial antagonism has not become established. With them, we don't think that conflicts would be inevitable. Indeed, we are much less pessimistic than some observers about conflicts on all age levels.

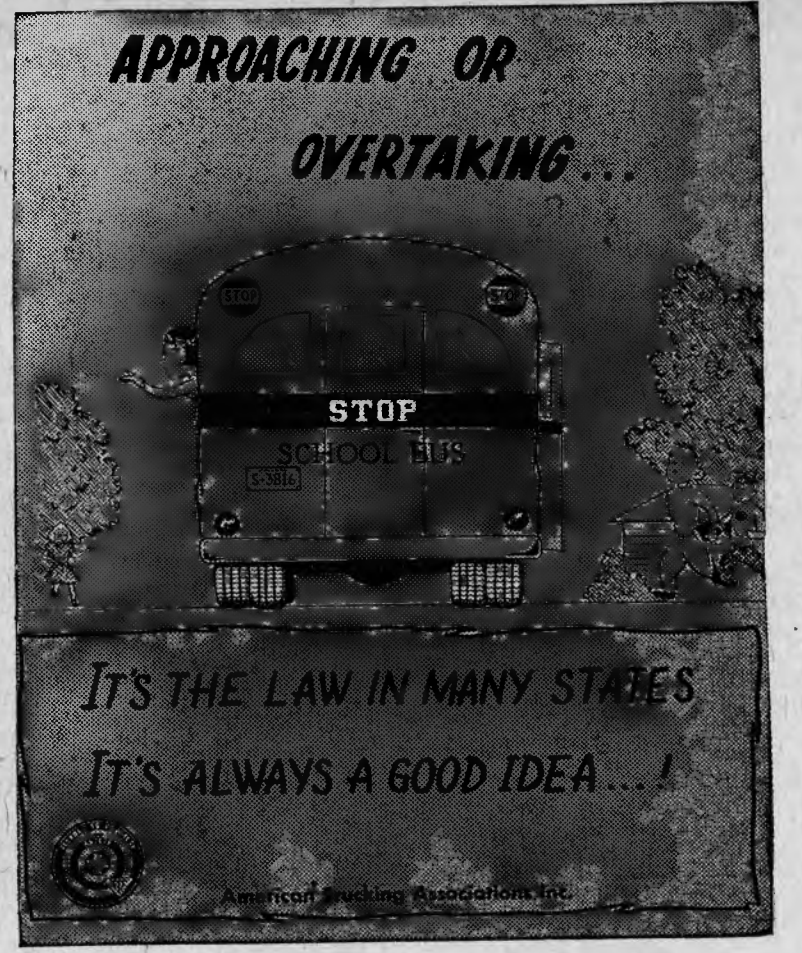
Organizations of parents and teachers now have—in this waiting period before implementation of the decision becomes a matter of local action—a golden opportunity to examine conscientiously the grave responsibilities that may be thrust upon them—always with the goal of the children's welfare in mind.

It would be wise now for white and Negro parents and teachers to meet and exchange thoughts on this subject, so that there will be a background of mutual understanding, should they be required in the future to help make integration work.

**Fine Community Effort**

The campaign to raise funds for lighting the high school athletic field has been successful and the contributions of local organizations and individuals, some extraordinarily generous, will enable the project to be completed in time for use this Fall.

The current drive is a credit to the many persons who have worked on it. The effort has involved more persons and harder work by more persons than any civic project that has been put over here in years. It is a credit, too, to the Chamber of Commerce which has coordinated these efforts and with which the lights campaign was a major project.



**The Public Speaking**

**Ridicule Poor Substitute**

To the Editor:

I have read the series of letters from Capt. McDaniel, published in the Pilot, leveling certain charges against the town administration. Regarding the merits of these charges I am not informed, but I assume that the whole matter could be satisfactorily explained by a forthright statement of facts by the Mayor.

The rash of anonymous letters in rebuttal, all appearing to have a common origin, may have some merit as curios but contribute just nothing towards public enlightenment.

Ridicule is a poor substitute for argument and might well prove to be a two edged sword. This correspondent has been favorably impressed with the accomplishments of our present town administration.

E. W. BUSH, D. O.  
Southern Pines

**Anonymous Letters**

To the Editor:

The other day I read a "quip" in one of the Greensboro papers. It said—"People can be placed in three classes; the few who make things happen; the many who watch things happen; and the overwhelming majority who have no idea what has happened."

In regard to the McDaniel letters in The Public Speaking, must confess that I am classed with the overwhelming majority, I do not know what they are talking about.

Do know at least two things—to wit—one: that Southern Pines is one of the finest places on earth in which to live—two: that the people of Southern Pines are good neighbors and I love them all.

Might add an observation: note that Mr. McDaniel signs his letters and the public know who has been the writer; for this courage and forthrightness, one cannot help but admire Mr. McDaniel.

Anonymous letters seldom throw any light on any subject matter. They seldom do the writer any good and do very little harm to those to whom they are directed.

Yours anonymously,  
CALVIN H. BURKHEAD  
Southern Pines

(Ed. Note: The Pilot does not publish letters whose writers are unknown to the editor, although letter writers may request that their names be withheld when the letter is printed. We agree, however, that a letter is far more effective when the writer allows his name to be used.)

**More About Golfcrest**

To the Editor:

The following is an open letter, the fifth of a series, to the Hon. Lloyd T. Clark, Mayor of Southern Pines, North Carolina.

Mr. Mayor: The following is my understanding about the so-called Golf Crest, Phillips, or dead-horse deal. (1) The minutes of the Town Commissioners meeting of September 12, 1951, do not reveal anything about any agreement with Mr. Phillips; in fact nothing is recorded in these minutes pertaining to any such agreement. What is stated in these minutes reads as follows:

"The Clerk read a letter from Resort Investment Co. advising that the cost of 6" water main complete with hydrants and valves into Golf

Crest, the residential development, totaled \$2,838.42. Mr. Phillips, head of the company, advised that he was filing the cost of same with the Board of Commissioners in order that we might know the cost of the project in the event that there was a future extension of the City Limits."

(2) It is believed, Mr. Mayor, that you must have known all about the above. In view of this, how could you consent, and throw away \$2,433.59 of our public funds? This contrary to public policy, the advice of our City Manager, our Town Attorney, and also that of a well informed councilman. Evidently all this sound advice you completely ignored. In addition you forgot your sworn duty to protect the interests of the tax-payers. To cap all this, the so-called agreement is registered as having cost the taxpayers "One Dollar (\$1.00) and other considerations."

Never before have I seen a greater manifestation of incompetence, favoritism, lack of leadership or anything else one may term it, than was apparent in this so-called Golf Crest (or dead-horse) deal.

The foregoing is another reason why you should resign as Mayor, immediately.

A. R. McDANIEL  
Southern Pines

**Schools, Highways**

To the Editor:

The Pilot in one of its issues spoke of "short-changing children" in their educational opportunities. There are other ways of "short-changing children" than by withholding county funds.

One way is wasting funds. How much money has already been wasted by local school boards and no doubt will be? Every dollar wasted is equivalent to a dollar withheld.

How many of us—taxpayers and parents—are aware of whether there have been preferential contracts for architects, buildings or equipment, where personal or political influence determines who gets the contract and who pads the contract?

Are we all alert to another source of waste: buildings so poorly built or planned, at a high cost, that they have to be condemned in a short time?

There is another even more serious type of waste that "short-changes children". We might cover it by calling it waste of time. This may be due to poor teaching which may result from a low salary schedule; also too large classes, too many classes in a room or too heavy a schedule; or a poor course of study—not necessarily an old-fashioned course, quite possibly a new-fashioned course.

Could we not offer our children everywhere, including our own town, much better educational opportunities, without raising taxes one cent, if we would face this fact? The majority of us think it more important to spend tax money for other things than education—for example, for super-highways than for super-education.

An editorial in The Pilot states what is, unfortunately, true, that the Highway 1 project is in keeping with the modern trend.

A news item gives the construction price for six miles of road as \$234,505.70, plus \$13,650 for moving buildings off the right of way. Multiply this by 10 for 60 miles and again by 10. Suppose we used this for education

opportunities?

With the choice of six routes to Florida, is it of prime importance to re-route one of them? Do we just swing along with the times and O. K. it without thinking? Is there nothing to be done about the mania for speed in getting from this place to that?

Our taxes pay for Federal, State and County highways—(I have no objection to local or rural road development). There is no rubbing of Aladdin's lamp. PESSIMISTIC

**Court Not Infallible**

To the Editor:

No loyal American would wish to detract from the respect due the Supreme Court of the United States nor weaken the influence which this Court has built up in the years since it was established by our forefathers. In fact the spirit of law and order in our nation springs from the respect which we have for our courts. Our vaunted freedom is tied in with our high regard for our legal tribunals.

However, our highest Court in Washington is not infallible and there is no reason why free citizens should not discuss and debate its decisions. A contrary idea is often expressed when some one ventures to criticize the recent decision of the Supreme Court on the matter of racial segregation in public schools.

The claim to infallibility on the part of any group of men or of any human institution, is a myth. The effect of this claim on any organization that makes such a claim and on those who would support such, leads to a false loyalty and to servile adherence that are barriers to independent reasoning, clear thinking and the honest search after the truth. It is a form of idolatry which in the end breaks down a sincere respect for the Supreme Court.

Now we come to the decision of the present Court on the matter of racial segregation in public education and ask what does this decree signify as to the mind of the tribunal itself? There are some who charge that the members of the Court are lacking in judicial training and ability. There are others who charge that the members of the Court were motivated by political considerations. However this may be, this Court has only approved what all good Americans profess to stand for on the matter of racial equality and has added nothing to what is already stated in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution. The hesitation, aye failure, of the Court to implement its decision on segregation in public schools and to spell out the practical details so as to apply the new principle of integration to the task indicates their own frustration over the vital core of the problem and leaves the question just where it was when the Court took it up for adjudication.

One of the most serious faults of this recent action of the Supreme Court was its repudiation of the very fair and practical judgement of a former Court that approved the plan of separate but equal facilities for all races in public schools. The "equal but separate" decision was workable and was making progress toward a fair solution of this most difficult and complicated problem. Now the nation's judgment is in suspense and educational progress for both whites and Negroes in the field of secondary schools is close to a standstill. The "equal and separate" plan has worked

because it grew out of and was based on what has been found to be wise and fair by the people and was not a theory based on the ipse dixit of a group of nine men however good and intelligent they may be.

A study of the function and development of the authority of the United States Supreme Court leads to several logical and important conclusions, namely:

1. The authority of the Supreme Court was not a formal and cold legal delegation of power granted by the Federal Constitution but something that grew up by the wisdom of wise judges and the sensible approval and acceptance of good citizens—the trend always being more and more toward democratic processes and seldom toward autocratic rulings by a small group of justices.

II. While the Supreme Court in Washington is the highest legal tribunal in the nation, it like every other department of our Government, derives its authority from the people and the execution of its conclusions can be effective only through the consent of the governed. Instead of being a dictatorial body selected to rule it as an agency by which the people rule.

III. The unavoidable overlapping of duties and responsibilities of the three departments of the Federal Government should not lead to encroachments of one department over the field of another department. The never-ending problem of rival authority between the centralized Federal power and diversified states rights must always be provided for and jealously guarded. This is a fundamental provision of the Constitution which must never be forgotten if we would be truly Americans in our ideals and practice.

The conclusion then of the whole matter is that the United States Supreme Court's great responsibility is not to tell the nation and the people what they ought to think and do but to find out what the people think and then interpret our laws and institutions and Constitution in the light of their knowledge.

If this were done, then Lord Bryce's tribute to John Marshall could be applied to the Supreme Court in every succeeding generation. In "The American Commonwealth" he expressed this estimate of the work of John Marshall: "The Constitution seemed not so much to rise under his hands to its full stature as to be gradually unveiled by him till it stood revealed in the harmonious perfection of form in which its designers had framed it."

FRANCIS M. OSBORNE  
Pinehurst, N. C.

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