

# THE PILOT

Southern Pines

North Carolina

"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. Wherever 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.

## "Ah, Yes, It's A Shame Kennedy Has Chosen The Low Road In Politics!"



## Grains of Sand

### Worried

There were only three items, one of which was confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting, on the docket of the town council's meeting Tuesday night.

When the meeting hour of 8 o'clock arrived, all the council members, Town Manager Louis Scheipers, Jr., Town Attorney Lamont Brown, Tax Collector Bud Rainey and Mrs. Ray McDonald, clerk, were in their places and two reporters were at the press table—but not a single chair in the "audience" section of the meeting room was occupied.

This reporter, who regularly covers council meetings, does not remember when ALL the chairs were unoccupied.

Looking at the rows of shining, neatly spaced metal chairs, with ash trays arranged considerably on every few chairs, clear to the back of the room, Mayor Bob Ewing remarked:

"You know, gentlemen, this worries me. Either everything is running so smoothly that people don't feel they need to come check up on us, or the public just doesn't care whether we're meeting or not."

### Record

The meeting went off in record time—29 minutes after the mayor banged his gavel promptly at 8, the motion for adjournment came. One other item of business, not on the docket had been brought up by the town manager and discussed and another item was introduced by a councilman.

Still it was all over in 29 minutes.

### Non-Partisan

The politically non-partisan nature of the town council maintained its equilibrium despite a discussion that could have brought some bristling.

As most people know, two of the members of the council are avid Republicans—Mayor Ewing and Harry Pethick, both of whom have been or are prominent in county and state party affairs. Councilman John Ruggles is one of the town's most ardent Democrats, active in politics for many years. Councilman Jimmy Hobbs is a Democrat. The political affiliation of Councilman Felton Capel is not known at the moment of writing, but Town Attorney Lamont Brown, who sits behind the big bench with the council members is chairman of the Moore County Democratic Executive Committee.

When Mayor Ewing, at the end of the council, asked if any of the council, the attorney or the manager had any matter to bring up, Mr. Brown said, "I'd like to report on the big Democratic rally which I attended in Raleigh today, but I don't think this is the appropriate place. Besides, if I did, Harry Pethick might ask for equal time."

Mr. Brown did go on to tell one story about the rally—an incident, he said, about which some of his listeners may have heard on TV Tuesday night.

He said that when Terry Sanford, Democratic gubernatorial nominee, was speaking, a donkey in a trailer—on hand for the State Fair Arena occasion as the symbol of the party—let out a tremendous bray just at the moment Sanford was referring to his opponents in the primary earlier this year.

Mr. Brown said that a group from Moore County was standing just a few feet from the donkey, but looking in another direction when this happened, and that they all were badly startled.

"It sounded just about like that fire horn they have in Pinehurst," the attorney related. "That donkey really raised the roof."

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## Poor Time to Slap at Educators

As this is written early this week, a disagreement between the county commissioners and the county board of education, as to how certain funds budgeted for school use are to be spent, was to come before Clerk of Court Carlton Kennedy for arbitration at a session this (Thursday) morning.

The procedure of arbitration before the clerk of court is one written into school law to apply when the two boards are unalterably opposed on school money allotments in a budget made up by the commissioners, either as a whole or as to certain items in the budget.

Today's proceeding was the second time within the past decade that a school money dispute between the two bodies has gone to the clerk of court, but there is a big difference in the issues on the two occasions.

The disagreement several years ago was in the capital outlay budget and involved the total amount of money as well as the need for certain school projects. The current controversy is not over the total amount of money but only as to how money is to be spent. And the funds affected are on the current expense side of the budget, to be used not for construction or remodeling of buildings but for salary increases of schools superintendent, guidance director and clerical help and for one entirely new item, the salary for a trained librarian to work with all the county schools.

Throughout this controversy, the board of education has contended—and rightly, it seems to us—that it should have the privilege of saying where the funds allotted to it by the commissioners should be spent—a principle that has, indeed, been followed for 10 years or more, at least on the current expense side of the budget.

The insistence of the commissioners that the \$9,900 dollars in question not be taken from building maintenance funds and put into the four projects outlined would seem to indicate a peculiar animosity by the board toward these particular proposed expenditures.

This became more apparent as, during negotiations with the commissioners, the board of education, in an attempt to compromise the disagreement, withdrew its request for a librarian's salary (\$6,000—the largest item in the \$9,900) and asked only for enough to cover the salary increases, also cutting in half its requested increase for clerical help. But the commissioners, making a counter-proposal, would then allow only enough for salary increases for clerical help and guidance director (the latter a small item of \$185 per year). It then became apparent that the main object of the commissioners was to block a salary increase for Superintendent Lee.

The commissioners had been told on several occasions by members of the board of education that Mr. Lee had taken a cut of more than \$2,000 in compensation to leave his post as principal in Aberdeen to become county superintendent a year ago. It had been explained that he had been given to understand that the board of education would try to bring his compensation as superintendent at least up to the Aberdeen level. Board of education members also pointed out that Mr. Lee, by his efficient service as superintendent, had saved the county far more money than the increase asked for his salary. Figures were presented to the board to show that many superintendents in counties with fewer teachers were paid as much or more than Mr. Lee.

Why, then, did the commissioners go to the last ditch in refusing to respond to this apparently reasonable request? We don't know, although speculation is widespread that political animosities played a part in their attitude.

We think the commissioners owe an explanation to the board of education, Mr. Lee and the public. The public can draw no other inference now but that the commissioners are using their power over the purse strings in a very petty and highhanded manner.

With public concern about education at a record high, in Moore County and everywhere, it seems especially shortsighted of the commissioners to single out as a target the one

man, Supt. Lee, who has done more than any other to hoist sails and pilot the county school system out of the doldrums.

If this is to be the attitude of the commissioners on attempts to improve the schools of Moore County, we predict repercussions by the public.

Never has it been so obvious that the people of Moore County are determined to have better schools. Never has there been a poorer time for the commissioners arbitrarily to slap down the men who are leading that drive—the county board of education and Supt. Lee.

## Casualness or Neglect?

In the course of the school budget controversy outlined in an adjoining editorial, an extraordinary lack of accepted procedure was shown by the county commissioners.

Having scheduled a joint meeting with the board of education at 2 p. m. Monday—it was actually an adjourned session of the previous Monday's meeting—the commissioners made their appearance at the meeting room 55 minutes after the appointed hour, during which time the board of education and press representatives sat waiting for them, with no explanation for the delay.

It then developed that the commissioners had scheduled a hearing with the county airport committee at the same hour as that designated for the board of education. Members of that committee were kept waiting in a separate room and finally were sandwiched into the board of education meeting during an adjournment asked by the board to discuss and revise their proposals.

During the previous week's meeting of the two boards—at a regular first Monday meeting of the commissioners—an observer could not help but note a casualness amounting to discourtesy and neglect on the part of some members of the board of commissioners who left the room several times while the board of education was making its requests, on one occasion holding up proceedings until a commissioner could be found and called back into the room to hear an important point being made by a board of education spokesman.

The casualness of commissioners' meetings has always been a rather delightful feature of first Mondays, with citizens coming in and out, being greeted and a welcome extended to all, and with the business of the day transacted in a deliberate manner that is preferable to a cold and machine-like approach. When, however, the casualness is carried to such an extreme that members of the board can't remain in the room during a vitally important discussion of school matters, this approach is being carried too far.

At this same meeting with the board of education the week before, it developed that the commissioners had met in a special session the previous week, without the clerk of the board present, and had adopted the entire county budget. No entry of the meeting or the action was made on the minute book and, during the intervening week, the board of education was not informed that the budget had been adopted and was given no answer on budget requests it had made to the commissioners previously.

Board of education members came into the meeting last week, therefore, thinking the budget had not yet been adopted, since they had been checking the minute books and had found no notation of the special meeting. It was only during the meeting that they found they were dealing with a different situation than they thought, necessitating different action on their part.

A general tightening of procedure and compliance with accepted methods of conducting meetings and recording their business is in order by the county commissioners.

## 25 Years of Social Security

The Pilot is pleased to pay tribute to the Social Security system of the nation which marks its 25th anniversary on August 14, the date in 1935 when President Roosevelt signed into law the Social Security Act.

Looking back, it seems hardly possible that a program which created so much discussion at the time it was established—it was bitterly opposed by conservative members of the Congress and by business interests generally—could in 25 years become such an accepted part of our way of life.

Since 1935, the Social Security program has gone a long way toward realizing the goal set for it in the beginning—to provide basic protection for the families of the nation against risks that few can meet wholly by their own efforts: the loss or lack of income when the family breadwinner is out of a job, is old or has to quit work because of a disability, or dies, leaving others dependent on him for support.

This program, branded as socialism and communism by its opponents when it was adopted, not only is helping families to avert untold

misery and anxiety, but it has drastically reduced the welfare load. Huge amounts of the money paid into the system by employers and employees are now being paid out, helping strengthen the business economy of the nation everywhere.

In Moore County last year, for instance, Social Security payments amounted to \$1,596,024, and have averaged more than \$1 million for the past five years.

By extending the range and type of Social Security benefits since 1935, Congress has met the challenges of a world in which there are far greater numbers of old people who otherwise could not be satisfactorily cared for through family or charitable means.

The nation must stay alert to the changing and expanding needs that can be met through Social Security—such as the proposal to extend the program to cover medical needs of the aged. This proposal, as was the original act, is now being called socialism, yet, if it is adopted, we expect that in another 25 years it will be universally hailed, as the original Social Security Act is today, as a major step forward by the people of the United States.

## New Images for Republicans

(By E.A.R. in The Chatham News)

The reruns of the Western on TV will look mighty appealing now that the polished, suave, beautifully planned, contrived, appealing, dignified, decorous, minus Joe Smith GOP convention is over.

I learned quite a bit from the hours spent in watching the second of our great political conventions.

I learned, for instance, that the past seven-and-one-half years have not been the Eisenhower administration. They have been the Eisenhower-Nixon administration although I have never heard, for instance, Truman's regime referred to as the Truman-Barkley administration. Nor was it the Roosevelt-Garner administration or the Roosevelt-Wallace, etc., etc. You get what I mean.

This latest designation puts the fatherly image of outgoing President Eisenhower into the campaign of Mr. Nixon although it is

apparent even to the amateur that Mr. Nixon has gone out on his own.

Nixon, too, has a new "image"—he is suave, easy-going, confident-looking. You don't get the idea, looking at him now, that he is the same free-swinging politico of 1952 and 1956.

Mr. Nixon gained stature, I believe, by the manner in which he "encompassed" Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York. Some of the arch-conservatives in the GOP are yelling sellout, but this I doubt. Nixon realized that he needed Rockefeller and did was necessary to bring him into his (Nixon's) camp.

A good many of the political commentators have become enamored of a phrase which, I believe, Adlai Stevenson made use of in earlier campaigns in reference to the Republican Party. The current crop of writers haven't seen fit to give him credit for coining it. Repeatedly I have read

"Nixon dragged the Republican Party, kicking and screaming, into the twentieth century."

I doubt that there was really much "kicking and screaming" involved. The conservatives simply were outnumbered or you can bet your bottom dollar that they would have mounted an offensive.

By the time September 1 rolls around the nice-nellie gestures will be in the background and we'll have the wildest slugging match in the history of American politics. Unless, that is, there is some sort of incident that unites us.

Soviet Russia's Mr. Khrushchev is going to be a target of both candidates. He's going to get a lot of tough talk hurled at him although I'm inclined to agree with Mr. Stevenson that talking tough is really not an issue. What is really involved, Mr. Stevenson says, is who can marshal the resources in our country for meeting the Communist challenge.

## Education 'More Frightening' Than Missiles

By RICHARD L. STROUT in The Christian Science Monitor

One of the big questions of the day is whether, and how far, the government should intervene in private enterprise and the free economy to maintain competition with Soviet Russia. A case in point is education.

Congress left Washington without passing an education bill and will take it up again in August. How far should Washington increase taxes, if at all, to improve American schools? The question can hardly be asked without glancing at the Soviets.

According to Nicholas DeWitt of the Russian research center at Harvard, the Soviets spent seven per cent of their gross National product on education, or twice the percentage of the United States. The result is that the actual amount spent by the two nations is about the same. Mr. DeWitt says, "A country which is less than half as rich as we spend as much on education as we do."

Mr. DeWitt's comments are contained in two articles, the current issues of the "Harvard Educational Review," and of "School and Society."

Last fall the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Allen W. Dulles, told Congress that the Soviets are diverting their limited but expanding produce into heavy industry and defense manufacture with a result that they are producing about as much as the United States in these fields. What Mr. DeWitt now says is that the Soviets are doing the same thing in education, in the fields of mathematics, natural Science, engineering, and teacher training. In each case the Soviets are financially aided by an economic growth rate about twice that of America.

Here are Mr. DeWitt's figures on engineer graduates. The Soviets now have a reserve

manpower of professional engineer graduates of 974,000, or one-third larger than the United States. The Soviets have a projected annual increase of 125,000 in the next five years. This would be 300 per cent larger than the United States.

Mr. DeWitt offers similar comparisons in the health and medical fields—the Soviets are one-fourth larger at present, with annual increment set at 400 per cent larger than America's.

On the other hand, the United States is graduating twice as many from its colleges as the Soviets, Mr. DeWitt finds, and three

times as many in the cultural and socioeconomic fields.

How reliable are the Soviet statistics?

In testimony to Congress Mr. Dulles warned against Soviet exaggeration and boasting. Yet after due allowance he declared that best information places the Soviet economic growth at about twice America's. In the practical field of results, of course, the Soviet's launching of the Sputniks was an impressive feat and their payloads are still to be equaled by the United States.

Dr. Alvin C. Eurich, vice president and director of the Ford Foundation for the Advancement of Education, stressed the high pay and distinction accorded Soviet teachers in an article published in "Harvard Today," February, 1958. Dr. Eurich traveled extensively in Russia. He found rigorous scholastic standards and the development of a scientific elite.

During the 9th and 10th grades (ages 16 and 17), Dr. Eurich reported, the predicated schedule for students was a "12-hour day, six days a week, for 10 months of the year."

Soviet respect for professors is expressed in salaries, Dr. Eurich reported. In the top category of "academicians" the teacher starts with a base pay of 5,500 rubles a month for life, plus other advantages bringing a total annual income "in the range of \$35,000 to \$50,000 at the official rate of exchange." In addition he gets concessions on rent and taxes, free medical expenses, and free education for his children up to and through the university. His social position is high.

Dr. Eurich commented: "To me the accomplishments in the field of education which Russia has made in a relatively short time are much more frightening than announcements that come from Russia concerning atomic or hydrogen bombs or guided missiles."

## UNEVEN BLESSINGS

"The family which takes its mauve and cerise, air-conditioned, power-steered, and power-braked automobile out for a tour passes through cities that are badly paved, made hideous by litter, blighted buildings, billboards and posts for wires that should long since have been put underground . . . They picnic on exquisitely packaged food from a portable icebox by a polluted stream and go on to spend the night at a park which is a menace to public health and morals. Just before dozing off on an air mattress, beneath a nylon tent, amid the stench of decaying refuse, they may reflect vaguely on the curious unevenness of their blessings. Is this indeed, the American genius?"

—From "The Affluent Society," the book by J. Kenneth Galbraith, the Harvard professor who is one of Presidential Candidate John Kennedy's chief advisers.