

Bond Issue is Not Only Way, Nor Best Way to Get Schools

By HARRY H. MIZELLE
Newport, N. C.

What we want to discuss is a home — which we'll call Carteret County — that houses our citizens and nourishes their children for a better and more productive future through the one essential means we have today: education.

All of us have heard the recent plan formulated by the Citizens' Committee for Better Schools, working with complete approval of the County Board of Education, for obtaining our desired through a bonded indebtedness of \$2,500,000.

There are a large number of us in this county who are greatly concerned with our home — Carteret County — as to its ability to provide current needs, future needs, and projected long-term needs in nourishing our children in this basic essential of the modern age: improvement of body and mind as a salable item for occupational and personal needs.

Now let's discuss the facts concerning the case for education in Carteret County as it presents itself. First, to all those proponents of plans for obtaining better education, let's end once and for all the idea that we have to sell our citizenry on the need for better school buildings.

There may be a few who don't care whether anyone goes to school, but in this day and age no intelligent, clear-thinking adult can close the door on the employment requirements for their children as future sellers of their abilities, on the industrial and community market of human needs.

Second, another idea that is being forwarded by the Citizens' Committee I would like to try to end once and for all: the idea that there is only one way to handle this problem.

That assumption is not only poor planning but an admission that we are dealing in the present with no forethought for tomorrow and not even a thimbleful of consideration for projected long-term needs.

Now let's bite into the crust of the matter, which is how to finance our school building program and where to locate our school plants. The most important is how to finance.

There are three programs, currently possible, for achieving the ultimate objective for our school building and improvement program (new buildings, renovation of old buildings, landscaping of school grounds, proper equipment for science departments, home economics departments, agriculture departments, commercial departments, visual aids, etc.)

• First, a school bond issue bringing us \$2,500,000 immediately, necessitating an estimated tax rate of \$1.70 outlined and explained below.

• Second, a bond refinance program increasing our present interest rate from 2 1/2 per cent to 3 per cent or more, requiring the board of commissioners to spread the retirement of our bonded indebtedness over a period of 10 years or more, thus releasing moneys allocated currently for debt retirement to be used for school purposes.

This would necessitate an estimated tax rate of \$1.60 for each hundred dollars valuation, as outlined and explained below.

• Third, a courageous, bold and thoughtful approach to the school question by thinking taxpayers: that of tightening our belts and increasing our current taxes at the beginning of the 1959 tax year to \$1.85 per hundred dollars valuation (outlined and explained below) which would pay our current debt off in two years while allowing us to plan a well thought out and detailed program of school improvement and building — on a paying basis!

This would result in a tax reduction at the end of a definite period (outlined and explained below) to an estimated 90 cents per hundred dollars valuation.

(All figures concerning the present tax structure included in these proposals are based on the fact that Carteret County has an assessed value of \$40,000,000. They come from the office of the county auditor.)

Regarding the first plan as outlined above, that of a bond issue, let us discuss some of the points of interest that should be considered by every homeowner, part-time resident, businessman, and industrialist.

Tax Structure
A. Current rate and use:
Debt service..... .65
School—construction, maintenance, improvement..... .20
Other county services..... .50
Total current rate.....1.35
B. Required new estimated rate, with \$2,500,000 bond issue, over a 30-year period:
Debt service..... .75
School—construction, maintenance, improvement..... .30
Other county services..... .65
Total current rate.....1.70

Let's discuss now the plan of bonding our county and its subsequent tax rate of \$1.70 per \$100

and what it means to each taxpayer. Our current indebtedness in Carteret County, as of Nov. 1, is \$870,000, and as estimated by the county auditor's office will be \$800,000 at the end of the fiscal year 1958-1959.

We are currently paying about \$175,000 annually to retire this debt, plus interest at 2 1/2 per cent or \$20,000 annually. Continuing the present rate of retirement, at the present tax rate, this debt will be paid off in 1963.

How does this affect all three above proposals? First, under the \$2,500,000 bond program, the state now requires Carteret County, with its outstanding debt of \$800,000 to refinance its bond program upon request for a new bond issue.

This means we will have to borrow and refinance to a total of \$3,300,000 at an interest rate of not less than 5 per cent, maybe more, which will be necessary if the school building program of the Citizens' Committee is carried out.

Before the Board of Education can let a contract for construction, it is a state requirement to have the money in hand. At 5 per cent interest, \$165,000 will be paid annually to bond holders, largely outside Carteret County, a tremendous sum of money to be spent for interest.

This is \$85,000 more than the total amount of money, \$80,000, levied against property for the use of the schools in the year 1958-1959. All this information was sought as a result of the fact that the Citizens' Committee and the Board of Education have announced their intention to begin the proposed building program simultaneously, therefore must borrow all the money at one time.

The executive secretary of the Local Government Commission has stated that he believes it inadvisable to sell all these bonds at one time; and that if they are offered as one large group and rejected, the interest rate on any smaller offering would be jeopardized.

Have these planners, even with \$2,500,000 in hand, assured us that we will have high school plants in all communities, constructed and well-equipped, with athletic facilities—consisting of gymnasiums, baseball fields, football stadiums, with the necessary additional school buses?

The Citizens' Committee has not furnished us with: definite sites, blueprints, specifications, estimates of costs of construction, and equipment and facilities required to meet state requirements for accreditation standards, for either the new buildings or for renovation of existing ones to bring them up from the substandard conditions now existing in them.

We must insist that our younger children in the old buildings not suffer for the comfort of their older brothers and sisters in the high schools.

Most of the people in Carteret County have already expressed the continuous desire for high schools in their own community, furthering not only commercial growth, but improvement of the close relationship between school, teachers, pupils and parents — an element so necessary for the proper development of each student.

With \$2,500,000 in hand, they have assured us only of two tremendous plants, one of which will house for future and long-term needs 1,500 students in western Carteret.

Certainly, any reasonable person can see that this might lead to undesirable conditions such as:

1. Parents failing to take part in school programs because of the distance to the school.
2. Disciplinary problems due to lack of close relationship between teachers and parent.
3. Boredom on part of teachers due to lack of a versatile teaching

program, that is, teaching the same course day in and day out.

4. Transportation problem that be either costly or undesirable.

Under item 4 the cost side of the program: additional buses would be bought to carry students from the Beaufort and Morehead City areas to the large central schools.

I have been told that the county would have to purchase about 15 new buses. Think what those buses will cost.

The other proposed plan for transportation, as explained to me by a responsible individual involved in a consolidation plan, is that the current buses owned by the county with the addition of a few more would be used on a pool basis.

These buses would first pick up and carry all children, elementary and high school, to one central point in their area, such as the elementary school, then would reload and the high school students would proceed to a loading platform where they would be regrouped and sent to the central high schools.

In the afternoon the little children would have to wait a considerable time for their high school brothers and sisters to be brought back to this central point where everyone would be reloaded and sent home.

Parents, do you want this situation with your children — or the high cost for approximately 15 new buses and their maintenance?

The second plan referred to above:

| Tax Structure | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Debt service..... | .30 |
| School building and improvement..... | .35 |
| School maintenance..... | .30 |
| Other county services..... | .65 |
| Tax rate 1958-1976..... | 1.60 |

Discussion concerning this proposed plan indicates immediately that only \$140,000 annually could be channeled from the tax levy toward our total school program, above and beyond its current needs.

This means that about five years would be required to accumulate money enough to begin the first necessary school plant at Morehead City. Needless to say, this will take too long and we cannot wait, because our schools are bulging at the seams already.

Taxpayers in the county can look forward to a long period in which taxes are levied at this rate or higher, if this plan is adopted.

The third plan, and the plan I think the people of Carteret County should adopt, calls for a courageous, bold, and thoughtful approach to the school problem by thinking taxpayers — that of tightening our belts and increasing our current taxes at the beginning of the 1959 tax year:

| Tax structure, for eight-year period: | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Debt service..... | 1.00 |
| School maintenance..... | .20 |
| Other county services..... | .65 |
| Tax rate, 1959-1966..... | 1.85 |

Discussion of this plan brings immediate howls of anguish from every taxpayer. Analyzing this rate, however, indicates that the \$1.00 per \$100 levy for debt service will retire our current indebtedness in two years.

This will allow a transfer of money after the two-year period from debt service retirement to a school building and improvement program, and if continued for six more years at the same rate will furnish a total of \$2,400,000, a sum greater by \$75,000 than the amount requested by Mr. Joslyn and the board of education for the 11-point program as published in the Carteret County News-Times Oct. 10, 1958 and outlined as follows:

Eleven-point program:

| | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Morehead City — 750-pupil high school..... | \$ 750,000 |
| 2. Beaufort — 500-pupil high school..... | 500,000 |
| 3. Newport — new high school..... | 350,000 |
| 4. Smyrna — renovated auditorium and gym..... | 100,000 |
| 5. Camp Glenn — auditorium..... | 60,000 |
| 6. Atlantic — four classrooms and gym..... | 110,000 |
| 7. Harkers Island — auditorium..... | 60,000 |
| 8. W. S. King — shop, gym, classrooms..... | 105,000 |
| 9. Queen Street, four rooms and gym..... | 120,000 |
| 10. Stella — new school..... | 50,000 |
| 11. White Oak — new school..... | 120,000 |
| \$2,325,000 | |

The 11-point program was expected to cover a period from 1958 to 1968. Your attention is called to the fact that it can be achieved under the third financial plan during the period 1959 through 1968, two years earlier than Mr. Joslyn and the board of education plans called for.

At the end of this period, with the favorable conditions established by no debt service, no interest on debts, no necessity for major school improvement or building programs, Mr. Taxpayer can then breathe a sigh of relief. A new reasonable tax structure can be established as outlined below:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| School improvement fund..... | .10 |
| School maintenance..... | .20 |
| Other county services..... | .60 |
| \$.90 | |

Many of you with whom we have discussed this program have expressed doubts: first, what assurances have we that we will get a school in our locality, and second, that our tax rate will be lowered?

In answer to the first, I refer you to the board of education's 11-point program. In answer to the second, I propose that a committee, possibly the present Citizens' Committee for Better Schools, working with the Carteret County

How Swine Producers Can Up Their Profits

By R. M. WILLIAMS
County Farm Agent

Jack Kelley with the animal husbandry service, Raleigh, and Leo Martin, field representative of Swift Packing Co., Wilson, at a swine production meeting at the Beaufort courthouse Wednesday night told our swine producers that there was a strong demand and a good market for hog producers in this area.

The new Swift Packing Co. located at Wilson will serve all live-

stock producers and furnish a good cash market for both swine and beef cattle producers. Mr. Martin pointed out to the swine producers that his plant will need a lot of good quality beef cattle and meat type hogs. In developing a good swine program, Mr. Kelley offered these suggestions to swine producers who would like to do a good, efficient job:

- Select gilts and boars from located gilts.
- Separate breeding gilts from

News-Times, be furnished detailed auditor's reports for review. They could then make periodic reports to our citizens concerning our school improvement and building program, and most important of all, our tax rate.

A special thought is at this point directed to our business and industrial groups in the county. Think long and well over this proposal concerning our tax rate and how it affects you.

The first proposal calls for a tax rate over a 30-year period of \$1.70 per \$100. The second proposal is easier on the pocketbook, at \$1.60 per \$100, but extends over about a 17-year period, and the needs are more immediate; five years would be required to begin the first building under this plan.

The third plan calling for a tax rate of \$1.85 per \$100 will continue for only an eight-year period, followed by immediate and continued tax relief.

Throughout the United States at present — not just in Carteret County — there is an educational emergency. In times of emergency, state and federal governments come to the aid of local governments, usually on a prescribed ratio of matching funds.

It is expected that bills will be introduced in both the state legislature and Congress in the coming sessions regarding this problem.

If Carteret County shows a favorable financial situation, not burdened with a bonded indebtedness of \$3,300,000, we will be able to participate in any such program, with a possible reduction from eight years of high taxes to a shorter period.

Walter S. Morris, in his report

fattening hogs, if possible, at 150 lbs.

- Breed gilts at not less than 225 lbs. and eight months of age.
- Keep bred gilts and sow gaining in weight. (At least 75 lb. from time of breeding until farrowing.)
- Feed bred sows in dry lot 1 lb. of protein supplement per day and if on pasture, 1/2 lb. from time of breeding until farrowing.
- Feed 1 1/2 lbs. of total feed per 100 lbs. of liveweight per day.
- Use a purebred boar from a certified litter.
- Breed sows twice during heat period.
- Breed sows for two litters per year.

In order for producers to save more pigs per litter you should not keep sows for more than three litters. It is important to record breeding dates and farrowing dates. Clean all surface dirt from sows before farrowing. Get sows accustomed to farrowing house 3 to 5 days before farrowing. Use pole type farrowing house.

The pole type farrowing house is becoming a popular type building among swine producers. One reason for this is the more economical cost of construction and the efficient use of this type of farrowing house where a large number of brood sows are kept on the farm.

A good number of our swine producers are following the multiple farrowing program. When this system is applied 1/4 of the sows are bred to farrow at a given time. The sow and litters are kept in the farrowing house for about eight weeks at which time they are sold for feeder pigs or moved

Plans for the pole type farrowing house are available at our office.

Reduce feed the day before farrowing. Withhold feed and supply plenty of clean water 12 to 14 hours after farrowing. Provide very little bedding at farrowing time. Use a pig brooder.

It is well to observe these conditions in order to grow more pigs. Keep pigs on pasture. Provide shade and clean water. Creep feed pigs. Castrate pigs three weeks of age. Vaccinate. Keep pigs free from lice and mange. Wean at 8 weeks of age. In growing out market hogs a good goal to follow is to market 8 or more pigs at 180 days that weigh 200 lb. or more each.

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