



The NEW BERN MIRROR

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At the tall end of last week's column we said that a copy of the Craven Operation Progress budget, which County Auditor Ben. O. Jones said he had requested, had not, when last we checked, been furnished the County.

This was our understanding when we talked with Mr. Jones, but he tells us he has received a copy of the budget. We have always regarded the County Auditor as a conscientious public servant. He has never failed to level with the press, so it's a pleasure to clear up this point.

Quite frequently, The Mirror receives press releases from Craven Operation Progress. Unfortunately for citizens of the County, none of the releases reaching our desk disclose who is getting paid how much for what at the inner sanctorium of COP on George Street.

Of course, Craven Operation Progress isn't a governmental agency, as we understand it, but a private non-governmental corporation. Ordinarily a corporation shouldn't be expected to expose its salaries and other expenditures to the public's prying eyes.

But in this instance without an opportunity to vote their approval or disapproval, citizens of the County have had thousands of dollars of their money placed at the disposal of the aforementioned corporation. It appears to us that these citizens have a right to be curious about the way this money is being used.

Why all the secrecy? Mr. Monte can clear up some of the unanswered questions once and for all by furnishing the press a list of the employees of Craven Operation Progress, and their present salaries. Rest assured you'll have access to this information in print, and on radio and television, if it is released to the news media.

In addition to salaries, it would be of interest to citizens helping to pay the bill if they could also become acquainted with the expense accounts, if any, of various employees and possible fringe benefits not specifically included in their salaries.

Meanwhile, Craven County's citizens are pondering Deputy Attorney General Harry McGalliard's ruling that the Rowan County Board of Commissioners could not give county funds to the Salisbury-Rowan Community Service Council.

McGalliard ruled against the allocation of funds of Rowan County for the anti-poverty program because the organization was a private, non-governmental corporation.

The Deputy Attorney General said the question in Rowan was one of "outright donations" and cities and counties have no statutory authority to make donations. Wake County officials, as a result decided to withhold county funds from the anti-poverty program in Wake, Wake County Opportunities, Inc.

Wake County has already appropriated \$3,682 so that the anti-poverty organization could receive Federal funds for operation of a central office. The Wake county commissioners allocated \$10,000 this year for use by the anti-poverty organi-

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YOU DON'T SAY—Susie Street, daughter of Billy and Priscilla, can hardly believe her ears when she listens to some choice conversation that is supposed to be over her head. Just because Susie is months and months away from her very first birthday candle is no reason to assume that she doesn't know what is going on. Females are just naturally curious, even before they graduate from the cradle, and Susie's expression proves it. Eunice Wray, whose delightful

photos of children often grace The Mirror's front page, snapped her camera at just the right moment, as usual. New Bern, we're firmly convinced, is the Stork's favorite town. How else can you explain the fact that the cutest kids in all the world are delivered here? Take another look at Susie, and you'll have a brighter slant on life and a deeper appreciation of babies all day long.