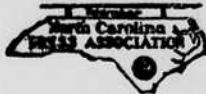


The  
**ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD**

Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina  
HALIFAX COUNTY'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER  
North Carolina's Only TABloid NEWSpaper



**CARROLL WILSON,** Owner and Editor

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**EDITORIAL**

**HOW BAD ARE CONDITIONS?**

Under "Letters From Our Readers" we print in this issue a letter in regard to crime conditions written by a citizen of Roanoke Rapids to this newspaper. On the back of the letter was written a note to the effect we could print the letter in case we agreed with the contents.

We print it not only because we do agree with the general contents but also because we are glad there are citizens here who are not satisfied with conditions which are prevalent.

We would not print it if we thought it was written in spite or prejudice; it is accepted in the spirit of helpful criticism with the desire that general conditions may be remedied.

There is no doubt but that there exists in Roanoke Rapids certain unwholesome spots which need cleaning up. We are not reformers, in any sense of the term, but when conditions unhealthy for the morals of the community are permitted to get out of hand, it is time to call a halt and indulge in an old-fashioned house-cleaning.

There has always been, probably always will be, vice spots and lawbreakers. Sensible officials know they cannot get rid of them completely. There is even much to be said in favor of the old segregated or "red-light" districts.

But when these sections are allowed to flourish uncontrolled or to spread their activities to other sections, there has always been an uprising on the part of decent citizens and the reformers have come into power for a short period.

Even those who patronize such places or consort with their inmates, pull up short when they realize that their children and families are being contaminated. One might deal with bootleggers, prostitutes or other law violators and yet revolt at these persons flaunting their professions on the Avenue.

Just how much our recent crime wave, spoken of in the letter, can be blamed on lax law enforcement is a matter of guess. We will say, however, that all blame cannot be placed there. Law abiding citizens must share that blame for if they sit by and permit such conditions to grow unchecked, starting a hue and cry only after it is too late, it is unfair to charge all to the officers. We usually get the kind of law enforcement we demand and when the general public grows apathetic about such things, it is natural for officers to do likewise. It is time to call a halt. Petty violations, tol-

Just Another Halloween

By Albert T. Reid



erated, develop into major crimes. Matters get worse until there is no clear line of separation between the "harmless" little violations and one of more serious nature. Habitual lawbreakers, ever a menace, become bolder and even defiant. Respect for others, their property, their lives, is lost.

There are certain decent standards every person and every community must have. When a community is under proper control, even lawbreakers respect those standards. They are forced to by public opinion.

When the time comes that children must be kept off the streets because it is dangerous, physically or morally; when our young people are thrown into constant contact after school hours with conditions which breed immorality and disrespect of law and order; when the women folks dare not walk the streets after dark for fear of being insulted; then the time is at hand for the action called for in the letter we print this week.

And such action will be forthcoming, for there are plenty of decent citizens in Roanoke Rapids, who, when aroused, can accomplish anything and mainly because they will be on the everlastingly right side of the battle.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY**

Certain phases of the National Recovery Administration's buying campaign merit careful consideration.

The President said in his statement of June 16, when he signed the Recovery Act, that the long-dormant buying power must be brought into line with increased cost or production. But he wisely withheld advice to the people as to when to start supplying their prudent needs until he was convinced that the many hundreds of thousands removed from the ranks of the unemployed were being continued in their jobs, thereby creating an absolutely new purchasing element in every community. These recuscitated citizens finally have been enabled to qualify as consumers.

And other hundreds of thousands were removed from part-time to full-time employment. Thousands of factories all over the land continued to acquire stocks of raw materials in July, August, and September in a manner which showed that the upturn was sustained by forward orders from wholesalers who, in their turn reflected what they at

last recognized as a genuine restoration of public confidence in their respective regions.

Banking and industrial statistics show that the reabsorption of 3,000,000 workers, based on minimum wages provided by NRA, which apply only to what is termed "common labor," of itself creates a buying power in this country of several billions per year. That impetus in trade, which did not exist 4 months ago, would push up prices, without considering the logical incentive of employers to cover their increased cost of operation.

Another salient feature of this campaign is its name, "Now is the time to buy." The people, upon whose intelligence the President depends for its success, should accept it and support it for what it is—a considerate and valuable reminder of our duty to ourselves and to each other.

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