

### School Buses and Home Agents

To the Editor:

I fully agree with one and all that the condition of school buses is a disgrace to any people, but salaries alone won't turn the trick. Good and capable bus drivers paid a decent salary are a crying need, but how far would the county's part of the Home Agents' salary go toward supplying this need?

Would it not mean as much or more if we mothers and homemakers learned how to do our work; budget our time and means, so that our children are well-fed and clothed, and time enough left over to spend training them in proper behavior patterns, so that private and public property is respected and properly preserved. Would that not mean the beginning of an ideal transportation arrangement?

Surely there are many wonderful homes in our good state, and many wonderful, good and wise people, but somewhere there is something wrong with cooks, or food, or habits, or something when a state so wealthy as ours stands at the bottom of the list

in health rating, and has the highest number of draftee rejections because of physical defects. Our homes may satisfy us and our husbands, but how do our percent of physical defects get this way—through lack of food? I doubt it. It is my guess it has a lack of knowledge of what foods to prepare and how to prepare them to retain food values.

I was in and out of the classroom from the age of five years to thirty, and I have learned more through the Home Demonstration Agent about foods, and how to maintain their food value than all the rest of my education combined, and our club is only a little better than two years old. I firmly believe that the amount of meat and corn canned alone after the Home Agent taught us how to can it so it would keep, has saved the county more in dollars and cents than the county has contributed to the Home Agents' salaries. Well do I know of families who have lost every jar of their entire meat and corn supply, until our Home Agents taught us how to can it so it would keep, and many families have called on me to can their corn and meat, since I learned

through the Home Agents how to keep it. Now that is only one item on the list of the many things we have been taught.

Would it not make anyone sore to hear our dear mountain people called "hicks", "mountain boomers", "hill-billies", and "seedy", or the town people laugh at the eccentricities of habits and dress of some of the rural people? Well, it does me. They pay taxes too, you know. They could be helped in their selection of colors and fabrics and patterns if they would accept our Home Agents' help. All these things the Home Agents' gladly do.

And who am I to question anyone's choice of a car? These Home Agents' like you or I, can buy any car they choose. Their cars are their own personal property, bought for and paid for by them. The allowance for gas is never enough to cover the amount they are expected to drive. It is, I know, a limited amount, and is paid for by the State, but their necessary driving is almost unlimited.

Yes, the government publishes pamphlets—a list of which is available and they can be had free, but how many people would know it, and how many would get them? Furthermore, how many would know how to use them? I have ordered many but I never read many of them because I didn't understand them or how to use them. Our Home Agents do not only read them to us, but then demonstrate the way recipes, color schemes, insect control, health and nutrition, should be carried out. And we have college graduates as anxious for these demonstrations as any of us. The Agents are given special training courses periodically by the State Extension Service so that they get the full value and meaning from these pamphlets and so many are able to put it across to we women.

The clubs' curb market netted nearly a thousand dollars in cash to its participants—only ten or twelve—and it operated only a few weeks. Money that otherwise would have been sent out of our county.

We are very anxious to have our men learn how to raise the best calves or sheep or hogs, but for our women to learn good home management and proper methods of feeding her family for health—oh, that's taxpayers' money wasted of course.

Money is a precious thing—at least much sought after; but is it the most precious thing? Does it always bring happiness, does it always impart health, does it

alone give contentment? Or is it the things money might buy, that when combined, bring some measure of the desired things of life.

Would we be better to hoard our money or spend it for better health and happier home life for our people? Bare statistics may not make interesting reading in most cases, but our state and nations rating in illiteracy and crime stand out for the world to see. Since everyone must admit crime increases with illiterate conditions—lack of education, if you please, from the cradle up, why would training for mothers not be considered an important phase of our educational system? To me it seems the most important!

MRS. DOCIA GREENE  
Deep Gap, N. C.

### Get Nitrogen Cheap From Soybean Crop

Soybeans, grown in rotation with tobacco on coarse sandy loam soils, have proved a satisfactory source of nitrogen for the tobacco.

Tests run by the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station, in which this was studied, have shown that the yield of tobacco following the soybeans averaged 1,404 pounds per acre for the seven-year period of the test. This tobacco had an average value of \$480.12 per acre, with an average price per 100 pounds of \$34.20. As the prices indicate, say tobacco research workers located at the Oxford Tobacco Branch Station who conducted the work, the quality of the leaf was superior, when grown following the soybeans.

In the rotation tested, oats followed the tobacco. After the oats were cut for hay, the soybeans were broadcast on the land. When the beans were mature, they were harvested for seed, and the remainder of the soybean plants were disked and plowed under in the fall. Rye followed the soybeans and was plowed under in the spring before the tobacco was set.

The fertilizer treatment used with this rotation ranged from 0-10-6 to 0-10-12 and 0-10-24, the research workers report. They point out that caution should be used in fertilizing the tobacco in this rotation because if the tobacco gets too much nitrogen the quality of the cured leaf is apt to be lowered.

New technique by three Chicago doctors saves "blue babies."

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