

PUBLIC WELFARE WORK COSTS LESS DESPITE INCREASE IN POPULATION

Cost In North Carolina Below U. S. Average

It is increasingly recognized that the most effective and most economical place in which to take care of a large proportion of our less advantaged citizens is in their own communities. Institutional care, State or county, should be necessary only for those cases which because of special mental or physical handicaps cannot receive adequate care in their own homes or in properly supervised boarding homes. The State has increasingly recognized its responsibility for the provision of financial assistance to needy citizens and for provision of other services that help to prevent or alleviate social and economic problems. Every effort should be made to strengthen those public welfare services which help to prevent or to reduce individual and family maladjustments and which help people to help themselves. Increasingly the public welfare program is directed toward preventive, protective, and rehabilitative services.

Due to a steadily increasing population, assistance case loads are rising slowly in terms of total numbers although the rates have been substantially stabilized. It is the exceedingly stringent eligibility requirements in North Carolina as compared with most other States that limit increases to such a relatively small number. At the same time there is increasing public awareness of child welfare needs and family adjustment problems which are resulting in a sharp increase in demands for non-financial welfare services. Public welfare programs must be geared, insofar as possible, to meeting the needs of citizens in every community for financial and other welfare services and to providing the great variety of essential welfare services requested by other State agencies in the conduct of their own programs.

The North Carolina welfare program has been operated on far less money proportionately than programs in comparable States. On every measure it ranks far below the United States average. While all possible economies have been effected, there is also the question as to whether or not the costs have now become disproportionately low. Increased services require increased funds.

In reviewing the present situation with respect to public welfare it is important to recognize that in spite of the State's growth in population and the increases in living costs, the public welfare program is costing less proportionately today than it did in 1938-39. In that year public welfare costs represented over five per cent of the general fund appropriations of this State. In 1952-53 public welfare allocations represented slightly more than three per cent of the general fund appropriations.

The public welfare program contributes in a number of ways to the economy of the State. By bringing back into the State through Federal matching program taxes paid by the citizens of the State, business is helped thereby. Money in circulation in many communities as a result of the public welfare program is a significant factor in the local economy. Money over the records on out-of-school children reports show that these children, as they become adults, are useful citizens of the State, supporting their families and paying their taxes. They also make a return to the State in the form of a contribution to the small amount invested in them as children. The emergency industry is interested in adequate welfare services in the community in which it is located. Information on welfare services is included in basic data furnished to companies investigating North Carolina locations. Moreover, since food, clothing, and shelter are basic essentials, these must be provided to people at least a minimum level in order for them to benefit from the other services rendered individuals by the State.

The people who have welfare needs best and who are in the best position to satisfy the effective needs of the present program are county officials. From year to year county commissioners have increased welfare appropriations. With an increasing number of children and an increasing number of aged, together with the increased emphasis upon helping individuals and families to help themselves, the problem is one of sufficient funds to maintain the same level of services as well as new funds to improve and expand needed services.

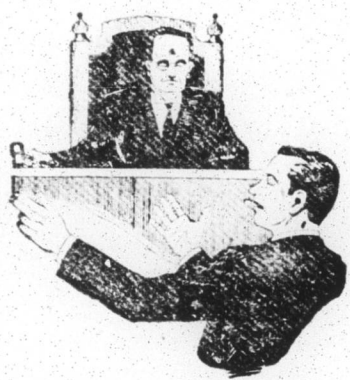
Matter of Direction
Judge—Jack's proposal was sudden it made me jump.
Mama—At it, of course!

Engagement Announced



MISS IRENE TAYLOR PECK
Mrs. Lewis B. Peck, Sr. of Shelby, N. C., announces the engagement of her daughter, Miss Irene Taylor Peck, to Robert Calhoun Jordan, Jr. son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Jordan of Elizabethtown, N. C., formerly of Edenton. The wedding will take place Monday, December 27. Miss Peck graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1951 with a degree in B.S.S.A. Mr. Jordan is a senior at the University of North Carolina Medical School.

This is the Law



By CHARLES W. DANIEL
(For the N. C. Bar Association)

DESEGREGATION IN SCHOOLS

Oral arguments on the Supreme Court's school desegregation decision are set to begin in Washington within the next few days.

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NOTICE! To Chowan County TAXPAYERS

The Tax Books for the year 1954 are now in my hands for the collection of taxes. We urge you to pay your taxes now and thus avoid the penalty which will begin on February 1.

A PENALTY OF 1% WILL BE ADDED ON 1954 TAXES NOT PAID BEFORE FEBRUARY 2. ANOTHER 1% WILL BE ADDED MARCH 2 AND AN ADDITIONAL 1/2 OF 1% WILL BE ADDED FOR EACH ADDITIONAL MONTH TAXES ARE UNPAID.

J. A. BUNCH
SHERIFF OF CHOWAN COUNTY

be known for some months yet. North Carolina will not suggest to the high Court a specific plan to be followed.

Florida, on the other hand, will make definite recommendations as to how the problem should be treated in the district courts. The Florida suggestion is that district courts use the following procedure in future school desegregation cases:

1. Require the individual seeking relief in the court to show— (a) That he lived in the proper school district; (b) had made application for admission before the school term began; (c) and had been denied the right to attend the particular school.

2. Once over this hurdle, the court would then consider evidence from the following angles:

(a) Whether the State Legislature and local school districts had had sufficient time in which to reorganize for desegregation; (b) whether there had been "good faith" on the part of school authorities in the particular case; (c) as to what recommendations had been made by local inter-racial committees; (d) as to school administrative problems existing at the time; (e) whether there was "such a strong degree of public hostility to the granting of the petition for admission" as to threaten a disruption of the school system; (f) as to the good faith of the applicant, himself, in bringing the petition.

The Court could, after weighing all the evidence, decide to: (1) Order the applicant admitted to the school; (2) dismiss his petition; or (3) order the application held in abeyance and set a time for rehearing the matter.

All of this, of course, is subject to the granting of the petition which the State of Florida will suggest to the United States Supreme Court. Whether the Court and much administrative authority will adopt it or some similar course is speculative at this stage. It is probable, however, because of the limited position taken by the Supreme Court will place in the hands of local administrative authority to handle future desegregation cases. The Supreme Court in its ultimate decision will that local Federal Courts. The adopt some sort of plan allowing for what specific plan, or plans, gradual desegregation. It is probable this may be done probably will not also because State legal and

administrative structures must be revised, public acceptance must be gained, and because there are wide variations of custom and tradition even within a State.

TAR HEEL POSITION

Speculation is that the 1955 North Carolina General Assembly will not act on the matter because of the public stand taken by both Governor Hodges and legislative leaders. One veteran legislator said that to act before the final Supreme Court decree is issued would be "leaving in the dark." As indicated earlier, the Court's decision is not expected before late spring.

The North Carolina Baptist Convention a few days ago refused to take an outright stand on the issue. The Baptists adopted a resolution, the meat of which was: "The crux of the Christian attitude is to view other humans as being of equal worth and thus worthy of equal rights and responsibilities, until those persons prove themselves unfit for rights and responsibilities..." The resolution referred to the problem as a "bifurcated matter."

The Rt. Rev. Edwin H. Peñick, Bishop of the North Carolina diocese of the Episcopal Church—a denomination which has never practiced segregation—declared that he "hopes" the Court will allow each section of the nation time to act on the ruling.

"God is expecting us to find the answer to the social humanitarian question that fell on us like a mountain with the Supreme Court's decision last May," he said. "We don't want to be ostriches and we don't intend to be backwards. Here it is now confronting us face-to-face, calling for an answer—the right answer, and we'd better not

make a mistake. "It won't be solved by extremists, radicals, pressure groups or impractical idealists," he said.

STRONG POINT

A strong point in the North Carolina argument for time and local authority, taken from the Attorney General's brief, is:

"Of course, this (Supreme) Court may not allow its decisions as to the interpretation of the Constitution to be guided by public opinion, but, in determining the decree to be issued, a court of equity is not required to shut its eyes to reality, especially when the victims of an unwise decree will be children..."

Eden May Attend Old Church's Ceremony

Sir Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, hopes to attend the rededication of Old Trinity Episcopal Church, Dorchester, Md., in 1956.

Theodore R. McKeldin, Governor of Maryland, and former U. S. Senator George L. Radcliffe, chairman of the church restoration committee, extended the invitation. Sir Anthony has replied that he "will make every effort to be there..."

Sir Anthony's interest in Old

Trinity, believed to be the oldest church still standing in the state, stems from his family's participation in the early history of Maryland. The British leader is a descendant of Lord Baltimore, founder of the Maryland colony. Another ancestor was the last colonial governor of Maryland. Old Trinity, built before 1690, stands on the shore of Church Creek, an inlet of Chesapeake Bay ten miles below Cambridge.

Keep On

The following letter was received recently by a concern that manufactures corn syrup:

"Dear Sirs: Though I have taken six cans of your corn syrup, my feet are no better now than they were before I started."

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