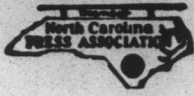


The Chowan Herald

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1968

Debt A Status Symbol?

Has debt become a status symbol in our society? We surely hope not, but the evidence indicates that such may be the case.

Current figures on indebtedness have little resemblance to earlier days in our country when mortgages and the like were frequently feared, sometimes considered a family shame, and always negotiated as a last result. There can be little doubt that these frugal policies are entitled to a major credit for converting our land from an "underdeveloped nation" to one of power and influence. It was the savings of the thrifty folk, in total, that bought the tools that multiplied human energies and made what we call the American Way of Life.

In the 50-year period from 1917 to 1967, the interest-bearing national debt increased about 110 times, from \$3 billion to more than \$326 billion. Meanwhile, installment and other short-term debt of our citizenry increased from only \$2 billion to \$95 billion, less than 48 times. Mortgages, exclusive of farm and corporate obligations, increased from \$9 billion to \$300, a mere 33 times. The total corporation debt, doubtless held in check by some reactionaries on the boards of directors, rose only from \$40 billion to \$500 billion, or a little over 12 times.

But to put those figures in perspective it is necessary to look at the radical change in the number, and nature, of bankruptcies. In 1917, there were about 25,000 bankruptcies in the land. In 1967 there were more than 208,000. But the significant thing is that while the number of businesses quadrupled in that span of time, the number of business bankruptcies has remained almost constant, in the 17,000 range. Meanwhile, bankruptcies of those who work for wages and salaries has risen from 8,000 in 1917 to 175,000 last year.

Yet case studies show that half of today's wage-earner bankrupts could pay their debts in full in two or three years without hardship. This suggests to us that too many people have imbibed too much of the "owe it to ourselves" philosophy. Or, that the bankruptcy laws are a little too lenient.

How Long Is A Piece Of String

Bouncing Betty Furness, President Johnson's special adviser on consumer affairs, is at it again. She is insisting that manufacturers tell purchasers exactly how long a product can be expected to last.

This is the same lady who garnered headlines early in her advisership by encouraging irate, but misguided housewives to blame the supermarkets for high prices. If Betty suggested that massive spending and continued budget deficits had anything to do with inflation and high prices, it was not reported by the press. Neither do we recall reading that she had anything to say about featherbedding, fringe benefits, wage increases without increased production, or other matters pertinent to the spiraling cost of living in our country.

President Johnson, according to the news accounts, feels that he has a real glamourpuss of a campaigner in Miss Furness. He pointed out to some of the government employees beholden to him how many speeches she has been making each week, and how well she was selling the Administration's "protect the consumer" line.

Why shouldn't the housewife, Miss Furness asked, "know that there are 'x' number of hours of service in her washing machine or that the life expectancy of a toaster falls short of a golden wedding anniversary? The manufacturers know, and the marketer knows, what the design-life of a product is. Shouldn't the consumer also know?"

Now that does seem pretty bold talk for Miss Furness to use before the American Marketing Association. But she seems not to have asked that there be matching assurances from the consumers.

Will the purchasers for example, promise to follow the directions for use of the equipment? Will they pledge, good, bad, or indifferent care for the equipment?

It would take a lot of paperwork on somebody's part to answer all those questions for the manufacturer. But paperwork never stops bureaucrats.

Facts are better than dreams, if pleasant.



Well, still acting as "nurse" at the house and with maybe a bit of egoism, I'm doing quite well. At least the patient hasn't been doing much complaining about the way I change dressings and rub her back. The only trouble with the latter, however, is that those plastic containers are very aggravating sometimes. The other night the ointment sort of hesitated to come out, so the next time I gave it a hard squeeze. Result: Well I got a whole handful of the stuff—enough to rub her back half a dozen times. The Missus is still very weak and unable to do a lot of walking.

Things are getting brighter on East Church Street of late. Floodlights have been installed, so that at night they play on just about everything around the Iredell property. The lights really set off the place—and even shed some light just across the street—our home.

Quite a few visitors have called at the house since the Missus returned from the hospital. On one of the days the Missus just felt that she had to have her hair worked on. It did, no doubt, boost her morale and caused one of the lady visitors to say, "Sometimes I don't know if I'm sick or need my hair washed and set."

Jack McMullan dropped me another note this week in which he said now that the racial problem has shifted to the North and industry is moving South, it might be of interest to readers of this column to take a glance at a letter Jack wrote to Harper's Weekly 10 years ago in reply to a criticism of the South by the then Senator John F. Kennedy. Here is the contents of the letter Jack wrote:

Editor Harper's Magazine: I was very much intrigued by the article in January issue of Harper's by Senator John F. Kennedy inveighing against the South and the exodus of industry from New England to that section of the country. The Senator maintains that the exodus is due entirely to unethical highjacking practices of the South, and offers no other explanation of the phenomena. May I be allowed to differ with the very able Senator through the columns of your estimable publication. The REAL reasons for this movement are many, varied and all very natural ones. The only reason industry gravitated to the North exclusively and not to the South was the result of the Civil War and its aftermath of the ruthless reconstruction debacle. Some of the unquestioned reasons for this present exodus is the fact that the South is blessed with an all year round equable climate that enables manufacturers to operate more hours at considerable less expense, and labor to live more comfortably and less expensively, and enjoy many hours of wholesome outdoor recreation not possible in more rigid climes. Hydro-electric power in great abundance, and all the required raw materials at the manufacturers' very door. The home-loving native born Anglo-Saxon labor, available in abundance, due to the fact that the tractor has superseded the horse on the farms, assures the employer of labor employees who are loyal to the community and to manufacturers, free from the enmity engendered in the North by the labor-baiting politicians who for political advantage have fanned the flames of discord between the manufacturer and labor. Capital has found this out and so is packing bag and baggage on its own accord and moving South to a more congenial atmosphere, where labor, capital and the general public live in peace and accord in a forward and progressive movement.

Plan Being Drawn

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education is again faced with drafting a Civil Rights compliance plan acceptable to the U. S. Office of Education.

During a meeting Monday night, board members discussed at length a recent letter received from federal school officials and the correct way to submit an acceptable plan.

Supt. Bill Britt was notified in a letter dated January 30 that there are several areas of probable noncompliance at the present time. These are: faculty desegregation, student desegregation, failure of free choice to adequately desegregate dual system, segregated busing patterns and failure to implement specific assurances.

Lloyd R. Henderson of the Office of Civil Rights wrote: "Although your district took some steps to increase the amount of desegregation, the situation in your system does not meet constitutional requirements to eliminate the dual school system."

He then requested that an "adequate desegregation plan" be submitted within 30 days.

Board members contend every effort has been made to operate the schools on a nonracial basis. They say faculty members are employed without regards of race, creed or color and students are given a complete freedom of choice as to the school they want to attend.

Students are assigned to buses on the basis of the school they are attending and not in an effort to promote segregation.

Supt. Britt was instructed to draft a compliance plan for 1968-69 in which the board will attempt to have more faculty desegregation. At present there are 12 faculty members assigned to schools on the opposite race. However, Supt. Britt said the recent survey made by a federal team gave credit for only six of these.

The board also agreed to continue to operate on the freedom of choice plan for student assignment.

Dr. Edward G. Bond, chairman, presided at the meeting.

Airman Honored

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.—U. S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Samuel L. Skinner, son of Mrs. Roxie Skinner, Route 3, Edenton, N. C., has been decorated with the Bronze Star Medal at Kirtland AFB, N. M., for meritorious service while engaged in military operations against Viet Cong forces.

Sgt. Skinner was cited for his performance as a material supervisor at Tan Son Nhut AB, Vietnam.

He is now at Kirtland with the Air Force Systems Command which advances America's aerospace technology through development of new systems and hardware to keep pace with the world's technological race.

The sergeant attended John A. Holmes High School.

His wife is the former Columbas Bell.

Courses Planned

Cecil Fry, Principal at John A. Holmes High School, announces an organizational meeting will be held tonight (Thursday) at 7 o'clock in the high school auditorium for those interested in new adult education classes.

The classes offered will be adult basic education, high school equivalency and sewing.

Adult basic education is offered for those who did not complete grammar school, the high school equivalency for those who did not complete high school.

All persons interested are urged to attend this organizational meeting.

ACTION TAKEN TO

Continued from Page 1

thing can be made that will be adequate in the hotel building," he said.

Chairman Bond went on to say commissioners had agreed to terminate the lease with Houghton Ehringhaus, renovate the building and provide the school board with adequate offices.

He added that work could begin in 60 days. Later, County Attorney John Graham was told to advise Ehringhaus to vacate the premises in 60 days.

Earlier in the commissioners' meeting, Chairman Bond discussed with board members the county's position. "Our problem, as always, is finances," he said. He outlined commitments the county now has which exceed \$125,000.

He, and other board members, agreed the county could not afford a separate administrative building for the school board at this time.

The chairman said the schools now owe the county \$33,000 on a previous loan. "They have been very slow in repaying his obligation," he concluded.

In other action taken, the board agreed to cooperate with other counties in attempting to raise the salaries of health department workers and attempt to retain the services of Dr. Isa Grant, district health director.

Murray Ashley reported on the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad's activities for January. The squad answered 15 calls and had an operational expense of \$232.46. They received \$93 in contributions for convalescent calls.

The commissioners denied a petition which would have allowed the sale of beer on Sunday. Such a petition was recently approved by Edenton Town Council.

Also, the board agreed to contribute \$150 to Chowan Arts Council to assist in bringing the N. C. Little Symphony to the area.

Adjustments were also made in valuation of power lines in the county owned by Rural Electric Membership cooperatives.

In addition to Chairman Bond, commissioners present were: C. J. Howell, C. M. Evans and Dallas Jethro, Jr.

STATE SCHOOL TERM

Continued from Page 1

could be stretched by that amount.

There are claimed educational advantages. Aliquippa and Ambridge schools in Pennsylvania tried the quarterly plan back in the 1930's. Studies showed that the children achieved more under the four-quarter plan than under the conventional two-semester, nine months plan.

But there are disadvantages. Some superintendents claim they need the summer months for maintenance and repair of buildings. A more serious disadvantage is the fact that North Carolina summers are too hot for school. There would be a heavy initial outlay in air-conditioning.

Other disadvantages center around seasonal athletics, graduation exercises, and so on. However, student activities, according to most authorities, should not take priority over academic work.

There remains one serious drawback. Who will volunteer for his own children to take their vacations in January, February and March? And what will happen to the superintendent who must make some tough decisions when there aren't enough volunteers?

The Public Parade

Continued from Page 1

with soybeans.

"Farmers' returns from their 1967 crop in this state will be around \$68-million, compared with \$27 million in the first year of this decade," the secretary said.

He credited farm programs with having a lot to do with the achievements in soybeans over the past seven years, which he called one of the great American achievements in agriculture.

In answer to questions he said there is still a place in our system for the small farmer. He added that cooperatives will greatly assist this type farmer in the future.

Too, he has no earthly idea that 100,000 doctors have quit smoking. In this respect he gave Rep. Walter B. Jones some sound advice. The congressman asserted that he had asked for a list of the doctors in this claim. "I hope you don't hold your breath until you get it," the secretary said.

The Jaycees, in honoring the Outstanding Young Farmer of North Carolina, had a good function. Orville Freeman had a good time. And everyone in his hearing got a good lecture on the value of farm programs.

Downum Named To Task Force

Dr. A. F. Downum, Sr., of Edenton, has been named to a task force in the area dealing with the Governor's Study Commission on the Public School System of North Carolina.

The assignment of the task force is to hear and note what people in each locality have to say about their schools and their problems. This information in turn will be relayed to the chairman of the Governor's Commission.

Miss Thelma Elliott of Hertford is chairman of the area task force. In addition to Miss Elliott and Dr. Downum, members include:

Mrs. R. S. Monds of Hertford; Dr. Rosaline M. Edwards and Dr. Charles H. Weaver, both of Elizabeth City; and Mrs. Nell S. Rea of Plymouth.

CLASSIFIED

PIANO FOR SALE—Mason-Hamlin Conventional Grand Piano, ebony mahogany cabinet, metal sounding board to prevent contraction and expansion. Call Myda Price, 482-4578 from 9 to 5 week days. t f c

Unclaimed Layaway

1967 Zig Zag cabinet model sewing machine. Never used. Sews on buttons, makes button holes, lines and hem dresses. Built-in bobbin winder. Original five-year guarantee. Feb 1 t f c

\$336.60 due
or pay \$5.16 per month.

Call Collect:
Capitol Sewing Credit Manager
9 A. M. to 9 P. M.
703-397-7031

for full home demonstration without obligation, Feb 1 t f c

SALESMEN WANTED—Be a Raleigh Dealer. Good year around earnings. No capital necessary. Write Rawleigh, Dept. NCB-210-870, Richmond, Va. Feb 8 22p

FOR SALE—Electric stove, floor fans, miscellaneous items. Make offer. Moving. Baptist parsonage, Tyner. Phone 221-4060. Feb 8 15p

SPARE TIME INCOME
Refilling and collecting money from NEW TYPE high quality coin operated dispensers in this area. No selling. To qualify you must have car, references, \$900 to \$4,900 cash. Seven to 12 hours weekly can net excellent monthly income. More full time. For personal interview write Specialist Industries, Inc., 1 Tenth Street, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia 30309. Include phone number. t f c

UPSTAIRS APARTMENT FOR RENT—Large bedroom, large living room, full bath and furnished kitchenette. Estella Ayers, 105 South Oakum Street, Edenton, N. C. Phone 482-3720. t f p

FOR SALE—40-inch Deluxe Frigidaire electric range. Excellent condition. Only \$74.50. Easy terms. May be seen at Montgomery Ward or call Jess Wilson. Phone 482-3584. Feb 8 15 22p

FOR SALE—30 acres of woodland in Yeopim Township. \$150 per acre. Dr. A. F. Downum, Sr. Phone 482-3218. t f

FOR SALE—43x10 Mobile office unit. Telephone 338-8767, Elizabeth City, N. C. Feb 1 8c

PLYWOOD FOR SALE

\$2.00 and up. Also new 2x4 fir studs, 40c each and up. Tee-Lok Corp. Phone 482-2305. t f c

FOR SALE—Approximately 70 feet of 2-inch plastic pipe. Excellent for drain lines. Priced to sell at 35 cents per foot. Contact The Chowan Herald, Phone 482-2221. t f

WANTED—Hardwood and cypress logs. Tracts of hardwood and pine timber. Top market prices. Williams Lumber Co., Inc., Mackeys, N. C. t f

FOR SALE—Three bedroom brick house. 1 1/2 baths, ceramic tiled. Carpet. Ideal location in town. For inspection call 482-4109 after 5:30 P. M. t f c

WANTED TO BUY—Poplar logs and 60-inch blocks. Top prices paid. Hertford Veneers, Inc., Hertford, N. C. Phone 416-7420. Jan 4 t f c

FOR SALE—7 1/2 HP three-phase motor. In good condition. Contact William Reeves at The Chowan Herald office. Feb 8 15p

Readings By Sister Roberts Healer, Advisor

On All Affairs of Life. Located One Mile North of Edenton on Highway 17. PHONE 482-4525 Feb 8 15p

LOCAL ELECTION SYSTEM

Continued from Page 1

Edenton electric lights, it is highly unlikely that any member of that body ever dreamed of the momentous decision being made.

For five to 10 years this system furnished street lights in the downtown section of Edenton. Most of the stores and businesses in that section installed electric light bulbs which consisted of a drop cord with a small bulb at the end. These electric lights were used only after dark.

Gradually electric lights were installed in homes. During this period the generator was started at dusk and shut down about midnight. This very limited operation of plant and use of electricity gradually increased to the point that electricity was required from 8 A. M., to 12 P. M., and as time passed to a full 24 hours per day demand for service.

By 1940 the electric system had paid off its debts and had begun to contribute approximately \$5,000 per year to the Town's General Fund.

Today is a far cry from 1908. Electric lights and power no longer are just a luxury and convenience; it has become a part of our way of life and is an essential commodity. It powers the businesses and industries of the nation as well as Edenton.

The 1908 decision created one of the most valued assets of the community, contributing \$249,995 to the Town's General Fund in fiscal year 1967, while property taxes raised \$99,894 and at the same time maintaining electric rates below those of VEPCO.

The electric facilities not only make possible a lower tax rate, but make available funds that can be used for needed facilities and projects that cannot legally be raised by taxes.

Stamps Aid 649

Chowan County had 649 people benefiting from the Food Stamp program of the U. S. Department of Agriculture during December, 1967.

Throughout North Carolina, 36,052 persons in 21 counties took part in this program during the final month of the year.

Low-income families taking part in the food stamp program during December swapped \$277,503 of their own money for \$525,610 worth of DSDA food coupons.

Feb 1 8 15c

AN EXCEPTIONAL BUY in an antique Grandfather Clock. Mahogany finish. Keeps perfect time. Call 482-2596. t f c

SPECIAL—60x12 Mobile Home. \$4,195.00. Conner Mobile Homes, Elizabeth City, N. C. Feb 1 8c

'67 Singer Zig Zag

Cabinet model sewing machine, slightly used. Monograms, sews on buttons, makes button holes, lines and hems dresses, fancy stitches, all without attachments. Five year guarantee. COMPLETE PRICE \$57.80 or payments of \$5.78 per month Call Collect

Capitol Sewing Credit Manager
9 A. M. to 9 P. M.
703-397-7031

for full home demonstration without obligation. Feb 1 t f c

FARMS FOR SALE
210 acres, 140 cleared. Excellent corn and soybean land. Machine shelter. Also 70 cleared acre farm with 14 acres peanuts, 4.78 acres tobacco if desired. Financing. Contact Howard Whaley, Realtor, Elizabeth City, N. C. Phone 338-0988 or Harvey Johnson, Creswell 797-4732. Feb 8 15 22 29c

FOR SALE—5-piece Victorian parlor set. Price \$125. Phone 426-5539. t f c

FOR SALE—1955 Buick Super. In good condition. Recently inspected. Call 482-2437. Feb 8 t f

FOR SALE—Westinghouse portable TV, instant on. Seven months old. Reasonable. Phone 482-4027. t f c