

Senator Sam Ervin Says

WASHINGTON—The Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee has uncovered some shocking charges about the grant of federal funds totalling \$927,341 made on June 2, 1967 by the Office of Economic Opportunity to a Chicago civic organization for an education program for members of two street gangs, the Blackstone Rangers and the East Side Disciples.

The grant was made as an experimental program to enable about 800 members of two street gangs to acquire basic educational skills in reading, writing and arithmetic, to enable them to obtain lawful employment.

The amazing story which has been revealed to the subcommittee indicates that the purpose of the program and the ends it attained may have been a waste of tax money. The hearing is still underway, but witnesses, including a former warlord of the Blackstone Rangers, have said that the money actually went toward perpetuating the gang structure and his gang considered the program "easy money" to be raked off the government.

A mother of eight youthful members of the Blackstone Rangers said that one

of the program's centers was used by the Rangers as a hideaway for guns, a place to have marijuana "pot parties," and a gathering place for the commission of sexual acts. These charges have been denied by Rev. John Fry, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago, whose church rented its third floor to the Office of Economic Opportunity for \$343 per month for this particular training center of the project.

Some of the shocking charges made by witnesses before the subcommittee are in essence these: that small school boys attending a nearby public school were threatened with violence by gang members and forced to leave school and attend the OEO training program, that recruited gang trainees were given \$45 to \$58 per week and were forced to give kickbacks to the gang hierarchy which ranged upwards to as much as \$25 per week, that instructors in the training program possessed little or no education and were attempting to teach other gang members mathematics and basic education courses, that same gang members in a supervisory capacity received as much as \$500 per

month from the OEO program, and that the students did little or nothing except obtain "easy money" for their attendance 25 hours per week at classes.

If the quality of instruction was poor, according to the witnesses, the atmosphere surrounding the training program was revolting. Witnesses said that gang shootings occurred regularly in the area and some even occurred in the so-called classrooms. One witness indicated that at least one gang member got his "head blown half-off" at an instructional center. The Blackstone Rangers warlord stated that his gang and its associates engaged in extortion, murder, prostitution and dope peddling protection during the same period that the OEO program was providing the members with salaries.

The evidence adduced at the hearing as to job placement indicates that the program had very limited results. Of the 499 gang members who entered the education program, only 83 were placed in jobs, and of these, only 39 were still employed as of June 20.

The project has been under OEO study for some time, but if the revelations have any substance at all, it is certain that the nation will want some concrete explanations about the expenditure of nearly a million dollars of tax funds for activities of this nature.



Wanda Jean Morris Chowan Grad Given Award

Wanda Jean Morris, a 1968 graduate of Chowan High School, was presented her chapter Homemaker's Degree by FHA advisor, Mrs. Loraine Rogerson. The award is presented to selected girls who show outstanding contributions in home, community, school and chapter activities.

She was awarded her Junior Homemaker's Degree last year in the Chowan Chapter.

Wanda, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Morris of Hobbsville, served as the chapter's secretary this year.

Her senior activities included being editor of the school yearbook, pianist for the Glee Club, special editor for the school paper, member of the Beta Club, senior class treasurer and sang with the Silhouettes.

Wanda was also named as one of the 1968 outstanding seniors by her class. She represented Chowan High School in the Albemarle Junior Miss Pageant at Hertford this year and was one of the advanced typing contest winners from Chowan County and placed fifth in district competition. She received the FHA Ruritan Cup, Typewriting Medal and Yearbook Editor Medal during Chowan's graduation exercises.

Wanda is organist and pianist for Hobbsville Baptist Church, president of Hobbsville YWA's and Youth Choir director.

Next fall she will enter East Carolina University, to study for a degree in nursing.

BIBLE VERSE

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; behold I am alive for evermore . . . and have the keys of hell and death."

1. Who made the above statement?
2. To whom was he speaking?
3. Where was the author at the time?
4. Where may this statement be found?

- Answers To Bible Verse**
1. Jesus Christ.
 2. To John the Apostle in a vision.
 3. John was a prisoner on the Isle of Patmos.
 4. Revelations 1:18.

Among the smaller duties of life I hardly know any one more important than that of not praising where praise is not due.

—Sydney Smith.

"Financial Corporation" Formed Mass Schedule

JACKSONVILLE — The board of directors of First National Bank of Eastern North Carolina has approved a plan of reorganization "under the holding company concept" and a capital expansion program involving issuance and exchange of new common stock.

M. F. Allen, Jr., president of the \$80-million banking system which has 24 branches from Boone to Wilmington, explained that the reorganization "is being undertaken to achieve increased flexibility in the burgeoning range of financial services our bank feels obligated to perform in the cities and towns we serve."

Name of the new holding company will be Financial Corporation. Under the capital expansion program, he explained, the approximately 2,000 First National shareholders will be offered two shares of \$5 par value stock of Financial Corporation in exchange for each \$10 par value share of presently outstanding First National stock. In addition, approximately \$2-million will be added to the new corporation's capital.

"A conspicuous need for improved localized banking services was the original purpose behind the founding of First National a short 15 years ago," Allen said in the announcement.

"During this brief period since 1952 our continually expanding number of customers has demonstrated

overwhelming endorsement of this First National pattern of improved localized banking service—helping us build from a relatively small bank to assets of an \$80-million banking system which we are today."

Regarding the board's action he added: "Our board of directors feel it is only through this reorganization of First National under a one-bank holding company concept that this continuing obligation to our cus-

tomers and prospective customers can be adequately fulfilled."

A special meeting of First National shareholders will be called in the near future to ratify the reorganization and capital expansion proposals, President Allen disclosed.

He also noted the proposals are subject to approval by the U. S. Comptroller of the Currency and a favorable ruling by the Internal Revenue Service.

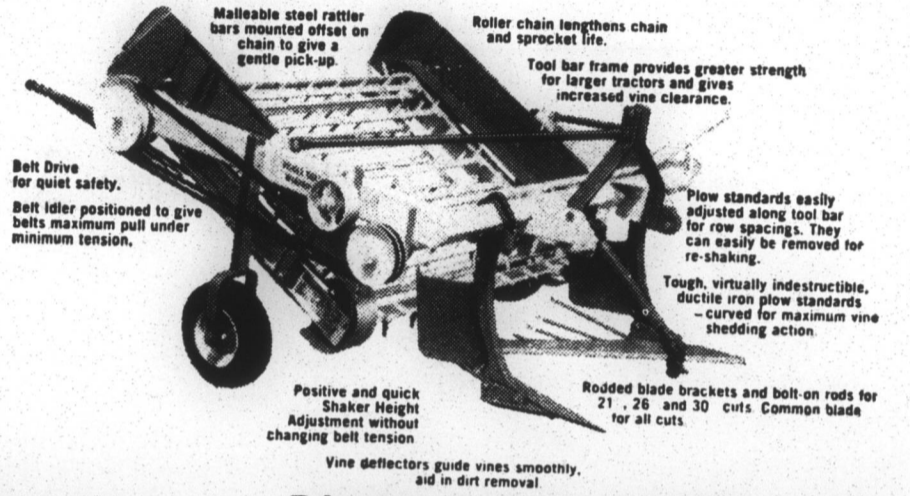
At St. Ann's

Father Joseph J. Lash, pastor of St. Ann's Catholic Church, announces the following schedule of masses:

Sunday, 8 A. M.
At St. Joan of Arc in Plymouth: Sunday, 10:30 A. M.

Father Francis McCourt will be the celebrant of the scheduled masses.

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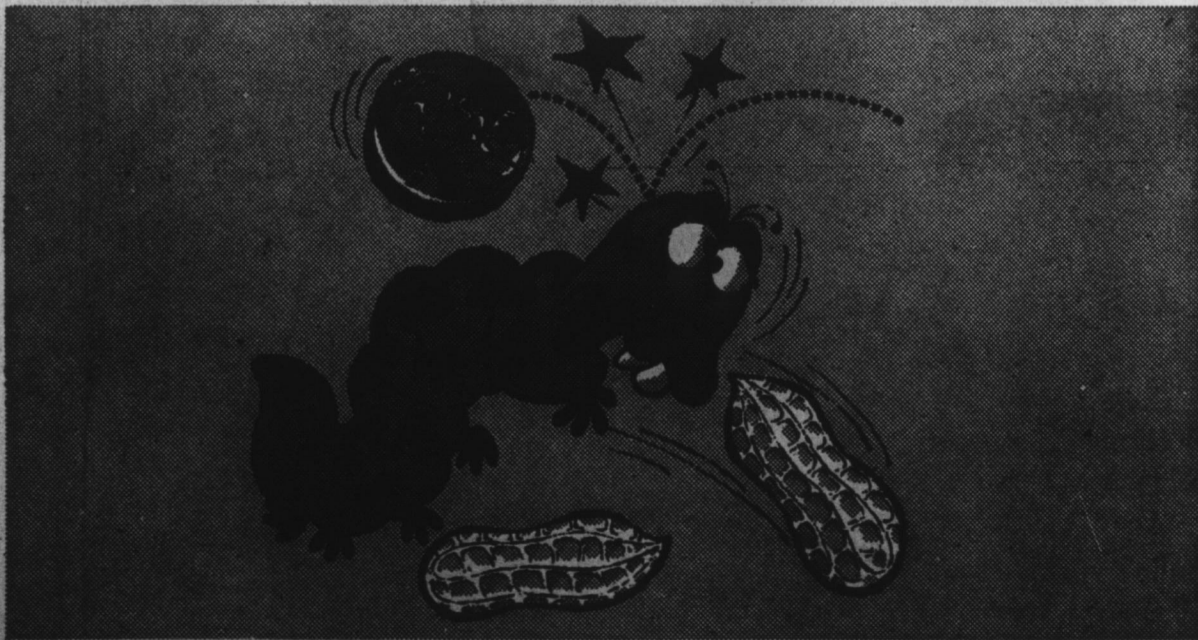
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