

State Follows Fed's Lead In Cost Cuts

MUCH ADO...Recent reports from Raleigh have suggested that the N. C. General Assembly, in a drastic cost cutting mood, has earmarked major state programs for extinction.

Because of the probability of major federal funds cutbacks, the Legislature has indeed made a concerted effort to identify and categorize state programs that might be reduced under dire financial circumstances. Actions so far have concentrated only in identifying and categorizing such possibilities.

Since no reductions or program eliminations have occurred, all of the defensive posturing and noise by state officials and other lobbyists for state money might have been "much ado about nothing."

Either way, the "spender defenders" have been especially busy during the first three months of this budgetary session. They haven't had far to look for expenditures to defend. Virtually every segment of North Carolina's "base" budget has been reviewed and categorized for potential cuts.

Such a review has not taken place since 1975 when legislators were faced with a \$300 million shortfall in

quality of the educational programs." The potential loss to public schools would be about one half of one per cent over two years, higher education might lose one and one quarter of 1 per cent over two years. The "big" loser would be community colleges which stands to lose as much as 2 1/2 per cent in the biennial budget.

The screams of agony over possible cuts have been loudest surrounding the Joint Appropriations Base Budget Subcommittee on Education—the area that touches more North Carolinians and more North Carolina dollars than any other expense item.

The Education Subcommittee, in action similar to the other four Sub Committees, have categorized possible cuts in educational spending into three distinct priorities. Even under the severest cuts—utilizing all three "degrees" of priorities—the respective areas of educational spending in North Carolina (public schools, community colleges, and higher education) would lose only six per cent funding of their overall budget.

More than likely, the only cuts if any will take place in education will be in the Priority I category. Priority I entries are defined by the Sub-Committee as "having minimal impact on the

quality of the educational programs."

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According to the Subcommittee definitions, "Priority II means that the budget cuts so identified will result in moderate impact on the quality of the particular programs."

"Priority III means that the budget cuts so identified will result in serious impact on the quality of the particular programs."

Unfortunately when a 50 per cent reduction in teacher aides in grades 1-3 was discussed and categorized in Priority III, a lot of people thought the reduction had taken place

for next year. Obviously, the teacher aides reduction is extremely unlikely.

The teacher aides screech is just one example of the noise caused by the Legislative review—an exhaustive exercise that probably should take place more often.

Most people are forgetting that Gov. Hunt supposedly sent to the General Assembly a balanced budget with room for expansion or "new" spending in excess of \$80-million.

Maybe the "spender defenders" should travel to Washington—that's where the real cuts will occur.

'Changing South' Conference Topic

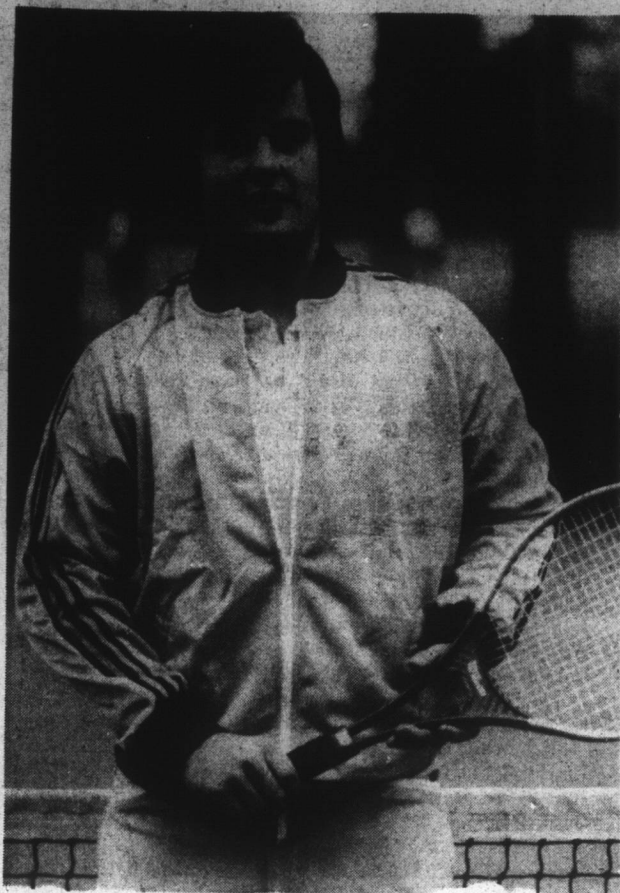
GREENVILLE—What is happening in the South today and what problems and opportunities the change presents will be studied at a conference on "The Changing South" at East Carolina University on April 13.

Directions and dimensions of the currents of change in the South will be discussed by the main speakers. The interested public is invited to the conference which opens at 10:30 A. M. at ECU's Willis Building.

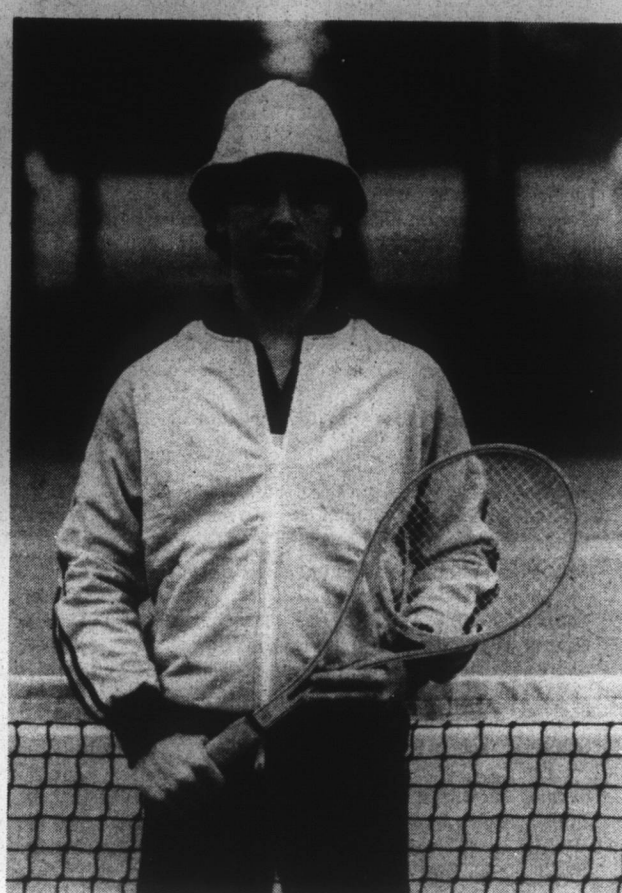
SECTION B

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, April 9, 1981

SECTION B



JOE TOWE



MARK NONEMAN

Local Racquet Men Provide Experience, Depth

ROCKY MOUNT — Mark Noneman of Edenton is in his sophomore year at N. C. Wesleyan College and is beginning his second season of intercollegiate tennis. Joe Towe of Hertford has begun his third year for the Battling Bishops.

Noneman is in the number five singles spot and plays either number two or three doubles.

Towe, a junior, has moved into the number two singles spot and also plays number two doubles.

After a rugged start, Noneman has come on to

win his last two matches, one a conference tilt against Methodist College and the other a tune-up against Mount Olive College.

"Mark provides depth for our team this year," says Wesleyan coach Ken Burgess, "and we expect he will continue to improve as the season moves along."

Noneman's next match will come against Averett College with Pembroke State University and UNC-Wilmington yet to be played as well as the majority of the Dixie Conference teams. Noneman is the son of Mr.

and Mrs. Walter Noneman of Edenton.

Towe, a huskie six-footer is currently undefeated in Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference competition, having won in singles and doubles in matches against both St. Andrews College and Methodist College.

"Joe is our team captain and we expect a lot from him in terms of leadership as well as play," says Coach Burgess. With the heavy part of the conference schedule drawing near, Towe will have his work cut

out for him. Regular season performance will determine seeding in the DIAC Tournament which will be played April 23-25.

Towe is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Towe of Hertford.



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