

Parker Calls Agreement "Important Step"

WASHINGTON, N. C. — Joseph M. Parker of Ahoskie, Chairman of Operation Overcharge, today called this week's news that municipal electric systems in northeastern North Carolina are planning to consider entering into an agreement to acquire a portion of Carolina Power and Light Company's production capacity, the fourth important step forward in gaining parity for electric consumers in the region served by VEPCO. "When the municipal's pull away from VEPCO and go on their own they will take about half of VEPCO's North Carolina load with them," Parker explained. He said his organization had been watching the municipal CP&L negotiations with a "great

deal of interest and we tried to help them along whenever possible." Parker said the first step in the move to parity in electric rates for the Northeast took place in 1978 when Governor Hunt called on the Public Staff of the North Carolina Utilities Commission to investigate high electric rates being charged to residents of the region. This was followed by a second step accomplishment of encouraging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to initiate an investigation of VEPCO's management practices and how these practices may have caused unusually high rates. The third step in the march toward parity came, Parker pointed out when National Spinning Company

at Washington, pulled away from the City of Washington's VEPCO supplied electric system and started obtaining power directly from CP&L. "These steps have saved Northeastern North Carolina consumers millions of dollars," Parker said today. But, he says his organization still has a lot of work to do to gain parity for the entire region. Parker said half the problem still exists because thousands of Northeastern North Carolinians are served directly by VEPCO and "they're paying too much for their electric power." "I am hopeful that VEPCO will not be allowed increases in retail rates by the Utilities Commission," he said. "Any new rate increases would play havoc with the economy of the region," he estimated. Parker said VEPCO had

so hurt the region's economic development with its high rates that the firm has been forced to reactivate its industrial development efforts which it suspended a few years ago. "State officials have been concerned about the negative effect the power rate matter has had on industrial development," Parker pointed out today. "They have every reason to be concerned," he said. "We haven't been getting industry and our rate of accomplishment will continue to be low until we can get our electric rates in line with the rest of the state," he said. He called on all state officials and all members of the General Assembly to make an "all out effort to get parity in electric rates for the Northeast so we can enjoy a normal rate of economic development."

The 11th annual Youth Music Workshop will be held at Methodist College, Fayetteville, N.C. during the week of June 21 through June 28. This workshop is sponsored by Youth Ministry and Music Ministry of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Approximately 90 United Methodist high school students and counselors from across eastern North Carolina will be spending three days of intensive rehearsal, fellowship, and inspiration at Methodist College after which they will embark on a singing tour to North Augusta, South Carolina, and Atlanta, Georgia. A final homecoming concert will be presented at White Plains United Methodist Church in Cary, N.C. on Sunday, June 28 at 4 P.M. Other concerts will be at Grace United Methodist Church in North Augusta, S. C., Shallowford Presbyterian Church and Trinity United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

For nine of the eleven years, the Workshop Choir has gone on concert tour. Trips included two separate concerts in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and two to Atlanta, as well as to Pennsylvania, western Carolina, and Lake Junaluska. Last year the workshop toured South Carolina. The guest choral director this year will be Mr. Robert Simpson, Minister of Music at Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Simpson is a former professor of voice and conducting at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J. Workshop Dean and accompanist is Mr. Roger F. Searles, Diaconal Minister and Organist-Director of Music at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Goldsboro, N.C. Mr. Bill Weisser, Diaconal Minister at Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh is Dean of Men and Mrs. Laura Davenport,

Ministry for the North Carolina Conference. The homecoming concert this year at White Plains United Methodist Church in Cary, N.C. will be dedicated to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. Thomas Flemming Herndon, a native of Jacksonville, N.C. and a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Jacksonville. Mr. Herndon was to be the choral director of the 1981

Workshop Choir but died on January 6, 1981 during a performance with the Hamburg Opera Company in Germany where he had sung for eight years. Mr. Herndon was a graduate of Westminster Choir College and had concertized extensively throughout Europe with guest performances in Switzerland, Israel, and Italy where he made his debut at the La Scala Opera in Milan, Italy.

Hwy. Fatalities Are Predicted

CHARLOTTE — Approximately 15 people could lose their lives on North Carolina streets and highways over the upcoming July 4th holiday week-end, the N. C. State Motor Club has estimated.

The state will count its toll over a 78-hr. period from 6:00 P. M. Friday, July 3, until midnight Monday, July 6. Last year 19 fatalities and 856 injuries were reported for a similar period.

The N. C. State Motor Club believes that fatalities this year will be less than usual. "We are optimistic for several reasons," John G. Frazier, III, President of the statewide motor club said. "The energy crisis has resulted in less traffic and lower speeds, that of course cuts down on the potential." Preliminary figures indicate a decline in the number of persons killed on North Carolina highways so far this year. To date there have been 576 traffic deaths compared to 615 for the same time last year. Fatalities over the Easter and Memorial holiday week-ends were cut in almost half compared to last year. "We congratulate the people of North Carolina for their spirit of cooperation in keeping our highways safe, and the State Highway Patrol for their efforts to promote safety and enforce traffic laws," Frazier stated.

Exceeding safe speed is still the No. 1 driver violation contributing to death, while driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs continues to be No. 2. If we are to continue to see fatalities decrease, motorists must be more cautious of the need for safety while driving on the streets and highways of our state.

Summer months are the

most dangerous months. Vacation driving is more dangerous than business or normal everyday driving. Frazier urged motorists to continue to use safety precautions in an effort to cut down on highway accidents, stay on your guard while driving, and don't relax until you reach your destination.

"It is flattering some men to endure them." Lord Halifax

Honor Roll Is Released

The following names have been released for the six weeks honor roll at Swain Elementary School. "A" Honor Roll Fourth Grade — George Kaupp, John Lowe, Kim Watson, Brian Rascoe, and Tasha Williams. Fifth Grade — Rebecca Crabtree, Michael Bunch, Stephanie Creighton, Denita Elliott and Calvin Hobbs. Sixth Grade — Trina Bateman, Holley Columbus, Tara Dillard, Ronny Mohn, Dorothy Moore, Catherine Byrum, David Hogan, Jay Timberlake, Trina Boyce, Jacqueline Britt, Kimberly Bryan, Cheryl Creighton, Teresa Drew, Michelle Canterpool and Liza Vaughan.

Fourth Grade — Kathy Emmert, Gwendolyn Holley, Howard Hughes, Susan Jones, Tammy Mohn, Jennifer Owens, Brian Jordan, Angela Bock, Stacy Evans, Angela Armstead, Christopher Belch, Kelvin Bonner, Tracie Brown, and Tywanda Foreman. Also, Liza Goodman, William Jennings, Peter Mitchener, Shannon Santana, Rhonda Sawyer, John Stephney, Shannon Stryer, Betsy Voigt, Monica Granby, James Williams, Anissa Brickhouse, Angela Jernigan, Erin Pfundt, Beverly Spruill and Elmer Gilleland IV. Fifth Grade — Wendy Belch, James Cranford, Christian Gillon, Dwayne

"A-B" Honor Roll

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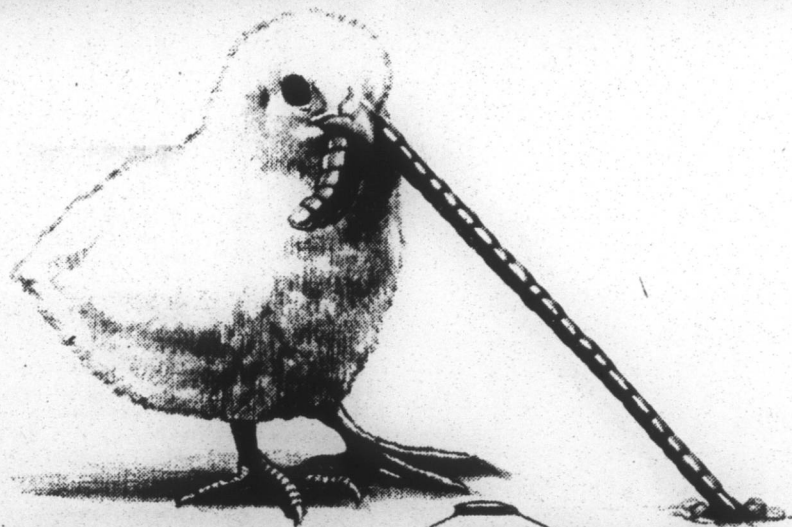
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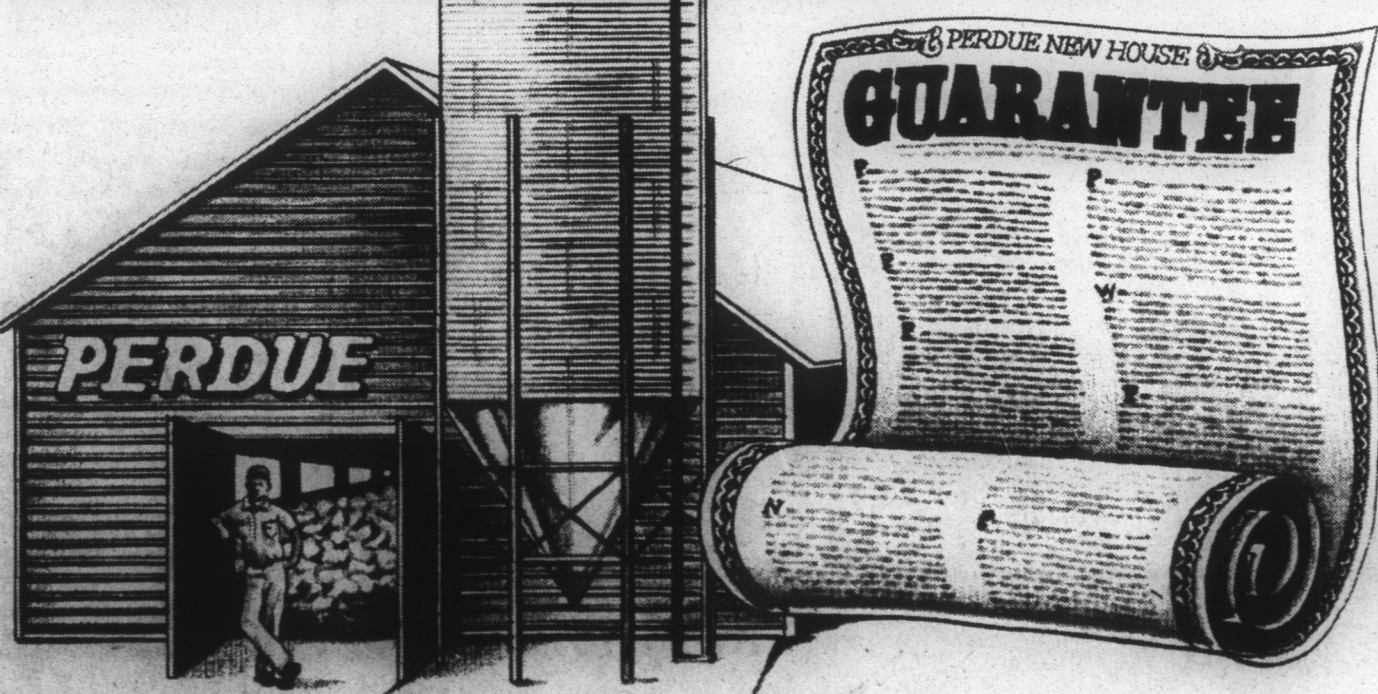
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