

Education Commission's Report For Improved Schools Is Ready

A people's program for improvement of the North Carolina public schools has been submitted to Governor Cherry in a report of the State Education Commission.

Following a year's grassroots study of the Tar Heel schools, the Commission offered the following major recommendations:

1. Teacher recruitment through setting minimum teacher pay at \$2400 and offering scholarships and other considerations to prospective teachers.
2. A \$150,000,000 school building program.
3. Revamping of the school administrative set-up.
4. State aid for capital outlay and maintenance for school buildings and buses; for supervisors; and for enforcing compulsory attendance.
5. Consolidation of some schools.
6. More vocational education.
7. A reduced teacher load.
8. More emphasis on developing the human, natural and social resources.

The Commission also recommended that the next General Assembly provide for continuing the study of teacher, merit, curriculum, and guidance.

The Commission was appointed by Governor Cherry on authorization of the General Assembly, which will study its proposals for action at its next session. R. Grady Rankin of Gastonia is chairman, Jule B. Warren, vice chairman, and Mrs. R. S. Ferguson of Taylorsville, secretary. W. H. Plemmons of Chapel Hill is executive secretary.

The Commission, composed of lay and professional leaders from all sections of the state, made its grassroots study by working through 300 persons composing 15 advisory committees. Information was obtained through personal visits in each of the state's 100 counties; 90,000 questionnaires to citizens; queries to school officials; and extensive examination of state records.

An estimated 60,000 persons participated in the study. A staff of consultants from other states and the U. S. Office of Education tried and worked with the Commission and its Study and Advisory committees.

An intensive study was made in

nine county and seven city school units in North Carolina, chosen as representative of the state at large. These units included Brunswick county, Wilson county, the City of Wilson, Elm City, Sampson county, the City of Clinton, Northampton county, Orange county, the town of Chapel Hill, Guilford county, the cities of Greensboro and High Point, Rutherford county, Wilkes county, the town of North Wilkesboro, and Swain county.

The study was financed by a legislative appropriation of \$50,000 and an additional \$100,000 from the Knapp Foundation of New York.

In its 115 page report, the Commission said that the state should be responsible for a "foundation program" which would insure every child in North Carolina a good education. State funds should be used for every essential element in the program, it said, including instructional salaries, transportation, and other current expenses, and capital outlay and debt service, with the state bearing from 70 to 90 per cent of the cost — the ratio to be decided by the legislature. The amount required would be determined by need (based on teacher allotment) and ability to pay.

Part of this program would be school building. "A school plant financing plan should be developed to provide at least \$100,000,000 during the next 6 years for the most urgently needed facilities and as much as practical and needed for this urgent six-year program should be provided from state surplus funds", the report said. "The state should undertake a school construction program for the erection of — facilities during the next ten years, at an estimated cost of \$150,000,000 as follows: sites, \$1,500,000; new buildings, \$75,000,000; additions, \$48,000,000; renovation, \$12,000,000; and equipment, \$10,000,000."

Eleven of the Commission's 18 members signed the report on the proposed foundation program, with state aid for capital outlay, maintenance, and debt service. They were Mrs. R. S. Ferguson, A. Edward Brown, C. S. Bunn, Carlyle Campbell, M. C. Campbell, Charles F. Carroll, Bertha Cooper, Brandon Hodges, H. W. Kendall, J. C. Scarborough, and John W. Umstead. Signing a minority report, which called for continuation with modifications, of the present financial program and with the establishment of a loan fund to counties for school buildings, were: R. Grady Rankin, Dudley Bagley, Clarence Heer, James J. Harris, Edwin Pate, R. G. Stockton, and Jule B. Warren. The entire Commission agreed on other major phases of the report.

The Commission recommended several methods of luring qualified teachers to the Tar Heel schools to help solve the current shortage.

It endorsed a minimum salary of \$2400 for beginning teachers, with \$100 to be added for each year of experience up to 12 years, and said teachers should be employed on a ten months basis. It also recommended that the teaching load be reduced, that a system of competitive scholarships for persons preparing to teach should be set up, and that guidance programs and other means of securing well prepared teachers be established.

The Commission said that the administrative set-up of the public schools should be reorganized on both the state and local levels. It recommended that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction be appointed by the State Board of Education, and that he act as executive officer of the Board. The Board would be composed of 10 members appointed by the Governor for overlapping terms of 10 years. A comprehensive study of the school laws of the state should be made, as a basis for preparing a revised school code to eliminate "conflicting and obsolete provisions", it was stated.

Recommendations concerning local boards of education included: local boards should be elected for overlapping terms of 6 years; provision should be made for local boards to have "some reasonable leeway" in using tax funds.

Local units should be organized to assure an absolute minimum of 2500 to 4000 school population, with a desirable minimum of 9000 to 10,000; secondary schools should have at least 250 to 300 pupils, preferably 500 to 600 pupils. However, when secondary schools of smaller sizes have to be authorized because of isolation, comparable services should be provided at the necessary cost.

Larger schools, the report showed, are doing a better job in holding students than the smaller schools; and the larger schools are able to give increased opportunities in vocational education, guidance, health services, and many other essentials.

In recommending more large consolidated high schools, the Commission said the state should reduce to 27-30 pupils in average daily attendance used in teacher allotment; provide for special services such as guidance counselors; offer more vocational courses and encourage use of community resources in the schools. For the high schools, these instructional goals were set: opportunities for an assistance in the development of salable skills; in maintaining good health; in an understanding of citizenship; in an understanding of family life; in consumer education; in scientific understandings; in an appreciation of literature, art, music, and nature; in the proper use of leisure time; in the development of respect for other persons; and in developing the ability to think rationally.

The Commission said elementary education instruction should: provide opportunities for and help pupils to acquire necessary skills and competencies in the fundamental tool subjects, reading, writing and arithmetic; in healthful living; in creative activities, in the use of community resources, and in social understandings; and should provide a adequate instructional materials, supplies and equipment, and a healthful and attractive school environment.

Work experience should be included in the high school vocational education program, the Commission said, pointing out that 87 per cent of the state's high school students fail to go to college. Some 2933 additional vocational teachers would be needed this year for an adequate vocational program.

The Division of Vocational Education and the Resource-Use Commission should cooperate in promoting a program to conserve and use more advantageously our natural resources", the report said. "Vocational education personnel have an important responsibility in this greater utilization of natural resources. They should help with such problems as conservation of forests; saving the soil; providing better housing; starting and providing trained personnel for new industries, and providing the skills necessary to produce finished products in the manufacturing processes. By sending unfinished materials to other states where more highly skilled workers complete the process, North Carolina loses millions of dollars annually."

The Commission pointed to recent "outstanding achievements" in the state's educational program.

Among them are: A minimum school term of nine months; a program of instruction covering twelve school years; a state-wide compulsory school attendance law; requirement of a degree from an accredited four-year college or university for a standard teaching certificate; requirement of possession of Masters degree for high school principals; equal salary schedules for all teachers with equal training and experience; a state teachers retirement system; free transportation and textbooks; and a central State Board of Education.

"The major problem faced by the state today is to plan its educational program so that every school and educational institution in the State will make a direct and continuing contribution to the development and economy of the state", the Commission said.

"This is a problem which should challenge the best thinking of all the citizens during the coming years. It can be done in North Carolina, as it has been done in countries like Denmark, if the people are willing to make the effort."

"North Carolina has made tremendous economic progress during the decade that has elapsed since the appearance of the report which presented the south as the nation's number one economic problem", the report said. "In many respects the economic progress of North Carolina has exceeded that of the south as a whole. Yet, notwithstanding this progress, there are today only a few respects in which North Carolina compares favorably with the nation as a whole. Thirty or forty years ago, by every yardstick of economic measurement, North Carolina ranked at or near the bottom among the states of the union. Ten years ago the average rank was in the neighborhood of forty-third among the states. Today North Carolina makes a somewhat better showing. Important economic indices show that North Carolina ranks approximately fortieth on a per capita basis of measurement. North Carolina has sufficient resources to support a much higher and

richer level of living than its citizens now enjoy. The educational program of North Carolina should deliberately be organized and designed to help to prepare the people of the state to make major use of their resources."

Members appointed by the Governor to the Commission include: Chairman R. Grady Rankin of Gastonia; Secretary, Mrs. R. S. Ferguson of Taylorsville; W. Dudley Bagley, Moyock; A. Edward Brown, Durham; C. S. Bunn, Spring Hope; Carlyle Campbell, Raleigh; M. C. Campbell, Newton; Charles F. Carroll, High Point; Bertha Cooper, Elizabeth City; James J. Harris, Jr., Charlotte; Clarence Heer, Chapel Hill; Brandon P. Hodges, Asheville; H. W. Kendall, Greensboro; Edwin Pate, Laurinburg; J. C. Scarborough, Durham; Richard G. Stockton, Winston-Salem; John W. Umstead, Chapel Hill; and Jule B. Warren, Raleigh.

Advisory study committee heads included: Resources, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., Chapel Hill; Instructional Program, W. Theo Dalton, Greensboro; Secondary Education, T. T. Hamilton, Jr., Wilmington; Pupil Personnel and Personnel Services, I. E. Ready, Roanoke Rapids; Education of Exceptional Children, W. J. Bullock, Kannapolis; Instructional Materials, M. E. Yount, Graham; Adult Education, Mrs. T. Fred Henry, Salisbury; Organization and Administration, O. Arthur Kirkman, High Point; Teacher Education, W. M. Jenkins, Durham; Instructional Personnel, Mozelle Gausey, Greensboro; School Transportation, J. J. Tarlton, Rutherford; School Plants, M. T. L. a m e t h. Statesville; Finance, Arch T. Allen, Jr., Raleigh; Elementary Education, Mrs. Gussie Parke, Clinton; and Vocational Education, Harry B. Caldwell, Greensboro.

Since the Economic Cooperation Administration began functioning last April, it has authorized dairy products purchases totaling nearly \$9 million dollars.

Meat animals are selling at prices well above the support level.

908 Lose Licenses During September

During September, 908 persons lost their driving licenses in North Carolina because of drunken driving, the Motor Vehicle Department announced today.

This compared with 829 persons who lost their licenses for the same offense during September of last year, and brought total drunken driving convictions for 1948 to 6,473.

During the month, 1,169 driving licenses were revoked and 222 were suspended. The Department announced that these figures brought total revocations and suspensions for the year to 8,902.

The monthly revocation and suspension toll, in addition to the 908 persons caught driving drunk in North Carolina, included 94 caught driving drunk out of state, 52 driving drunk and miscellaneous, 32 driving after license had been revoked, 35 for two offenses of driving drunk, 14 for two offenses of reckless driving, 35 for speeding over 75 miles per hour and miscellaneous, 22 for transporting liquor; 19 for being habitual violators of the traffic laws, 25 for failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility.

Twenty-one others lost their driving rights for two offenses of speeding over 55 miles per hour, five for manslaughter, six for larceny of automobile, six for improper use of operators' license, two for incompetency, and 14 for reckless driving and speeding over 55 miles per hour.

In addition, 487 other motorists were convicted of reckless driving during the month, bringing reckless driving convictions for the year to 3,586. However, this charge carries no revocation or suspension on first offense.

A total of 5,509 additional motorists were found guilty of traffic violations which do not constitute revocation or suspension for the first offense.

The leading conviction in this class was speeding, with 2,196 of-

enders, bringing speeding convictions for the year to 23,417.

Other violations: failing to have driver's license, 1,231; driving with faulty equipment, 418; improper lights, 299; failing to stop at intersection, 27; failing to stop when entering highway, 61; failing to dim lights, 47; passing on curve, 33; running through red light, 231; driving on wrong side of road, 49; passing on hill, 19.

Of the total violators, 4,782 were North Carolinians, and the remaining 727 were out of state drivers.

Julius Sims

Funeral services were held Friday at 2:30 p. m. at Bell Creek church for Julius Sims, 88, who died at his home at Hiawassee, Ga., Thursday, after a long illness.

Burial was in the family cemetery with Townson funeral home in charge.

Surviving are five sons, Will of California, Paul of Atlanta, Ga., Charlie and Ernest of Hiawassee, Ga. and Jesse of Canton, Ohio; three daughters, Mrs. Ethel Phillips and Mrs. Ruth Gribble of Hiawassee and Mrs. Mary Jane Howell of Blue Ridge, Ga.; three brothers, Homer of Gainesville, Ga.; Wiley of Buford, Ga. and Herschel of Young Harris, Ga.; two sisters, Mrs. George Burch of Swannanoa, and Mrs. Laura Ledford of Hiawassee.

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Here is truly streamlined beauty—a stunning combination of free-flowing, low-built lines that develop naturally out of a recessed floor which is the key to a basically new and exclusive design principle. The New Hudson is the only car you step down into.

The development of a "step-down" zone in an exclusive, all steel Monobolt body-and-frame" permits Hudson to build the lowest car on the highway—only five feet from ground to top—while maintaining more interior head room than in any mass-produced car built today!

But streamlined beauty isn't the whole story of Hudson's modern design.

Hudson has a hug-the-road way of going on every conceivable kind of highway. The way in which this car takes even the sharpest curves makes it a "stand-out" for roadability in any year!

These remarkable riding qualities are largely due to the fact that the New Hudson provides the lowest center of gravity in any American stock car—yet road clearance is ample! It is a widely recognized fact that the lower to the ground a car can be built, the more stability it will have and the safer it will be.

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