

Editorial and Opinion Page

The Federal Budget Battle Matters to You



by RD Locklear

During the Korean War the Federal government raised taxes to meet a budget deficit. Fifteen years later, President Johnson dropped his resistance to a tax increase to meet the growing cost of the Vietnam War. A very small federal budget deficit gradually grew during the 1970's and energized growing calls for a balanced federal budget.

As Republican presidential primary candidates in 1980, both George Bush and Ronald Reagan promised to balance the federal government's budget. Bush said he would do it the old-fashioned way that had proven to work for the federal government, state governments and households. He said he would reduce planned overall spending and increase taxes, if necessary, to balance the budget.

Ronald Reagan's plan had more voter appeal. He promised to increase military spending, in particular, and to reduce taxes. The promised miracle of supply

side economic would cause the country to grow out of the budget deficits.

Candidate George Bush was right in 1980 when he called Ronald Reagan's plan "voo-doo economics". Instead of growing out of debt, Reagan's plan grew a mountain of debt by adding \$2,000,000,000,000 to the national debt—his most enduring legacy.

In 1990 President George Bush ate his words and raised taxes. History will treat Bush well because he started the country on a meaningful glide path toward solving its federal government's budget problems.

Three years later, President Clinton accelerated the shrinking of the federal budget deficit by using the same basic approach as President Bush. A Cadillac and a Continental are both luxury cars. Neither are trucks.

The current federal budget battle is rooted in the differences in approach and priorities discussed by Republican presidential candidates George Bush and Ronald Reagan in 1980. In the 1980's the rich won, but the country and most of its citizens lost. Real wages for the average American are less now than what they were in 1980.

For many years the claim of a former head of General Motors was repeated, "What is good for

General Motors is good for the country." During the 1980's, we witnessed many proof that what was good for the international companies of the world, such as General Motors, was not good for

this country or its workers. Reagan era tax breaks fueled business takeovers in this country and funded investments in other countries. Converse is still making shoes. The company is just making most of them in other countries.

Should the federal government help Converse create jobs in other countries or should it help former Converse workers develop new skills for new jobs in this country. The answer matters to Robeson County and this country.

Changes being debated in the federal government's budget can and will have real impacts for the citizens of Robeson County. The earned income credit has made the difference in many workers being able to buy or repair their cars or being able to buy or repair their homes. Education grants help pay for our schools. Medicare and Medicaid help the disabled, elderly and poor with their medical bills. Student loans and grants help our children go to PSU, RCC and UNC.

During the following weeks, I will discuss the federal government's budget and how it matters to you.

Deese and Hunt to wed



Harold and Aggie Deese of Maxton announce the engagement of their daughter Rosalee Deese, to Mitchell Hunt of Maxton, son of Mrs. Ruby Lee Scott Hunt.

The wedding is planned for December 22, 1995 at 6:30 pm at West Robeson United Methodist Church.

The bride-elect is a graduate of West Robeson High School and Vance-Granville Community College and is employed at Maxton Youth Development Organization (MYDO).

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Sampson Te School and is employed with Asplundh Tree Company. Friends and relatives are invited to attend.



Prospect United Methodist Church, Route 3 Box 196, Maxton will be the site for the Celebration of Jesus' birthday on Saturday, December 16 at 7:00 pm; Sunday, December 17 at 7:00 pm; and Sunday, December 24 at 10:40 am.

The musical presentation is under the direction of Mr. Harold D. Jacobs. There will be solos, narration, drama, and effects to add to the excitement of the production.

The Pastor, Reverend Bill James Locklear, and the congregation invite you to this Christmas Celebration. You are welcomed to either of the three performances and to them all, if you wish to attend.

Prospect United Methodist Church located 5 miles Northwest of Pembroke across the road from Prospect School.

Hope to see you on Saturday (December, 16 at 7:00 pm), Sunday (December 17 at 7:00 pm), or Sunday (December 24 at 10:40 am).

POLITICAL-PARTY ELECTIONS

VS

STATE GENERAL ELECTIONS

POLITICAL PARTY'S ELECTIONS

SHOULD BE TO ELECT OFFICERS: CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIR, TREASURER, SECRETARY, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND BY VOTING MEMBERS 'ONLY'.

STATE GENERAL ELECTIONS:

VOTERS ARE REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS, AND INDEPENDENTS WHO CAN ELECT A U.S. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT; CONGRESS PERSONS; GOVERNOR, LT. GOVERNOR; NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SENATORS, ETC.

THEREFORE, THIS PROVES THAT YOU SHOULD ELECT A "CANDIDATE"; NOT THE "NAME OF A POLITICAL PARTY" WHICH CANNOT GUARANTEE A QUALIFIED, HONEST CANDIDATE.

REMEMBER: NOVEMBER 5, 1996 GENERAL ELECTIONS"

ROBESON AND HOKE COUNTIES: "SHADE THE OVAL"

SCOTLAND COUNTY: "PULL THE LEVER"

NEXT TO THE NAME OF

FRANCES M. CUMMINGS

FOR NC HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES-DISTRICT 87

"A HEAVENLY VOICE FOR ALL PEOPLE."

Written by Yvonne Muth-Lewis

Fold in by Cummings for NC House Committee

Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director
PSU Native American Resource Center

An event will take place next week which should be of interest to anyone concerned with the health of our region. Everyone is invited to participate in the 3rd Annual HealthCare Summit, sponsored by the HealthCare 1999 project. The Summit will be held in the Givens Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, 12 December, from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM. The purpose of the HealthCare Summit is to bring together a broad representation of leaders in health care and related fields with other interested citizens from throughout the nine-county region served by the HealthCare 1999 project. The nine counties included are Bladen, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson and Scotland.

The 3rd Annual HealthCare Summit will feature a presentation by Dr. Thomas Ricketts, Deputy Director of the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at UNC-Chapel Hill, who will speak on rural health care. There will be an update on the new \$250 million Womack Army Regional Medical Center and Graduate Medical Education Program by Col. James Culley, Chief of Staff at Ft. Bragg's current Womack Army Hospital. There will also be a session of HealthCare 1999 task force presentations, with a question and answer period to encourage audience participation. Dr. Thad Wester, Pediatrician and former Deputy Director of the North Carolina Public Health Commission, will speak on child health issues, and there will also be a presentation by Dr. James Jones, Director of North Carolina Health Care Reform. The HealthCare Summit will conclude with break-out sessions through which interested persons can become involved in the activities of the six task forces of the HealthCare 1999 project.

One outcome of the HealthCare Summit will be to expand citizen participation on the HealthCare 1999 Steering Committee and its six task forces with representatives from the nine-county region. Participants in the HealthCare Summit will be encouraged to sign up as volunteers in the task force area which most interests them.

HealthCare 1999 is a voluntary organization originally formed in 1992 and centered at the Fayetteville Area Health Education Center. The project

has shifted its focus to the larger nine-county region, which is among the poorest and most medically underserved regions in North Carolina. Offices for HealthCare 1999 are now located in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

To prepare for future challenges in community health and regional health care, six task forces were developed in the areas of Health Care, Education, Quality of Life, Commerce, Government Infrastructure and Regional Issues. Each task force is headed by a chairperson, has a wide variety of participants, meets on a regular basis, and has produced several tangible projects. Specific examples are the Southeastern Health Insurance Alliance and the Health Academy at Westover Senior High School, projects of the Commerce and Education task forces respectively.

HealthCare 1999 was awarded an operational grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust in 1993, and has recently been selected by the American Hospital Association as one of twenty five national demonstration sites in its Community Care Network Program. The Community Care Network seeks to enhance collaboration and cooperation among existing health care providers in the region to produce a more seamless system of care, to improve overall community health, and to increase accessibility to health care.

Through the efforts of its task forces, the HealthCare 1999 project addresses ten main goals: 1) to support efforts to recruit and retain primary care professionals for the region; 2) to support existing efforts to increase educational opportunities for nurses, physician assistants, practice administrators and allied health personnel; 3) to increase the health status of high risk populations by determining where they live and work and what services they need; 4) to initiate and support efforts to develop school and college programs to promote health careers; 5) to improve the region's infrastructure (sewer, water, transportation services, housing) to enhance public health, attract employers and help in recruiting and retaining health professionals; 6) to promote a health care system sensitive to community health, community accountability, seamlessness across services and managing within fixed

resources; 7) to create new health related business opportunities; 8) to support efforts to strengthen the region's Family Medicine Residency Program, medical/health science library and continuing medical/health education programs; 9) to develop health promotion programs for at-risk people, especially children; and 10) to establish collaborative links across agencies and counties to improve health care for patients who need primary care services.

The HealthCare 1999 partnership includes more than 100 organizations, led by Pembroke State University, Fayetteville Area Health Education Center, Womack Army Medical Center, Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, Bladen County Hospital, County of Cumberland, Southeastern Regional Medical Center Foundation, the Southeastern North Carolina Health Alliance and others.

The HealthCare Summit will include health education exhibits by each of the nine counties involved in HealthCare 1999, as well as six exhibits from previous corporate sponsors who have contributed to HealthCare 1999 activities. These corporate sponsors are Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Fayetteville Ambulatory Services, Fayetteville Diagnostics, Highsmith Rainey Memorial Hospital, Mid-South Insurance and Interim HealthCare of the Eastern Carolinas, Inc.

In addition to professionals in related fields, students in the health occupations area are encouraged to attend the HealthCare Summit. Scholarships to cover Summit registration can be arranged by calling the HealthCare 1999 coordinator, Paul Robertus, at 910-521-6182.

Registration for the entire HealthCare Summit will be \$30, which includes all sessions, the official publication of the proceedings, morning breaks and a luncheon. Student groups wishing to attend only the morning presentations in the Givens Performing Arts Center can be admitted at no cost. Advance registration is strongly recommended because seating is limited to 250. For information and registration materials, call the HealthCare 1999 office at 910-521-6182.

For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

Pediatric Pointers

by Dr. Joseph T. Bell
Pediatrician with Robeson Health Care

The flu is a virus that is common here in the US. Its medical name is influenza. It is most commonly seen in the winter months, and affects all ages. There is no geographic restriction to the illness. The highest incidence of disease in children usually occurs in the 5-14 year old group. Respiratory secretions of infected children contain large amounts of the virus, and the infection is transmitted directly from person to person by the airborne route.

The symptoms of the flu in school aged children and teenagers are similar to the classic flu seen in adults. The illness usually starts with sudden high fever along with a flushed face, chills, headache and muscle aches. A dry cough with runny nose is common, as is sore throat symptoms. Eye pain, burning and sensitivity to light may also be seen. In uncomplicated flu, the fever usually lasts up to 5 days, and most symptoms are gone in 1-2 weeks.

The flu symptoms in younger, pre-school kids are more varied. The illness looks more like a bad upper respiratory infection (common cold) with high fever, but is also more commonly associated with stomach symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea. They also are more likely to have swollen neck glands and ear infection with the flu virus. Muscle aches may be present.

While most flu infections clear without complications, some children develop secondary infections, such as ear infections, sinus infections and pneumonia. Reye syndrome is a disease associated with aspirin ingestion in flu patients. This disease can be fatal; never use aspirin in a child you think may have the flu.

Immunization with potent influenza vaccines is safe and effective. However, routine vaccination of normal children has not been recommended but has been reserved for patients at high risk of complications from the virus. These would include children with heart disorders, lung diseases (including asthma), kidney disorders, and metabolic diseases (such as diabetes).

The best treatment for the common flu is bedrest, lots of fluids, and Tylenol for fever. There is a prescription medication your



doctor may prescribe in some instances that can decrease the length of the illness. It is wise to try to keep contagious children away from elderly adults or debilitated patients.

Well, that's all on the flu for now. Take care and we will talk again next week!

Riley Jordan, M.D. and Wilbur "Buck" Schrum, PA-C are pleased to announce the association of general family practitioner

Myra Deese Hall, M.D.

A Pembroke native, she will join the Family Care Center in Raeford beginning November 8. To make an appointment with Dr. Deese Hall, Dr. Jordan or Buck Schrum call (910) 875-3606.



Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Providence, Chiropractic, and HealthSource accepted.

The Moore Regional PCC is approved by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.