

U.S. Court Upholds School Plan

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NARROW N.C. 56 HIGHWAY, LOUISBURG TO FRANKLINTON

In Return On Gasoline Tax

County Losing Over \$1 Million A Year

An Editorial

Many years ago, when slot machines were legal in North Carolina, people fed the one-arm bandits mainly because they expected to get something back. Of course, all were not naive enough to believe they would get back more than they put in, but the operators were smart enough to allow the suckers to get some back. This kept the suckers happy and it also kept the machine working.

In light of this, let us take a look at the same principle applied to road funds in North Carolina; with particular emphasis on Franklin County's place in this scheme of things.

Although two state agencies informed us that no such information was available, we have, through the cooperation of the eight Franklin County oil jobbers, managed to arrive at some very interesting tax figures.

Not including gasoline purchased and tax paid by out-of-county dealers doing business here and not including the one-quarter cent inspection tax or tax paid on diesel fuel sold in the county, in ONE YEAR, 1965 FRANKLIN COUNTY DEALERS PAID INTO THE FEDERAL AND STATE ROAD KITTE, \$1,261,591.00.

What did we get back?

ONLY \$149,364.97 OR 11½ PER CENT OF WHAT WE PAID.

We paid into the FEDERAL Highway fund, at four cents per gallon, a total of \$433,948.66.

How much in FEDERAL funds was allotted Franklin County by the State Highway Commission? ONLY \$7,631.90 OR LESS THAN 2 PER CENT OF WHAT WE PAID.

Franklin County oil jobbers paid into the STATE Highway Fund, at seven cents per gallon, \$827,642.34. How much in STATE Highway Funds was allotted

Franklin County by the Highway Commission? ZERO DOLLARS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ONLY \$141,733.07 OR JUST OVER 17 PERCENT FOR ALL PURPOSES, OF THAT WE PAID.

Was 1965 a typical year? We believe so. The county had according to N. C. Motor Vehicles Dept. 9,311 registered motor vehicles in 1965. The average for the past ten years is 9,310. If we assume, with some justification, that the same number of cars used the same amount of gas and therefore paid the same amount of tax over the past ten-year period, Franklin County jobbers sent in an almost unbelievable \$12,615,910 to the state and federal highway fund.

During this ten-year period, we were getting back, all total, \$1,673,158.58. This means that for the past ten-years (and perhaps longer), FRANKLIN HAS BEEN LOSING TO OTHER COUNTIES IN THE STATE A WHOPPING \$10,942,752 OR OVER A MILLION DOLLARS EACH YEAR.

Is there any wonder that Franklin is called a poor County? We're being bled to death.

FOR EVERY 11 CENTS WE PAY IN, WE GET BACK 2½ CENTS. THE SLOT MACHINE OPERATORS OFFER A BETTER PERCENTAGE THAN THIS.

But, alas, as Alexander Pope once wrote, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast." It is this hope to which we cling: That the present Highway Commission, having been shown the inexcusable mistreatment to Franklin County by past Commissions will take immediate action to remedy the situation.

One can hardly see how the present administration expects to gain popularity from a people losing over a million dollars each year by being ignored.

Freedom Of Choice Remains, New Request Period Ordered

Judge Algernon L. Butler of U. S. Eastern District Court in Raleigh issued an Interim Order late Wednesday in the Franklin County School suit, bringing to an end, at least for the time being, the long discussed and debated issues between the county Board of Education, local Negro plaintiffs and the U. S. Department of Justice.

The Order upholds the Board's Freedom of Choice plan of desegregation, but calls for a new request period beginning August 1 through August 16 for the some over

3,000 Negro students in the county. Forms, letters and a copy of the Interim Order are being printed in preparation for mailing sometime Friday or Saturday.

Board attorney Edward F. Yarborough issued a statement early today in light of the ruling by the Federal Court, expressing pleasure that the county's free choice plan was not struck down. Yarborough and Raleigh attorney Irvin Tucker represented the Board of Education in the suit.

Attorney Pleased

Yarborough's statement follows: "I am pleased that Judge Butler's Order does not strike down the Freedom of Choice Plan in effect in Franklin County. His Order offers the people of the county an opportunity to make Freedom of Choice truly effective. Last Spring, the Board of Education adopted Revised Guidelines by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the requirements of the Court Order are largely the same contained in those Guidelines, except for the new choice period, the Court Order does not, to any substantial degree, require the Board of Education to do anything more than it has been attempting to do.

No Threats

"If the parents and students will fully exercise their freedom to make their decision for school assignment, and intimidation or threats are stopped, the Board of Education's Freedom of Choice Plan will continue in Franklin County; otherwise, the Board of Education will be forced by the Courts to go to Geographic Zoning or some other plan."

The Order states: "The freedom of choice provided for herein is being conducted under order of this court. Any person or persons who interfering or seeking to exercise rights hereunder will be dealt with pursuant to federal law. The Court retains full jurisdiction over this action for the purposes of modifying this decree in the interest of justice."

Faculty Ruling

In the matter of faculty desegregation, the Court ruled: "That race, color or national origin shall not be a factor in the hiring or assignment to schools or within schools of teachers and other professional staff. Vacant teacher positions in the future shall be open to all applicants and each filled by the best qualified applicant regardless of race."

The Order also states that "The Franklin County School Board shall encourage transfers by present members of the faculty to schools within the system in which pupils are wholly or predominantly of a race other than such teacher's. The Franklin County School Board shall set up and file with the Court on or before August 10, 1966, definite objective standards for the employment, assignment and retention of teachers and professional staff in a manner not inconsistent with this order. . . ."

The Board of Education is expected to meet immediately to study the ruling and to implement the order in the county school system.

Depositions Continue

Meanwhile, depositions are still being taken in closed door sessions in the District Court in Raleigh. A host of Jus-

tice Department witnesses have been quizzed for the past three days with Schools Superintendent Warren W. Smith and Board vice chairman Clint Fuller, due to be heard today and Friday. It was explained that the depositions are being taken in the event the case is reopened at a later date and such testimony is needed. It was reported also, that both sides had agreed not to appeal the Interim Order.

The order does not require the Franklin Board to force a teacher to transfer to a school different from the one which was originally applied for nor does it require a percentage of mixed enrollment. On observer said the Order simply calls for a true free choice and does not require any particular number of applicants. However, the HEW Guidelines requires substantial progress in desegregation and the Court Order makes these Guidelines a part of the Order.

Six Justice Department attorneys plus several other aides, led by Chief attorney, Mr. Schweb, Lavonne Chambers, Negro plaintiff's attorney from Charlotte and the two Board attorneys debated at length Monday and part of Tuesday on a number of issues. For sometime it was believed that a consent judgement might be forthcoming with all agreeing to certain provisions.

It became apparent as the talks progressed that agreement could not be reached and Judge Butler issued his Interim Order. However, attorneys were consulted throughout the day Wednesday as the order was being prepared and some discussions were reported on certain points, although these were not made public.

John Hodgson, official of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington was on hand as an observer for HEW and participated in some of the discussions. Hodgson had visited Louisburg earlier on matters pertaining to the case.

Several witnesses were dismissed Tuesday by the Justice Department attorneys, among which were Franklin County Sheriff Joseph W. Champlin, County Sanitation Officer T. H. Pearce, County Welfare Director, Mrs. Jane M. York

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Youngster OK After Taking Lighter Fluid

A two-year-old Rt. 2 Zebulon youngster was reported recovering today, following his accidentally drinking some charcoal lighter fluid at his home Tuesday afternoon.

Tommy Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Boyce Williams was being rushed to Franklin Memorial Hospital when his automobile became overheated and stopped near the Franklin Times office. Sgt. T. E. Cooke of the State Highway Patrol and State Trooper Gary Kearney, stationed in Franklin County met near the Times office at about the time the Williams arrived. Sgt. Cooke took the mother and child to Franklin Memorial Hospital and Trooper Kearney transported the father.

It was reported that following the stomach pumping treatment on the child, the youngster appeared to be in good condition. There was no report on just how the accident occurred.

Tri-County Head Start Official Is Life Parolee

An investigation by a Raleigh TV station has disclosed that a top official of the Franklin - Vance - Warren County Head Start and Neighborhood Youth Programs is a parolee from two life sentences plus thirty years.

Man Held Here On Forgery

A former Negro resident of Louisburg, now residing in Front Royal, Va. is lodged in Franklin County jail charged with passing forged checks, according to reports.

Ollie T. Dunston was stopped in Louisburg as he attempted to leave after having been asked for identification while trying to cash a check for \$125 at First Citizens Bank & Trust Company here. Dunston was stopped by State Patrolman D. C. Day and was turned over to local Louisburg Police.

Officers and bank officials were alerted to be on the lookout for the alleged forger after checks had been forged on two local accounts. The 25-year-old Negro is being held under \$2,000 bond, awaiting trial.

Franklinton Stray Dog Drive On

Franklinton Police Chief Leo Edwards has issued an announcement on the forthcoming stray dog roundup in Franklinton. Edwards asked that anyone knowing of any strays to notify his department. The text of the announcement follows:

"During the first week in August, an all out effort will be made to rid the Town of Franklinton of dogs that are not collared with up-to-date vaccination tag, town tag, and listed on tax book.

The Franklin County Dog Warden will assist in this program along with a crew

of men who will travel the streets of Franklinton capturing dogs that fall in the above category.

Time cannot be taken to locate owners of dogs. The owners are expected to comply with the laws governing dogs, and we intend to exercise the authority we have to eliminate strays and neglected dogs.

We intend to complete this program in one week, therefore, your assistance in confining your dog during this time will help us to identify the strays."

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D. H. Sowers

Principal Named At Franklinton

(Frk. B.W.) Mr. Darwin H. Sowers has been elected to the position of Principal at Franklinton High School for the 1966-67 school term.

Mr. Sowers is a native of Thomasville, North Carolina, where he graduated from high school in 1952. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from North Carolina State University in 1959. He received his Master of Science Degree from The College of William and Mary in 1964.

Mr. Sowers has done post-graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro which qualifies him for the principal's certificate.

Mr. Sowers has taught at the Fairgrove Elementary School in Thomasville, North Carolina. He has been assistant principal of Guilford High School in Greensboro for the past four years.

Mr. Sowers is 32 years of age. He, his wife and three children will be in Franklinton during the latter part of August and he will assume his duties on August 11, 1966.

Fountain To Speak At Demo Dinner

State Democratic Chairman L. T. Valentine today announced that Congressman L. H. Fountain of the Second Congressional District of North Carolina, would make the major address at the annual Vance-Aycock Fund Raising Dinner, which is to be held on October 29, 1966 in Asheville.

Valentine said, "The State Democratic Executive Committee is very pleased to announce that Congressman Fountain has agreed to address the Vance-Aycock Dinner. He is an outstanding North Carolinian and has long served the Democratic Party of North Carolina with great distinction. The Democratic Party is fortunate in having such able men as Congressman Fountain, and I feel that it is certainly appropriate that

See FOUNTAIN page 6

Child Falls From Car

Mary Lou Smith, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilton Smith of Ford Circle, Louisburg escaped serious injury when she fell from the family car Wednesday afternoon while her mother backed out of the driveway of their home.

Louisburg Rescue Service members answered the call for aid and reported the child suffered skin abrasions but no serious injuries. She was taken to Franklin Memorial Hospital. One member reported that Mrs. Smith was fearful that she had run over the child and that she was somewhat "shaken" by the experience.

Tractor Sets Field Afire

The Franklinton Fire Department and County Forest Service personnel extinguished a tractor and field fire on the Frank Shinn farm east of Franklinton Wednesday shortly after noon.

Reports said the tractor was being used to operate an irrigation pump and apparently caught fire from a gasoline leak, spreading the flames to the nearby field. The tractor was severely damaged, it was reported, before the firemen could extinguish the blaze.

Secondary Road Work Contracted

Franklin County is to get seven miles of bituminous concrete surface to one of its Secondary highways, according to an announcement by the N. C. Highway Commission Wednesday.

State Rural Road Number 1100 from Youngsville east to N. C. 98 will receive the improvements amounting to \$34,061.00. The Ledbetter Brothers, Inc. firm of Rome, Ga. has been awarded the contract.

Other contract awards in the Fifth Highway Division included, Warren County, \$74,567.00; Wake County, \$20,733.00; Durham County, \$36,513.00; Granville County, \$44,153.50 and Person County, \$78,808 on one project and \$55,737 on a second.