

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### The Sales Tax Issue

Already in some North Carolina counties, leaders have begun their pitch for a favorable vote on the one-cent sales tax. November is a short way off.

Given the vote today, chances are that Franklin citizens would vote overwhelmingly against this or any other taxation. Inflation and an already burdensome tax bill are causing even the most progressive minded citizens to hesitate before advocating any new slice of the paycheck pie.

However, all hope for passage of the tax here is not, at this time, lost. There is a possibility that properly presented, enough voters might still elect this way to gain additional revenue for the county. Most already agree that property taxes cannot forever continue to carry the whole load.

It is not too early for the Board of County Commissioners to set out their plan for the use of this money, saying the voters approve. The success or failure of the referendum here is likely to rest entirely on where the voter is told the money is going.

For example, it could carry with a comfortable margin if the voter knew the money would be used to reduce property taxes. It might carry if the

voter understood that this one-cent levy would prevent a tax hike on property next year.

The measure could gain some support if it was said it is needed to finance additional industrial growth. Still others might support it if they knew it would be used to improve the schools in the county. Some would be pleased if it would be used to supplement teacher's pay or up other county employees.

There are many parents who would be happy to vote for it, if it would be used to build a county-wide recreation center for our young people. Some would like to see additional law enforcement officers hired or rural fire departments helped more.

Perhaps any or maybe all of these things are enough to bring about a favorable vote on November 4. On the other hand, it may be that none of this or anything else will cause the voter to look favorably on more taxation.

But, one thing appears certain. It is a totally lost cause unless the Commissioners explain fully to the people just how they propose to use the new money. Anything less than a full explanation, is sure to doom the issue.

## Shall The Schools Be Saved?

Viewpoint by Jesse Helms

The basic, ultimate question threaded throughout the fabric of the federal court suit brought against school authorities in Warren and Halifax counties is an inescapably ominous one: Shall the public schools be saved? It is a question that only the foolish citizen will deceive himself into regarding as merely a problem involving the people of two counties.

In a sense, in fact, the awkward and often ludicrous proceedings in federal court here last week swept the spectrum in symbolizing the agonies of federal controls hanging over the day-to-day lives of citizens. The rights and authorities of both local and state governments were being further swept away; absolute federal control of education advanced by giant strides toward the day when local administrators and state legislatures are to be little more than rubber-stamps for a faraway bureaucracy.

As much as anything else, perhaps, the events in federal court seem to emphasize a need for a reform in the federal judiciary. It is not necessary to catalogue the curious procedures, or the lack of any procedures at all, in the federal hearing here to perceive the fearfully unlimited powers of federal judges. They are beyond challenge, certainly from the people, in terms of competence or fairness—or even in matters of procedure. Federal judges—unlike state judges, from bottom to top—are appointed for life, and once appointed are virtually unremovable.

There are good judges and bad in the federal judiciary, just as any other. But there seems, among the federal judges, an ever-widening tendency to substitute a better word is impose—their own personal philosophies in school decisions which have no basis in the Constitution of the United States or, for that matter, even in the explicit Supreme Court precedents.

Even in this era of instant communication, the country often seems unaware that in all of its extensions, there is growing alarm about the extensions of federal power into the operation of local schools. There is today great but unorganized concern in the north, the mid-west and the far west—a concern matching the intensity of the pressures for so long confined to the south.

The destruction of freedom of choice has,

understandably, created the largest concern. Citizens of other sections of the country, taking for granted the permanence of their own freedom, paid scant attention when the combination of federal bureaucracy and the federal courts confined its whims and caprices to the south. But now the freedom to choose is being denied citizens in other parts of the nation. People in those areas are beginning to understand the tortures endured by the South, and inflicted by the power plays of federal politics.

There ought to be a sort of national seminar to remind and recite the real purpose of schools. Somewhere along the line, the foggy notion has crept into federal administration, and into the federal courts, that schools are to be used for integration instead of education. Even the most apathetic of parents are beginning to know better, but they have no sustaining voice to speak for them, and certainly none in the federal courts.

Dr. Carl F. Hansen, once an ardent integrationist, is now trying to warn the country of the folly crashing down upon it. Dr. Hansen once was superintendent of schools in Washington, D. C., and, as such, he set up a "model plan" for rapid integration of the schools of that city. His plan failed miserably, and the schools of the nation's capital are now jungles of violence and incompetence. This fall, the schools in Washington will be 95% segregated—95% black. White support for Washington's schools is virtually non-existent.

Dr. Hansen commented a few weeks ago that the present trend of federal control of education—the unreasoning use of the courts and federal regulations to force integration—"may destroy the (entire) dream of a free society." Dr. Hansen, witnessing the shambles of public education in Washington, warns that only "a police state with unlimited enforcement power" will be needed to implement integration if freedom of choice is destroyed.

Yet politicians and some federal judges insist upon provoking more shambles. Warren and Halifax counties are on the rack now. The foolish citizen who imagines that this is no concern of his might well ponder: Who's next?

## Troop Withdrawal



## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

### The Spoiled Able-Bodied Mass

The News Reporter, Whiteville, N. C.

Three weeks have gone by since President Nixon delivered his welfare reform speech and the popular comment—people who work must pay to help those who are able to work but don't work—has not changed.

The complaint is not aimed at residents who are unable to work and need assistance so that they might live in decency and have the necessary food, clothing and shelter they ought to have.

But take the whole program and figure the cost, a cost that must be paid by people who work for wages. It would double the federal welfare bill and more than double the number of Americans who receive some form of federal welfare payments.

If the bill were enacted in its form as presented, a family of four would receive a minimum of \$1,600 a year, or \$133 a month.

And, we repeat, this guaranteed grant must come from the wages of people who work.

The fact that the Nixon program would turn back to the states about a billion dollars collected from the states does not ease the pain or lessen the impact of popular opinion about the guaranteed supplement.

Many people who take a realistic view of the program wonder why non-working able-bodied people should be mentioned in the measure. Jobs of the kind and pay the able-bodied men and women want may not be available. But the likelihood is that work can be had when one wants to

work. Too many, though, to use the popular term, have been spoiled. Why work when one can live in plenty without working?

The ultimate aim, to get the able off welfare rolls and onto payrolls, is well received. It is this group which continues to abuse the welfare program begun over 30 years ago. Over the years the able-bodied have got educated. Note, if you will, those handsome new model cars that cart away surplus food or transport people for Food Stamp purchases. The burden is stupendous.

The present welfare program costs federal, state and local governments an estimated \$7.5 billion each year with more than \$4 billion coming from the Washington till and the rest from the states and local sources.

Of this gigantic total, about \$3 billion goes for the aged, the blind and the permanently disabled. Most of these are unemployable and the rational person is sympathetic with this group, even though it is probable that better-off kin could assume their burden if they were of a mind to do it.

But there remains \$4.5 billion going out in welfare payments. Presumably this is going to the able-bodied. And this is the group working people are fussing about now and will continue to grumble about unless corrections are made.

It is time for the able to start out in quest of a different kind of education.

## Every Dog Has His Day

Marion (S. C.) Star

The great American push is for education.

As state and federal legislatures assemble each year the ways and means committees have their hands full trying to find additional funds to satisfy the demands of teachers and educators. Roadside billboards glorify education as a guarantee against the mundane labors of life. Statistics are printed to indicate what a college education can mean to an individual in dollars and cents over a lifetime.

Sometimes we wonder where it is all going to end. When we are all chiefs, who will constitute the tribe? If everyone gets an education and is "too good" to do common labor who is going to do the common labor?

The other night we viewed a program on one of the national television networks that featured "the richest man in the world." He has virtually no formal education and he says that education is a hindrance to making money.

The following night we were reading a newspaper article that told of the high costs of common labor in certain parts of the country. Sewer workers, plumbers, electricians and such were making as much as \$30 an hour and overtime alone would amount to more than \$100 a week. The article told of men and women leaving college-education jobs to do

the common labor because the pay was higher.

During this era of the minimum wage, workers are demanding pay that is ridiculous and unreasonable. Unskilled workers expect as much as skilled workers. The government makes no distinction regarding ability and initiative. A man is a man and an hour's work is an hour's work. So says the government.

Did it ever occur to you that maybe we are trying to overeducate our people? That education might very well be a hindrance to making (money) a living?

With all our knowledge and scientific development, computers, automation and the like, there is still a demand for weak minds and strong backs. Somebody has to do the "dirty work."

Many of us will, we believe, live to see the day when common labor will be in higher demand than university degrees.

No, we aren't anti-education. We don't advocate doing away with public schools or institutions of higher learning. We're just pointing out that there are better days ahead for those who spend most of their time on the dunce stools, and school drop-outs. And—that water will eventually seek its level.



I been trying to take out some insurance on my old buddy, the editor. I can't find no agent that is willing to handle it. I figured sooner or later... you know... and I, being so close to him and such a good friend and all—I might as well make a little on the deal.

He ain't smart as me. I don't never git into any trouble. That's what he gits for all the time writing the truth. I keep telling him he ought to do like me and lie once in a while.

If there's one thing folks believe it's lies. You can tell 'em the truth all you want to but nothing beats a good fat juicy lie—especially if it's what they wants to hear.

That's why I said I went to the moon that time. And I won't surprised one bit when a whole bunch of folks looked for me on television. Some of them even thought it was old Frank inside that space suit that talked to the President. It won't though. But you ain't never going to make some folks believe it.

But my old buddy keeps gitting into trouble over the simplest things. Everbody already knows most of it and them telling it all around town git along fine. It's when old buddy tries to earn his pay and put in the paper what most folks already knows that he gits in trouble.

It's kinda like that fellow who was trying to help his neighbor all he could. He lent him money and he hauled his youngins and he fed his dog and he helped him paint his house and he run business his way—all this for a long time.

One day he asked his neighbor for a favor and the neighbor turned him down flat. Why, after all I done for you, he asked the man. And the man said "cause you ain't done nothing for me lately."

I ain't real worried about my buddy. Along about election time, he'll be popular agin. Folks will start speaking to him and patting him on the back and trying to buy him coffee and tipping him off to all kinds of news agin their opponents. It's just when he tries to earn his pay that he gits hit with the mean eye and quiet tongue.

Right now I know for a fact he's being blamed for all the trouble in town: Ever piece of the garbage would a been picked up if he'd just kept his mouth—or typewriter—shut. Things in the town office was fine and the Town Council was just joshing when they talked about cleaning house. It's ever bit my old editor buddy's fault. If he hadn't reported what these representatives of the people was doing with the people's business, he'd a been alright.

And that crowd that got caught hunting where they hadn't oughta. It won't the federal game folks and it won't the state game folks. It won't even the Magistrate that wrote the warrants. Naw, sir. The whole business was the fault of the editor. If he hadn't a put it in the paper, the whole thing would never have happened. Them doves would even be back alive and flying. Ain't nobody blaming nobody but my editor buddy. It's all his fault. He ought to have better sense than to believe everything he reads in a warrant. And besides, some of them people live here.

A man was held up and robbed in town yesterday and while I ain't heard it said yet, I know full well, my old buddy is gonna git the blame for that too, just soon as he puts it in the paper. It shore seems like he ain't never gonna learn.

I keep on telling him it would a been better if he'd just said that the Town Council didn't meet last week. That nobody went hunting at all and if I was him, I shore wouldn't make no mention of anybody getting robbed.

But then, close as we are, he ain't never listened to me and I don't expect he's gonna start now. That's why—you see—I'm trying to git me a little insurance policy on him. The money ain't for me you understand. I'm gonna build me a little stone monument for him. I ain't figured the inscription yet, but I'm thinking about saying something like: Here lies my natty friend; Who wouldn't listen to me; He told it like it was; not like folks wanted it to be.



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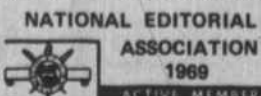
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CLINT FULLER, Managing Editor

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