

# County Votes Big "No" On Local Sales Tax

## 22% Of Voters Decide

Less than one-fourth the registered voters in Franklin County went to the polls Tuesday, but those that did soundly defeated the Local Option Sales Tax issue. Failing to gain approval in a single one of the county's eleven precincts, the measure died by a vote of 1631 against with only 849 voting for it.

The margin of defeat ranged from 85 percent of these voting in Pearces and 82 percent of the voters in Gold Mine to 53 percent in Louisburg where

the issue came closest to winning.

An extremely light turnout was recorded as had been predicted. Out of the county's 11,163 registered voters only 2,480 voted in Tuesday's elections.

Twenty-five counties approved the tax in North Carolina with Durham the only county in this area to do so.

Speculation by one informed source said Tuesday night that the defeat of the sales tax could result in an increase in property taxes at next

budget time by a minimum of 25 cents per \$100 valuation. The Board of County Commissioners is known to have supported the tax in the hope that the revenue derived from the source would allow a reduction in ad valorem or property taxes next year. The loss of the sales tax revenue leaves the Board no place to go but back to the property owner, one observer said.

A number of county leaders expressed concern over the light voter turnout, which ranged from a high of 25 percent of the registration at Louisburg to a low of 17 percent in Harris, Hayesville and Sandy Creek precincts.

Some placed the blame for the defeat on anti-tax feelings here—or tax payer's revolt, as it has been termed across the state. Others report that the tax issue was never adequately explained to the public. One observer pointed out that a number of people had indicated to him that they believed the county would get back only one-half of what it collected. This was in error, of course, and the participating counties will receive half of their

collections plus their share—based on population—from a pool of the second half from all counties involved.

Louisburg led the voter turnout with 742 of the 2944 registered voters. Cypress Creek with 69 and Pearces

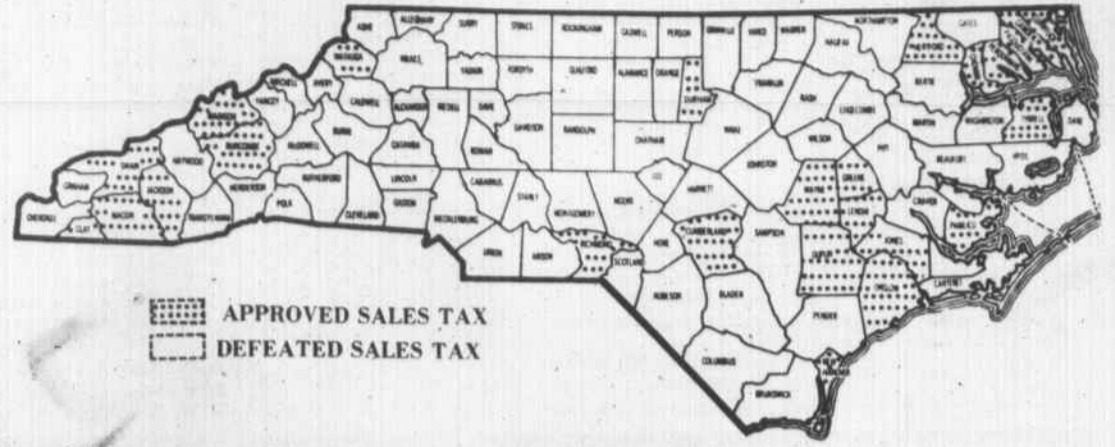
with 88 had the fewest number voting, both being the smallest precincts in the county.

Countywide only 22.2 percent of the registered voters cast a ballot in Tuesday's elections. Observers noted that there appeared to have been no block vote against the measure by the NAACP as had been expected since the state organization was opposed to

the tax. Some observers expressed the opinion that the 351-142 defeat in Franklinton reflected opposition by the state labor organizations. Others discounted this theory.

Under the law setting up the election, Franklin and other counties not approving the tax Tuesday may call for another election on the matter in 1970.

	Dunn	Pearces	Harris	Youngsville	Franklinton	Hayesville	Sandy Creek	Gold Mine	Cedar Rock	Cypress Creek	Louisburg	Totals
For	50	13	42	78	142	32	37	23	67	19	346	849
Against	159	75	92	125	351	60	81	111	131	50	396	1631
Voting	209	88	134	203	493	92	118	134	198	69	742	2480
Reg.	1006	364	764	795	2199	540	676	630	932	313	2944	11,163



## Sen. Ervin Introduces Freedom Of Choice Bill

Washington, D. C. - Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., (D-NC), introduced today a very broad civil rights bill dealing with all aspects of the school desegregation controversy. "The bill is necessary," said Senator Ervin, "to prevent our children from being herded around like cattle or shifted about like pawns in a chess game."

The Ervin bill would grant to parents of all races the freedom to choose the public schools their children attend, and would deprive federal judges and HEW of the power to deny to any child of any race the freedom to attend the public school chosen by his parents. Specifically, the heart of the bill defines "freedom of choice" as:

A system for the assignment of students to public schools \*\*\* in which the schools are open to students of all races and in which the students are granted the freedom to attend public schools and classes chosen by the respective parents from among the public schools and classes available for the instruction of students of their ages and educational standings.

The bill then prevents any federal agency or any federal court, by withdrawing its jurisdiction, from requiring any school board:

1. To make any change in the racial composition of any school using a freedom of choice plan in conformity with the Act.

2. To transport any students from one place to another in order to effect a change in the racial composition of a student body.

3. To deny to any student the right of attending any school or class chosen by the parent in conformity with the "freedom of choice" system as defined in this Act.

4. To close any school and transfer any students from the closed school to any other school for the purpose of altering the racial composition of the student body at any public school.

5. To transfer any member of any faculty from the public school in which the member of the faculty contracts to serve to some other public school for the purpose of altering the racial composition of the faculty at any public school.

In his speech to the Senate when he introduced the bill, Senator Ervin said that, "it is as clear as the noonday sun in a cloudless sky that the most effective way to achieve a system of determining admission to the public schools on a non-racial basis, is to open the public schools to children of all races, and allow them or their parents to choose the school they attend."

Senator Ervin indicated that valid freedom of choice plans were in perfect accord with the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment which merely forbids states to treat differently persons similarly situated. The Senator accused HEW officials and federal judges of actually violating the equal protection clause when they nullify freedom of choice plans and declare that school boards must take race into consideration in assigning faculty members and pupils to the

public schools.

After discussing the Fourteenth Amendment and the famous Brown decision, Senator Ervin pointed out numerous laws of Congress that have been violated by HEW officials and federal judges. From the 1964 Civil Rights Act down to the Act making appropriations for HEW during 1969, Congress has repeatedly expressed its objections to the "busing of students, the abolishment of any school, or the attendance of the students at a particular school in order to overcome racial imbalance." "Yet," said Senator Ervin, "this is precisely what federal judges and HEW officials do when they assume authority to nullify freedom of choice plans, deny school children the liberty to attend their neighborhood school, and compel them to attend schools other than those chosen by them or their parents."

Senator Ervin accused HEW bureaucrats of engaging "in the unspeakable act of denying food to hungry children to impose their self-manufactured notions on the school boards and the general public." "In so doing," the Senator continued, "they not only punish the innocent children for things for which they are not remotely responsible, but they thwart the primary purpose Congress had in mind in authorizing federal financial assistance to public schools, i.e., the promotion of the education and welfare of disadvantaged children."

In his speech, Senator Ervin dealt with a variety of desegregation cases including the recent Supreme Court case of Green v. New Kent County. About his landmark Green case, Senator Ervin had this to say: "Its facts are plain; its verbiage is ambiguous and merky; it lays down no understandable and workable rule." Senator Ervin also criticized many judicial decisions from the 5th Circuit where he said "the courts are dominated by judicial activists of highly immoderate attitudes."

Senator Ervin warned that federal judges and HEW officials "lack the competence to operate schools. The validity of this observation is made manifest by the arbitrary guidelines of HEW, which exalt the integration of the bodies of school children above the enlightenment of their minds; and the decisions of judicial activists which mummick educational processes almost as badly as they mangle the Constitution."

In conclusion, Senator Ervin said, "My bill merits the support of every Senator and Representative who believes that it is either unconstitutional or unwise for federal judges and bureaucrats to herd children around like cattle or shift them about like pawns in a chess game."

## District Governor Visits Lions

Herb Bradshaw, Lions District Governor from Durham, was the guest speaker at the Louisburg Lions Club last Tuesday evening. He made a plea for more dedicated Lionism.

Lion Bradshaw was particularly concerned about the recruitment of new members, especially young people. To inspire young people to join Lionism, each club should plan at least one youth activity during the year, he said.

However, the old members must be retained and not forgotten. He added the club with the lowest percentage of loss will receive a stuffed lion. The contest ends next April 30.

Lion Roger Mitchell requested that members search their closets for old clothes and carry them to him as he plans to travel soon to Boys Home in Lake Waccamaw. The young men there will either wear these clothes or place them on sale in their store.

Visitors were Tex Tillotson from Williamsburg, Nathan Cole from Louisburg, and James Frazier, Hugh Haskins, and Deputy District Governor James Waugh from Oxford.

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## Business Section Hit By Early Morning Fire

Damage in excess of \$50,000 was suffered in an early morning fire here which threatened much of the downtown business section before firemen managed to bring the blaze under control shortly before daylight.

At least three businesses were destroyed when fire gutted the old ABC building on Louisburg's South Main Street and Bull Run Alley. Two pool rooms and a grill serving primarily Negro customers were completely destroyed and none of the contents were saved.

The blaze, discovered around 2 A.M. by fireman Gerald Eury, disrupted telephone service in a wide area of the community and knocked out all emergency radio communications from the fire house central station and the rescue building on Bickett Blvd. Firemen and Rescue members were dispatched to Franklinton, Epsom, Justice and Centerville to obtain help from the rural fire departments.

Eury said he was awakened by the alarm system for Gay Products

and Dean Farms. The alarm was triggered when fire burned telephone cables. Thinking the fire was in these out-of-town locations, Eury set off the alarm, which for the most part failed to function due to the damaged telephone wires. He reports that when he opened the huge overhead doors at the station house, billows of smoke told him the fire was much closer.

Only a monumental effort on the part of the firemen saved the fire house itself. The station is located adjacent to the destroyed building and all movable equipment was taken out of the building as a precautionary measure when the blaze was threatening. Furniture and fixtures were also removed from some offices along Court Street. The rear of these buildings are separated from the destroyed building by Bull Run Alley, an extremely narrow street.

Howard Pitts, a Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co. official reported from Henderson this morning that fire damaged a 300-pair

cable knocking out service to 350 local subscribers. He said the damaged cable carries 606 wires or 303 pairs. He estimated company losses at between \$500 and \$1,000. Pitts also reported that service personnel were dispatched to the scene this morning around 2:30 A.M., a few minutes after the fire was discovered and that service between Henderson and Louisburg and Louisburg and Centerville had been halted. By 9 A.M. this morning long distance service had been restored, Pitts said and much of the service to areas along South Main Street, the River Road and the Franklinton highway were restored by noon. He stated that he expected all services to be restored by 3 P.M. today. Two telephone company cables withstood the intense heat, he reported.

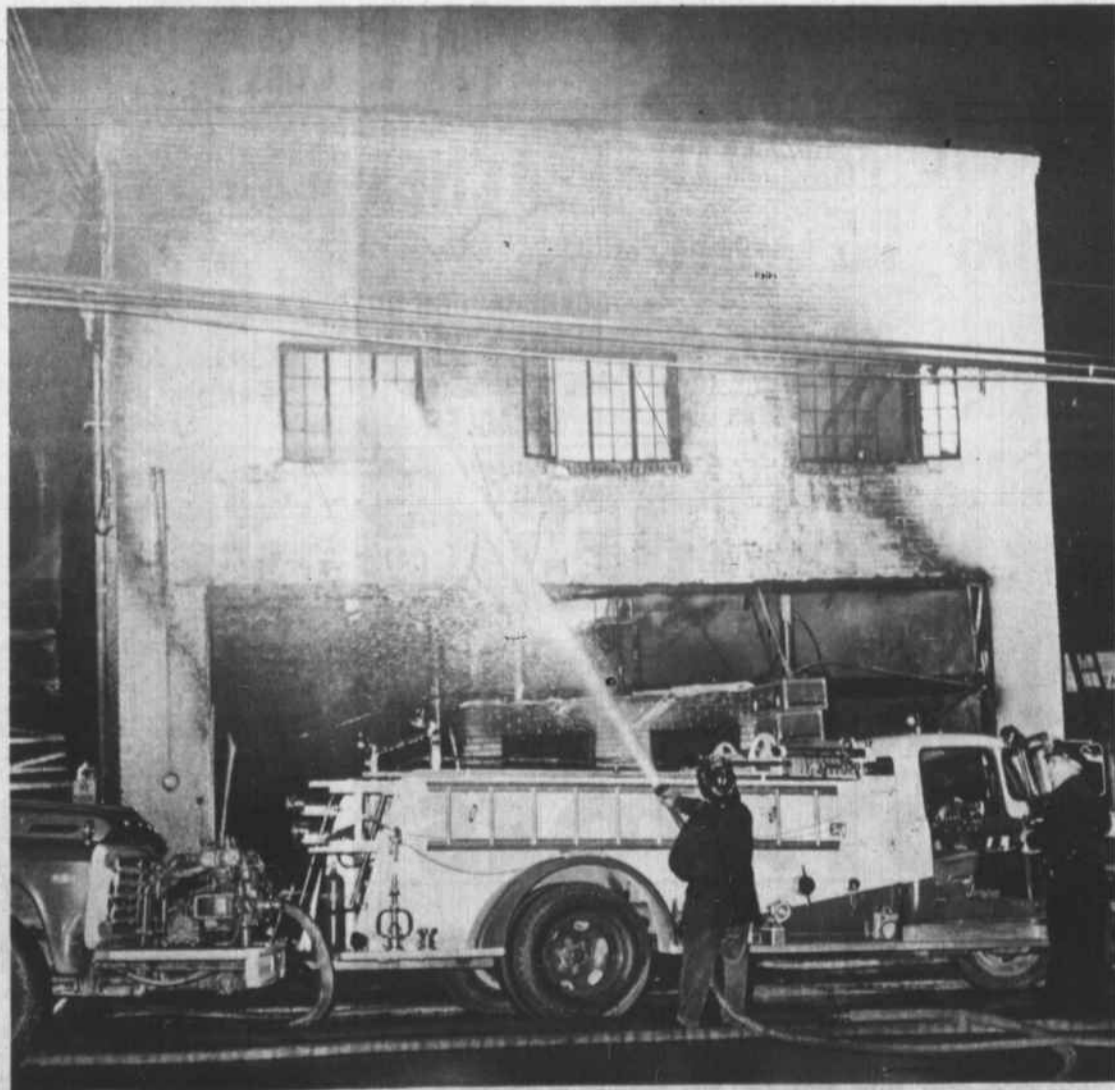
Louisburg Fire Chief R. G. Person, Jr. and Mayor V. A. Peoples had nothing but the highest praise for efforts by firemen last night. Many observers said it was nothing short of a miracle that far more extensive losses were avoided. Firemen saved a plastics manufacturing firm on the South side of the burned building and a city block of office buildings on the north side along with the fire house, located on the south end of the building.

Local restaurants set up coffee and donut stations as firemen fought the blaze in extremely cold weather. Person and Peoples expressed their appreciation to these people for their thoughtfulness. The Louisburg Rescue Service was on the scene ready to offer assistance and members were seen helping in the business of hooking up hose and moving it around.

Ironically, the same building—known as the Howell building back then—was hit by fire on November 8, 1950. Three days short of 19 years ago, the blaze was discovered at 5:30 A.M. and firemen then saved the all surrounding buildings, including the fire station. Damage in the 1950 fire was estimated at \$25,000 to \$30,000. The building belonged to W. G. Lancaster and the Charles Green Estate. W. G. Lancaster, Jr. said this morning he could not put a price on the loss but that it was only partially covered by insurance.

Origin of the fire was undetermined but it is believed to have started in the grill fronting South Main Street. Firemen who arrived on the scene early said the section was in a blaze when they got there.

It is the most damaging fire to hit the downtown area since Ford's Southside Warehouse burned in January, 1964.



## Board Of Education Holds Regular Meeting

The Board of Education heard Mr. Bill Ferrell of Nash Technical Institute explain an adult education program leading to a high school diploma in its regular monthly meeting here Monday night. Following Ferrell's presentation, the Board authorized Supt. Warren Smith to enter into an agreement with the Nash County agency and to set up such a program here. The location of the classes is to be determined after it is known where most of the adult students will be.

Jerry Cooke, a Raleigh architect, also appeared before the Board in a get acquainted meeting and explained some of the services of his firm in school building. B. J. Hayes, former teacher at the old Perry's School, was appointed Home School Visitor, an ESEA position and participation in the Louisburg Christmas Parade was authorized for each school in the system with each individual school deciding an entry or not to participate. The possibility of establishing a

night class to acquaint parents with the new math was discussed and the Board indicated that if enough interest is shown, such a class will be started.

A special meeting was set for November 13 when the Board is to map out long range plans and possibly allocate the remaining bond money to certain projects in the county system. Updating the various science departments seems to have an inside track on use of the funds.

## Commissioners Hold Quiet Session

The Board of County Commissioners had a rather routine meeting here Monday. Reports from the various county agencies were received and approved and Little River Fuel Co. was awarded the contracts for No. 1 and No. 2 fuel oil for the county. The firm was apparent low bidder at 18.00 and 12.69 cents per gallon.

G. W. Woodlief of Henderson was approved as county electrical inspector for schools in accordance with a request from the Board of Education that an inspector be named. State Road 1219 was the object of a road petition approved by the Board and C. A. Patterson of Hayesville Township appeared before the Board requesting that he be made constable of Hayesville. The Board took the request under advisement.