## ----The Smoky Mountain Times TED SMILEY ..... Owner and Publisher **ESTABLISHED 1887** At Bryson City, North Carolina, in the Great Smoky Mountains. CORN-FED BEEF One Year, Swain and Surrounding counties — \$3.00 One Year, Elsewhere in the United States or Second Class Imprint — Second Class Postage Paid at Bryson City, N. C.. **Published Weekly**

## DOUBLETALK

Newspapermen are so accustomed to getting doubletalk from spokesmen for various government agencies that it's something of a shock to interview one who doesn't mince words or hide behind vague generalities.

A pleasant shock, to be sure, but a shock nonetheless. We had this interesting experience recently, and it was so enlightening to us, we thought we'd pass it along.

From the moment of its inception, everybody in this region who gives a hoot about his community has been speculating on the impact of the Appalachian Development Program.

We've been bedazzled by the golden gleam of all those hundreds of millions of dollars, and many of us thought the program would make come true the dreams of progress\_minded citizens and groups. Others have poured cold water in large quantities.

For many months we've been trying to get answers to pertinent questions, only to be met with glittering general answers.

Yes, there would be money for recreation, hospitals, sewage disposal and treatment plants — just about any. thing we asked about, the answer was affirmative. But when we tried to get specific answers, to pin down our correspondents on specific points, we got nothing but evasions.

Except for one thing: Roads.

The exact sum which would be spent on roads was known, and, at least so far as Western North Carolina was concerned, the plans were fairly well developed.

Then a nasty rumor began to circulate. The rumor was picked up and spread by one just as ignorant as we were, but he spoke in a voice of doom, and with the tone of authority.

The money for roads, he allowed, was real, but it wouldn't do us any good. It merely was being substituted for regular federal and state road programs already underway, and Western North Carolina wouldn't get an extra nickel for roads from the Appalachian program. The Appalachian money would take the place of existing allocated funds. If anything, it would slow down develop. ment of roads in this region.

We were inclined to believe the rumor-spreader because of the royal runaround we'd been getting from everyone we'd been writing in search of facts.

Turned out we'd been writing to the wrong people. The way the Appalachian program is being developed is this: The governor of each of the 11 Appalachian states appoints a personal representative to the Appalachian Development Commission. The twelfth member is a federal representative.

Local and area groups submit plans to their governors. Those approved by the governors are sent to the commission, and the commission votes approval or disapproval, with the majority vote ruling.

The federal representative has no more say than any of the governors' representatives. This, alone, is a radical departure from past policies. It is, in truth, a new concept of federal\_state partnership.

Governor Dan Moore's representative on the commis. sion is Woodrow W. Jones, a former congressman and Democratic party leader.

It was this same Mr. Jones who ripped aside the veil of confusion and doubletalk surrounding the Appalachian program.

He told us, without any attempt whatsoever to seek refuge behind generalities, that at this stage in the program neither he nor anyone else knew the answers to many of the questions we had been posing.

The commission, he said, still is working out policies to follow in allocating funds for programs in the various states.

Could we apply for money with which to buy land for a recreational complex with any hope of success? We asked.

Everyone else we had written had replied that funds would be available for recreation under certain conditions - but the conditions never were given.

We got none of that from Mr. Jones. "I don't know, and I won't know for at least a month,"

he said. He gave the same answer to other specific questions,

except about roads. Mr. Jones flatly denied that Appalachian road funds

would just replace existing funds. "Western North Carolina will receive Appalachian

road money in addition to planned state and federal funds," he said. "Not in place of those funds, but in addition to them," he emphasized. "Any state trying to switch road money from its Appalachian section to some other section won't qualify for Appalachian road funds."

Mr. Jones gave another reason why we won't have to worry about this region getting short changed under the Appalachian program.

Governor Moore, he reminded us, came from around these parts, and was fully aware of our needs.

"Dan Moore is governor of the entire state, and he's not going to show favoritism for any region," Mr. Jones said. "But you can count on him to see to it that the mountains. for once, get fair treatment."

For our part, we feel a lot happier about the Appalachian program. And we're delighted that North Carolina is represented on the commission by a man who isn't a doubletalk expert; by a man who isn't ashamed to say he doesn't know all the answers - but that he intends to learn them. Adda D. ativio Co. THO

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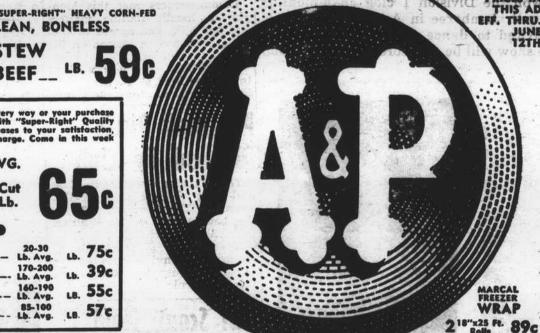
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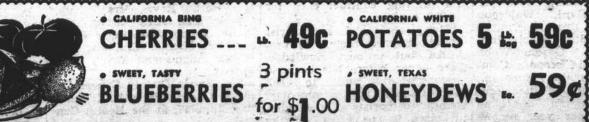
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