

Editorials

Counties Should Pay Teachers Too!

Thirdly, Commissioner Walton's assumption that if the counties were relieved of the responsibility of pay the salary supplements, the state would be pressured to pay adequate competitive salaries on a state-wide basis. The fact is, there is no guarantee that the state legislature would do this in a timely manner, if at all. That is, any hesitation on the part of the state to pick up the salary supplement difference would result in an immediate loss of some of our better teachers and administrators to other states. We don't believe the state would act quickly with the result being a gap in competitive efforts to attract good teachers that might take a decade to off-set.

The hard reality is that what is considered adequate and competitive salaries for teachers and administrators varies in part because of many non-economic factors. Therefore, no matter how planned, there will be differences in salary needs throughout North Carolina.

Mr. Walton should know this and should recognize that his judgment in this issue show little respect for our local educators and the taxpayers, too.

Beef Up Elementary Ed.

William Bennett, U.S. Education Secretary released this week the first national report on the state of America's elementary schools in 33 years. The report, called "First Lessons" calls for more rigorous elementary school curriculums and less traditional ways of selecting school principals.

The report centers on two vital questions: "What should children know by the time they finish eighth grade?" and "How can

they learn it?"

Among the report's conclusions it is pointed out that social studies curriculums emphasizes social living and social science at the expense of geography, history and civics. Sad to say there is hard evidence to support these conclusions of the report. At the National Governor's Conference held in Hilton Head Island, S. C. late last month it was pointed out that American students have little knowledge of the world they live.

The nation's governors were told by the President of the National Geographic Society that "American students have a shocking lack of basic geographic knowledge of the world and even the United States." It was pointed out that in one test, 20 percent of elementary school students asked to locate the United States on a map placed it in Brazil. Only ten years after the Vietnam War, 95 percent of one incoming freshman class could not locate Vietnam on a map.

The National Geographic Society is working with educators in six states to return geography to the classroom, but we have to wonder how it ever left. This reminds us too that we school administrators, teachers and parents alike, need to heed the warning in the "First lesson" report.

Crackdown On Drugs

We were pleased to learn of the survey which concluded that two-thirds of Americans say that they would be willing to pay higher taxes to finance anti-drug efforts. In addition, three fourths of full-time workers expressed a willingness to take valid drug test.

Miller Says

Are Republicans Serious About The Black Vote?

A newspaper editorial editor asked me to tell why black Republicans do not seek elected office. I replied that one reason is that the Goldwater presidential campaign was perceived as antiblack and it left a racist taint on the Republican Party in that it made black Republican candidates become sacrificial lambs. An eerie sensation nauseated my stomach from the slight redness in this chap's face because I realized that I was saying that the black leadership had handed America's racist minority a major anti-civil liberty victory by aiding and abetting political segregation.

The latest nationwide estimate for black Republicans running in 1986, a mere 70 people, helps to substantiate my political segregation theory. This low number suggests that the Republican Party is currently in a quandry over whether to seriously invest in capturing black votes. Does this imply that the Republican strategists will be labelled "short-sighted" because they premised their 1986 campaign plans with writing off the black vote?

The Japanese have demonstrated well how to use long-term



Sherman

planning as a weapon to exploit America's penchant for short term gratification. The Republican Party can emulate the Japanese marketing success story by undergirding their political plans for the black vote with some key advertising research findings; namely, people are high concerned by the quality of one's message if the subject is deemed relevant, and one must simply present their message a number of times if it has low relevancy.

Much of the current material coming out of the Republican Party must be classified as having little relevancy to blacks,

so their strategists will have to pursue a constant bombardment strategy to get their story heard in the black community. The target market of the black press (black churches, professionals, and so on) seems to be the same group that the Republicans are attempting to reach. Perhaps the Republican Party already recognizes that Black newspapers are excellent vehicles for them to get their message to approximately 2.5 million blacks every week.

The Republican Party might also enhance its chances of getting a fair hearing by offering the mainstream media a few newsworthy issues relevant to the black community. President Ronald Reagan should set the tone by discharging Clarence Pendleton, Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, because his foolhardy leadership has contributed to a rise in overt American racism.

The Republican leadership should bring forth black Republican leaders who are visible. Sam Pierce, Secretary of HUD, is one of the best kept secrets in Washington.



Pressing Problems In The Black Community

As I See It

Reformed Tax Bill-More Political Than Practical

By Gerald O. Johnson
Congress is still patting itself on the back for completing the most sweeping tax legislation package in 5 decades. The bill will probably be passed into law in September of '86. As the smoke begins to clear from this tax overhaul, I'm afraid we are going to find that the bill was more political than practical. The full impact of the Tax Revenue Code of 1986 will not be known for years to come. However, some immediate consequences can already be determined.

The overhaul is really a shift of the tax burden from the poor to the rich. It lays a heavier tax burden on businesses. It goes after investors. It makes a feeble attempt at leaving the middle class tax payer unscathed. At first glance this type of philosophical approach to tax overhaul seems commendable. But the consequences can be devastating. One subtle point that seems to escape everybody is the difference between tax rare and tax liability. Congress' tax package won widespread approval because of the simplification



Gerald

in using just a few tax rates. Moreover, they lowered the rates. But the rates are used to compute your liability based on your taxable income. Your tax liability is what you have to pay the IRS. Under the current tax code, taxable income could be considerably less than actual earnings by utilizing tax deductions and tax credits. Even though the new code has lower rates, it will be much more difficult to have a taxable income less than your actual income.

This means that a lot of people will pay more taxes instead of less. If you itemize on your taxes, you are in for a rude awakening. If you take the standard deduction, then you will probably like the the new tax code.

Understand what has happened. The new tax code will eliminate a lot of taxable deductions. The lower rate was a sweetener to allow you to swallow this bitter pill. In future years when the tax rates begin to escalate (and they will go up) you will not have any shelters to protect yourself.

Moreover, those of you who may get an immediate tax break from the new code will have it taken away by local taxes. Under the new bill Municipal Bonds will not be a tax haven like it has been. Banks hold roughly 35 percent of all Municipal bonds. The new tax code will no longer give banks favorable tax treatment for their Municipal holdings. Hence, a lot of city projects will have to be curtailed or eliminated. Charlotte relies heavily on Municipal bonds to fund major city improvements. Hence, more money will come out of your pockets to fund city projects.

If you work for a smoke-stack industry (you make things for a living) you should be highly concerned about the impact of this bill on your job. The capital intensive industries (those that spend a lot of money on machinery and buildings) will lose a lot of the tax benefits they received. To make up for the higher tax liabilities, these industries will have to adjust their production in some manner. Cutbacks is the most often used remedy.

The poor people who directly benefit the most from the tax package could turn out to be the biggest losers. Low income housing should become even scarcer. The current tax code gave incentives for investing in low income real estate. For that matter it gave incentives for investing in real estate period. With these incentives removed investors will seek other forms of investments. Local Governments will have to come to the rescue for providing even more low income housing. This is bad news.

The bottom line of the '86 Tax Code is to help the consumer and hurt the investor. Since there are more consumers (voters) than there are investors, this

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