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### Accent On Agriculture

## There's More Right Than Wrong In U. S.

BY JOHN SLEDGE  
N.C. Farm Bureau Federation

The greatness of this country continually amazes me, and I believe it is time for all of us to regain our perspective and look at what's right with America, rather than just focusing on the negative side.

Everybody realizes that we have some problems, and it's no use to bury our heads in the sand and hope they will disappear. We must of necessity recognize these problems and work toward solutions.

But what's right with America? Let's look at the record . . . which clearly shows that never in the past has a society offered so much prosperity for so many of its people. For example: 50 million people own their homes, 94 per cent of American families own at least one television set; 53 per cent of all cars in the world are on our highways; our factories produce as much goods as Soviet Russia and all of Western Europe combined; with fewer than 4 per cent of our people farming, we produce food and fiber for 200 million Americans plus 100 million in other lands.

True, these are all materialistic things; however, there is another side to the majority of Americans. Last year the people of this country — voluntarily, as individuals — gave 15 billion dollars to worthy causes. Over half the people in America attend church regularly.

The citizens of this country are the best fed, clothed, educated, medicated, treated in any place in the world. We have done more to help other peoples of the world than all the rest of the nations on earth. We have a greater

capability to solve our internal problems than any country.

The rest of the world would settle for our problems in a minute. We may not be at the peak of our form for the present; but we are not falling apart either. We must get on with the solving of problems to the best of our ability without losing sight of what's right with our country.

Fontana Village, N.C. — TVA's 490 foot Fontana Dam is the highest and largest concrete dam in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. When completed in 1945, it was the fourth highest dam in the world. Only three dams — Hoover, Shasta, and Grand Coulee — all in the United States, are higher. It was the source of power needed for Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and so was part of the secret Manhattan Project of World War II. It impounds a reservoir storing 1,450,000 acre feet of water on the Little Tennessee River.

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REPORT FROM **U.S. Senator JESSE ★★ HELMS**

WASHINGTON—A week or so ago, Bill Monroe of NBC asked me to visit with him on the air during one of the segments of the *Today Show*. It was a pleasant experience, but I simply was not prepared for the deluge of mail and telephone calls that resulted from that 9-minute appearance on nationwide television.

If I ever doubted that the American people are sincerely concerned about their country, my experience on that program would have removed all doubts.

Mostly, Mr. Monroe and I talked about the economic situation. I mentioned that I had submitted legislation seven times since January 1973 to require the Federal Government to balance its budget, thus putting an end to the enormous Federal deficits which have occurred every year except four or five during the past 40 years. I mentioned that the Federal debt is now in the neighborhood of a half-trillion dollars, costing the taxpayers between 35 and 40 billion dollars a year in interest alone.

**DEFEATED**—In each of the seven times that I have forced the Senate to vote on the balanced-budget question, I have been defeated. The closest I came to victory was a 46-43 vote last year. Still, it has been worthwhile, I think, to require Senators to go on record.

When politicians go home for speeches, they all claim that they're for a balanced budget, and for cutting down on Federal spending. Even the worst of the big-spending Senators talk a pretty good game when they're home. But when they get back to Washington, you find them voting for every enormous appropriation that comes through the hopper.

Right now, for example, the Congress is preparing to approve a "rebate" to taxpayers, which will increase the Federal debt by at least \$29.2 billion. And that, in turn, will cause another round of inflation, which will more than wipe out the rebate, in terms of buying-power of the dollar. The "rebate," you see, is "smart politics," and I doubt that more than a handful of Senators will vote against it.

I must vote against it, because it won't help the people. It will do little or nothing to improve the economy—and it will certainly make bad matters worse in terms of inflation.

**TRILLION**—Shortly after my appearance on NBC, a North Carolina gentleman called with a bit of advice. "I heard you talking this morning about the Federal debt," he said, "and I agree with you. But you were talking in terms of billions and trillions of dollars. I think you ought to simplify your discussion, because most people simply cannot comprehend a billion dollars, let alone a half-trillion of them."

His point was well taken. I certainly can't imagine a billion of anything, and certainly not a half-trillion!

But how can you get across the enormity of such amounts of money? This past Sunday afternoon, I did a few calculations—and if my arithmetic is correct, I came up with some incredible figures.

Let us say, for example, that you were standing on the edge of a cliff, and that you began throwing dollar bills over the cliff at the rate of one dollar per second. How long would it take you to throw a half-trillion of them over the cliff?  
It would take 15,854 years, 10 months, and 25 days!

**INTEREST**—And how about that annual interest on the existing Federal debt? Bear in mind, now, that we're talking about interest alone. Let's say that this annual interest costs the taxpayers \$35 billion.

Well, suppose you lined up enough people, each carrying one million dollars, to pay the annual interest on money already borrowed and spent by your Federal Government. Let's say that they are marching along, one person per three feet of space, each carrying that million dollars. How many people be needed? And how long would the line be?

Well, there would be 35,000 people in that line. And the line would stretch for 20 miles!

Just remember: That's a debt that has been run up in your name, and in the names of your children and grandchildren. And that interest must be paid by you, deducted every pay day from your hard-earned wages. Isn't it imperative that we do something about it now, before it's too late?

## Dash To Non-Public Schools Is Slowing

Some 54,000 Tarheel children are currently enrolled in the State's approximately 270 non-public schools, according to a report recently released by the Department of Public Instruction.

total student population in North Carolina. Over 1.2 million students are enrolled in public schools.

Seventy-five per cent of the non-public school enrollment is concentrated in fifteen counties.

Approximately 5,000 of these children are kindergarteners.

Charlotte - Mecklenburg leads the list with 8,010 non-public school students. The other fourteen include: Winston - Salem - Forsyth (6,426); Wake-Raleigh (4,631); Guilford-Greensboro-High Point (3,319); Durham-Durham City (2,071); Nash-Rocky Mount (1,900); Buncombe-Asheville (1,929); Wayne-Goldsboro (1,646); New Hanover-Wilmington (1,391); Lenoir-Kinston (1,392); Cumberland-Fayetteville (1,415); Craven-New Bern (1,177); Wilson-Wilson City (1,076); Onslow-From 49,686 in 1971-72; Jacksonville (833); Halifax-Roanoke Rapids City-only about four per cent of the Weldon City (1,038).

Compared to last year's enrollment of 53,489, there has been a slight increase in non-public school attendance during the 1974-75 school year. That increase is not significant, however, when compared to last year's increase of over 2,000 new enrollees in non-public schools.

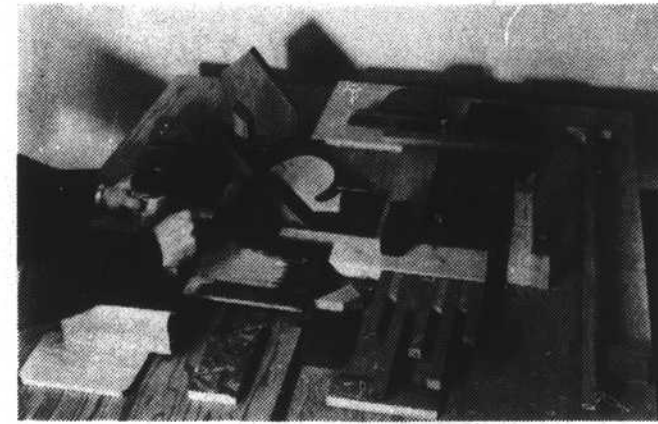
Over the past three years, the total enrollment in non-public schools has increased from 49,686 in 1971-72; Jacksonville (833); and however, it still represents only about four per cent of the



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Internal Revenue Service

### Tips on Wood Finishing



#### HOW TO MAKE A WOOD WALL SCULPTURE

In just a few hours you can add interest and depth to even the plainest box-like room with an inexpensive wall sculpture made from scraps of wood.

While wood scraps can be glued directly to the wall, it's much easier to glue them first to sections of 1/2" plywood. This way, gluing and finishing can be done on a table or other flat surface.

After wood scraps are glued in place, color by applying a liberal coat of penetrating wood finish. Wipe off excess and allow to dry overnight. If desired, cover with a protective finish of clear polyurethane. When dry, mount finished sculpture to the wall and your project is completed.

Other tips on working with wood are included in a free 16-page booklet, "Tips on Wood Finishing." Write Minwax Company, Inc., Dept. AW, 41 Oak Street, Clifton, New Jersey 07014.

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