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The Real Solution

What should be done about Macon County's school situation?

Although something more than three quarters of a million dollars (of state aid and local bond funds) has just been spent here, the county finds its schools with more needs than there is money—many more needs.

How could that be? The reason, of course, is the explanation given by Mr. J. C. Sorrells, member of the county board of education, in a talk at last week's Franklin Rotary club meeting—what we have just bought in the way of school facilities was needed 10 or 20 years ago. Instead of bringing the county up to date, it simply brought us to within 10 to 20 years of up to date.

Must the county increase its tax rate in order to provide sufficient funds for the schools? Or can we, perhaps, divert other funds to the schools for a year, or a few years, to take care of the situation?

If we adopt that temporary expedient, can we maintain these bigger, better schools, when we drop back to the old levy for schools—the same levy we provided to maintain the smaller, often ramshackle buildings?

The problem poses these and other difficult questions for county authorities. The immediate solution, whatever it may be, will not be simple.

As a long-term policy, however, a genuine, honest, fair re-evaluation of the taxable property in this county would seem to offer a solution—and would be well worth-while, even if there were no problem.

It is common knowledge that, under our present haphazard method of fixing the value of property, none of it is listed at anything like its true worth. An honest evaluation would enable us to reduce the tax rate—and have more money. Furthermore, there is such a wide variation in the way property is listed that some taxpayers are bearing only a half or even a fourth of their just share of the tax burden, while others are paying as much as two or three times their fair share.

Little Things Count

Almost nightly, at movie time, motorists park on sidewalks in the vicinity of the theatre. Sometimes it isn't a question of the front, or rear, wheels getting on the sidewalk—sometimes cars are parked not across the sidewalk, but along it, as though the sidewalk were an automobile thoroughfare. The pedestrian finds himself crowded out into the street.

Garbage collection in Franklin often is anything but regular. People put their garbage out Monday one week and it is collected that day. Perhaps the next week the garbage truck arrives Tuesday or Wednesday—or occasionally not at all. And, on the weeks when the collection is late, the owner must haul his full can back onto the porch or in the house; otherwise, he is likely to be kept awake that night by dogs overturning the can.

These are comparatively small matters. But a number of such small matters go a long way toward determining whether a town is well or poorly run.

They are things that part-time members of the board of aldermen cannot be expected to spend their time checking on. They are the type of thing a competent full-time city manager could and would supervise, and correct.

It Should Be Repealed

The American Legion magazine voices alarm at a movement to repeal the law that gives war veterans preference in filling federal jobs.

But why shouldn't that law be repealed?

As a temporary measure, to give the veterans of World War 2 an opportunity to reintegrate themselves into civilian life, it possibly was both wise and just. And some similar temporary measure may be desirable for the men who have served during the Korean fighting.

But to give all veterans, for an indefinite time, a job preference is class legislation, pure and simple. It is class favoritism. It is in direct opposition to

Universal Military Training

NOT NEEDED

Says
SMITHFIELD HERALD

Let's keep straight the meaning of "universal military training" as the term is currently used in the discussions relating to national defense.

UMT — as universal military training is popularly called—means permanent peace-time conscription, not simply compulsory military service.

Compulsory service is not the issue before Congress. Most of those who oppose UMT are in favor of Selective Service or the draft in times of war or great emergency.

UMT as a PERMANENT policy is the issue. Do we want that in America? Do we need that in America?

The Herald believes that UMT ought to be rejected because it would be a further step toward perpetual domination of all American life by a military caste system and, therefore, a move away from democracy toward dictatorship or thought control.

Furthermore, as we see it, UMT ought to be rejected at this time because it is not needed now for national defense and military men themselves admit as much.

General J. Lawton Collins, chief of staff, has testified before a Congressional committee that the army will recommend that UMT be run on a volunteer basis for at least the first two or three years. Does this testimony not indicate that there is no need now for UMT? We may be sure that the army would not agree to a voluntary UMT set-up if there were an acute need for the UMT plan as outlined by the National Security Training Commission.

Fact is, adoption of UMT now would weaken national defense.

Hanson W. Baldwin, military editor of the New York Times, has written: "It is unlikely the UMT would be invoked by the President for some time to come, for to start it now in the midst of our present emergency would greatly complicate our preparedness program."

If made effective now, UMT would drain the pool of young men from which Selective Service must draw to keep the army at authorized strength. Thousands of officers and non-commissioned officers would be taken from the army to train

MAKES SENSE

Thinks
STANLEY NEWS & PRESS

Opposition on the part of religious groups as well as many individual citizens to universal military training seems to us to be a short-sighted attitude.

Twice within the memory of this generation, the United States has been saved from destruction by European nations who fought off the enemy until we could draft fighting forces to equip them. We cannot continue to depend on our friends to suffer and bleed while we prepare to defend ourselves.

Military service is unpleasant to the average young American, but we are still living in, the sort of world that calls for a large measure of precaution. We believe that every young man, without exception, should be required to give of his time and energies in preparing to defend this country. If he is physically unable to fight, there are other spots in which he can serve.

The only way to deal fairly with all young men in seeing that they share in this responsibility is a system of universal military training.

If you favor the plan, your representatives in Washington will appreciate you writing them to this effect. Those who do not favor it are writing by the ream.

the UMT draftees.

General MacArthur made sense when he declared before a Congressional committee last August, "I should advise most seriously, if I were considering (UMT) that I would wait and get through the emergency that faces us now, and then on what has resulted, and what exists then, I would sum up the facts and make my decision."

There are no facts now to show that America needs conscription of youth as a permanent policy, in peace and war. On the contrary there is plenty of evidence in history—Germany after 1870, for instance—to show that the way of permanent peacetime conscription is the way of dictatorship and destruction of all those democratic ideals on which our nation was built.

A wise America will not be frightened into a policy so fraught with dangers to democracy.

UNDERPAID

In all the discussions of corruption in high office we have yet to hear or read anything that would point up what we have long considered a major inequity in the matter of getting men and women of ability in government service . . . that of paying them in proportion to their earning capacity in private life.

During the past several years a great many honest public servants have resigned their government posts to accept private employment. They have been frank in stating that they just couldn't get along on what Uncle Sam was paying them . . . couldn't support their families, couldn't educate their children.

—Chatham News.

Poetry

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Editor
Weaverville, North Carolina

SNOWFLAKES

Little white fairies of the North,
To whom the clouds gave birth—
Little white angels of the sky
Floating down to earth.
How glad I am to see you come
So lightly through the air,
Resting like the love of God
On all things everywhere.

BESS HINSON HINES.

California and Highlands.

the traditional American ideal of "equal rights for all, special privileges to none". Because it is in contradiction to that philosophy, it is much more "unamerican" than some of the "unamericanisms" that the Legion so vehemently crusades against.

Our American Civilization

Shouting about high property taxes; paying three prices for shoddy goods without complaint.

Ruining our teeth with soft foods and sweets; spending thousands to put chemicals in our drinking water to remedy the trouble.

Political leaders, boasting of American democracy; those same political leaders giving the people no voice whatever in the selection of the nominees for President.

Others' Opinions

TRIBUTES TO MINORITIES

Isn't it funny that tributes to minorities usually come from politicians running for office in regions where the minorities live?—Jonesville (Mich.) Independent.

MIGHT BE

He who pays his taxes has paid for the right to question what the government does with his money. If he used the right more often, the taxes might be less.—Greenwood (Miss.) Commonwealth.

PIOUS BLAZE

On Good Friday in 1788, a fire started in New Orleans and the whole town burned down except for two buildings.

The local churchmen had passed a rule against ringing bells on Good Friday, and nobody dared touch the fire alarm bell.

—Winston-Salem Journal.

MIND AND SEAT

Went to a meet-and-eat with Harold Essex, the WSJS boss, the other night. After about 45 minutes of food and two hours of talk, Harold observed that "The mind can only absorb as much as the seat can endure." Then everyone went home.

—Roy Thompson, Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel.

DAVIDSON'S MEN

These Davidson College alumni go a long way. One even went to the White House—Woodrow Wilson. Dean Rusk, Assistant Secretary of State, a graduate with the Class of 1931 and a Rhodes scholar, has just been named head of the multi-million dollar Rockefeller Foundation. The President has released him with a pat on the back. "To few men still young in years has it been permitted to serve their country so long and so ably. For more than a decade you have met and discharged, always with tact, skill and efficiency, duties of highest importance," Mr. Truman wrote Rusk.

The new head of the great charitable organization was in college with Pinehurst's W. A. Leland McKeithan, now president of the North Carolina Bar Association, and his law partner here, John D. McConnell, former administrative assistant to Senator Frank Graham in Washington. Another Davidson graduate, John's brother, Joseph D. McConnell, is president of the National Broadcasting Company.—Pinehurst Outlook.

NEEDS RENOVATION

One of the most important and vital of the Hoover commission reports was the one proposed, for the post office department. And it is doubtful if any governmental department or bureau is more in need of a complete renovation.

The collapse of the nation's mailing system during the Christmas rush is sufficient evidence that the department must be reorganized, removed from politics and placed on a business-like basis. The fact that the delivery of mail has sunk to the lowest level since the days of the pony express is further evidence of a need for reorganization.

The fault does not lie in the local post offices in most instances. In nearly all of these local offices, the employees are working tirelessly and doggedly to keep the mails moving on schedule, but they are bogged down by political orders emanating from the central department in Washington. The Hoover plan for the post office is designed to cut out unnecessary expenses and institute economy moves that will not interfere with the movement of the mails.—Waukegan (Ill.) News-Sun.

THE CASE OF ZONING

A man built a home just outside of the corporate limits of Carrboro, on the Hillsboro road, a few years ago. When he came out of his house one morning he saw giant gasoline and oil tanks being erected on the adjoining lot. A wholesale oil dealer had bought the lot and was preparing to carry on his business there. The home-owner was dismayed; he knew the tanks and the operation of the business, so close by, would practically ruin his home.

He asked a lawyer if there was any legal move he could make, to protect himself from such use of adjoining land. The lawyer said there was not.

The upshot of the affair was that the home-owner and other persons in the neighborhood, whose homes would also be damaged by the intruding business, clubbed together and bought the lot from the oil dealer. Also, they paid the cost of having the tanks removed and set up in another place.

If there had been a zoning law, separating business and industrial zones from residential zones, these home-owners would not have had to buy their way out of trouble in this way. Their homes would have been protected.

This case is a lesson for the persons who are opposing the proposed zoning of the country around Chapel Hill. Any home-owner, or any owner of land who wanted to build a home on it, or who wanted to sell it for residential use, might wake up any day to find that his property was about to be seriously damaged by a bad use of adjoining land. And he might not be able, as the homeowners near Carrboro were, to solve the problem by buying the stranger's lot.

Zoning laws have been enacted all over the country, in cities and towns and country areas. They have withstood the attacks on them in the courts. They have benefited both the general public and individual property owners.

The areas around Chapel Hill certainly ought to be zoned in such a way that (1) the land along the highways cannot be cluttered up with bill-boards and undesirable structures and (2) the owners of property will be protected against the encroachment by junk yards, hot-dog stands, and other damaging forms of development.—Chapel Hill Weekly.

UNVEIL PLAN FOR FARMING

Long-Range N. C. Farm Program Develops From Study

What can North Carolina farm people do to improve their lot?

An exhaustive study presenting at least some of the answers to this question was made public in Raleigh on January 28, when the North Carolina Board of Farm Organizations and Agencies unveiled its new long-range agricultural program for the state.

The program was presented in a 76-page booklet entitled "North Carolina Accepts the Challenge", published after a full year's work of fact-gathering and sifting by members of the 11 agencies making up the sponsoring board.

First section of the booklet deals with the state's present agricultural situation, as revealed by 1950 census data. It points out that the Tar Heel state has the nation's largest farm population, the farms are too small, too much work is still being done by hand and mule power, and farm enterprises are not as balanced and diversified as they should be.

The main section of the study presents specific recommendations for increasing farm income in the state as a whole and in each of the 12 types-of-farming areas.

Five main recommendations are made for the state: Increase size of farms, follow better management mechanize, use recommended practices, and seek more off-farm employment.

Another section deals with ways to improve family living, and the concluding section points out how the overall program can best be put into effect.

The program will now be carried to the people in each of the state's 100 counties.

Phillips Is Receiving Training At San Diego

Carl F. Phillips, of Franklin, Route 2, is receiving boot training at the U. S. Naval Training center, San Diego, Calif., according to the Fleet Home Town News. The seaman recruit is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Phillips. He enlisted December 11, 1951. Prior to enlisting, he attended Warren Wilson Junior college, near Asheville.

Cpl. Crawford Is Home After Okinawa Duty

Cpl. George R. Crawford, who has been with the army on Okinawa for the past 19 months, is spending a 30-day furlough with his wife and with his mother, Mrs. R. M. Crawford, of Franklin, Route 3. At the end of his furlough, Cpl. Crawford will report to Fort Jackson, S. C., for reassignment. He entered service in August, 1949.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
Nearly every place has invited Prince Henry to visit it, but Needmore and Hanging Dog have not been heard from so far.

"Uncle Paul Kruger" was in town Friday evening. Any one who has seen "Oom Paul's" picture in the newspapers recognized him very readily. We did not learn certainly whether he was soliciting aid for the Boers.

We learn that sixty or seventy of the pupils of the high school have measles.

25 YEARS AGO
Franklin Tuesday celebrated the formal opening of its new \$50,000 hostelry, the Scott Griffin, easily one of the best commercial hotels west of Asheville.

Somebody is always taking the joy out of life. Now comes Bryson City and claims that James Teague, a former sheriff of Swain, wears pants size 58, thus putting our own John Henry in the shade by two inches.

The Bryant Furniture company is now comfortably housed in the store room formerly occupied by Smith's Drug store.

10 YEARS AGO
The Franklin troop of Boy Scouts of America observed the first day of Boy Scout week by attending the Scout-O-Rail at Cullowhee last Friday evening.