

2 QUESTIONS, 2 RIGHTS

About Power Deal

Two good questions are being asked those who oppose the proposed Nantahala-Duke power deal.

The first is: Do you ever really gain anything by forcing a man to do what he doesn't want to do?

Well, it's better, of course, if you can persuade him.

But suppose a man gave you a note, and then tried to avoid his obligation to pay. Would you refrain from bringing suit just because it might put him in a bad humor? As a matter of fact, while he might not like you if you forced him to pay, he'd respect you—and you'd lose his respect, as well as your money, if you weakly let the matter go by default. When Alcoa obtained power sites, by condemnation, it assumed the obligation (through its subsidiary, Nantahala) to use the power produced, first of all, to serve the public.

Then there's another angle. The circumstances of this situation really provide the answer to that question. Because a public service corporation is given certain special privileges—a monopoly, a virtual guarantee of a fair return on its investment, and sometimes the power of eminent domain. In return, it must place itself under government control—in this state, the N. C. Utilities Commission. And that commission not only has the authority to fix the rates the corporation may charge, but also the authority, and the duty, to require it to give adequate service—in some instances, to give service that may not be profitable. In short, Nantahala already is under compulsion and it—or Duke, if the deal should be approved—will continue to be forced to do things it may not wish to do.

The second question is: Hasn't a man a right to sell whatever he owns?

In ordinary circumstances, of course he has! But these are not ordinary circumstances. They are not, because along with the right to sell goes the equally important right NOT to sell. And that right was suspended when Alcoa was permitted to take the power sites it wanted through condemnation. When the original owners' right not to sell was suspended, Alcoa's right to sell immediately became tied in with the public interest.

And certainly there is a valid question as to whether it is either morally right OR in the public interest for Alcoa to be allowed, first to condemn private property, and then to shirk the responsibility that involved, by funneling this locally-produced power out of the state and into Tennessee, there to serve not the public interest, but to serve Alcoa alone.

Deserve Support

A movement has been launched here to bring the N. C. Little Symphony Orchestra here for concerts next spring.

That is a worth-while project, for we have far too little good music in Franklin; the free concert for school children gives it a high educational value, quite aside from the pleasure the adult concert will give those who attend. But it's an ambitious program—it will take money. And so the small group of people who have taken on the project face a lot of hard work.

Their efforts deserve the appreciation of the community, and the generous support of the public.

'Sold Down The River'

(Sylvia Herald)

Among the many natural resources of Western North Carolina—forests, water, minerals, climate, scenery, etc.—our vast water hydro power potential is high on the vital list in our program for expansion, development, and progress which this six-county area is now making and plans for in the future.

Two weeks ago we were rudely awakened to the fact that our great water power potential is to be "Sold Down The River", so to speak, as far as this area is concerned, and the citizens of the area now served by Nantahala Power and Light Company (Aluminum Company of America) are to be deprived of this electric power generated right here, much of it in Jackson County, and all of it to be transmitted to Alcoa over in Tennessee.

What is best for the six-county area now, is the big ques-

"Well! That's The Way The Ball Bounces!"



Strictly Personal By WEIMAR JONES

There's a lot of truth in what appears on a placard that the Rev. John W. Tucker keeps facing him in his automobile:

"The hurrier I go,
The behinder I get."

I like the old mountain expression, "goin' on", in the sense of approaching; as in the statement about a child's age, that he's "goin' on five".

That is, because time's a-goin' on, the child is nearing another birthday. And it conveys a second, and interesting, idea: That the child is conscious of, and delighted by, the passage of time, because he wants to get older in a hurry. (Note how he starts "goin' on six" the day after his fifth birthday.) My! how his ideas on that subject will change, after time's been goin' on for a while.

It has often been said that:
Great minds discuss ideas.
Average minds discuss events.
Small minds discuss people.

Well, maybe. But I have my doubts about that's being simon-pure gospel.

For isn't it true that really good ideas are likely to develop into events? and, on the other hand, that some of the best ideas are prompted by, and grow out of, events?

And what would events mean, divorced from people? Isn't it, as a matter of fact, people who most affect — if they do not actually cause — events? And surely events affect people!

Life can't be separated into airtight compartments like that.

I, personally, like to discuss events better than I do people, and ideas better than events; and I'm sure I'm not unique in that.

But, at the moment, I can't recall a single conversation, of any

length, that was confined to any two of the three. And my gusses I'd flee from a conversation confined to any one of the three — I would, that is, if I didn't fall asleep from boredom first. And I'm sure I'm not unique in that either.

In other words, it seems to me this statement is like a lot of others that most of us are inclined to accept without question: It contains some truth, but it isn't all the truth; it probably isn't even wholly true.

Which recalls something I heard back in my college days:
"All generalizations are false — including this one."

Who, I've often wondered, invented clocks and watches? And yet, I often wonder: What if it is the 19th of November? or 10 minutes after 4 o'clock? Does that make you and me any older than we would have been, at this moment, had man not contrived ways to divide time into days and months and years, and into seconds and minutes and hours?

Does it change, in the slightest, the fact that each one of us still has all the time there is?

Doesn't the mere act of measuring time, in fact, tend to decrease it? For, as we become more and more conscious of it, doesn't it slip away, faster and faster?

Who has more time, who is less hurried, the child who has not learned to tell time by the clock or to read the calendar, or the adult who hurries faster and faster, in a vain effort to keep up with the clock and the calendar?

Geniuses, those fellows who gave us the clock and the calendar? Sure!

Would I do without clocks and watches and calendars? Heck no!

But were the fellows who gave us these devices benefactors of the human race? Well, . . .

ABOUT WATER

Some History And A Suggestion

Grover Jamison, who came to Franklin in 1905, this week recalled a bit of history bearing on Franklin's water problem — and offered a suggestion.

The history:
In 1908, Franklin was hit by an epidemic of typhoid. It was that scourge that prompted the town fathers, in the interest of the community's health, to establish a municipal water system.

It was in the period when "summer visitors" to Franklin were just that — when they came, they stayed most of the summer, if not all of it. And among that summer's visitors was a geologist.

The late Dr. S. H. Lyle interested him in making a study of the topography of Franklin and its environs, with a view to suggesting where the town was likely to get the best and most water, from wells.

His suggestion was Baird's Cove. Presumably, though, the little Franklin of half a century ago didn't have the money to pipe water from that distance, so it went as far toward Baird's Cove as it could, for its first well — the one near the Nantahala Creamery, on West Main Street.

Mr. Jamison's suggestion:
If Baird's Cove was the best place to go for water in 1908, it probably still is. Mr. Jamison, though, wouldn't accept the half-century old survey. He suggests getting a competent present-day geologist to make a similar survey. If his recommendation also should be Baird's Cove, then why not try a well there? (No need, of course, to lay any pipe till results demonstrate there's enough water to warrant it.) One or two wells in that area, Mr. Jamison thinks, might provide enough water for Franklin's needs for 25 years.

be a drawing card for people looking for home and industrial sites, not a drawback such as the present one.

I feel that it is up to the people of Macon County to let the commissioners know their feelings, and then up to the commissioners to act accordingly.

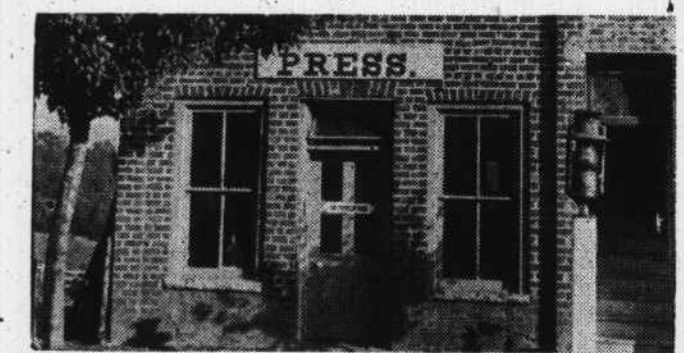
So, Mr. Jones, I ask the people of Macon County, through this letter to you, to speak now, speak loudly, strongly, and clearly, before it is too late. Thank you.

ELBERT A. STILES

Franklin.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1894)

Try a pair of S. R. Slagle's home-made shoes. At Trotter's.—Adv.

The Republican senatorial convention convened yesterday at Aquone. We have not learned who was selected for the sacrificial offering.

Mr. Gus Leach is working on a church building on Peachtree in Cherokee County.

School crayons, slates, pencils, writing paper, and tablets for sale at the Drug Store.

35 YEARS AGO (1924)

CHAPEL HILL—A Macon-Jackson Club has been organized, by combining the boys from each of those two counties, as there were not enough from each to organize separate clubs. Those here from Macon are R. S. Jones, C. L. Fouts, H. C. Fouts, T. D. Slagle, P. R. Newman, F. H. Scroggs, H. G. Trotter, Claud Tallent, and C. C. Poindexter.

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—America's round-the-world fliers returned today to Rockwell Field, San Diego, from which they took off last March to start on their globe-circling trip.

15 YEARS AGO (1944)

Technical Sergeant Hillard L. McCall, of Otto, and Staff Sergeant Russell P. Nicholson, of Benton Harbor, Mich., are being hailed by fellow officers and enlisted men for their part in rescuing a Canadian fighter pilot from a treacherous undertow recently. The pilot, of the Royal Canadian Air Force, told the story after he had recovered.

The Distinguished Flying Cross has recently been presented to Technical Sergeant Jacob S. Mason, 21, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Van Buren Mason, of Leatherman.

5 YEARS AGO (1954)

Frank B. Duncan yesterday announced plans for building a modern, 22-unit tourist court on Palmer Street at Porter.

and development but for sustaining life.

But all this is common knowledge. The point I wish to make is this: Franklin should never be faced with water shortages and low water pressures. The town lies in an area blessed with annual rainfall of more than twice the national average. Resource development—not water supply—is the problem.

Franklin is now involved in the same pattern of water resource development that has been experienced in city after city. Many got along with local wells until, after years of inconvenience, recurrent epidemics, and general dissatisfaction, the public became willing to pay the cost of development of new sources of water.

Personally, I would like to see Franklin's future water come from a municipal watershed, of which there are many available. Granted the initial cost of the watershed system may be more than that of pumping water from Cartoogechaye Creek. But we must steel ourselves to the idea that further water development cannot be achieved at the price of five cents per ton, to which we have grown accustomed in the past.

WILLIE R. CURTIS

La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The Courthouse: Build New One

Dear Mr. Jones:

This week the County Board of Commissioners announced that they are in favor of a remodeling job for our county courthouse. I feel that it is time, yes, past time, for the citizens of Macon County to let their feelings be known regarding this important issue. I further feel that the majority of the citizens of Macon County would much rather see their tax dollars invested in a new courthouse than wasted on the present one.

A remodeling job will not solve the problems existing in the present building. If the present building were new, it would still be inadequate. This fact, coupled with the fact that the walls are crumbling, and the woodwork is eaten up by termites and wood lice, should be enough to prove to anyone that we need a new and larger courthouse. The remodeling job should have been done 25 years ago, or about the time the building was condemned for public use. We did not even think of trying to remodel the old log houses that a great many of our parents and grandparents lived in 75 to 100 years ago. The days of the horse and buggy and ox carts are gone long ago.

After spending 35 years of my life in carpentry work on power dams, power houses, and buildings of different types, I feel sure that any money spent on the old courthouse would be wasted—and we still wouldn't have a courthouse such as we need today.

We need a new and larger one on a larger lot with plenty of parking space. Such a courthouse would increase the value of every piece of property in Macon County. A new one would

LETTERS

Favors Watershed Plan

Editor, The Press:

I'm with you one hundred per cent regarding Franklin's water supply! I may, never be directly involved—more than to drink at the town fountain. I had much rather know that that mouthful of water came directly from a municipal watershed.

Water is a major factor in regulating growth of plants, animals, industry, and cities: it is essential not only for growth

ASSOCIATED PRESS Feature

Do Small Counties Control N. C. Legislature?

By NOEL YANCEY

Do the smaller, comparatively rural counties control North Carolina's General Assembly and, therefore, have the dominant voice in determining the direction of state government?

Figures on legislative representation indicate that this is so.

However, some legislative observers feel that the General Assembly does not often split so that representatives of the big, populous counties are arrayed against the small, rural county representatives.

But, when the split is along these lines, the smaller counties have the votes to decide the issue their way.

Take the Senate, for example: one group of senatorial districts contains only 10 per cent of the State's population. Under the present senatorial districting set-up, they elect 12 senators—nearly one-fourth of the senate's 50 members.

Another group of senatorial districts contains about one-fourth of the State's population but these districts have only seven senators—or one-seventh of the senate's membership.

On the House side of the Capitol, you will find that Tyrrell County, with a population of 5,051, has one member, and Cleveland County, with 64,316 population,

has only one member. Camden County, with 5,209 population, has one member and so does Wayne, with 64,174.

The big reason for the big disparity in the Senate membership can be traced to the General Assembly's refusal to redistrict in accordance with the Constitution, which says the Senate shall be re-districted and the House re-portioned after every federal census.

Under the present senatorial districting, the 29th district—composed of Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga counties—has a population of 48,263 and has one senator, and the 20th district—Mecklenburg County—has a population of 196,160 and also has just one senator.

If the Senate were re-districted in accordance with 1950 census figures, both Mecklenburg and Guilford would be entitled to two senators each. Forsyth, with a population of 145,076, also might be entitled to two senators.

The big disparity in House representation results mainly from the fact that every county is entitled to one representative. Since there are only 120 house members, this leaves only 20 seats to assign on a population basis.

But, how often does the General

Assembly split on issues so that little counties and big counties are solidly arrayed against each other?

Sen. Claude Currie, of Durham, said he felt that they split that way only on the issue of reapportionment and re-districting itself.

Rep. Clifton Blue, of Moore, said, "I don't think we do as often as you might think or be led to believe."

Sen. J. Spencer Bell, of Mecklenburg, said that on some issues the split is not along small county versus big county lines, but that on other issues they definitely split that way.

"The so-called big counties seldom present a united front, certainly on economic issues," said Bell. "They have both conservatives and liberals and both progressives and standpatners in their delegations, and only where the leadership of the state at large can draw a clear issue can you unite the influence of the big counties."

Bell pointed to a fact that may be fully as important as the number of representatives the small counties have.

"I think the small counties tend to send outstanding men back to the legislature for many terms."