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## The School Loan Question

### MORE INFORMATION ASKED

I read, with much interest notice of the special election to be held to determine whether or not the county will borrow funds for building and repairing school houses.

It occurs to me that the notice of the election does not give the complete information as one would infer from that notice that the only amount to be borrowed is \$166,000.00 to be used for new class rooms and that taxes might be increased only sufficiently to pay off that indebtedness.

I should like to ask the commissioners if it is not true that their order also included a proposal to borrow additional funds from the State Literary Society for repairing certain school buildings, and also if it is not included in their order to consolidate all debt service.

I should like to suggest that the County Commissioners or the County Board of Education, or both jointly, set forth more clearly this proposition in detail. Would it not be well to let the public know whether or not the debt service will be consolidated, whether or not additional funds will be borrowed other than the amount mentioned in last week's issue of the Moore County News, how much taxes would be increased and the rate of tax in each particular section of the county if these changes should go into effect?

—LESLIE GILLILAND.  
Pinehurst, July 17, 1934.

### "SQUARE DEAL" ASKED

Editor, The Pilot:

In last week's issue of The Moore County News, there was an article by H. Lee Thomas, our County Superintendent of Education, purporting to explain the issues in the coming special school election, the election being held to determine the attitude of voters towards a Federal loan of \$232,000.00 and a consolidation of the debt service of the various school districts.

Mr. Thomas practically explains nothing. But he does condemn the voters in Southern Pines and Pinehurst for their opposition to his pet measure. He accuses us of taking the wealth of the surrounding rural areas and appropriating it for our own use to the exclusion of the rural people. In fact, he implies we are exploiters of the poor.

To say the least, such an idea is absurd. Southern Pines and Pinehurst derive at least ninety per cent of their income from tourists. In fact, there is hardly a person in Moore county gainfully employed that does not derive some benefit from the tourist trade attracted to these centers.

The essence of our opposition to the measure as it now stands is not directed towards the Federal loan itself, but to the consolidation of the debt service of all the school districts. We are being asked to not only carry our own debt, but to assume part of the debt of the other school districts—debts over which we had not a word to say, nor did our representatives. Such a measure passed by our County Commissioners, or by our dissatisfied electorate, is beyond our

idea of justice. We are not looking for a new deal; all we ask is a square deal.

The consolidation of the debt service is the 'nigger in the woodpile,' about which our County Attorney did not mention in the notice of election, nor did Mr. Thomas in his so-called explanations. Whether this was deliberate or not remains to be seen. One of our County Commissioners informed me that it certainly was the will of the Commissioners that due and proper notice be given the electorate of all issues involved in the coming election. And why wasn't it?

It is entirely possible that Southern Pines and Pinehurst would be in favor of the Federal loan if we didn't have to swallow along with it the dead fish, e. g., consolidation of district school debts.

Retro-active laws are rarely affirmed by the Supreme Court, and the measure in the present set-up is no exception. Unfair and discriminatory legislation has no place in our republican form of government.

—L. M. DANIELS.  
Southern Pines, July 16, 1934.

### HEAVY LOAD OF TAXATION

Editor, The Pilot:

The voters of Moore County were informed last week that the registration books would open July 21st for the purpose of a special registration to vote on a proposed bond issue of \$232,000 on August 25th for the building of new school buildings in various parts of the county.

Protest has been made by many of the larger taxpayers as to any additional debt being added to the now heavy debt of the county. The school debt at the present, not including the above proposed issue, is \$552,800 and in addition to this is the county debt of \$520,500 or a total county and school debt of \$1,073,300. The interest rate on the present debt is approximately 5 3-4 percent, or an annual payment for interest alone of approximately \$62,000. To this is to be added the annual payment toward the retirement of bonds. The bond election if carried will mean an additional issue of bonds amounting to approximately \$232,000.

The tax payers are now burdened to the point where it is almost impossible to pay the high taxes levied against their property without assuming any additional tax. There is also a very large percentage of the people that have not been able to pay their 1931 and 1932 taxes which stand as a first lien against their property.

The County Commissioners propose a county wide rate of about forty cents on the hundred dollars valuation for debt service for school purposes which does not include the debt service for the county general debt, such as court house bonds and road bonds and the like. Anyone that is familiar with the levying of taxes knows that this is just the beginning, as the tendency is the rate will have to be increased in the near future. These are a few of the facts that the taxpayers should consider before voting any additional bonds to the now already tremendous debt the people are struggling to pay. The County Board of Education should as a last resort see if it is not possible to make some enlargement of buildings where over-crowded conditions exist and forestall for a few years at least the further issuance of bonds, as there is no hope of taxes ever being reduced if we continue floating bonds.

Every citizen should make a special effort to see that he is properly registered and vote against any further bond issues.

HOWARD F. BURNS.  
Southern Pines, July 18, 1934.

### RASSIE WICKER'S VIEWS

Editor, The Pilot,

Granting for the present that the County needs the additional school facilities set out in their proposal to borrow two hundred and thirty two thousand dollars; we should, in turn, question the possibility of repaying it.

We must remember that we have been collecting only three fourths of the taxes levied. This condition automatically raises our tax rate 25 percent, does it not? We must remember that the County bought more than twenty-eight hundred pieces of land at the last tax sale, the taxes on many of which had not been paid for years. What the Commissioners will do with these homes, neither they nor anyone else knows.

Remember also that the PWA and the FERA sent into Moore County this past twelve months, the enormous sum of one hundred and seventy-one thousand, nine hundred and fifty-five dollars, cash payroll money, and did not include the sums paid for material, or for food and clothing distributed as direct relief.

Attention should also be paid to the recent announcement by Federal

Relief Authorities that unless North Carolina begins supplementing the Federal funds that our share will be seriously reduced. These same officials suggested that A COUNTY TAX OF FROM FOUR TO FIVE CENTS be levied to provide this supplement.

The total Federal expenditures for relief now amount to the enormous sum of over two billion, one hundred and fifty million dollars when we, the public have spent, and which we, the public will also have to repay.

In many respects the relief problem is almost as serious today as in the darkest period of the depression. A look around will convince you that the apparent recovery in this and most other sections can be traced directly to the spending of this vast sum of borrowed money.

Who in your neighborhood but will have to go without some of the common necessities of life in order to pay this year's taxes?

There are limits to the obligations we should assume, even for so worthy a cause as education, and this brings up the question of the absolute necessity of the building program advocated by the County Board of Education.

The State and the County have wasted a great deal of money in their building program. Some of this waste can be attributed to poor design, some to poor building superintendence and the resultant poor workmanship and materials, and some to poor maintenance—or none at all—but mostly it can be laid to the driving urge to "Keep up with the Jones." This evil is evident in other matters, and it is not surprising to find it cropping out in the schools.

If Quewhiffle takes themselves out of house and home for a big Auditorium, or a Gymnasium, or Steam Heat, then; in the minds of those of the adjoining districts, a schoolhouse without these relatively unimportant features is not worth a tinker's dam, and their lack is a reflection upon their Loyalty to their Children, and indicates a poor Community Spirit, even though that community is bankrupt and their children hungry and poorly clad.

In the past it appeared that the people in the north end of the county were more sensible in this respect than those in the south end, but it now seems that a J. Rufus Wallingford has been amongst them, and that they too are determined to have auditoriums which, by the way,

(Please turn to page 7)



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Lv. Raleigh, SAL	7:32AM	8:35PM
Lv. Henderson, SAL	8:45AM	9:48PM
Ar. Washington, RF&P	2:25PM	a3:40AM
Lv. Washington, PRR	4:10PM	12:00PM
Ar. Chicago, PRR	8:30AM	7:00AM

a—Occupy Washington Sleeper until 8:00 AM

RETURN SCHEDULES

Lv. Chicago, PRR	4:00PM	9:00PM
Ar. Washington, PRR	12:40PM	6:30PM
Lv. Washington, RF&P	2:20PM	b11:59PM
Ar. Henderson, SAL	7:55PM	5:43AM
Ar. Raleigh, SAL	9:05PM	6:55AM
Ar. Sanford, SAL	10:07PM	7:58AM
Ar. Southern Pines, SAL	10:44PM	8:36AM
Ar. Hamlet, SAL	11:25PM	9:20AM

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