

THE PILOT

Southern Pines North Carolina

"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Where there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

For Reconsidering Driver Education

The percentage of schools offering driver education for high school students in each state of the union ranges from 4.2 in Arkansas to 100 in Delaware. In North Carolina 19.9 per cent of the state's schools had the courses in the 1952-53 year, according to a tabulation made by an insurance company. For the nation, the average is 43.1 per cent of the schools with such courses.

Nearly 800,000 students took safe driving courses in more than 8,500 schools over the nation in the last school year. By next spring the total number of men and women who have received high school training in driving will run to at least 5,000,000.

During the past six years, driver education programs have risen in number and importance, in North Carolina and in the nation as a whole.

When he spoke on traffic safety in Southern Pines recently Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ed Scheidt called high school driver education one of the most important steps that must be taken to cut the toll of death and injury on the state's

highways. He did not say we ought to have more such courses. He said we must have them.

We note that the program is being instituted in the schools of Laurinburg this year.

The Pilot would like to see the county commissioners, in cooperation with the county board of education and the trustees of the Southern Pines and Pinehurst school systems, restudy the matter of driver education to determine if such courses can be instituted in Moore county.

Start of such a program would probably have to go over to the 1954-1955 school year, giving ample time for investigation and study.

The Pilot would not advocate throwing on the school systems a burden they cannot bear, but it now seems (1) that public opinion is turning more and more in favor of the courses and (2) that, begun on a modest scale with cooperation from auto dealers and police departments, a driver training program ought to be financed reasonably enough to get it started.

Dogs—A Recurring Problem

A news story from Roxboro tells how 60 armed men went on a hunt for wild dogs in Person county, killed four and "captured" two females with 13 puppies. The dogs, says the news item, have been roaming a section of the county, killing livestock and chickens, and there have been some reports of attacks on people.

The Roxboro correspondent, as though reporting a big game hunt from the wilds of Africa, went into these details describing the demise of "a beautiful collie":

"A couple of hunters were driving him back toward the main party when Luther Dixon shot him with a shotgun and knocked him down. But then the dog got up and leaped across a creek bank toward Dixon and Carl Coats. The dog was shot again, this time by Coats with a .22 rifle, but he was not stopped. He dived in between the two men and charged in front of the other hunters who then fired on him and killed him."

The condition of dogs everywhere is a reflection of the condition of human beings. Dogs do not choose to run wild, kill stock and become a menace until the possibility of life with man—their natural condition—is utterly lost.

A situation such as that in Person county is not an indictment of the dogs but of people who forced them into it through lack of food, care and regard—on only a little of which a dog will remain eternally

loyal beyond the capability of any other beast.

Once a situation has gotten as bad as that described, perhaps there is no other way to solve it but mass slaughter. Certainly stock and people must be protected. But it is a sickening thing.

The dog problem is always with us because of the unwillingness or the inability of human beings to look out for all the dogs that nature produces. The lesson in the Person County incident is that control measures must be available before stray dogs form into packs.

This is a big problem for small towns and rural areas which cannot support dog wardens or humane societies that handle the matter in more populous areas.

In line with legal machinery set up by the state, some counties are trying a dog warden, dog pound, humane destruction method on a county-wide scale, which seems about the best answer for a county like Moore where neither towns nor rural communities can afford to employ or maintain individuals to catch and properly dispose of stray dogs.

The starving stray dogs that we all see frequently in both towns and rural areas show that there is a need for better control measures in this county.

Without control, a situation like that in Person county is always a threat. With control, we doubt if it could develop.

Not-So-Unwilling Scholars

School days wake up a town like nothing else we know.

Our communities would be dull indeed without children—and opening of school makes us realize again how great an influence they have on the tone and pace of community life.

Business people going to work are bound to be refreshed as they pass groups of children on their way to school. There is no tonic for that late-afternoon letdown like children flooding from the schools, laughing, talking, running, spreading to every corner of the town. They pass our homes and offices like a fresh breeze and we more willingly adjust our efforts to the balance of the day's toil.

Tradition has it that all youngsters face the opening of school with distaste, revolt and dread. The picture of the unwilling scholar, reluctantly laying aside his fishing pole or baseball bat, to commit himself to the persecution of a school's four walls and a knuckle-rapping teacher is a stock character in our folklore.

But we don't believe it's true. Like all people, children like routine, for one thing. Regardless of all complaints, we think most youngsters are happier going to

school than repeating an endless round of play without the purpose and direction that school gives to their lives.

Important, too, is the nature of today's schools. We do not see how a first-grader entering school in one of today's modern buildings, such as those at Southern Pines or Aberdeen, could fail to be charmed. Such a school room, with its little chairs and tables, its toys, pictures and colorful furnishings is a more fascinating place than the homes of most children. The proof of the pudding is in the eating and, we understand, most children entering school these days take to it like a duck to water.

While schooldays still involve their portion of drudgery and confinement—as what part of living does not?—the whole atmosphere of school now is vastly different from the folklore picture of the classroom where a blackboard and the teacher's threatening ruler were the chief items of equipment.

As we count our blessings in the present time—something we tend to forget to do—we can include the change for the better that has taken place in schools and their standards and administration during the 20th century.

Bond Election Calls For Thought

About a month now remains before Tar Heels go to the polls in a special bond election to decide whether or not the state will issue bonds to the value of \$50 million for school plant construction and \$22 million for state mental institutions.

While The Pilot will have more to say about this proposed bond issue, we want to go on record now as favoring the bonds. Main reason is clear: the bonds offer the best and quickest way for the state to maintain its forward march in providing essential services to its people.

Some rumblings and grumbings about the bond proposals have come to our ears and there is indication that the school and hospital bond program is not as popular as were the road and school bond issues

that are now history—and whose fruits we are now enjoying.

It is not so easy for the average man to become interested in better mental institutions as in better roads, but the need, comparatively, is as great. As to schools, we cannot stop with the school job partly done—and schools are still inadequate and crowded. Importance of bringing all Negro schools up to equal standards with the white schools cannot be overestimated.

Deciding to vote "yes" on the proposed bonds will take, we admit, more thought and more imagination than did the vote on roads, but we cannot see how the people of North Carolina, after due thought and consideration, can vote otherwise.

By MARQUIS CHILDS

Washington Calling . . .

WASHINGTON. — The Administration is allowing itself a pause for optimism in the light of the latest budget review. Income and outgo have been brought within a half billion dollars of balance and for government in terms of the deficits of recent years that is practically perfect.



What this means is that the level of government spending has been cut for the current fiscal year by \$2 billion more than the original Administration estimate. The drop in spending with this addition has been from \$78.6 billion, the estimate in the Truman budget, to \$72.1 billion.

It will be well to get all the pleasure that is possible out of this plateau of optimism. For in actual fact the Administration is caught in a bad squeeze between the demand in the Republican Party to cut taxes and balance the budget and the growing apprehension in the country that defense expenditures are being reduced below the level of minimum security.

What makes the squeeze so cruel is the fact that income and excise taxes up to \$9 billion expire in the months ahead beginning on January 1. The bulk of this is in the excess profits levy and in an automatic reduction of 10 percent in the level of personal income taxes, both of which the Administration is pledged to surrender. To re-enact wartime excise taxes on furs, cosmetics, entertainment and so on in an election year will be difficult if not downright impossible.

So the budget for the fiscal year beginning next July must be cut another \$7 to \$8 billion unless new substitute taxes can be found. Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey has said many times that he is considering every kind of substitute including a national sales tax. But again to adopt such an unpopular measure with the narrow Republican majorities in Senate and House challenged in a Congressional election seems not merely improbable but impossible.

An immediate deadline is just ahead on September 15. By that date government departments must submit to Budget Director Joseph M. Dodge preliminary estimates for spending for next year. While it is being emphasized that these figures are hardly

more than informed guesses, nevertheless Dodge means to review them with his stern banker's eye.

In a letter to the heads of all departments, Dodge put the facts of life as he sees them squarely on the line. You must, he said, cut spending below the minimums already agreed upon. If you do not do this, Dodge said in effect, then you will not be prepared for the cuts which must be made in the light of the loss of revenue in the next fiscal year. This means that you must review every service provided by your department and if it is not absolutely essential then it must be dropped.

The only place where really big cuts can be made is in the Department of Defense and it is here that the squeeze is toughest. For the current year Congress knocked \$6.7 billion out of the Truman defense budget, bringing it down to \$34 billion.

Dodge and his economy allies expect further large savings from greater cuts in the defense budget next year. They pin their expectations on the "new look" which the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Arthur W. Radford, will give to American strategy and the defense establishment. Their argument runs that in recent years no one has done a thorough appraisal; new military projects were simply piled on top of those already in operation. Now the new team will find much that can be discarded and reduced.

This puts a tremendous responsibility on Radford who sold himself to the President and Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson. If after the "new look", which will follow the Soviet announcement of the H-bomb, he comes up with estimates showing that more and not less money will be needed, his sponsors will be distinctly unhappy.

In current Pentagon gossip, a cut for next year of \$6 billion is reported. This would reduce the defense budget to \$28 billion. But Deputy Secretary of Defense Roger Kyes, acting as secretary in Wilson's absence, denies that money enters into defense calculations. He insists that the objective is to get the most security for the country with waste and frills eliminated.

Both in New York and Washington reports have circulated that Wilson, unhappy in his job, would resign to be replaced by Kyes. Those close to both men insist this is not true. These reports have gone so far that other candidates are mentioned for the top

spot.

Of the total current defense cut, \$5 billion was taken out of the amount proposed for the Air Force. That has caused wide criticism which Kyes and his associates put down to the "Air Force lobby." But in the last analysis the defense team must accept

the responsibility. This is a return engagement of a drama that played here once before. President Truman's Secretary of Defense, Louis Johnson, cut the defense budget back to \$13 billion, acting, he has insisted privately, on Truman's orders. But Johnson went out. (Copyright, 1953, by UF Syn. Inc.)

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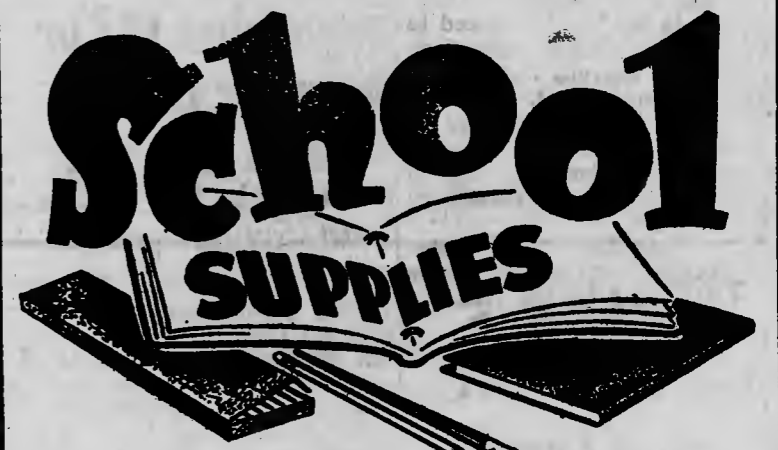
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Hebrides Islands Population Declines; Skye Loses 15,000 In Past 100 Years

All 27 Inhabitants Abandon One Island; Fisherman Buys It

Are the remote, misty Hebrides Islands—spread fan-like along Scotland's Atlantic coast—losing their fight against depopulation?

The Hebrides include the Isle of Skye, location of Dunvegan castle, residence of Lady Flora MacLeod, chieftain of the Clan MacLeod, who will speak at the Old Bethesda Church homecoming near Aberdeen Sunday, September 30. Scots ancestors of some residents of this area came to the New World from the Hebrides Islands.

Latest of the island chain to be deserted by its inhabitants is Soay, near Skye. Soay's entire population—27 men, women and children—recently migrated to Craignure, 40 miles south on the Isle of Mull.

This was the second of the Hebrides' 100 inhabited islands—there are several hundred other barren reefs—to be abandoned in recent years, says the National Geographic Society. In August 1930, the 35 residents of St. Kilda in the Outer Hebrides moved to Lochaline on the Scottish mainland. Today only wild mouflon sheep and sea-fowl live permanently on St. Kilda.

Soay is more fortunate than St. Kilda. A Newfoundland fisherman bought the island and has set up housekeeping there with his London wife and small son. He plans to offer shark fishing as a sport for tourists, and hopes that other English families will join him.

Decline of Soay's lobster fishing—a chief source of support—prompted residents to forsake their homeland. Poor soil, inadequate links with the mainland, and absence of medical attention were other factors which led to their emigration.

The lobster decline was a problem peculiar to Soay, but the other deficiencies are common to all the Western Islands, as reflected in dwindling population figures. Soay had 70 homesteaders in 1936.

On Skye, largest of the Inner Hebrides, there are only about 8,000 people, compared with 23,000 a century ago. "Our main exports are young men and young women," Skymen say ruefully.

The Hebrides' rocky shores are scenically rich but physically poor. Soil is scanty and difficult to drain. Trees are few, and pasture extremely limited. Most of the people are crofters—tenant farmers who rent house and acreage. Fishing, cattle-breeding, weaving and the tourist trade are the other major industries.

Gaelic Spoken

Norse place names are evidence of Norse domination of the isles from the 8th century to 1266. The islands' people are a blend of the Nordic and the darker Celtic types. Gaelic, the old language of the Highlands, is still spoken in the Hebrides.

The climate is wet but not cold, with frequent fogs. Main tourist pursuits are salmon and sea-trout fishing, and rock-climbing. Skye's Cuillin range is the barest and most precipitous of British mountains. Its jagged pinnacles resemble diminutive Alps, although the highest peak is only 3,309 feet above the sea.

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