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French Board EMC Officials Requested To Answer Questions

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following letter sent to officials of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation has been submitted for publication by Ronald W. Howell, attorney at law, who is legal representative of the group of French Broad EMC members who attended the recent meeting here protesting the current rate of electricity.

March 13, 1975
Board of Directors and Managing Officials
French Broad Electric Membership Corporation
Marshall, North Carolina 28753

Gentlemen:
Please be advised that I represent a group of citizens who are members, and therefore shareholders, in the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation.

A meeting was held at the Madison County High School on March 11, 1975, and approximately 2500 people were present. At this meeting, many questions were raised by the people in attendance, and it was agreed that these questions be submitted to the officials of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation to be answered at a forth coming meeting. It was also agreed that a formal request would be made to the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation to delay or suspend the imposition of penalties and, if possible, extend the time for payment of all present bills, for the purpose of giving people who are unable to pay their bills time in which to make arrangements for payment and for the further purpose of allowing the protest, made before the Federal Power Commission, to be heard, and hopefully, acted upon favorably.

It was further agreed that a formal request would be made to the officials of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation that a Grievance Committee, or some similar device, be established for the purpose of reviewing any power bill which is alleged to be unfair or out of proportion to the amount of electricity actually used by the particular person involved.

Thus, this letter can be considered by you as a formal request for the relief requested above.

The group, which met on March 11, 1975, is in full agreement with the protest filed with the Federal Power Commission and is certainly desirous of supporting French Broad Electric Membership Corporation in any effort to obtain a repeal of the law prohibiting the Corporation from purchasing power from TVA, or any other source with a lower price. Many of the people at this meeting indicated a willingness and an intent to write their Congressman and Senator for the purpose of assuring support for the Corporation in its effort to obtain relief.

Inasmuch as a protest was not filed until the general public became involved, and until the meeting was set for March 11, 1975, it would not be possible to simply forget the matter and let matters rest, pending the termination of the protest to the Federal Power Commission. The members of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation have many questions which they feel should be answered by the Board of Directors and the Managing Director. What follows is a list of questions presented to the

meeting on March 11, 1975. We request that we be notified of some date within the next ten days which will be agreeable to the officials of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation to meet in a general public meeting and to have the questions set forth below answered in full by the appropriate official, knowledgeable with respect to the particular area, and further that the entire Board of Directors, the Managing Director or any other official be available to answer any other questions which might be raised at such meeting. We feel that all of the matters which are set forth below are legitimate questions which need to be answered in order that the members of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation can more fully understand and appreciate the present status of their Corporation.

1. What guidelines, rules or regulations establish the rates which may be charged by both Carolina Power and Light Company and the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation? Are the present rates being charged legal?

2. Explain the complete system of estimating bills and actually reading the meters.

3. What device or procedure is available to the members of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation to challenge the validity of their power bills?

4. What is the difference in the rate charged by Carolina Power and Light Company with respect to their sales to French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, and the rate actually charged to the consumers, and what determines the margin, if any, which the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation charges over and above what they pay to Carolina Power and Light Company, and what is this margin, if any, used for?

5. Give the names and addresses of all of the Board of Directors of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation.

6. Give the names and addresses of all officers, managers, or other managerial type employees of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation.

7. Explain how the billing process is handled, where it is handled, whether it is handled by personnel or computer,

where such computer is located, how many employees were used in the billing process prior to the time a computer, if any, was obtained, and how many employees have been hired to handle the billing process since the purchase of a computer.

8. When is the annual meeting of the shareholders of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation to protest the increase passed on to them by Carolina Power and Light Company, before March 11, 1975?

9. What negotiations or efforts were made by the officials of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation to hold down the

increased rate passed on to the Corporation by Carolina Power and Light Company?

10. Why was no effort made by the Board of Directors of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation to protest the increase passed on to them by Carolina Power and Light Company, before March 11, 1975?

11. What determines whether or not a particular activity is contracted or actually performed by the employees of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation?

12. What is the relationship of Pike Electric Company to the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, and are there any employees of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation who have previously worked for Pike Electric Company, and if so, what are their names, addresses and positions?

13. What determines whether or not a particular activity is contracted or actually performed by the employees of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation?

14. List all the salaries paid to employees of the French Broad Electric Membership

Corporation, and list the date of the last change in salary and how much increase was given to each employee.

15. What is there to prohibit the Board of Directors of French Broad Electric Membership Corporation to give all customers a sixty or ninety day extension of time in which to pay their bill?

16. What procedure does the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation follow in procuring Right of Ways, and what rights, if any, do the persons who sign Right of Ways have in the organization?

17. What gives the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, and list the date of the last change in salary and how much increase was given to each employee.

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BLANNA HASSETT ISLAND LOOKED MORE LIKE A LAKE LAST Friday morning as the French Broad River overflowed its banks. The waters reached the main building of the Marshall elementary school earlier Friday morning but had receded when picture was made as noted by vehicle at extreme left near building. Little actual damage was reported but basements in several of the buildings in Marshall were flooded.

Home-cooked Lunches Enjoyed By Elderly

"My, that homemade yeast bread is good."

"Who seasoned these peas, anyhow? They sure do know something about country cooking."

"We need a little more vinegar for the greens, please, and make sure that fresh-baked cake doesn't slide around in your car too much on the way down here."

Madison County has many fine places to get a hot meal, but these comments come from several of the 44 elderly who enjoy a free, home-cooked lunch five days a week courtesy of the Madison County Day Care Center in Marshall and the Title VII Nutrition Program of the Land of Sky Regional Council.

This is the second year that the meals have been served in the county, but only since the first of January have such enthusiastic remarks been heard. That is when Mrs. Maria Cox, Department of Social Services Food & Nutrition Supervisor, and her staff of two cooks at the Marshall Day Care Center, Mrs. Carrie Johnson and Mrs. Willa Capps, began whipping up some down home cooking for the elderly.

Thus came about through the planning and work of many people who felt that Madison County's elderly could best be served by their neighbors. An employee of the Department of Social Services proposed the idea, but it took the

Chairman of the County Commissioners, James Ledford, working with Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Judy Sears, who is the County Day Care Coordinator, Mrs. Frances G. Ramsey, Director of the Department of Social Services, Monica Mayes of Land of Sky, and many others to actually work out the planning and implementation of the program.

Land of Sky Regional Council administers the

Federal grant that pays for 90 per cent of the cost of the program. Local government pays the remaining ten per cent. The purpose of the program is to provide not only a nutritious and healthful meal, but also to provide a setting for entertainment, education and an expanded social life for those over 60 who wish to take part. There is no charge for the meals, though if anyone wishes to make a contribution, it is accepted.

Twenty-two elderly meet at the Marshall Baptist Church and another twenty-two meet at the Mars Hill Baptist Church "Lunch Club." The Rev. Spencer LeGrand in Marshall and Rev. Sue Fitzgerald in Mars Hill arranged for the use of the churches' facilities for the program.

Mrs. Geneva Ramsey manages the Marshall meal site with the volunteer assistance of Mrs. Dora Rice and Mrs. Ella Baker. Mrs. Nell Wyatt manages the Mars Hill program with the assistance of a number of volunteers from the church. It is Mrs. Ramsey and Mrs. Wyatt who help Mrs. Cox and her staff stay abreast of the changing tastes of the forty-four participants.

The Madison County Day Care Program provides transportation for the elderly from their homes to the two meal sites, while the adult services unit of the Department of Social Services and student volunteers from the Mars Hill College School of Social Work transport the meals.



PICTURED ABOVE is the group of elderly citizens who enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Marshall meal site on Monday of this week. The free, home-cooked lunches five days a week are prepared at the Day Care Center here. The other meal site in the county is at Mars Hill. Approximately 44 elderly persons enjoy these meals.



MRS. GENEVA RAMSEY, manager of the Marshall meal site, is shown preparing the plates just prior to serving the lunch. She is assisted by Mrs. Dora Rice and Mrs. Ella Baker.

Nutrition Council Formed For County

The opportunity to share ideas with interested county people and to learn more about the county's nutritional needs led to forming a nutrition committee.

The first planning meeting was held Wednesday, March 5. Each person present was given the opportunity to bring up problems encountered in their work. Many problems along with ideas for solutions or ways to work on these problems were raised and discussed by the group.

Serving on the committee from our county are as follows: Mrs. Anna Mae Tipton, School Lunch Program; Mrs. Amanda Caldwell, Mrs. Louise Houston and Mrs. Faye Ramsey, OEO Program; Mrs. Geneva Ramsey, Senior Citizens Feeding Programs; Mrs. Maria Cox, Day Care Center Nutritionist; Mr. Walter Soranski, Health Department

Nutritionist, Mrs. Edwina Tweed, Social Services; Mrs. Grace Hayne, Food Stamp Program; Mrs. Sandy List, Hot Springs Health Program; Mrs. Ethel T. Wallin, Mrs. Doris Roberts and Mrs. Wanda Wyatt, Extension Service; Mrs. Bessie Jefferies, Extension Service Nutritionist, from NCSU also attended the planning meeting.

Members not present were Mrs. Maxine Gosnell and Mrs. Brenda Spence, Home Economics Teachers; Mrs. Manuel Briscoe, Mrs. Dorothy Payne and Miss Violet Navy, Homemakers; Mrs. Nell Wyatt, Senior Citizens Feeding Program and Mrs. Verna Buckner, Health Department.

Many of the suggestions and ideas are being used to plan better nutrition programs for our county.

Governor Proclaims Arbor Day This Friday

Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr., has proclaimed Friday, March 21, as Arbor Day in North Carolina. Arbor Day provides an opportunity for individual and group efforts, both in urban and rural areas, to reaffirm their pledge of good stewardship of a valuable natural resource by engaging in tree planting programs.

In making the proclamation, Governor Holshouser called upon the

citizens of North Carolina "to observe this date as a day to review the progress that has been made in the conservation and restoration of our natural environment and to promote current efforts in forestation and community beautification. I do particularly encourage the schools to engage in tree planting on their school grounds and throughout the community."

The North Carolina Division of Forest Resources provides an Arbor Day kit to each fifth grade class in the State to help the students observe this special day, as well as learn about the forests of North Carolina. The kits contain a packet of tree seeds and all the material needed for each class to see how a tree is born and enable them to watch it grow.

This year, the Green Survival Commission is also taking part in the Arbor Day observance in many cities and towns. The Green Survival Commission is under joint sponsorship of the American Bicentennial Commission and the American Association of Nurserymen. Several local nurseries are making tree seedlings available to local schools for planting on Arbor Day.

Probable Cause Found In Slaying

Probable cause on a charge of murder was found by District Court Judge William M. Styles Thursday in the case of Kenneth Neil Maxwell, 38, of Rt. 3 Weaverville.

He was bound to Superior Court under the \$10,000 bond set for his release on Feb. 28. He was charged after the death of Truman Wyatt, 48, of Rt. 6 Marshall from a pistol wound in the chest, on Feb. 28.

EMCs Protest Wholesale Power Contracts

French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, in addition to the other 17 Electric Membership Corporations in the State of North Carolina that have recently been subject to wholesale rate increases, have intervened in protest against Carolina Power & Light Company on what the cooperatives consider an increase above and beyond the revenue needs of Carolina Power & Light Company for electricity sold to the cooperatives throughout the State of North Carolina.

This rate case is scheduled for hearing before the Federal

Power Commission in Washington, D. C. sometime between the months of April and June, and has already been assigned a Federal Power Commission Docket Number, that being Docket No. E-8884.

The Cooperatives in North Carolina through their statewide organization, the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation in Raleigh, retains what is considered to be one of the best legal firms and engineering firms specializing in utility rates and matters to handle cases such as this. Our

attorneys have plead for relief in this contract as now prepared by Carolina Power & Light Company for release to the parties concerned. The proposed contract as drawn and submitted by Carolina Power & Light Company on July 1, 1974 to become effective January 1, 1975 at the expiration of the contract the Cooperatives were prior receiving service under, remains unsigned by any Cooperative within the State of North Carolina. The legal staff representing the Cooperatives in North Carolina have been preparing their intervenors' testimony since the Fall of 1974 in behalf of the Cooperatives and consumers within the State of North Carolina and Tennessee that they so represent.

The Cooperatives appreciate the interest of their consumers in what is taking place in the cost of electrical energy in these times. The Cooperatives strongly suggest that the consumers through North Carolina and Tennessee write their Senators and Congressmen and prevail upon their elected officials in Washington to exercise all energies within their skill to bring pressure upon the Federal Power Commission for a speedy and expeditious

hearing on Docket No. E-8884 and also request your Representatives to maintain pressure on the Federal Power Commission for a ruling to be handed down on said Docket and not to be left in limbo for several months in behalf of protecting their constituents and also in behalf of protecting the Cooperatives which their constituents own as a member of providing themselves with electricity. Under the laws pertaining to wholesale power contracts, you either accept it as presented, which the Cooperatives of North Carolina have refused to do; however, the law allows Carolina Power & Light Company to base their wholesale rates under the proposed contract and present their bills as they are now doing until we, the Cooperatives, hopefully receive judgment from the Federal Power Commission in the form of relief on said contract. At this time, French Broad Electric Membership Corporation's cost of power purchased from Carolina Power & Light Company has increased 162.5 percent to 162.7 percent at the Cooperative's various metering points within its service area.

Easter Coloring Contest Winners

Harold Herron
Rt. 6, Box 103
Marshall
Age 6

Patrick Jones
Rt. 2, Box 285A
Marshall
Marshall
Age 8

ENTRIES:
Donna Shelton
Yvette Pike
Dwight Ledford
Ruth Ann Bailey
Kathleen Burda
Greg Lloyd
Renee Ponder
Vivian Allen
Edna Maxine Burns
Rozanne Hyton
Tress L. Ray

Lynn Price
Douglas Glen Snelson
Karen Lynne Gosnell
Kellie Ann LeGrand
Shirley Bullman
Carol Ann Fox
Lisa Michelle Lovin
Rebecca Edmonds
Janet Worley
Denise Cantrell
Roy Wallin
Elaine Randolph
Patti Ann Coward