

Editorial and Opinion

Resignations In Order

An impossible situation exists in the administration of Orange County schools, where controversy continues to block all hopes for harmony and progress. This controversy is due in part to a perfectly normal attitude on the part of one group of people fighting to preserve their community high school in the face of a seriously diminishing population and the State's commitment to continuing consolidation, and a perfectly normal attitude on the part of several other groups of people who resent encroachment upon their traditional territory and prerogatives. It is due in part also to the inept handling of the whole problem, with all its angles and ramifications, by the Orange County Board of Education.

As for the two opposing forces in a fight which has the school board squarely in the middle, neither side has shown any facility for yielding, no promise of a compromise which might partially salve the conscience of each. This newspaper, of course, is aware of the dire consequences of such a statement as the preceding, with which both sides are likely to disagree. But as a matter of fact, this in no way can be construed as a suggestion that either side is wrong or that either side should retreat from the positions they feel to be right and just. It absolutely is not a criticism of either side and those who would make it such impugn our motives unjustly and subject their own to a scrutiny which they could not successfully defend.

The crux of the matter, other arguments to the contrary, is simply this. Aycock patrons want more territory from which the school can draw more students to justify its retention in a three-high-school setup. Patrons of three other schools, which could lose more or less, depending upon who is doing the talking, oppose the idea. There are varying ramifications, arguments and points of justification used by both sides to prove their points, but no purpose would be served by producing another relish in this column. This is no discussion of the merits of either side. It is contended here, that the whole affair has been aggravated by the Board's vacillatory tactics to the extent that both sides have lost confidence in that body and told it so in unmistakable language.

What then is the solution? The board's policy has evolved largely by virtue of the single-minded, win-at-any-cost attitude of Zeb C. Burton, whose program was repudiated at the polls last May. When every other group accepted the decision of the State Board of Education as settling the controversy, which was engendered at Burton's instigation in the first place, he persuaded his colleagues to get back into the fire by protesting the State's decision. The State Board, believing Orange County had at last made up its mind, approved the Orange Board's action without a question. Again, faced with an impossible situation and an irate delegation, the local Board reversed itself and called upon the State Board to reverse itself again. Still undaunted by his colleagues' decision of last week, Burton was still in the fight last Monday, refusing to accept his own board's 2 to 1 decision as final.

Burton's determination plus Chairman Kemp Gate's lack of understanding of the whole county problem are responsible for most of the trouble faced by the Board today. It was plainly evident at last week's meeting when both men argued heatedly for some time that their action on July 3 was based upon the State's ruling, until confronted with a letter from their own files which directly refuted the positions they had taken. Either a willful attempt to mislead or complete ignorance of the true facts are the only explanations for such an action and we make no attempt to say which is correct.

Mr. Gate is employed by the University in a position demanding more than an ordinary amount of his time. He is not personally conversant with problems throughout the county and except for his monthly meetings is far removed from the situations with which he has to cope. He has indicated on more than one occasion he would like to step down but would not do so under fire. Mr. Gate, if he represents anybody, represents the Town of Chapel Hill on the County Board. Since the Chapel Hill schools are administered solely by the Board of Trustees of that administrative unit, with money being provided on a per capita basis, inasmuch as the Chapel Hill building program is already clearly outlined any urgency for Mr. Gate's remaining on the board has been removed. With Mr. Stanford he has given the Southern end of the county two representatives.

No sense of false pride should keep him from resigning from the Board immediately in gratification of his own expressed desires and for the good of the county.

As for Mr. Burton, the people have already given him a mandate which he chooses to ignore. Continuation of his obstructionist tactics, even until next April when he will leave anyhow, will throw the county school program into a virtual stalemate with irreparable damage to all.

When public officials find themselves out of step with their constituents or when they find themselves unable, by inclination or inability to administer their office adequately, it becomes their duty to get out. In doing so, they earn the respect and the admiration of their neighbors to which they would not otherwise be entitled.

This all should agree. Orange County schools must no longer be subjected to the dissension and the disagreements which have beset them during the past six months. It is generally agreed that a number of changes must be made to settle once and for all the boundary question on a basis equitable to all and for the best interests of the majority. The present board, with its background of reversals and general indecision, cannot solve the problem. The sooner other members are given a chance to reach a solution, the better the whole situation will be. The time for resignations is now.

PRESS COMMENT

Too Much Ado Without Evidence

The Asheville Citizen. Legionnaires of Eastern North Carolina posts meeting at Goldsboro last week passed a resolution (with many abstaining from voting) that "Communist activities in the University of North Carolina be eradicated regardless of the effect, if it breaks up the whole setup." The sponsor of the resolution charges that the University at Chapel Hill, Woman's College at Greensboro, and State College at Raleigh are "infiltrated with Communism."

If these conditions do indeed exist it is time—and past time—to correct them. The best remedy lies with the sponsor of the Legion resolution. He said that he "knew whereof he spoke."

In that case of course, evidence should be provided, the proper authorities. People with knowledge of the facts should come forward on their own responsibilities as citizens. They should furnish instances and names. They should hold nothing back.

There is a real and present danger of subversion in this country. It can be checked, and we believe it is being checked, by investigation and exposure conducted by the agencies of government skilled at making investigations.

There is also another danger. It is the danger to ancient liberties implicit in false accusations, gossip and innuendo. These things fan the fires of hysteria. They permit the petty, the vindictive and even the neuritic side of our society to give vent to the meanest emotions. A "Communist" charge which has no substance is a charge which impugns loyalty and suggests treason. Where it is ill-founded or false it is the cry of "wolf! wolf!" and lulls the public to sleep.

The Consolidated University surely should welcome any investigation prompted by credible evidence of actual Communist activity. Until that evidence is brought forth, however, the charge lacks weight. No fair-minded person could wish to see a great University system with its thousands of teachers, students and trustees blanketed by an indictment which so far as news reports show is neither specific nor documented.

NEW TYPE POULTRY HOUSE

Hillsboro — Henry Johnson of Schley Community recently has built a new type poultry laying house which is 40 ft. wide and 80 ft. long. He has about 850 pullets in this house and is experimenting with some new ideas. He has a dirt floor, and is using built up litter. He does not have any roost poles in this new type house. Johnson likes this system very much and lots of poultrymen are watching his results with interest.



CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

Raleigh—Some folks have expressed doubt that Kerr Scott will back Willis Smith in the coming senatorial campaign, despite the Governor's repeated pledge to take the stump for his party's candidate.

The Governor is a Democrat first, and despite his opposition to Willis in the two primaries will take to the stump for Smith if party leaders want him to.

As a matter of fact, it has already been planned for Smith's Alamance county campaign—if not the entire campaign—to be kicked off with a big Alamance Young Democrats rally for Smith at the Governor's own Haw River farm home.

Tar Heel hoarders can be proud of themselves. They sent sales tax receipts up about \$400,000 more than was expected last month. Revenue Commissioner Eugene Shaw reported a gain of more than \$850,000 above the same month a year ago. Since this was more than \$400,000 above the average gained each month this year, Shaw could only attribute it to "hysterical war buying and hoarding."

If the North Carolinians fighting in Korea had acted with the same patriotism, the Korean war would have been over two months ago—with us pushed off the mean little peninsula.

Reported irregularities, peculiar misuses of public property—are being investigated in the State Forestry Division's First District.

The First District includes the seaboard counties, where forest fires are a serious problem each year.

The reported investigation apparently isn't worrying First Division personnel. Just a few nights ago, the Forestry boys of the First pitched themselves quite a party

over near Little Washington. Along in the shank of the evening, the boys became quite gay. The gayer they got, the more courage they found, and before long they lifted their voices in song—like a bunch of hounds bay- ing at the moon.

And what do you think the tune was they were singing? A little ditty entitled:

"Who's afraid of Big Bad Kerr Scott!"

You can forget that dry dock at Wilmington. Blame it on a lot of things: lackadaisical attitude of New Hanover county, which always has its hand out but doesn't seem to want to help itself; fumbling by the State Ports Authority; and the Navy's refusal to cooperate with a retired Army Colonel (Col. George Gillette), despite all that talk about unification.

A \$15,000 outlay would have brought the drydock to Wilmington.

The Navy wasn't too hot about the idea putting the drydock in Wilmington to start off. Shipbuilders were opposed, too. But the Governor pushed the idea, and after personal insistence of Senator Frank Graham, President Truman interfered and the dock was assured if the \$15,000 could be raised. The State did not want to enter private business, so rightly felt it could not put up the money. Despite their alleged desire to expand, folks in New Hanover looked the other way.

So Wilmington can be assured of remaining a second rate port, because ship owners are not going to send their ships 36 miles inland unless there are repair facilities available.

Time-payment cattle are slated for North Carolina's future. A group of New York moneymen pitched themselves quite a party

(Continued on Page 6)

What's the MEASURE of a Bull?

Pedigree and type of a bull are only indicators of the kind of daughters he should sire. His true measure lies in his ability to get daughters that will produce on a high level. Every Sire in the American Breeders Service stud that furnish our semen is Proved Great. Their average index, of over 500 lbs. B.F., ranks them in the top 2% of all bulls proved by D.H.I.A. daughter-dam comparisons. The sure, economical way to improve your herd production and type is to call our technician and breed your cows to SIRE PROVED GREAT.

HOLSTEIN • GUERNSEY • JERSEY
Sires Proved Great from the
SOUTHEASTERN ARTIFICIAL BREEDING ASS'N

ORANGE COOPERATIVE BREEDING ASSN. INC.
CALL STATIONS
C. A. Gentry — Chapel Hill F-414
G. O. Reitzel — Hillsboro 3525

Say "I Saw It In The News" Thanks

Loans

FOR FARMERS-DAIRYMEN

BUILD OR REPAIR
BUY EQUIPMENT
IMPROVE PASTURE
CONVERT TO GRADE-A DAIRY

Would these or similar improvements improve the production or profits on your farm? Every day we are helping Orange County farmers and dairymen improve land and facilities through low-cost loans. Talk to one of our officers at Chapel Hill or Carrboro in complete confidence.

THE BANK OF CHAPEL HILL

TWO CONVENIENT LOCATIONS
CHAPEL HILL CARRBORO
Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

Sell Your Tobacco On The "World's Best Tobacco Market"

At

VIRGINIA-CAROLINA

And

Central Warehouses

DANVILLE, VA.

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED TO EVERYTHING IN THE CITY
A Force of Experienced and Well Trained Men to Handle and Sell Your Tobacco
W. NAT TERRY, Sales Mgr.
BUD CHANDLER, Auctioneer

VIRGINIA -- CAROLINA & CENTRAL

Danville, Va.

THE NEWS of Orange County
Published Every Thursday By
THE NEWS, INCORPORATED
Hillsboro and Chapel Hill, N. C.

EDWIN J. HAMLIN Editor and Publisher
DON MCFEE Associate Editor
PATRICIA STANFORD Society Editor

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office at Hillsboro, N. C. under the Act of March 3, 1879.
Member North Carolina Press Association