

The News of orange county

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New industry can have this effect in Orange

Orange County's first major new industry in quite a while is preparing to begin operations in the Belle Vue mill buildings in Hillsboro.

Naturally this will be welcomed by the quiet community of Hillsboro where the new jobs and initial 75-worker payroll will be gratefully absorbed. The person elsewhere in Orange who thinks for a moment that this doesn't affect him should also reflect on this.

A new industry with several hundred thousand dollars worth of manufacturing equipment and stock inventory will quickly and directly support the salary of one or more school teachers, or buy needed equipment for Orange County's public education system.

Indirect boost . . .

The indirect boost to the local governmental economy is even larger. Greater employment opportunities will mean more prosperity for many citizens and thus more tax revenue for the county. And more prosperity for employees of a new industry will be directly tied to better business for local merchants, again to the benefit of the public treasury. Thus a new plant in Hillsboro is of much more immediate and sustaining benefit to all of Orange than a casual thought indicates.

This county needs a broader tax base. It needs sound new industry to attain this end, if it is to have the calibre of schools and other governmental service that it has shown it does want.

The organization of the Hillsboro Mills subsidiary of the Schepps brothers Holyoke, Mass., textile operation is a wholesome addition to Orange County's all-too-modest industrial family.

Interests of children properly paramount

It is too bad that some pupils in the Chapel Hill School System will have to attend classes on a double-shift basis next year. But it is obvious to The News that this decision is, as one school administrator has properly called it, nothing more than the necessary "lesser of two evils."

Parents who don't like this prospect properly protested to the School Board. But in light of all possible alternatives there is still no better solution, in the opinion of The News.

Double-shifting has become a necessity in many school systems over the country. In some places it has been worked out fairly satisfactorily, except for the inconvenience to household routine. There is no reason in advance of its trial to assume it will be so disastrous in Chapel Hill.

Don't blame Board . . .

Certainly the School Board is not to blame for the fact that there are more children to educate than there is classroom space to teach them in. The Board has come to this decision following several years of warning of the possible necessity and only after examining every possi-



—Walt Partymiller, York Gazette & Daily

ble alternative.

The school officials are in this case concerned with what they think is "best for the children, regardless of what the parents here think." Their concern is properly placed.

Let ballot investigation receive proper label

It would be no disaster at all if the County Board of Elections did conduct some further investigation of what has been erroneously called the "illegal sample ballots" case.

The Elections Board members apparently did look into this matter and quickly realized there was no actual violation of law involved other than the possibility of indiscretion in the preparation of political propaganda.

There is a long history in Orange County of elections being quite legally conducted. In fact, the primary complaints to the elections body have been over its board-stiff legalistic interpretation of the loosely written election laws. So in this case the elections board deigned not to investigate an election day complaint any further.

This is involved . . .

What is involved in this case is a mimeographed political handbill on which a portion of a sample ballot was copied, and on which the names of certain candidates were X'ed in. There was no distribution of real or even counterfeit marked ballots or sample ballots involved. There is no report of any bogus ballots finding their way in the ballot box. And if they had, such an odd-sized and crudely-prepared bit of paper—so obviously distinguishable from a regular ballot—would scarcely have been counted.

The fact of the matter is that there were several thousand ballot facsimiles printed in newspapers and distributed throughout the county. Any or all of these could have been marked and slipped into a ballot box easier than the so-called samples in question. None of them were, nor have they ever been in elections conducted in Orange County. Of this we are confident—a confidence based on a good many years of close association with and observation of the conduct of local elections.

The casting of illegal ballots and voting illegally in this state is possible only in the event of a willful conspiracy to defraud in which every official of a precinct is a party. Because of the system of checks and records no one official could do it alone, and the caliber of elections personnel in Orange County from county board to precinct judge is the highest.

Those who continue to see things sinister in this incident border on the ridiculous. The body politic was not in danger, has not been damaged.

'Friday's reasonable requests'

(Editorial in The Raleigh Times)

The requests which UNC President William C. Friday made to the University trustees is not only a good summary of the needs of the University, but is an accurate preview of the major problem which must be faced by the 1963 General Assembly. That problem is a simply-stated one: The needs of education won't stop growing, and those needs must be met in such a way as to permit the children of North Carolina to have the opportunity to keep on growing.

President Friday's requests add up to a lot of money. They also add up to justifiable requests. And one reason they are so large is that the people of North Carolina refused last November

(Editorials Continued on Page 2)

Here's reason why the public failed to trust school board

So everybody else is talking about "what's wrong with the School Board." The Newsman, while not in spirit of "me-tooism," is moved to toss in a few cents' worth, too.

The failure of the Chapel Hill school district tax increase referendum was closely linked to a loss of confidence on the part of many voters in the school board itself.

As a matter of record, The News has attempted throughout this campaign to separate the two issues — that of the tax increase and the personalities composing the school board. But the election returns show the public in general did not.

How often it is truly said that the greatest breeder of distrust and fear is ignorance. In Chapel Hill school affairs lately the public has reacted to just this situation. But the ignorance has not always been of its own making. It has been the creation, albeit conscientiously brought about, of the School Board itself.

This has happened through (1) the growing policy of this board and of public school boards in general over the country to conduct more and more of their business in private; and (2) more specifically of the failure of the Chapel Hill School Board to carry out its adopted and specifically written policy to notify the press in advance of any special meetings that it holds.

The one-man staff of a weekly newspaper definitely cannot attend and personally cover all school board meetings. But nonetheless the newspaper's responsibility to the public will be infinitely more successfully carried out if the Board will conduct as much of its business as humanly possible before an open door.

Other Boards didn't . . .

The Orange County Board of Commissioners and the Chapel Hill Board of Aldermen — just like the Chapel Hill School Board — are prohibited by state law from holding closed-door meetings.

The only difference is that somehow school boards everywhere, citing the shop-worn phrase of "public interest" and "personalities involved" wink at this law more and more.

It is good to learn now from the School Board Chairman — a public servant never given to governmental secrecy himself — that this policy will be strictly adhered to in the future.

The News is of the opinion that the School Board hasn't been doing anything that it wanted to or needed to hide from the public. But the public doesn't know it, and can't know it unless this publicly-elected body takes careful pains to conduct its business in public.

Some of us might find happiness if we would quit struggling so desperately for it.

—William Feather

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