

By Commissioner Carl Smith . . .

School, ABC store decisions aired

Commissioner Carl Smith made two points abundantly clear at Monday's meeting of the County Board, which was otherwise largely routine. He did not favor the allocation of \$68,800 to the County School System to enable the letting of contracts for \$271,000 to build a new elementary school for Negroes at Hillsborough, referred to in the min-

utes as the "Stanback" School. He does favor establishment of a second ABC store in west-Chapel Hill or in Carrboro. In explanation of the former, he noted Chairman Donald Stanford never asked for the nays in the previous meeting when voting on the extra allocation for the County System and the minutes had recorded the vote as unanimous.

He said it would be all right to record his vote as "against." At the earlier meeting he had questioned County School officials as to why the request had not been included in the original budget. On the ABC matter, he has long been critical of the ABC Board's failure to establish a downtown store. He, along with

other commissioners, Monday praised the ABC Board's report but said it was clearly indicative that it was a mistake not to have opened another store "in my end of the county." In other action, the commissioners named Journalism Prof. Stuart Sechriest a member of the Chapel Hill zoning area's Board of Adjustment to replace Ted Tillman, who resigned; drew three sets of jurors for service in fall terms of Supe-

rior Court; authorized Betty June Hayes to submit an account of her expenses at next week's meeting of the National Register of Deeds Association in Washington—she is an officer of the National group; and received two petitions for road improvements in the county, extension of SR 1713 near Murphy School for state maintenance and for stabilization of SR 1560, off Crawford Road near Hillsborough, for stabilization.

Neighborhood residents lead fight against site of housing; court action held possibility

Meeting as the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Chapel Hill Housing Authority, the Planning Board held a public forum Tuesday night on the controversy raging over a proposed North Columbia St. public housing apartment site. Strong opposition was led by Prof. Clarence Philbrook and represented legally by attorney Emery Denny to the Housing Authority's plan to put 12 units for low-income families across from Noble St.

Acting Chairman of the Housing Authority while Dr. Sidney Chipman is in Taiwan, Mrs. Robert Mace, read a statement by the Authority clarifying the relationship of the Authority to the Board of Alderman, giving financial figures, and justifying the project.

The statement made it clear that the Authority is a "public corporate entity" and "neither the Town nor the County has any responsibility for its debts." The rents are to be used to pay the operating costs. Loans from the Federal Housing Administration would be used to buy the land and build the housing.

The statement said there is "little objective reason" to expect that the project will depress land values, but "fear and panic could cause a temporary decline." Special efforts would be made to have only "desirable tenants," and a superior architect has been contracted, it declared.

The estimated total cost will be \$884,739, 90 per cent would be covered by a loan already approved by the Federal Housing Administration. The aver-

age monthly rental per unit was given as \$34—including all utilities. Mr. Philbrook and Mr. Denny attacked the plan in behalf of the Noble Heights Property Owners Association. They hit the financial basis and potential property value loss. Mr. Denny, quoting a N. C. law, said the responsibility of the Housing Authority in its projects was slum clearance. A petition against the proposal was signed by 102 people.

Court fight seen
There is a strong possibility that the dispute may ultimately be resolved in court. Mr. Philbrook said after the meeting he would discuss this with Mr. Denny if the project is pushed on. **Profs. Philbrook and Clarence Heer labeled the Authority "irresponsible" in its relation to the town and citizens and the former called it a Frankenstein creation.**

Col. Henry Royall spoke against public housing in general, recounting a trip on which he visited such projects in Kinston, New Bern, and Washington, N. C. He closed saying, "King Federal is at our threshold. Will we let him in?"

Negro leader Hilliard Caldwell favored the project, commenting that he had heard no objections from the same residents when the nearby Towne House Apartments were developed. He said that Negro occupation was the opponents' only real objection, despite their strong denial. He said the project had been assessed at \$8,250, she noted. While purchase of the land optioned is under way, no condemnation proceedings have been started, she added.

Architect of the entire \$884,000 60-unit project is Leif Valand of Raleigh. The local authority is awaiting his preliminary drawings on the Gomains Ave. part of the project, before passing on it and submitted these plans to the regional office for approval.

Negroes favorable
Three Negroes, Edwin Caldwell, Jr. and R. D. Smith, both residents of the area, and William Tolliver, supported the proposal. Mr. Tolliver is a former member of the Human Relations Committee and Mr. Smith is a present member of the Planning Board. Rabbi Joseph Levine was the only white person living in the vicinity who spoke for it.

With about 140 new members . . .

Chamber drive ends

The current membership drive for the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce ended yesterday at noon with upwards of 140 new persons having joined the group. Membership Campaign Co-Chairman Sandy McClamroch and George Coxhead started the final phase of the drive Tuesday morning with a breakfast for 35 committee members in the Carolina Inn. Their campaign brought the current mem-

The Orange County Board of Education will meet at 8 o'clock tomorrow night to consider steps to be taken in connection with a petition calling for operation of all county schools "without regard to race."

Meeting with the Board will be Superintendent Thomas Whitley of Caswell County, whose schools have been operating under court-ordered integration for three years, and Col. George Levings, the County Attorney.

The Board will be briefed on legal implications of the 1954 decision as well as the recently enacted civil rights law and the

visiting superintendent will cite some of his experiences with the courts in connection with school integration.

No formal action on the matter is contemplated at this time. G. P. Carr, Orange County Superintendent, told the Board at its meeting last Monday that the County receives about \$100,000 in federal aid funds a year, which could be withheld "if we don't comply with the law."

He quoted advice from U. S. Commissioner Francis Keppel to the superintendents' conference at Mars Hill last week to the effect that a county would be advised to consult a lawyer and create a desegregation plan when faced with the problem of bringing a school system into compliance with the civil rights law.

In other action as Monday's meeting the Board approved the amended budget for the new fiscal year as recently passed by the Board of Commissioners, set up the school calendar for the new year, and approved the appointment of two teachers for vacancies at Hillsborough Junior High School.

Mrs. Angela Y. Miller is a new 7th grade teacher at the Junior High and Miss Susan Pollard will teach music.

Year's ABC profits increase to \$239,316; sales since inception almost \$10 million

Orange County's ABC stores, first opened to the public on April 5, 1959, have had sales totaling almost \$10 million in the five and one-fourth years through the fiscal year which closed this past June 30th.

Profits have amounted to \$1,176,651.11, of which \$792,200 has been turned over to the county for schools and other general funds operations. The remainder as of the fiscal year's end was contained in the \$515,573 in assets listed by the Board.

These facts were contained in a report to the County Commissioners by ABC Chairman R. J. Smith Sr. The commissioners took the occasion individually to commend Mr. Smith and his colleagues on the ABC Board, Dr. D. D. Carroll and Giles M. Long, for their operation of the ABC system since its inception.

The report indicated the ABC Board had turned over to the

county \$232,000 in the year just past, \$250,000 in 1963, \$200,000 in 1962, \$100,000 in 1961 and \$10,000 in 1960. The state, according to Smith, has received almost as much in tax as the county in profit. Its sales tax take has totalled \$1,059,195.52, on the total sales of \$9,564,414.45.

For the past fiscal year, Smith told the Commissioners, total sales were \$1,943,583.70, a reduction in sales of \$10,400 from the previous year. This resulted in a net profit of \$239,316.27, however, which was \$4,193.67 greater than the previous year. The larger profit resulted from a change in the method of computing state sales taxes approved by the last General Assembly. The state received \$220,576.75 in sales taxes.

In the past year's operations, only the Chapel Hill store recorded a gain in sales and profits. Store No. 2 at Eastgate Shopping Center increased sales by \$51,967

over the previous year while the following losses in sales were noted by the other stores in comparison with 1963: Hillsborough, down \$2,077.50; Highway 49 store, down \$41,000; and I-85 \$19,287.

A total of \$17,573.14 was spent store near Durham line, down in law enforcement program and \$4,653.57 was spent on the alcoholic education work.

Some condemnations expected

Abernethy housing site deal won't be closed at this time; Gomains purchases proceed

A \$20,000 purchase option on a controversial public housing

apartments site near mid-town Chapel Hill will not be exercised at this time, a spokesman for the Chapel Hill Housing Authority said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Authority Executive Director Mrs. Sarah Rains said, options are being exercised for the purchase of land appraised at about \$71,000 in the Gomains Ave. neighborhood where a 48-unit project is envisioned.

Residents of the N. Columbia St. neighborhood around the I-85 (See HOUSING, Page 4)

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