

# The News - Journal

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Who Gets How Much?

## The Great Federal 'Giveaway'

The "federal giveaway" is much cussed and discussed in modern America, and while the theory sticks in the craw of every workingman (a term synonymous with "taxpayer"), the practice in recent years has been quite beneficial to some areas, particularly the South and other sections with large segments of population in the low-income category.

In Raeford and Hoke County, the federal supplement to local tax funds is far greater than the tax funds. Correctly, it could be said that local taxes are levied to supplement federal participation in local affairs.

Considering it from a purely monetary standpoint, federal taxes are a good investment for the people of Hoke County, because the federal government each year returns more to the county in funds and services than the county's people pay in federal taxes.

We don't know what the ratio is - for we have no exact accounting of federal assistance to Hoke County or the amount of federal taxes paid by our citizens. It probably would be safe to say that we get back \$2 for every \$1 paid to Uncle Sam.

That is not true in many instances. Residents of New York, for example, are said to pay in \$27 for every \$1 in federal benefits received by that state.

If we were called upon to duplicate the services and benefits now provided in Hoke County by the federal government, we could not do it. Our resources already are heavily taxed, and our capacity to borrow is almost exceeded in local government. Our local tax rates, while low in comparison with many sections of the country, are about all our governing bodies feel we can afford.

Actually, local taxes on real and personal property provide only about half the amount of the annual county budget here. The assessed valuation of all such property in the county for tax purposes (65 per cent of the current valuation) is some \$41 million, which at the current tax rate of \$1.38 per \$100 valuation would yield some \$500,000. While that tax money (ad valorem) is the largest source of local revenue, other sources - local, state and federal - supply the remaining cash for the slightly more than \$1 million budgeted in Hoke County.

Schools are a big item, and without

state and federal assistance, our schools could not operate. Teacher salaries, for instance, are paid by the state. Over the years, the county has received several million dollars in state school bond money. The federal government also pours an estimated \$750,000 into educational programs and services of one sort or another each year. The item of state and federal aid to our schools alone is much larger than all local taxes combined.

Just this week, the town of Raeford was granted \$338,250 in federal funds to help expand and improve its sewage treatment facilities. That one item was considerably more than half as much as county taxpayers will contribute to operation of the county government this year.

Look at the many other federal benefits and services derived by the people of Hoke County.

Social security benefits probably amount to more than \$1 million a year. Hoke farmers receive more than \$100,000 a year in various conservation and production program benefits. Public welfare assistance, paid mostly by the state and federal governments, accounts for another estimated \$100,000 in federal contributions.

The anti-poverty program - a newcomer to the list of "giveaways" - provides goodness knows how much money to the county. The primary anti-poverty organization - Sandhills Community Action Program - receives the federal money for a four-county area of Hoke, Moore, Montgomery and Lee counties, with at least an estimated \$100,000 going to Hoke.

Other federally financed projects - like the Southeast Regional Development Commission - brings hundreds of thousands of dollars in benefits shared by Hoke. Only this month, another \$1.3 million was appropriated for use in Hoke and three other counties to wage war on the emigration problem.

We cannot measure how much we get in road funds (for federal highways), or how much it costs to provide postal service, veterans benefits, agricultural offices and programs, civil defense, unemployment programs, courts, or other direct federal benefits. Certainly they would add up to more than a million dollars a year.

## L. Starr McMillan

This community lost a good friend recently when L. Starr McMillan died at age 77.

The town has grown considerably and changed in many ways during recent years, so a great many newcomers are not aware of his long years of service as a town employe. Too, he had been retired several years at the time of his death, and it is likely that a great many natives had ceased to ponder his achievements, although certainly they had not forgotten them.

For more than 40 years, he served as superintendent of the water and sewer department of the town. During those years, he was not weighted down with the ponderous problems which beset his successors (the overloading of facilities requiring more than \$2 million in expansion and improvement of the system). He probably wouldn't have known the difference between B.O.D. and L.S.D. - and moreover, he wouldn't have cared a whit. Not that he couldn't have adjusted to the pushbutton method of doing things. He was an intelligent man, not given to long-winded conversation, but he also was a man who didn't bother to read about how the book said solve a problem when the obvious solution

seemed to him to require elbow-grease and muscle power. It was said, too, that he was a walking encyclopedia of the town's water system - because he had installed all the water and sewer lines and no maps of the system existed.

After his retirement, he lived quietly on North Main Street and became no more conspicuous as an elder citizen than he had been as a public servant. He occupied his time with certain business interests, primarily the farmland he owned at the eastern limits of Raeford. He enjoyed riding about the town and county, and he dreaded the time - his friends declare - when his failing eyesight would no longer permit him to operate his car.

He was proud when the town board paid tribute to him by naming a street in his honor - and wasn't upset when the newspaper got his initials wrong in reporting the incident. He was not a man who angered easily or held a grudge.

He was, in physical stature, a diminutive man, but in many respects, he stood ten feet tall. He valued nothing above friendship, and the town and county are filled with people who were proud to call him friend.



By Jim Taylor

## This Family Is Together



For a long time, I have envied the Bill Howell family, more or less.

Not that I begrudge their health, happiness and general good fortune. They operate more like families used to, and this day and time, that sort of togetherness is a rare thing.

Bill Howell, as most of you know, is a local druggist. His wife, Sarah, runs the household and pinch hits at the drug store in the bookkeeping end of the business. They have five children - four of whom are still at home, counting Winborne, who is a student at Queens College and home for the summer.

Back in June, the Howells left Raeford for a transcontinental trip to California. The group included Mr. and Mrs. Howell, Winborne, Tom, Ann, and David. Bill Howell Jr., the married member of the clan, was occupied with duties at the University of South Carolina, where he is in graduate school on a teaching fellowship.

To take off for California is nothing out of the ordinary (if you have the time and money for such a trip). In the Howells' case, the trip was somewhat novel in that they hitched a camper to their automobile, loaded the camper with provisions, and set out to see as much of the country as possible.

John Steinbeck, the Nobel Prize winning author, did practically the same thing several years ago. Steinbeck designed a camper to be built on a pickup truck frame, fathered up his poodle, Charlie, and toured the country, spending each night at a camping ground. At the end of

the journey, he wrote a book, "Travels With Charlie," which became a best-seller.

Nobody in the Howell clan was thinking of writing a book, but they managed the trip much like Steinbeck did. In almost a month away from Raeford, they didn't spend a single night in a motel. And they ate "out" only twice.

Winborne served as navigator and her father did most of the driving. They crossed the southern part of the nation, going past Biloxi, Miss., and through Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona to the Los Angeles area.

To say "Los Angeles" doesn't describe that Southern California metropolis, which is listed in the reference books as a city of some two million people. That's the population of the urban area within the confines of the Los Angeles city limits.

Actually, Los Angeles starts in the east at San Bernardino, or just west thereof, and it's exactly 50 miles to the eastern city limits of L. A. In between, there is a solid residential and business development, so you're actually in the "city" from the time you reach Cucamonga.

North to south, "Los Angeles and Vicinity" extend from San Fernando in the north to Newport Beach in the south. The distance between these two points is some 65 miles, and it's solid "city" from one to the other.

I had halfway expected to read in the papers while the Howells were gone that David had been rescued out of the Grand Canyon or off the side of Medicine Row, or somewhere. He's the youngest

of the clan and is a tree-climbing, pony riding, roughhouse, all-boy type.

Oddly, he was not at all rambunctious on the trip, the Howells said. Maybe the thrill of seeing so many places one usually only reads about like the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park, Carlsbad Caverns, etc. had the same effect on him it would have had on me at his age.

On the way home, the Howells drove up the California coast to San Francisco, where they had one of their two meals "out." They ate at the famous Fisherman's Wharf and Mrs. Howell promptly became ill. The seafood didn't set well with her.

After San Francisco, they hit Reno and drove across Nevada to northwestern Wyoming to Yellowstone National Park. That's the beginning of beautiful country, in my book, and I'm very fond of that part of Wyoming, Montana, Northern Idaho and Washington.

Next, the Howells set sail for Tennessee, where they wanted to spend a few days in Tennessee Walking Horse country, since they have and show one of that famous breed of horses.

Like most folks, they didn't like the Great Plains. Frankly, there's nothing that interests me between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, and the quicker that 1,000 miles is traveled, the better.

In Tennessee, they stopped at an apparently little-publicized state park near

Continued on Classified Page

## CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



**NUMBER TWO SPOTS**  
As the national Democratic and Republican conventions approach, the number one question is not who will be the nominees for president, but who will be given the nod for vice president by Humphrey and Nixon.

We suspect that Humphrey will give the nod to Edward Kennedy to become his running mate, but there is still considerable uncertainty as to who Nixon will pick for the number two spot on the Republican ticket.

With politics becoming more violent, we doubt that anyone asked by either Humphrey or Nixon will turn the nomination for vice president down.

We recall that back in 1960 when John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson were seeking the Democratic nomination for president that Johnson said he preferred to remain in the Senate where he was majority leader to being vice president, but when the invitation was given by JFK to become his running mate it didn't take him long to say "yes." And the world knows that he reached the white house by the VP door.

It has never been regarded as good politics to seek the vice presidential nomination but to pick someone who had considerable support for president in an attempt to bring his followers to support the ticket. In 1960 Nixon tapped former Senator Henry Cabot Lodge for his running mate. Lodge had served in the U.S. Senate but had been defeated by John F. Kennedy.

**TOBACCO HELP**  
Tobacco farmers report that it is very hard to get help to harvest the golden weed and some have been inquiring as to the possibility of getting relief through "A grade" prisoners who might be available through the work release procedure.

**CLEAR ON ISSUES**  
It seems like the candidates farthest behind are far more willing to speak out frankly on the issues than are the candidates near the front.

Good examples are Dr. Reginald Hawkins while running for the Democratic nomination for governor this spring; George W. Wallace and Senator Eugene McCarthy and Nelson Rockefeller.

One thing is quite clear: None of the candidates for president are getting more "hawkish" in their attitudes toward Vietnam, but are veering toward the dovish line.

**ATTENTION** There was a time when presidential candidates seldom visited the South, but that time is now history, with the South becoming as much a two-party section as any part of the nation.

Many people today are rating North Carolina as a toss-up state insofar as the presidential election is concerned.

There is probably more activity for George Wallace in the state today than for any other presidential candidate. Wallace will probably command a greater percentage of the popular and electoral vote than any third party candidate since Theodore Roosevelt bolted the Republican party and ran as a Progressive Party candidate in 1912, which resulted in the election of Woodrow Wilson.

**BELK LIBRARY** We were delighted to note that East Carolina University has established the Henry Belk Journalism Library with the personal collection of Jonathan Daniels as the beginning nucleus.

The new library, according to ECU President Leo W. Jenkins, will become an important cornerstone of the journalism program East Carolina is seeking to develop. Belk is the senior member of the ECU Board of Trustees, editor of the Goldsboro News-Argus, and a champion of progress for Eastern North Carolina and the entire state.

The establishment of the Henry Belk Journalism Library is a splendid tribute to a great Tarheel citizen with vision and foresight.

**LITTLE DIFFERENCE**  
From the best we can determine from studying their records there will be but little change in the government in Washington if Humphrey or Rockefeller is elected president.

You will know there is a different man in the white house if Nixon is elected and everybody will realize well that a change has been made if George Wallace should win.

**GUN LAWS** We do not know what the Gallup and Harris polls would say, but we doubt that there is the public support for stricter gun control laws that you might imagine. Greatest support has probably come from newspaper editorials and commentators. Grass roots opposition to new gun laws by huntsmen and sportsmen have had its effect on Washington legislators.

**SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS**

**WASHINGTON** With the national conventions set for August 5 and August 25, Congress is talking of winding up its affairs next week. The prospects for adjournment that soon are not particularly bright.

There are a multitude of reasons for this. We are engaged in the longest war in our history with peace negotiations at a standstill barring some unforeseen break. Traditionally, Congress has stayed in session longer in war years, because of the many problems inherent in such events. Moreover, we are living in an age of great turmoil and crisis, and this in itself makes the legislative process more difficult and brings about more legislation. Lawmaking has become much more complicated, too, when many problems that once were solved at the county seat or the state capitol are shifted to Washington. Consider the number of bills that have been dropped in the legislative hopper since the 90th Congress began some eighteen months ago. As of mid-July, members of the Senate and House had introduced more than 24,000 bills in that period of time.

A major problem of this session has been a problem that every citizen understands - money. Early in this session it became apparent when the President submitted the Budget and it projected a huge deficit if taxes were not increased and spending reduced that we had to set out financial house in order. While I am not at all convinced that we have solved our fiscal problems, the purpose of the Tax Adjustment

Act of 1968 was the prevent a financial crisis. That Act imposed a \$6 billion reduction in federal spending requests with a ceiling of \$180 billion under specified conditions. How well Congress will succeed in this undertaking is yet to be determined by the appropriation bills it is considering.

There are 14 money bills to fund federal departments and agencies, and the \$180 billion budget ceiling set by Congress says in essence that Congress or the president must limit spending to the specified level. Part of the problem in getting Congressional action on the remaining money bills is that controversies have arisen over authorization bills which set the ceilings for a number of these programs. Authorization bills must be acted upon before the appropriation process can be completed.

As usual, foreign aid is under serious attack, and particularly so when funds for many domestic programs are extremely tight. Almost everyone familiar with the program must marvel at the way the program has survived over the years since the Marshall Plan was established in 1948. The program has been unpopular all along. Much of the justification that supported the Marshall Plan to rebuild war - destroyed European economies has dwindled in soul-searching about how long we can continue to spend billions of dollars to help other nations when we are experiencing serious financial problems at home.

## Puppy Creek Philosopher



Dear editor:  
I have been keeping tab on it in the last few months' run of newspapers turning up out here on this Puppy Creek farm and to the best of my reckoning the only group in this country which hasn't had a strike or a threat of a strike is the kindergarten pupils, and they may walk out tomorrow.

You name it and they've struck: telephone workers, steel workers, Broadway actors, television announcers, college students, convicts, airline pilots, school teachers, Olympic runners, printers (Detroit hasn't had a daily newspaper in 8 months), chorus girls, railroad workers. There are a lot more but I need the paper I had them written

down on to clean the dip stick when I was checking the oil in my tractor and can't read the rest. It was two quarts low. Had it been empty, I could have finished the list.

However, I guess the strike that topped them all was the one by the professional football players.

This strike disturbed a lot of people, who claim the game never will be the same. "When they're in the huddle," one man asked me, "how will we know whether they're calling a play or a strike?"

I can't tell him, I have no answer to the problem, and when a man has no answer to a problem he appoints a committee. This country has so

many committees out now studying problems we may have to appoint another committee to see what they're hung on.

What I'm working on now is finding something I can strike against, but the field is limited. I've tried striking against work but every time I do the only result I can see is that the work just piles up.

I have enlarged my thinking and am now working on a plan where the rest of us can strike against strikes, but I haven't worked out the details. Will give it some more thought. If any of you News-Journal readers have any ideas, write me at once.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.