

West Hoke School Holds Open House

The parents, and patrons of West Hoke School had an opportunity to hear the opinions of the administration of the Hoke County School System as they expressed their views on the effect that Reagonomics may have upon the quality of education in the Hoke County Schools.

The panel discussion, moderated by John D. McAllister, associate superintendent of Hoke County Public Schools, was part of the Open House Observance held at West Hoke School on September 27.

Raz Autry, superintendent of Hoke County Schools, the first of the panelists to address the statement, felt that the decrease in federal funds will have a drastic effect upon the school lunch program and that the cutting of school personnel will definitely lead to an increase in class size.

Milton Williams, principal of West Hoke School, stated that despite the cut in funds, quality education has still been maintained because of the capabilities, concern, dedication and strength of the faculty. He further stated that, although the facilities are not up to par, the faculty has been able to improvise.

Mrs. Horne, a kindergarten teacher at West Hoke School, expressed her concern for the lack of supplies to develop the basic skills necessary for learning. Mrs. Horne also explained that the \$3.00 school fee is to help purchase the necessary material. "It is possible," Mrs. Horne stated, "that the Primary Reading Program may be affected because teachers may be cut."

Mrs. Marilyn Semones, one of the school system's directors of

instruction, stated that because of the loss of approximately \$12,000 to the county, new programs have not been available. However, the county has been able to maintain status quo. According to Mrs. Semones, the Hoke County School System is one of the state's seventeen systems that will grow within the next few years. The budget cut will have a monumental effect if the county grows as expected.

Mrs. Shirley Carson, a parent and homemaker, believes that the three-dollar school fee is a necessity. She urged parents to pay the fees. Mrs. Carson exclaimed, "Parents should be willing to pay fees to keep education on a high level."

Mrs. Tony Lowery, a parent and head cashier at A&P Food Store, feels that "our children are suffering because of the mistakes of the past. Money is being taken to pay debts the county has created."

Mrs. Charlotte Kelly, also a parent and eligibility specialist for the Hoke County Social Service Department, believes that Reagonomics will have a lasting effect upon the education of our youngsters. Mrs. Kelly, believes that the special programs which now benefit our youth will be eliminated. She stated that parents should get involved and express concern.

The parents who responded to the opportunity to ask questions indicated that their concerns and those of the panelists are very much the same -- class size, lack of facilities, shortage of materials, limited space and failure of the government; whether local, state or federal, to accept its responsibility of providing the best education possible for America's greatest resource -- our children.



The participants of a panel discussion held at West Hoke School during Open House. Left to right - Mr. John D. McAllister, moderator, Mrs. Tony Lowery, Mrs. Shirley Carson, Mrs. Marilyn Semones, Mrs. Charlotte Kelly, Mrs. Sandra Horne, Milton Williams, Raz Autry, superintendent of Hoke County Public Schools.



The fourth grade chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Miriam McNeill presented several selections at its first performance during Open House at West Hoke School.



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J.H. (Buddy) BLUE

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BOARD of EDUCATION

Nov. 2, 1982

(Paid Political Ad)

Interest Rates Lowered

Interest rates on most loan programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) were lowered October 1. State Director Larry W. Godwin announced.

Godwin said the reductions, which will be as much as a full percentage point for farm operating loans and market rate community facilities loans, reflect progress in the nation's drive to roll back inflationary interest rates. Reductions will apply to farm, community, and rural housing loans made by the rural credit agency.

"We are able to lower our interest rates because the cost of money to the U.S. Treasury has been down in recent months and the average yield for municipal bonds also has been lower," said Godwin.

In farmer programs, the interest rate for farm operating loans is reduced from 14.25% to 13.25%. For long-term farm loans, such as farm ownership, soil and water,

recreation, grazing associations, irrigation and drainage and Indian land acquisition, the rate declines from 13.25% to 13%.

For limited resource borrowers operating loan rates drop from 11.25% to 10.25% and farm ownership loans move downward slightly, from 6.625% to 6.5%.

In the emergency loan program, the rate drops from 17% to 16.25% on actual loss loans for disasters occurring after October 1, to applicants who can obtain credit from other sources but choose to borrow from the agency.

For borrowers unable to obtain credit from other lenders, actual loss loans will continue to be made at 8%.

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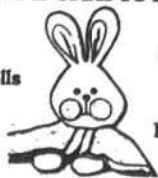
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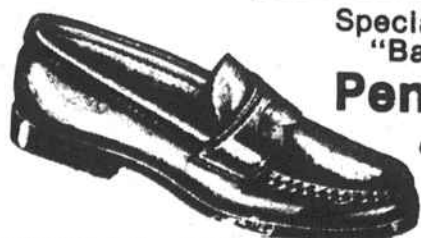
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