

# Opinions

## From the Superintendent's Desk

by Rex Arty

I haven't written this article on a regular basis for quite a while for several reasons. Some of them are my own personal reasons and even though the board of education never asked me not to write, I am sure I made them terribly nervous at times.

It is a part of my job to keep the public informed about the school system. However, my writings at times have been about other subjects, and when I attempt to write about other areas I get "hoof-in-mouth" disease.

After starting all of the above, I will get to the point of this article and why I am writing it.

In the few months I have left I am going to focus on some of the pluses and minuses of our school system. I wish that it could all be pluses, but there are some things in the school system that needs attention by those in authority. If those in authority give it attention, they need the backing of all the citizens of Hoke County.

School facilities, as most of you know, is an area I am greatly interested in. It is also an area that I have become totally frustrated with in trying to get someone in authority to do something about it.

The only way anything will ever be done about it is for the Hoke County citizens to get totally involved in seeing that their children have a decent place to study and work.

Our citizens can bury their head in the sand if they want to but when they come up for air, J.W. Turlington School will still be facing highway 211, if it is not burned down.

There is no way to justify having children housed in a building that was constructed in 1934 or sitting in classrooms under a gymnasium where other children are playing. (These classrooms were formerly a lunchroom.)

At best, they are undesirable. When these students leave these classrooms they are apt to go into brick veneered portable units or climb a flight of stairs and go into rooms that were built in another era for high school students.

John Balfour and Bill Cameron, chairman of their respective

boards, are going to have to eyeball each other and come to grips with this problem. To solve it, they will need the help of every citizen of Hoke County, whether they have children in school or not.

For a citizen who does not have children in school to say that it is not their problem means that they believe it was the responsibility of the citizens of the past to educate their children.

I don't have any children in school either. Some folks helped educate mine, and it is only fair that I help educate those who come along after mine.

It is a waste of time and procrastination in its worst form for our citizens to make all the remarks I have heard many times.

One of my favorites is 'if you would cut out some of the personnel in the Central Office you would have money to build classrooms'.

If any citizen will tell me how to use the money allocated by the State and Federal Governments for personnel, I will use all of the money except what they, the citizens, consider essential services, for facilities.

Another remark is 'we are too poor a county or our tax base is too low. Let the State do it, etc.' All of the excuses may be true but the problem exists and will get worse in time unless something is done about it.

A parent said to me recently 'does a building have to burn and a child get burned up before something is done about the schools?'. I could have told that parent that as long as the people think the job of providing schools belongs to the county commissioners, the board of education, and the superintendent, nothing will change because they can't solve problems without the help and support of those they represent.

If I have made our citizens mad enough to start thinking, then the criticism I receive from this article will be worthwhile. However, if I just made them mad, and they wish I would soon "fade away" so the problem will go away and they can turn their attention to something else, I have once again wasted my time and paper.

HI FELLOW CONGRESSMAN! I'M ONE OF THE NEW RECRUITS THAT YOU HELPED GET ELECTED! AIN'T IT NEAT! WE'RE GONNA BE WORKING TOGETHER ALL THE TIME! HEY... MAYBE WE'LL GET ON THE SAME COMMITTEE! HAVE YOU EVER SPIT OFF THE TOP OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT?! HEY... HOW 'BOUT THEM REDSKINS! HUH! SHOOT BOY! .....



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## From The Desk Of Congressman Bill Hefner

Congressman Bill Hefner (D-N.C.) last week introduced HR 615, a bill to repeal the withholding of taxes on interest and dividends. The withholding provision, which would levy a 10% tax on interest and dividends, was proposed by the Reagan Administration and is contained in the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982.

"This withholding provision will penalize savers and financial institutions alike," Hefner said.

"The poor and elderly, who are technically exempt from this tax, must wade through a sea of red tape to gain exemption. They are the groups least likely to fill out the required forms and most likely to suffer from the loss of income," he said.

Hefner noted that the added bookkeeping required will cost financial institutions millions of dollars annually.

The Congressman said a new 10% tax will discourage saving and investment at a time when more capital formation is desperately needed to fuel economic recovery.

"There is considerable support for this bill in the House and several bills similar to mine have also been introduced. I hope this repeal effort will be successful," he said.

"This is not the first time that such legislation has been attempted," he said, adding that two years ago a similar withholding bill was defeated by an overwhelming vote of 401-4.

The present tax legislation originated in the Senate as a revision to a minor House tax bill. The House was not given the opportunity to consider individual provisions of the full bill and withholding became part of the tax increase law, passed in September.

This necessitated the introduction of a bill to repeal the withholding provision, as Hefner has done.

THE SHORT AND LONG OF IT. The shortest verse in the Bible is "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). The longest verse is Esther 8:9.

## Chemicals serve as an 'acceptable risk'

By John Sledge

N. C. Farm Bureau Federation  
Chemicals that are handled properly can be useful tools in almost every phase of our society -- and agriculture is an important example.

Chemicals pose some risks, but if we eliminated every substance that might be hazardous under any circumstance, the world would be a barren waste. If we get real technical, nothing can be con-

sidered safe; risk is a way of life. Water is a chemical that is usually considered safe, but the risk of drowning is still there. Digitalis, used properly, can help control heart disease; used imprudently, it can kill.

So the scientists have modified the word "risk" and prefer using the term "acceptable risk." This means that a certain degree of risk is permitted because the probability for harm is low or there is no

alternative to fulfill the need.

It is an acceptable risk to use a toxic chemical substance if it is safely and properly stored and controlled. It is an acceptable risk to use just about any substance for just about any purpose.

So, the whole point is a risk in everything. The greatest risk of all is not being able to use needed substances on the farm.

## "Things That Matter"

by Lucien Coleman

I had never before paid much attention to proverbs, seeing them as little more than witty sayings. But recently I was struck by the profound wisdom buried in a collection of proverbs I came across in an old book.

They could only have been formulated by astute students of human behavior.

Ponder these, for example: "Empty vessels make the most sound."

"Give a lie twenty-four hours start, you'll never overtake it."

"Every ass loves his own bray."

"He who lies down with dogs will rise with fleas."

"Destroy the lion while he is just a whelp."

Most proverbs that I know anything about are ancient in origin, but ageless in meaning. For example, anyone who has been listening to the victims of unemployment interviewed on television recently will understand the meaning of the old adage, "A hungry man is an angry man."

And who can hear this ancient biblical proverb without thinking of someone he or she knows personally: "A prudent man conceals his knowledge, but fools proclaim their folly."

One of my favorite from the book of Proverbs is this one: "Better is a man of humble standing who works for himself than one who plays the great man but lacks bread."

Like other things made of words, proverbs often undergo changes as they are passed along from one generation to another.

Almost everyone has heard the common saying, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." But relatively few people can quote this proverb in its original form, from Proverbs 13:24, "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him."

Even modern specialists in child-rearing who would counsel against the use of the rod are still in essential agreement with this proverb's correlation of love and discipline.

Some proverbs get at the same truth in different words. For example, you've heard the proverbial warning against being "pennywise and pound foolish"?

Another proverb, of English origin, catches up the same truth: "Don't spoil the ship for a ha'p'orth (half-penny's worth) of tar." (To put it in concrete terms, don't invest a hundred hours of labor painting a house, using the cheapest paint you can find.)

One of my New Year's resolutions is to re-examine the treasury of wisdom in the Book of Proverbs.

Unlike some resolutions, this endeavor has a built-in reward. It fills the mind with thoughts worth thinking.

Witness this choice example: "Better is a dinner of herbs with love is than a fatted ox and hatred with it."

# WE'RE TRYING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS LIST.

### THE PRICE OF ELECTRICITY.

1. New York, NY, 14.94¢
2. New Haven, CT, 10.29¢
3. Boston, MA, 9.74¢
4. Newark, NJ, 9.10¢
5. Philadelphia, PA, 8.79¢
6. Pittsburgh, PA, 8.39¢
7. Hartford, CT, 8.36¢
8. Cleveland, OH, 7.72¢
9. St. Petersburg, FL, 7.28¢
10. Tampa, FL, 6.79¢
11. Miami, FL, 6.74¢
12. Savannah, GA, 6.74¢
13. Washington, DC, 6.52¢
14. Baltimore, MD, 6.48¢
15. Richmond, VA, 6.37¢
16. Jackson, MS, 6.18¢
17. Columbia, SC, 6.16¢
18. Syracuse, NY, 6.10¢
19. Pensacola, FL, 6.00¢
20. Birmingham, AL, 5.90¢
21. CP&L, 5.73¢
22. Gulfport, MS, 5.67¢
23. Wheeling, WV, 5.46¢
24. Fairmont, WV, 5.41¢
25. Atlanta, GA, 5.31¢
26. Cincinnati, OH, 5.27¢
27. Charlotte, NC, 5.01¢
28. Roanoke, VA, 4.98¢

Survey Of Average Price Per Kilowatt Hour For Residential Customers In 28 Cities For 12 Months Ending June 30, 1982

Like the cost of just about everything else, the price you're paying for electricity has gone up for the past few years.

But it could've been worse. In fact, as you can see by the chart, CP&L ranked less than a penny over the lowest price per kilowatt hour.

What's more, in 3 out of 4 towns, you'd pay more.

And, with your help, we'll keep on conserving energy and looking for more efficient ways to operate so we can stay close to the bottom of the list.

That way, both of us will get more out of our energy dollars. **CP&L**

**JUST \$4.50!**  
One Month of Classified Ads  
FOR JUST \$4.50  
THAT'S LIKE GETTING ONE WEEK FREE!  
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