

Editorials

On squandering funds

If budget proposals now pending before local governmental bodies are passed into law on July 1, Raeford taxpayers can look forward to another year of paying twice for single services.

In addition, city taxpayers, who represent less than 18% of Hoke County's population, will also pay more than 50% of the cost of constructing a new \$128,000 dog pound and land-fill building.

Under the proposed city budget for the coming fiscal year, \$32,000 has been earmarked for the new landfill structure. That figure, which is 25% of the total cost of the building, is in addition to \$30,000 the city is planning to fork over for maintaining the landfill.

On the surface this plan seems fair, however, the flaw is that city taxpayers also pay county taxes. In fact during 1982, 55.2% of the county's tax collections came from the Raeford Township, and most of that money came from within the city limits.

During 1982, county tax collectors sent out bills for \$2.1 million of which \$1.2 million went to taxpayers owning property in the Raeford Township. The majority of the collections from the township come from industries, businesses and residences within the city limits.

Not only do Raeford taxpayers pay for the city's use of the landfill and the dog pound, but they also pay most of the county burden for the remaining 82% of the population.

In addition, Raeford taxpayers are paying the majority of the county's costs for such services as police protection, rural fire protection, garbage collection, animal control, county administration, building inspections and tax collections.

The irony is that city taxpayers do not receive any of these county services.

Until Raeford council members stop paying the county for services which its property owners have already paid handsomely, inequities will continue and municipal taxpayers will continue to be ripped off.

In order to set the record straight, council members could start by trimming the city's budget by \$32,000, and eliminating the money pegged for the landfill-dog pound building.

Municipal taxpayers could also save another \$30,000, if the city fathers stop paying the county 25% of the operating costs of the landfill.

Before the budget becomes law for another fiscal year, Raeford City Council members have an opportunity to end an unfair tradition and to stop squandering their constituents' money.

We encourage them to seize the chance.



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Letters To The Editor

ROTC essential to US freedom

Dear Editor:
Being a rising junior at Hoke County High School, I was very pleased to hear the Board of Education has asked for an ROTC unit at the high school.
I am only one of the many male and female students who want, and have wanted since our freshman year to have a ROTC unit at the high school.
"The so called "Vietnam Syndrome" is over, and a great sense of duty and pride is being felt for our country by its young people.
With the growing problems in the Middle East, Central America, Europe, and various other parts of the world, it is evident the U.S. military must be ready to defend this nation against any enemy which it may encounter.
Our military will need to be smarter, stronger and more dedicated than ever, so that freedom can be secured for all in the future.
This dedication and preparation needs to begin now.
ROTC strives for excellence in academics, athletics, and dedication to God and country.
The students at Hoke High who

are interested in ROTC possess the qualities to excel in all three of these areas.

It is our earnest hope that the County Commissioners will provide the funds for the ROTC unit. It should be known that the money for this unit is different. It's not like the funds set aside for new carpet in the library, or new tables in the cafeteria!
This money, set aside for the ROTC unit, is in reality paying for the security of this nation's freedom in the future.

Sincerely,
Mark Black

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
Because women have long since got rid of wash pots, rub boards and flat irons and are now showing up in areas once occupied almost exclusively by men, like business, the professions and politics, the next step, some say, is to elect a woman President.
I got to thinking about what abilities and habits a woman should have to be President of the U.S.
Based on the abilities and characteristics of some of the last

five or six Presidents, she should:
(1) If she needs glasses to read, have her speech writers use typewriters with large letters. Never be seen in public with your glasses on.

(2) Learn how to lower and raise the deficit at the same time.

(3) Study the past, to have it on hand to blame for anything that doesn't work out.

(4) Look to the future. That's where better times always are.

(5) Learn how, when lowering and raising taxes at the same time, never to do it in the same month. Always let the people bask a while in the cut before taking it away.

(6) Have a husband who will stand at your side and beam at whatever you're saying, regardless of how many times he's heard it.

(7) Appoint a reasonable number of men to high positions in government so you won't be accused of ignoring them.

(8) Keep a diary, to cash in on the book you'll write as soon as you're out of office.

These are just some of the superficial qualities needed. There are more fundamental ones, but the superficial ones bring out the crowds.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Cheese crisis could be brewing

By Warren Johnston

The recent turnout of deserving residents for the Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS) \$100,000 cheese and butter giveaway was overwhelming.
In fact the response was so good that DSS officials gave out of the dairy products earlier than planned, and many county residents were left hungering at closed doors.

The giveaway program is a Reagan Administration plan to lessen the federal government's stockpile of cheese, powdered milk and butter, which is accumulating as part of an outdated commodity program designed to keep the dairy industry afloat.

The theory is that by buying the products, the federal government keeps the price of dairy commodities high in the grocery stores, and the farmers won't go broke.

It's the supply and demand theory of economics. The problem is that for the last several years, conditions for raising dairy products have been good and the government has been paying a good price. As the supplies keep increasing, so do the government's subsidy purchases.

During 1982, 10% of the dairy products produced in this country were purchased by the federal government.

Congress is working on new incentives for dairy farmers which will reduce production, but in the meantime, enormous supplies are building up in government warehouses.

In order to stabilize the surplus, the Reagan Administration began doling out cheese in December 1981 at the rate of 35 million pounds per month. Figure that at \$2.40 per pound.

In case your calculator is not handy, that's \$1.5 billion for the last 18 months.

When butter and non-fat dried milk started building up, those products were dumped into the program. About 10 million pounds of butter, along with 5 million pounds of dried milk are given

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away each month to the tune of another \$500 million.

There has also been some loose talk about adding honey to the list for the fall giveaway.

Federal officials believe the program will provide 11 pounds of cheese for each person below the poverty level in the United States per year.

It is also designed to provide dairy commodities to persons who can not afford to purchase them and would otherwise be deprived of their nutritional value, not to mention their cholesterol, causing high levels of saturated fats.

Although retail merchants see it differently, administration officials also theorize that because these persons would not purchase the products from the stores, there is no danger of the giveaway hurting sales.

Besides, there have been some big chunks sliced out of the welfare programs lately, and the cheese giveaway should slake some of the pains of those cuts.

It also seems reasonable, and in keeping with the starving Armenian children theory, not to let the dairy products mold away in a warehouse when they could be enjoyed by persons who can't afford to purchase them.

However, as the farmers continue to produce more, the government keeps buying more and giving away more. Allocations continue to increase and local officials are forced to expand the list of those eligible for the freebies.

Because officials believe poverty level recipients have satisfied their taste for cheese, the doors have recently been opened to anyone over 60, regardless of income.

If the program continues at its present pace, it is logical to assume that the age bracket will drop, and soon everyone might be getting free cheese, butter, dried milk, honey and maybe the new non-refrigerate UHT milk.

If that happens our entire economic system could be disrupted, and the future of the na-

tion could be left hanging with the curds.

If the spiraling commodity program continues, there is no telling what could happen:

•Dairy farmers could be making so much money that they will begin living like Middle Western sheiks. In order to diversify, the farmers will begin buying real estate, and local residents will complain about all the land being taken over by "that dairy crowd."

•Because of the massive impact of dietary cholesterol, heart disease and obesity will increase. That will be OK, because the dairy farmers, who will have all the money, will open fat farms and reducing clinics.

•Dairy production will increase so much that the giveaway will be bountiful. There will be no more humilating wait to receive the dole. Older persons will be overheard telling their children things like: "I can remember when we had to wait three hours just to get five pounds of cheese."

•In order to make up for the money being poured into the dairy subsidy program, more money will be milked out of federal welfare and food stamp recipients will not be able to afford the bread to make a cheese sandwich. Wheat farmers will go broke.

•Tariffs will be placed on foreign cheeses. In order to find a Camembert, you will have to see Honest Al, the black marketeer. A federal Cheese Enforcement Administration (CEA) will be established to stop illegal importations of dairy products. Mass arrests will be made. The courts will be clogged with cases against illegal cheese traffickers.

•Political campaigns will be centered around the issue.

•Finally, people will stop eating cheese and other dairy products.

•The dairy farmers, who are by this time over extended because they have built too many fat farms and lent too much money to starving 'countries, will have to cut prices.

•Everything will return to normal, and the cheese crisis will be just history.

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues

HOLLINGS... Senator Ernest Hollings is working very hard in New Hampshire and has made trip after trip to the state. He hopes to surprise many who feel his chances of obtaining the Democratic nomination are slim.

Mrs. Hollings, we are told, is campaigning just as hard, and is very active with women's groups.

It may be that Hollings' fate will hang to an unusual degree on his showing in New Hampshire nine months from now.

The South Carolina candidate is not the only one, of course, working the state aggressively, but his fiscal philosophy has an appeal in traditionally thrifty New Englanders.

In fact, his fiscal philosophy would appear to be closer to that of former President Jimmy Carter than that of other Democratic candidates. Carter remains committed to Walter Mondale, his former vice president, but we suspect there may have been signs of disenchantment on Carter's part of late.

STATES AND RECOVERY... While the Reagan administration is claiming signs of national economic recovery, the nation's governors say their own finances are slipping into the hole without any indication of quick relief. This report was issued recently by the National Governors' Association.

BUSINESS OUTLOOK... Edward Thorlund, a business outlook expert, says the slight increase in interest rates in recent weeks hasn't caused a major negative reaction in the stock market, as this is written.

One reason may be President Reagan's prediction, at the end of May, that interest rates would trend downward later in the year. Another reason is that inflation remains obviously under control.

Bank interest rates -- and other rates -- are up only slightly in the past month. The big worry among many, that huge annual deficits will inevitably rekindle inflation and thus interest increases are not yet having a major effect.

DROWNINGS... Already drownings are occurring in the oceans, lakes and streams of the nation. A few days ago, Phillip Covington drowned in Crystal Lake at Lakeview, NC.

A precaution swimmers might observe is to swim in groups, especially in the ocean. This provides a swimmer in distress immediate help.

LOOKING BACK... One of the desperate days of history for Virginians and Southerners came on June 9, 1864.

General U.S. Grant, wearing down General R.E. Lee's outnumbered army, swept southward around Richmond and approached it from the south, Petersburg.

There were insufficient Confederate troops to defend the city; the old men and boys of that town rallied to its defense and repulsed the attack until regular Confederate forces arrived.

That was 119 years ago. Every year since, the graves of those volunteers have been decorated on June 9, although Confederate Memorial Day is observed May 30!

WOMEN OUTLIVE MEN... Women, as a group, outlive men. Of 100 women and 100 men aged 65, 43 women -- but only 24 men -- will live to age 85.

Multiply those numbers by 1,000 and assume each individual is to receive an annual pension benefit of \$1,000 and the cost of ignoring differences in life expectancy becomes enormous.

By age 85, the surviving women from the original group of 100,000 would draw \$19 million more per year in pension benefits than the smaller group of male survivors.

CONNIE MACK... Oldtimers will feel a tinge of nostalgia reading the name Connie Mack -- those who remember some great Major League baseball teams of the late 20s. The family -- two generations later -- now has a younger Connie Mack in Congress.

Congressman Mack though a freshman from Florida's 13th district, took issue with Florida's veteran Senator Lawton Chiles, in a recent newspaper exchange in the district's leading newspaper, the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*.

In brief, Congressman Mack disagrees with Senator Chiles, a Democrat; and Mack is a Republican, who believes we have huge deficits because the federal government spends too much money!