

No Time for Dilly-Dallying

Concerted effort should be under way right now to work out a program for improvement of the schools. While county officials may be thinking about the matter, there must be more than passing thought given the problem.

In our estimation, the least that should be done is authorize an organized group of about five people to come up with a definite proposal by Monday, April 6, at the next county board of commissioners meeting.

This committee could be appointed by the chairman of the county board of commissioners NOW. It should include a county commissioner, the county auditor, a member of the board of education, the superintendent of schools, and of course the chairman of the board of commissioners as an ex-officio member.

In two weeks of concentrated work, this group of people should be able to hammer out a program whereby this county can START building one new school next year. In line of need, Morehead City would be that school.

Now there will be a lot of excuses made as to why such is impossible. The fact that a "cumulative fund" bill has not yet passed the legislature, will be one. The excuse that it will be "impossible" to do any school building in this county in less than two years will be another.

We heard on every side prior to the bond vote that people would be "willing to tighten their belts" to pay more

taxes on a pay-as-you-go school building program. If the present debt is re-financed, as the county board of education suggests, and the tax rate raised to \$1.60 or a few cents more, there should be funds available soon for school building.

Now those who are remorseful that the bond issue did not pass can pout and say, "We can't do anything." It will be infinitely harder to do anything without \$2½ million, but the county MUST do something and DECIDE WITHOUT DELAY what that something shall be.

It must be remembered, too, that while we're waiting for this money from added tax to accumulate, temporary rooms have to be built on existing schools. This is going to whittle down, somewhat, the amount that can accumulate.

The county has pushed school matters aside for the past five years, always reluctant to raise taxes. Unless something is done immediately, our education system is going to be in a condition that even higher taxes will not correct.

The people have voted against borrowing money for schools. The responsibility rests squarely now on county officials to meet their obligations for providing an adequate school system, and the responsibility on the people is to accept higher taxes without a whimper. No time must be wasted in adopting a plan.

Unjust Phone Tax Clings

Telephone service carries a federal excise tax not imposed on any other utility. This tax, levied directly on the telephone consumer, is neither just nor reasonable.

It is a tax which the nation's telephone companies must bill, collect and remit to the federal government.

During 1958, for instance, Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co. collected from its more than 125,000 customers about \$1,800,000 in such taxes. This represented an increase of approximately \$½ million over the previous year.

This, of course, is \$1.8 million being drained from eastern North Carolina that could, if retained in this section, have a most healthy effect on the economy of the area.

The telephone bills of telephone subscribers here and throughout the nation could be 10 per cent lower each month, if it were not for the federal excise tax. Carolina Company customers paid an average of \$14 each for such taxes during the year just past. This discriminatory tax on telephone service has been retained long after the wartime emergency for which it was levied.

Recent Congressional bills have been directed toward further entrenchment of the excise tax levy into the regular tax structure, by proposing the sharing of resulting revenues with state governments. In addition to this levy on telephone service, state, county and state municipal governments tax the telephone company itself with ad valorem taxes. The federal government adds its income tax. All of these taxes, of course, must be paid from operating revenues which the company receives from its customers.

During 1958 the total telephone tax burden of eastern North Carolina subscribers averaged about \$45 per telephone. Stated another way, out of each dollar paid for telephone service, about 28 cents went for taxes.

The need for maintaining sound and progressive government is fully recog-

nized. Taxation is one means to that end. However, facts like these indicate that the telephone excise tax is excessive and burdensome to telephone customers.

Two North Carolina Congressional representatives, Basil Whitener and Paul Kitchin, now have bills before Congress aimed at repeal of the telephone excise tax.

Telephone customers can assist by expressing their views to their Congressional representatives.

Such action could conceivably result in substantial tax savings on the telephone bills of subscribers in this area and add a significant amount to the net available income of eastern North Carolina.

Faith and Works

An old Scotsman was operating a small rowboat for transporting passengers across one of the little lakes in Scotland. One day a passenger noticed that he had carved on one oar the word "Faith" and on the other oar the word "Works." Curiosity led him to ask the meaning of this.

The old man said, "I will show you." He dropped one oar and plied the other called "Works," and they just went around in circles. Then he dropped that oar and began to ply the one called "Faith," and the little boat went around in circles again — this time the other way around.

After this demonstration the old man picked up both "Faith" and "Works" and, plying both oars together, sped swiftly over the water, explaining to his inquiring passenger, "You see, that is the way it is in life as well as in the boat."

— Canadian Churchman

A firemen's organization, conducting a ticket-selling campaign for its annual dance, used this slogan, "You come to our dance and we'll go to your fire."

DON'T GET CONFUSED, MAC



MORRIS

Ruth Peeling

Snapper Begin Showing Up Again

Lloyd Reed, who came into Morehead City with a fine catch of snapper two weeks ago, is fishing for snapper out of Southport as home base.

Johnny Chivas, who has caught his share of snapper in recent years, gave up the operation about a year ago when he said the cold water surging down from the north killed the snapper fishing business.

Mr. Reed has apparently been doing all right this winter, though. He is working his way north here from Florida and Institute of Fisheries Research folks say he has had lots of good signs of yellow-eye snapper.

When the snapper catches fell off last winter, after being so terrific for a while, snapper fishermen became discouraged. They were afraid they had "fished them out". Fisheries biologists contend that such was impossible.

The fish merely moved to another place due to cold surges of water or change in the location of their food supply. Last winter's freezes knocked shrimping in the head, too. This winter has had its cold days, but nothing like last winter. So maybe the snapper fishery will revive, as it is hoped the shrimp fishery will this spring.

School children may be interested in a booklet, *The Lincoln Ideals*, published by the Lincoln Sesqui-centennial Commission, Washington, D. C. To get a free copy of the booklet send your name and

address on a postcard to Lincoln, Box 1959, Washington, D. C.

Everybody's familiar in this country with "baseball pools". The epidemic is especially rampant at World Series time. Well, Alaskans have their pool too. At Nenana, in April or May, the game begins. The winner is the person who comes closest to guessing the minute when the ice breaks up on the Nenana River.

Got a letter from a Beaufort friend last week. It apparently is a story about somebody who lost his hatchet because he had piled dirt on top of it. The letter is unsigned, but it does have a moral:

Beaufort, N. C.
March 2, 1959
Carteret County News-Times
Morehead City, N. C.

Dear Sirs,
A certain Beaufort citizen recently gathered his garden tools and sauntered forth to prepare his flower bed—Spring being in the air.

Near dusk, the work was finished but a favorite new garden tool was missing. A search by flashlight availed nothing... an early-morning search seemed hopeless until a mound of earth was moved... and 'LO!'... at least, one Carteret citizen had truly 'Buried The Hatchet'.

Yours, ...
for more
'Buried Hatchets'.
(Anonymous)

Captain Henry

Sou'easter

Well, there's one thing for sure, with all this rainy weather, we don't have to worry about those new little trees being watered sufficiently.

The rain is holding up high school baseball activities. If the ball players would like to take up swimming, instead, they'd probably do better.

They say the chief of police, Mr. Springle, is getting along all right after his operation last week. It will be good to see him back on the job again.

The same fellow who put screens on his car windows as a youth so that he could enjoy night-life unmolested by mosquitoes at the Black Cat, says he's going to have strawberries for breakfast Easter

morning.
His plants have berries on all ready and if all goes well, he thinks they'll be ripe in about three weeks.

Roy Eubanks says this joke was told at the Morehead City chamber of commerce banquet Thursday night.

A golf pro matched as partners two stutterers, a man and a girl, for a tournament. He thought that their common handicap would make each feel comfortable and then they'd get along well.

On the first tee, the man said, "M-m-my name is P-P-Peter, but I'm no s-s-saint."
The girl replied, "W-well, m-m-my name is M-M-Mary, b-but I'm not a v-v-very good golfer."
(That is a joke that is better told than read!)

IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

THIRTY YEARS AGO
Herbert Hoover was inaugurated as President of the United States.

Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad directors were considering constructing a deep water pier at Morehead City.

The Waddell Lumber Co. of Highland Park, Beaufort, was incorporated. Sawmills and planing mills were to begin work soon.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO
Dr. K. P. B. Bonner was appointed chairman of the county board of commissioners, succeeding W. M. Webb, who had resigned.

Blakely S. Pond, county game warden, announced that the game commission would pay bounties on predatory animals and birds.

Twenty men reported to Coach W. H. Potter for baseball practice.

TEN YEARS AGO
Mrs. John G. Jones, Beaufort florist, invented a plastic orchid tube. Production of her invention was started full scale this week.

State highway crews were extending Evans Street in Morehead City for two blocks toward the state fisheries office.

Beaufort Jaycees were presenting a minstrel show this week.

FIVE YEARS AGO
The Newport town board voted to remove the trees on highway 70.

The State Ports Authority approved plans to build \$1,400,000 worth of warehouses at both Morehead City and Wilmington.

The Beaufort Junior Woman's Club would erect a fence on the east side of the school, next to the highway, to discourage children from jumping the ditch and crossing the highway.

Louise Spivey

Words of Inspiration

DESTROY SIN, NOT SINNER
One day Ethel Barrymore was asked the secret of her productive life. Among other things she answered, "You must learn, above all, not to waste your soul and energy and brain and strength on all the little things. I suppose the greatest thing in the world is loving people and wanting to destroy the sin but not the sinner. And not to forget that when life knocks you to your knees — which it always will — well, that's the best position in which to pray, isn't it, on your knees? That's where I learned."

AN ORDINARY CHURCH MEMBER
Just an ordinary member of the church, I heard him say. But you'd always find him present even on a rainy day. He had a hearty handshake for the stranger in the aisle. And a friend who was in trouble found sunshine in his smile.

When the sermon helped him he told the preacher so. And when he needed comfort, he let his pastor know. He always paid up promptly, and tried to do his share in all the ordinary tasks for which some have no care.

His talents were not many but his love for God was true. His prayers were not in public but he prayed for me and you. An ordinary church member? I think that I would say. He was extraordinary in a humble sort of way.
— Lillian M. Weeks

THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE
Between being sorry for sin and BEING SORRY YOU ARE CAUGHT. Between confessing your sins and CONFESSING SOME OTHER FELLOW'S.
Between seeing your own faults and SEEING SOME OTHER PERSON'S. Between conversion of the head and CONVERSION OF THE HEART. Between being persecuted for "righteousness sake" and "PERSECUTED FOR FOOLISHNESS SAKE."
Between "contending for the faith" and BEING CONTENTIOUS ABOUT PERSONAL OPINION.

QUOTES
Greed is the heart disease which has settled in a man's hip pocket.
— Russell B. Hilliard

God is glorified not by our groans, but our thanksgivings; and all good thoughts and good action claim a natural alliance with good cheer.
— Whipple

There is nothing like the bright scrubbed faces of youngsters in a Sunday School class to give a man faith in our future.
— Country Parson

We should endeavor to be long suffering, faithful and charitable with all. To this small effort let us add one more privilege — namely, silence whenever it can substitute censure.

Fashion changes with the season, but there is one thing a person can wear that is never out of style — A SMILE.

Comment . . . J. Kellum

Hard Sayings
One of the most inspiring admonitions left to posterity by Lincoln is:
"In times like the present, a man should say nothing for which he would not willingly be responsible through time and eternity."
A rather horrible thought for most of us.

In the first place, how often do we say anything which would seem to have any conceivable significance at any other point in time and eternity than this one? To ourselves, at least, nearly never. And is our purpose even what is commonly called deathless? Seldom, very seldom.

We could plead ignorance of Lincoln's meaning on this basis, except that he meant something else altogether. Every Bible student is aware of St. James' instructions about the tongue—that tongue is a flame of fire, etc. It is. The responsibilities of speech are always with us, and should never be regarded as anything but grave.

Many of our activities concern ourselves alone, but speech involves a hearer as well as a speaker. By its nature, speech is an activity which always affects others. Lincoln's words bring us face to face with the fact that we are responsible forever for what we say now.

Free Wheeling

By BILL CROWELL, Motor Vehicles Department
TYPES . . . Recognize anyone here? They're all types you're likely to encounter in a mile or two of driving. What's worse, they're in season all year. You can avoid 'em though. Here's a guide to identification:
Road Hog. Neither of the lanes is quite right for him, but half of each just about does it. Then he tries to pass a car. Then—crash!
Show-Off. No hands, or at best, only one. No brains either. It's not a safe procedure but it surely is exciting.
Daydreamer. Brains, maybe. But they're at their best in the areas of dreams and grand illusions, not much use at intersections.
Compensator. When they come to the stop signs they stop—with a shriek. And with a jack rabbit, head-snapping start — they're off again.

Spilled Darlings. "Oh, you tall, tan, manly and marvelous officer, you're not really going to write a ticket for me?"
Coddled Babies. Mother never told them the world was full of other people's mean old automobiles which he must not run into.
Hooper. He yelled in his crib and got what he wanted. When he hollers with his horn, he should expect to be throttled.

USED CAR TIP . . . When looking over the market for a used car, check the speedometer reading carefully. If the first three digits on the right are not perfectly aligned, then chances are the speedometer has been rolled back.

Just in Passing . . .
One of the big troubles with success is that its recipe these days is about the same as that for a nervous breakdown.
—Greenville Piedmont

Ideas are like children—everybody loves their own.
—USS Des Moines

The Readers Write

Morehead City, N. C.
March 7, 1959

To the Editor:
In your issue of March 6, 1959, I call your attention to your editorial, *It's Your Responsibility*, which I agree with you 100 per cent.

I suggest that you and Mr. Dill and the city fathers take a ride out in the city's slums sometimes and see the condition of our streets and the city's dump ground. I believe then you will write something giving us some credit for doing as well as we do.

Not many years ago, after a rain, the water stood on our lots. Now we have to climb out of the streets on the lots. If you can come out when the wind is blowing from the northwest and trash burning on the city dump and get just a good smell. We live here. Maybe you could ride through it.

Now if you do not know where the city slums are, come out to West Fisher and Bay Streets. You can't miss. It is better known as Billyview or Rabbit Hill.

Respectfully yours,
John B. Willis
2312 Fisher St.

The Mediocre Man

The characteristic trait of the mediocre man is his deference to current opinion.

He never speaks: He repeats. He judges a man according to social and economic position, his success, his wealth. He has the highest respect for those who are widely known regardless of why they are known; his idols are those currently in the public prints.

He would pay court to his most cruel enemy if this enemy were suddenly to become celebrated; but he does not care much about even his closest friends so long as they remain uncelebrated by anyone. It isn't possible for him to believe that a man might very well be a genius and yet be obscure, poor and unknown.
— Light of the East

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