

DEAR MR. PUBLISHER,  
BY **PARSON JONES**

Dear Mr. Publisher:

Ever since I was a little boy I've been confused about money. I used to go to church and hear the preacher say, "the love of money is the root of all evil." Then they would hold a congregational meeting on how to raise more money. I'd go to Sunday School and read where Jesus said, "blessed are the poor", and then I'd go home and listen to my paw raise Cain about being so pore. Then when I was going to school everybody told me how important it was on account of it would help me to make more money. It ain't no wonder a fella gets confused.

They say growing up helps a body to understand things better, but now that I'm grown I'm more confused than ever. The government didn't help matters none. President Hoover promised to make everybody happy by putting a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage. Then President Johnson came along and told how much a family oughta have to be happy. Mr. Publisher, its just like the cigarette commercial says on T. V., "we've come a long way, baby". Most folks can afford at least one chicken and one car, and it won't be long til every American will kick the poverty habit. Now whats confusing is - the more we get, the bigger mess we seem to get in. There's more stealing, more doping, more drinking, more fighting, more suicides. And now President Nixon announces from his Florida home that we a lth-wont make us happy.

Sometimes I get the strange feeling that Jesus knew a lot more about money than folks give him credit for. I shore wish he would run for President.

Well sir, I gotta close for now and go to church. We're havin a pancake sale. Maybe I can eat my way to happiness.

Good buy!

Parson Jones

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I have suffered through many of the Tom Anderson "Straight Talk" series and managed to remain silent, but several comments in the March 26 issue are so ridiculous that I cannot refrain from commenting.

Having read several of Mr. Anderson's editorials, I was indeed shocked to discover that he attended a Ralph Abernathy news conference. Such open-mindedness seems completely against his character, or at least against the editorial image his works project.

Mr. Anderson goes on further to say that no friendly questions were asked George Wallace. Certainly a man who cannot manage to be on friendly terms with the press has no right to have his eye on the white house. For a man who cannot handle a few surely cannot manage millions.

I would also like to ask Mr. Anderson to present proof of his inference that the J.F.K press conferences were pre-planned. A man who seemed to prove on so many occasions his marvelous gift of gab surely didn't need to pre-plan his informal press conferences.

Mr. Anderson states, "Many of the politicians answers are lies, distortions, evasions and half truths." Name calling has always been the sure sign of lack of evidence and proof. Does Mr. Anderson consider himself a politician? According to his column he certainly fits his own definition.

He also goes into this long-winded rigamarole about the theologian and civil rights leader who was killed. He climaxes his editorial with the horrible fact that his man was

discovered to be homosexual. This seems to be a great moment in man's inhumanity to man. It takes a very low and coarse individual to hit a man after he is dead, but how much worse it is to use a man's mental illness in this effort.

Homosexuality is an illness. Pretending that it doesn't exist, and loathing those who are afflicted by it is just as much a sickness. Homosexuality, alcoholism, and all forms of mental illness must be faced, understood, and through professional help, and God's guidance, cured.

I find it very disheartening to find such prejudice printed as truth. No wonder our youth are asking, What is truth? It is the responsibility of the adult community to provide an atmosphere wherein that question can be answered. Will you join that effort.

James Hinton Hayes

Editor's note:

You have raised a thought provoking question: Should a man who is "mentally ill", to use your own description, be allowed to speak on college campuses and lead the public without having the fact of his mental aberration made a matter of public record?

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## Alternative School Plans Discussed

(Cont'd from page 1)

survey calls for concentrating all elementary schools within the central area of the county lying between the two present high schools.

--The long-distance bussing of small children required by this plan seems objectionable to many parents. This seems particularly true if, as the planners assure us, we will be having kindergarten in a few years, and the five year olds would have long bus trips along with the older children.

--Moving all the 7th and 8th grades to the two high schools as an interim step (a step which would continue for a number of years until the new consolidated high school could be built) is questioned, as not being in conformity with desirable school organization.

--The county commissioners share with taxpayers dismay at the estimated \$3,225,000 cost of constructing the recommended school buildings. Tax increases are recommended by the planners, "not only to support this building outlay, but to provide substantially more money for the operation of the schools.

Further contributing to the dubious reception given the survey is the fact that the planners

have now come up with a plan differing radically from what they proposed in 1966. The conflicting conclusions in the two surveys, only four years apart, suggest to some that the planners themselves are not sure what Yancey County needs, and a few years hence might have quite different ideas.

In view of the general misgivings regarding the survey, it has, of course, been natural for our school officials and interested citizens to be doing a good bit of head scratching in an effort to find a better solution. The Raleigh planners have stated that they will welcome alternative suggestions from our school board. At the same time they have made clear that they will not release to Yancey County the \$338,000

## Fashion Notes

The fashion designers are working on the problem of designing clothing for women with lunar motifs. We wish them well but have doubts as to how they're going to make something spiffy out of plastic head bubbles and electric underwear.

-Detroit Free Press

of bond money lying unused in Raleigh until they give final approval to whatever program is proposed locally.

One alternative plan that has aroused some favorable interest, would be to consolidate our two high schools at either the East Yancey or Cane River location. Simultaneously with this move, the Burnsville Elementary school would be moved to the building of the vacated high school. At the same time one or two of the outlying elementary schools could be consolidated into this new elementary school. The decrepit Burnsville school buildings then would be scrapped.

This proposal would cost far less than that of the Raleigh planners. The \$338,000 bond money would probably more than suffice for the enlargement of the consolidated high school. From a number of other standpoints this proposal would meet the objections of those who are unhappy with the survey recommendations.

The foregoing is only a very high spot outline of the proposal. In next week's Yancey Record, William Hess, who is largely responsible for developing the alternative plan, will present his plan in greater detail.

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