

Love Me—Love My Dog!

SIT DOWN... LET'S
TALK THINGS OVER

EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinions Of One Man,
And He May Be Wrong.

Alderman Taylor's Resignation

The resignation of Alderman Charlie Taylor from the Kinston Town Council is regrettable for a number of reasons, principal among these being the fact that he was an experienced man, dedicated to continuing better government. Perhaps of secondary importance is the fact that he resigned in bitterness and after having engaged in a spate of name-calling, which the other four councilmen feel was not only improper but altogether unnecessary.

Aldermen Taylor reached this sudden parting of the ways with his team mates for one or two fairly large-sized reasons that had to do specifically with the 1954-56 city budget.

Taylor refused to go along with a budget that he declared to be "out of balance by about \$150,000". A close analysis of the budget along fairly reasonable lines will indicate that Taylor was seeing a skeleton in the fiscal closet that could possibly be there but is most likely absent.

He objected to the omission of an \$85,000 sinking fund item for the welfare of the city-owned light plant. If we felt that this \$85,000 were absolutely neglected we'd climb upon the Taylor bandwagon and holler a little along with him. But our analysis does not reach any such conclusion.

The proposed revenue from the power plant for the coming 12-month period is put down at \$1,230,000 which is just over a one per cent increase over the revenues of the plant for the just-ended 12 month period. A glimpse at the increased sale pattern of the plant for the past decade indicates that a 10 to 14 per cent increase would be more realistic.

In putting down that anticipated figure, \$1,230,000, City Manager Bill Heard wrote an explanatory note to each of the aldermen and released it to the press, which pointed out this deliberate underestimate. The past year saw a 13.6 per cent increase in electrical sales. Even presuming that the expansion boom is tapering off in Kinston it is not at all likely to say that the present fiscal period will see not less than a 10 per cent increase.

That increase alone, when set beside the particular figure of \$25,000 for a power plant sinking fund would bring the

two within a whisper of each other. In fact 10 per cent over the past period would be an increase of \$120,000. Subtracting the \$30,000 increase that has been placed in the budget in that spot one finds \$90,000 above the budgeted anticipated power income.

The other omission that Alderman Taylor took strong and terminal exception to was the \$65,000 cost of a sanitary sewer now under construction in the western edge of the city. Taylor argued, and with some logic, that it was improper to give a pay raise to "outside" city workers unless that \$65,000 was included in the budget.

At each and every occasion on which this particular sewer was discussed by the city council it was agreed "to include it in the budget if it is at all possible, but if it is not possible to then pay for it by issuing two thirds the amount of bonds the city had retired during the past fiscal period."

If the \$20,000 for pay raises which the five per cent roughly covers had been entirely eliminated the budget would still not have come together without the use of at least a part of that potential bond issue.

More than two years had passed since city employees had been given any pay increases. During that two-year period the cost of living had moved ever upward. And during that same two-year period several dozens of thousands of dollars had been spent — much of it on motion of Alderman Taylor — to develop real estate subdivisions for various and sundry people around Kinston and in many instances outside the corporate limits. In view of the open-handed policies of Alderman Taylor, and his associates, there was very little tenable ground upon which they could stand and say to the lower-salaried city employees. No pay boost.

People who are much more close to the internal affairs of the city than Taylor feel that this budget will come into balance and without too many violent constructions in service. That is with the single exception of the full amount of the cost of the sanitary sewer line. But calculated analysis of the overall situation tends to indicate that even the bulk of

Short
Snorts..

The term "journalistic" is getting a new meaning by the Merriam dictionary people. The old definition ran something like this: "characteristic of journalism or journalists; hence, of style, characterized by evidence of haste, superficiality, colloquialisms, and sensationalisms."

The Merriam dictionary now says journalism is "appropriate to the immediate present and phrased to stimulate and satisfy the interest and curiosity of a wide reading public."

All of which reminds us of what O. J. "Skipper" Coffin used to snort everytime any of his students mentioned wanting to be a "good journalist." "Journalist!" the Skipper would exclaim, "the only journalists I ever knew owed working newspaper men money."

And speaking of Republicans quite naturally brinks to mind the North Carolina Junior Senator Sam Ervin who has climbed onto the "Creeping Socialism" bandwagon of the Ike Crowd and tends to favor the "Big Business" style of thinking. Which no doubt will come as small surprise to those who know Ervin well. Instead of being raised with a silver spoon in his mouth he grew up with stock certificates for a teething ring. As soon as Kerr Scott gets to Washington we'll finally have a Democrat in the Senate from North Carolina, and it's about time too, if you ask us, or even if you don't ask us.

Funny to note, if you have a warped sense of humor such as we do, was the plea from several business folks, including the manager of the chamber of commerce for the city to go into the parking business. Seems to us that most businessmen and particularly the National Chamber of Commerce has been trying to get government out of private enterprise and to us the parking problem, and solution are strictly the baby of private enterprise.

The Republican Party has jammed its so-called farm bill through the Senate. Said bill has been described as being like an umbrella on a sunny day. Protection when it is not needed and no protection when protection is needed. The parity prices go down when there are surpluses and up when there is a scarcity. No parity protection is needed by the farmer when his foods and fibers are in short supply yet that is when this bill gives aid.

that \$65,000 item will be sweated out of the budget.

Every city official admits, however, that the eruption of Alderman Taylor has put the remaining four aldermen and the entire city administration squarely behind the eight-ball and that it now becomes extremely necessary for "all good men to come to the aid of the administration" and around city hall there is an overall feeling of optimism that the battle of the budget will be won and that the judgment of the four aldermen who remain as well as their faith in the various department heads will be vindicated when the final accounts are taken of this most controversial city budget in recent history.

JONES JOURNAL

JACK RIDER, Publisher

Published Every Thursday by The Lenoir County News Company, Inc., 403 West Vernon, Ave., Kinston, N. C., Phone 5415.

Entered as Second Class Matter May 5, 1946, at the Post Office at Kinston, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

By Mail in First Class—\$3.00 Per Year. Subscriptions Please Payable in Advance

PERSONAL
PARAGRAPHSBY
JACK RIDER

I was first irritated, then amused and finally let down by the letter last week in the Free Press that Ex-Alderman Jesse Pugh Wooten penned in what was headlined "an analysis of the city's financial structure."

I was quite naturally irritated because Wooten with all the finesse of hog in the parlor inferred rather broadly that my Daddy (John Rider) and the other remaining three aldermen after Charlie Taylor had resigned were all a bunch of imbeciles. And even though Jesse Pugh and I started to school together the same day back in 1923 out at Lewis School and in spite of the fact that I had always had an extremely high regard for his "analytical mind" that didn't license him to go around talking like a damned fool about my Daddy and some of my closest friends, Ed Johnson, Burwell Temple and Charlie Sanders.

Well after I got through being hot about Jesse Pugh crawling in bed with the Free Press and the other so-called "right-thinking people", I picked up the scattered pieces of the paper where I had thrown it while having a "Rider Fit" and read it again. That second time I read Pugh's letter I began to laugh and I really haven't quit chuckling about it yet.

Jesse Pugh has a "long head" with a lot of brains and he can particularly count good with both hands. While I've been making a noise he's been busy making money and although I've made the most noise, I'd be inclined to believe that he's made the most money. But he ought to stick to counting, because he sure as hell can't write.

For instance he starts off giving the aldermen hell for not taking the city manager's advice and winds up a few sentences later by giving the same aldermen hell for being "rubber stamps" to the whims of the city manager.

At the very least he ought to stick to one track at the time when name-calling. If he had waited a week after calling them "rubber stamps" for Bill Heard and then come back with another letter giving them hell for not taking Bill's advice the public and perhaps myself as well would never noticed that he (Jesse Pugh) was acting like a hound dog trying to catch a flea on his tail. He was just going around and around.

Too Pugh insisted (too late I'm afraid) that Alderman Taylor ought not to leave the board for after all Alderman Taylor and Ex-Alderman Wooten had done a lot of the voting to expand city limits and put sewers in every where from Hugo to Ervin's Crossroads and Taylor ought to stay there and face the music. But Pugh admits that he headed for the calf rope just as soon as he saw what kind of mess he had helped legislate the city into.

Pugh, as an alderman, almost had a running fit when City Manager Heard flatly refused a request from Haywood Weeks to extend water to a subdivision a half-mile beyond the city limits. A special meeting was called, assorted bigshots with mouth full of platitudes about "the pressing need for housing" stormed up the city hall stairs and Alderman Wooten made one of his studied speeches about "meeting our obligation to these people who are trying to help with the housing situation in Kinston" and under the charms of Wooten and his highly placed seconders the plibelian councilmen immediately "saw their duty and done it" and over-rode Bill Heard before a bat could flap his wing.

After every real estate promoter between La Grange and Caswell had gotten all the power lines, sewer lines and

(Continued on page 2)