

# Welfare Program Threatened by Chiselers and the Law

By Jack Rider

A great many friends of the welfare program are understandably concerned about the political dangers to the overall program that are springing from many abuses of the aid for dependent children program that are currently being given a great deal of publicity.

Any program charged with the mountainous responsibility of taking care of the needy aged, needy disabled and needy children is subject to abuses by the clever, the unscrupulous and the greedy.

Any such program is certain to have imperfections in its plan and equally certain to have faults in its administration.

But in its principle: The extending of a helping hand to those who are in need and who are not capable of helping themselves, there is no error.

There are four basic facets of welfare aid: Aid to the aged, aid to the disabled, aid to needy children and aid to the blind.

Only one of these is now under attack, and it has been almost constantly under attack since it began — "ADC", as it is abbreviated or aid to dependent children, if one prefers the full title.

No one has suggested what to do with needy children if underserving parents are severed from relief roles.

## Roadblocks

Church principles and sociological claptrap — in many instances of about equal logic — have made it impossible to secure the passage of public laws that would make easier the taking of defenseless children from undependable parents.

At present it is necessary for a parent, or in some instances for both parents to be convicted in the criminal courts before children can be moved into a happier and less damaging environment.

This is the single biggest impediment in bringing some financial and moral decency into that abusive area of "ADC" where venal parents use both the taxpayer and their children at the same time.

## Second Impediment

The second impediment in the path of intelligent action in this program is the almost psychopathic fear of the professional sociologist of state supported homes for children from the kind of homes that are jeopardizing the entire program.

The Dr. Ellen Winston-type has to have smelling salts when one utters the ugly word, "Institution," as

a substitute for a squalid home, unloving parents and almost certain cultural blight.

Too many outsiders — particularly newspaper and magazine writers — overlook the fact that the overwhelming majority of "ADC" recipients are honorable people, who use the money they get wisely and who build better citizens to serve the nation from having this helping hand.

But that sorry minority is the bad apple in the barrel, and it threatens to destroy the entire good work of the program.

## Specific Laws

In the realm of specific laws to implement the improvement of the welfare program I suggest two that are based upon serving two terms as chairman of the Lenoir County Board of Public Welfare.

1. That abandonment by either mother or father of their minor children is legal grounds for the state to take custody of their children, insofar as the individual who does the abandonment is concerned. By this I do not mean that if one parent deserts, the other parent automatically is also subject to lose his or her children. This would apply to that one — mother or father — who committed the act of des-

ertion.  
2. That giving birth to a second illegitimate child — either in or out of wedlock — would be grounds for taking both children from a mother. To clarify that business of illegitimate children "in or out of wedlock;" many women who are married, are deserted by their husband, which makes them eligible for "ADC" help for their children, but while their husband is gone, they continue to have children just as regularly.

## An Auxiliary Need

Obviously if the laws permitting children to be taken out of undesirable homes were liberalized the state, or county would have to make some provision for the housing, training and care of such children.

At this point the establishment of "homes" becomes a must, because in spite of the fact that a large percentage of such children would be adopted into good homes, there would always remain a percentage who had remained in a bad environment too long and whose adoption would be less likely, or in some instances impossible.

Every organization that places children for adoption in the United States is years behind in supplying the demand for children in good

homes; so a double service would be provided by taking children out of homes where they are not wanted and not cared for and putting them into good homes, where people desperately want them and where they will be well cared for.

But just as important as the physical care such children would be getting in such a program would be the tremendous saving to the taxpayers in direct "ADC" grants that would be terminated, and in the even greater ultimate saving that could come from the children growing up to become productive citizens rather than the parasites so many of them almost automatically become when they are reared in and tutored in a parasite society.

The role of every welfare department in the nation include instances of 2nd and 3rd generation illegitimacy in the same household, and all supported by money snatched from the taxpayer.

## Either/or

Either the so-called professionals who administer the welfare program are going to promote some such method to eliminate the racketeers from the welfare roles or the aroused public is going to insist upon damaging the entire fabric of a most necessary program.

## THE JONES COUNTY

# JOURNAL

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## Special Committee Recommends Following Federal-Aid Route in Opening Trent River in Jones County

### EDITORIAL

### A Respectful Dissent

The Journal wishes to respectfully file a dissent to the recommendation of the special committee that was named to make a study of the badly clogged condition of Trent River.

The Journal has not made the detailed study it assumes the committee made before it reached the conclusions included in the recommendations handed up on Tuesday of this week to the County Commissioners.

But The Journal is acutely aware of two hard facts which lead it to suggest that there is not only a better way, but in the long run a far cheaper way to go about doing a job that all agree needs to be done.

These two facts are: 1. That Trent River drains the overwhelming majority of Jones County, and 2. That the clogged condition of Trent River in the past six years has cost the property owners of the county hundreds of thousands of dollars — possibly even millions of dollars.

So, our first divergence with the special committee is that any plan that accepts the probability of a 7-year time limit for completion is extravagantly wasteful, no matter what percentage of the ultimate cost may be paid by state and federal agencies.

We insist that it would be far cheaper for the county — from general revenue sources, including ABC store profits — to immediately embark upon the work. The federal agencies says it will require five years to do the "planning."

The "planning" seems so simple that an elementary grade student could do it in an afternoon, since it consists of clearing the obstructions that now impede the flow of water, and removing such trees and other debris that might be hurled into the river again by hurricanes and flash floods.

There is some talk, under the 7-year plan of shortening the flow of the river by cutting off some of the countless "loops" it describes in its lazy flow to New Bern. But this is a secondary consideration. The immediate problem is simply undamming the existing course of the river.

It is true that Trent River does not drain all of Jones County and that some citizens might object to a general tax levy, rather than the original drainage district approach. But it is just as true that every taxpayer in Jones County does not have children in the Jones County School system, yet he has to pay his part of the cost of the school system, whether it directly benefits him or not. This is the "general welfare" concept of government.

Waiting seven years might not result in the drowning of a single stalk of tobacco or in the rotting of a single ear of corn, but this is a long gamble that is not necessary.

Jones County is in excellent financial condition. Its bonded debt is very low. Its per capita taxation is among the lowest in the state. There is no good reason why the county cannot plan, finance and administer this badly needed project and give work to a crew that could be found right here in the county and at a cost that would in all likelihood be far less than participation under the endless redtape and expenses of federal projects.

The federal participation path hinges upon so many "ifs" that it

(See "EDITORIAL" page 8)

Tuesday a special committee appointed in July to study the pressing need for work on opening up Trent River recommended to the Jones County Board of Commissioners that it immediately enter into agreements with state and federal authorities for this work.

Originally the group had given consideration to the setting up of a drainage district, but subsequent finds caused them to ask the board to discard this first recommendation and follow the other path.

The committee headed by John M. Hargett, and including Nick Noble, Ray F. Hill, W. W. Lowery and Estel Taylor also recommended that the county pay its part of the cost of the project from the profits of the Jones County ABC store system, rather than levying a special tax.

The committee also asked the commissioners to call a "mass meeting" as soon as possible in the court house for the purpose of acquainting the people of the county with the facts involved.

The report was accepted with the thanks of the commissioners but no immediate action was taken. It was incorporated in the minutes of the meeting, however, and it appears likely that the recommendation will be followed.

It was not incorporated in the recommendation but it was the understanding of the committee after conferences with state and federal officials that it would take something in the order of seven years to do the work on a cooperating basis.

Under a cooperative plan Jones County would be required to obtain all easements and right of ways, save the federal government harmless from litigation that might be instituted by private property owners, maintain the project according to federal specifications after it is completed and make a cash contribution that would be comput-

## Highway Tragedy Causes Board To Ask Intersection Study

The flaming wreckage that claimed three lives last month on NC 41 west of Comfort led Jones County Commissioner Fred Foscoe Tuesday to ask a study of all intersections in Jones County, which request was unanimously adopted by the board.

The wreck which led to the death of three Pender County men resulted from the driver of the truck they were in swerving to miss a truck that was entering NC 41 at an extremely blind spot.

Tommy Turner, driver of the truck, as well as every other driver who enters NC 41 from the Hoffman Town Road is forced to enter the heavily travelled major roadway without being able to see around the curve in either direction.

Foscoe's motion calls for not only a study of all intersections but the installations of "island" where they would contribute to the safety of drivers.

## Three Roads Given Priority in Plans Accepted by Board

Agreement between Highway Commission officials and the Jones County Board of Commissioners has been reached on the use of secondary road funds allocate to Jones County for the current fiscal year. This agreement calls for the grading, draining and stabilization of three sections of roadway:

1. Plantation Road, 2. Smalltown Road and 3. Pine Street. It is planned to do these three projects — which does not include paving — from the \$57,600 allocated to Jones County. When more funds are available the roads will be paved.

## Just Two Arrests

Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports only two arrests in the county during the past week: John Coward Jr. of Kinston route 6 was accused of drunken driving and George Dunn Jr. of 12-E Simon Bright Homes in Kinston was charged with public drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

## First PTA Meeting

The first meeting of the Maysville Elementary P. T. A. for the 1961-62 school year will be held Monday night in the school auditorium beginning at 7:30 p.m. Parents are urged to be present at this very important meeting; visitors will be cordially welcomed.

## Commissioners Veto Putting Health Dept. Under Retirement Plan

Tuesday the Jones County Board of Commissioners turned down a request that employees in the county health department be put under the State Retirement plan.

They said it was impossible to put all other county employees under the state plan, so it was felt unwise to put workers in a particular department under the retirement plan.

All Jones County employees are already under the provisions of Social Security.

## Maysville Firemen to Ask Town Council for Additional Equipment

Rudolph Pelletier presided over the Monday night meeting of the Maysville Fire Department in the Community building.

Business before the Firemen included the naming of a committee to come before the town board at the next meeting to request that they purchase an additional piece of equipment for the department.

A committee was also named to make plans for their Christmas party and present them at the next meeting.

The group took up a donation to give the members of the Little League Baseball team a feed.

Following adjournment, Colin Conway served a chicken stew supper.

They welcomed Otis Jones and James Barbee of the Hopwell Community as guests.

## Fund Raising Feast To be Held Sept. 14th.

The Trenton School Athletic Department will have a barbecue supper in the Trenton School Gym the 14th of September at 7:00. There will be one hour of country and rock 'n' roll singing and playing after supper. Profits will go toward purchasing new athletic equipment.

## Tax Depository

Tuesday the Jones County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution authorizing Tax collector Julian Waller to use the Branch Banking & Trust Company as official depository for all tax collections made by his office.