

Other Editors

HERTFORD COUNTY HERALD

Power Rates Show REA Needed

For a long, long time most people in this area were concerned with electrical power only when it was not available or when some prank of nature knocked down lines and disrupted service.

Now, in the fight between the privately owned power companies and the rural power cooperatives, consumers of both are being exposed to more information and misinformation than they've ever been exposed to before.

There is a distinct need in this area both for the privately owned power company and for the REA co-op, for one serves as a check against the other. If anyone doubts that such a check is needed he has only to look toward the southwestern part of the state at the Nantahala Power and Light Company scandal. Aluminum Company of America, the owner of Nantahala, is attempting to sell that company to Duke Power Company. The sale is being fought by the people in the area. But more to the point is the state law which allows a company to raise its rates before the new rates are approved by the state Utilities Commission. In Nantahala's case, the rates were raised more than a year ago. The case is still bogged down in the utilities commission. It should be noted that the commission is sprinkled liberally with members who also are connected with private power companies.

If there is anything the Roanoke-Chowan needs less right now, it is higher electrical rates. People from other states find our light bills incredible. Indeed, it is hard to reconcile the fact that less than 100 miles to the south or to the west of us monthly light bills run one-third less for comparable amounts of electricity.

The private power companies acknowledge that the rural co-ops have filled a need and electrified rural areas when private companies found it unprofitable to put up lines.

But now, the power companies say, there is no further need for these REA co-ops. The job of the co-ops is finished. The power companies want to buy the REA lines and customers.

There are two arguments that the private power company in this area should hesitate to use. One: large increases in population and the extension of city limits give to REA customers that should rightfully belong to private companies. Not in this area. The largest town in the Roanoke-Chowan has a population of 5,000. Most other towns have populations of about 1,000 or less. This is still rural.

The second argument: one power company, serving both urban and rural customers, could supply power more efficiently and more economically. The REA co-op in this area, Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation, does not own its gen-

erators. It buys all its power from Virginia Electric Power Company, the private power company which supplies the towns in the Roanoke-Chowan. Someone is sure to ask, if it could be done more economically, why hasn't it been done, already? It has. REMCO sells in categories for less than VEPCO using VEPCO's power.

Let's not have a second Nantahala squeeze. There's room for both VEPCO and REMCO here. With the highest power rates in the state already being charged VEPCO customers, we hesitate to think what the situation would be without REMCO as a rein on runaway rates.



P. O. Box 509
Kinston, N. C.
April 17, 1963

Dear Jack:

The following letter has been sent to Senator Thomas White and to Representative Rachel Davis over my signature, I would be grateful if you would include it in your



STARTS FRIDAY
Alfred Hitchcock's

"The Birds"

Technicolor
—Starring—
Rod Taylor

BRIGHT LEAF
Drive-In Theatre

SUNDAY-MONDAY-TUESDAY

Double Feature

"Sergeants Three"

Technicolor
—Starring—
Dean Martin

"The Misfits"

Marilyn Monroe Clark Gable

Letters to the Editor:

"My purpose in writing is to offer my protest against the proposed 'Blue Law' statute which is now under consideration in the Legislature, and to urge you to vote against the establishment of any such legislation in our state. Further, I would also urge you to propose the abolition of any local option plan which presently allows counties and municipalities to enact such ordinances, inasmuch as they are unconstitutional, discriminatory, restrictive and punitive. Such statutes are in direct violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Further, they serve only special interests in the business community which would like to destroy competition instead of meeting competition. Also, may I point out that tourism, one of the state's primary industries, would suffer extensively from the establishment and enforcement of 'Sunday Blue

Laws." Tourists, like other people, buy things other than "tourist items" when traveling.

"To establish 'Sunday Blue Laws' on religious grounds would be a clear violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution which states that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' In the Fourteenth Amendment each state is ordered to meet the requirements

of constitutionality in the same manner as the Federal Government. And so it must follow that no secular arm of our system has the constitutional right to legalize religious holidays nor to legislate special behaviors for those days.

"I urge you again to strike a blow for religious and business freedom by voting against 'Sunday Blue Law' legislation."

Sincerely,
Leonard Loftin

SAFETY TESTED
DON'T TAKE CHANCES!
Let Us Recap Those Tires Now!
C. A. BATTLE & SON
Phone Richlands 2432 Comfort, N. C.

Now see all that's new at your Chevrolet dealer's

Try out all the things these bucket-seat Chevrolet Super Sports have going for you—extra-cost options like 4-speed transmissions, high-performance engines, Positraction axle, tachometers, the works—and your decision won't be whether but which.

There's the Jet-smooth Chevrolet Impala SS with all the luxury you could reasonably want, all at a reasonable Chevrolet price; the Chevy II Nova 400

SS, a car that can give any family more run for its money (gives you a break on upkeep, too); the turbo-supercharged rear-engine Corvair Monza Spyder (nice, huh?); and finally, the sports car that inspired them all, Corvette.

Chances are you've got your Super Sport picked out already. If not, some warm spring weather, a country road and your friendly Chevrolet dealer will help you decide, for sure!

CHEVROLET CHEVY II CORVAIR CORVETTE
EENY MEENY MINY GO CHEVROLET
SS
All Super Sports available in both coupe and convertible models. (Super Sport and Spyder equipment optional at extra cost.)
See four entirely different kinds of cars at your Chevrolet dealer's

WHEN YOU NEED
AMBULANCE SERVICE
CALL
Garner's Funeral Home
DIAL JA 3-2124 or JA 3-2125
Ambulance Equipped With Oxygen
For Emergency Use
"COURTEOUS ATTENDANTS"

Community Chevrolet Company, Inc.
Phone PI 3-3221
Maysville, N. C.
Manufacturer's License No. 118