

OTHER EDITORS SAY  
WRAL-TV VIEWPOINT

### Statistical Academic Nonsense

A useful lesson in statistical doubletalk, and how it can be used to mislead the people, may be gleaned from a spate of curiously similar editorials which have suddenly appeared in a good many of the state's larger daily newspapers in recent weeks. It smacks of a sort of petty conspiracy; yet it is a degrading and dangerous one. It has an unmistakable political taint; but its real victim — in the end — may well be the schools of North Carolina.

The editors are operating behind a self-assigned facade of nobility. Their pious pretense is that they are demanding better education for the young people of the state. What they are really doing is using the schools, and the teachers and administrators who operate them, as pawns in a smearing, sneering numbers game.

The school people of this state deserve better than this. Certainly they do not deserve back-handed suggestions that education in North Carolina has not made great strides towards excellence — much less statistical misrepresentations to the effect that the people of this state have not made great sacrifices to build a school system of which they can be proud. No barrage of irrelevant, odious comparisons should mislead the people of North Carolina into being ashamed of their achievements.

One hardly knows where to begin in beating back the brushfire of statistical nonsense pouring forth from the newspapers' editorial pages. So it costs the taxpayers of New York vastly more, per student, to operate public schools than is the case in North Carolina! So what? What the editors don't compare is the cost of living in New York as opposed to that in North Carolina. Of the cost of land for school sites in New York. Or the cost of construction there.

A school teacher in New York often pays as much each month for a place to park her car as a teacher in North Carolina spends on groceries. If the newspapers want to get into an honest set of comparisons, let's have some on the cost of living, the

cost of doing business, the cost of operating schools. Then let's see how North Carolina, and North Carolinians, compare with New York and New Yorkers in this business of "sacrifice".

Other comparisons? Well, just for example, part of the "per student" cost of operating schools is the interest that the state pays on borrowed money used for school construction. The Statistical Abstract of the United States, published by the U. S. Department of Commerce, reveals that in 1964, New York State paid \$90 million in interest on money it had borrowed for school construction. That same year, North Carolina paid ten million dollars in interest on her school debt. That \$80 million difference alone raises New York's "per pupil" cost by \$40 per year!

We acknowledge, of course, that our own comparisons are themselves largely irrelevant, and we mention them simply to illustrate a point. New York simply cannot be compared to North Carolina, any more than apples can be compared with oranges. The two states are entirely different entities, with differing conditions, differing costs, and differing economies. And we may as well say it: What North Carolinian would trade living conditions with his counterpart in New York?

True enough, progress in any field — education or anything else — will always be an uphill climb. We have a long way to go, and when every person now alive in both North Carolina and New York is gone, there will still be goals to achieve and progress to be made. But that is no reason for politically-motivated newspaper editors to shame and degrade those who have worked so hard and achieved so much in our own time.

North Carolina needs to apologize to no one, least of all to any newspaper editor, for what has been done in the field of education in our state. This station stands second to nobody in its support for adequate compensation and the most efficient working conditions for our teachers. But it is important to remember that not the least among the problems being en-

### WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

by Henry E. Garrett, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Psychology, Columbia University  
Past President, American Psychological Association

Q: Dr. Garrett, can a person's IQ be changed? I saw a news story that said a young girl's IQ was raised 40 points. How can that be?

A: Ordinarily, no, a person's IQ cannot be increased. Even so, it is possible through intensive training to raise a person's IQ

somewhat but the probabilities are, once training is "broken", the IQ will return to "normal".

It is much as though you took a normal 14-year-old who could run 100 yards, say, in 12 seconds and trained him until he could cover the distance in some-

thing less. You would have increased his speed but only temporarily — unless you kept him in training.

Then, since the standard of error on all such tests is five per cent, it is quite possible a score made on one test would be 10 points higher (or lower) than that made on a second test.

As to those fantastic elevations in IQ; that is poppycock. Your own IQ will tell you that.

#### Bound Over on Rape Charge

Eighteen year-old Thomas Sutton of La Grange has been bound over to superior court after probable cause of his guilt was found on a charge of rape.

### Your Medicine Can Cost You Less

Have Your Prescriptions Filled at

### MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY

905 N. Queen Street  
Kinston, N. C.

WE WELCOME CHARGE ACCOUNTS

WE KEEP INCOME TAX AND INSURANCE RECORDS

WALTER P. JOHNSON, R. PH.

Phones let you go shopping on a rainy day without opening your umbrella or digging out your raincoat or putting on your rubbers or catching the sniffles or even stepping out the door. (What else that costs so little saves you all that trouble?)



*Carolina Telephone*

# Frosty Morn Meats Inc.

"Helping to build a better Livestock Market for Eastern North Carolina"

Top prices paid for Hogs & Cattle Daily

No Commission Charge  
No Waiting

Phone JA 3-5103 Kinston, N. C.