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ENROLLMENT SPREAD OF 1527 PER CENT BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW NC COUNTIES

By Jack Rider

In May of this year there were 113,432 people in North Carolina who received welfare aid as a result of being members of families that included dependent children. They received direct grants and medical payments during that month totalling \$3,128,524.41, or an average expenditure per person of \$27.58.

Among the statutory impediments of government is a board that is called the "Board of Equalization and Review" and it spends something like a half million dollars of the taxpayers' money each year to "equalize" the expenditure of this and all other categories of welfare aid. Its theory being, that there are rich counties and poor counties, and that the fair thing to do is to take some from the rich counties to help those poor counties.

That is its theory. Let's look at its practice.

The spread between average payments per client in the dependent child department ranges from the high of \$33.08 in Cabarrus County to the low of \$19.76 in Anson County.

Some equalization.

But the 41 per cent differential in average payments represented between Rich Cabarrus and Poor Anson is nothing to compare with the spread between Jones County and Henderson County in total per cent of population receiving such aid.

In Jones County during May there were 779 dependents in this category in a county of 10,000, or 7.79 per cent enrollment. In Henderson County there were 184 people enrolled in this category out of a population of 36,000, or 0.51 per cent.

This puts Jones in the questionable situation of having 1527 per cent greater enrollment per capita in this category than Henderson County.

Across The State

In all of North Carolina there are just five counties that have as much as five per cent enrollment of population in this dependent child category.

They are Jones 7.79, Tyrrell 6.72, Madison 5.77, Northampton 5.58 and, Oops, Durham 5.02. How did rich Durham sneak into such poor company?

On The Low Side

There are 10 of North Carolina's 100 counties where less than one per cent of the population was enrolled for this particular kind of welfare aid.

They are Henderson .51, Iredell .55, Stanley .56, Cabarrus .60, Union .76, Burke .76, Macon .82, McDowell .89 and Chatham .97. Now how did so many of those poor Appalachia Counties get mixed in with those rich counties?

How do such pockets of poverty occur? How do such pockets of prosperity occur?

Take a look at the sister counties of these "poor counties".

Jones County with 7.79 per cent enrollment in this aid department is surrounded by five counties; some rural, some with mixed farm and industrial economies and others with economies based largely on military bases.

Poor Craven is the next poorest sister county to Jones with an enrollment of 3.48 per cent, Marine Rich Onslow is next with 2.57 per cent, Rural Duplin is next with 2.11 per cent, Rich Le-

noir is next with 1.93 per cent and plu-perfect rich Carteret is lowest in this special index with only 1.36 per cent of its population being supported in part or totally by an ADC check.

So we see that Jones County's rate is more than twice that of Craven, and well over three times the rate of the other four counties bordering it, and more than 500 per cent greater than rich Carteret's rates.

Tyrrell is the next worst off county to Jones in this department with 6.72 per cent of its population being helped from this fund. It has three neighboring counties, and they stack up this way: Hyde 2.86, Washington 2.37 and Dare 1.75 per cent. index of poverty is mountainous Madison, where 5.77 per cent of its 17,000 people are getting this aid.

Madison's borders touch three North Carolina counties and they are in this condition in this department: Yancey 3.29, Haywood 1.92 and Buncombe 1.01 per cent.

Northampton is next in this poverty index with 5.58 per cent of its 25,000 people getting dependent children checks. It is bordered by four North Carolina counties and they suffer to this degree: Warren 4.36, Bertie 4.10, Halifax 3.40 and Hertford 2.91 per cent.

The most puzzling member of this 5-county group is big, rich Durham County where in May 5522 of its 110,000 people were getting help from the taxpayers in this category, or 5.02 per cent.

Durham is surrounded by five North Carolina counties which suffer as follows: Person 4.93, Wake 3.11, Orange 1.98, Granville 0.98 and Chatham 0.97 per cent.

These contrasts indicate only one basic situation; that the state welfare board is permitting a grossly inequitable distribution of these funds which cannot be supported by logic, or law.

The overall economics of sister counties cannot possibly vary so widely. This means that the administration of welfare programs is lax in one county and strict in another.

Variations surely do exist between the economics of every county, but not to the extent these figures for May reveal.

There is not that degree of difference in the cost of living between Cabarrus (\$33.08) and Anson (\$19.76) and there is not that degree of unemployment between Jones (7.79%) and Henderson (0.51%).

Robert Howison Jr., chairman of the state welfare board, last month in a speech to administrators of this program charged that too many were more interested in getting people on rather than off welfare lists.

This obviously is true, but Howison and his colleagues on the state welfare board cannot avoid their responsibility in this area, and it is long since past the time when remedial action should have been taken by the state welfare board so that a needy person in one county will not receive more nor less than a similarly situated person in another county.

These figures prove beyond question that this situation does exist now.

The county, the number of persons receiving aid and the percent of county population are listed in that order below.

Alamance	1209	1.42
Alexander	219	1.46
Allegheny	340	4.53
Anson	671	2.68
Ashe	734	3.67
Avery	398	3.31
Beaufort	1232	3.42
Bertie	1025	4.10
Bladen	1431	4.93
Brunswick	802	4.01
Buncombe	1321	1.01
Burke	396	0.76
Cabarrus	451	0.60
Caldwell	757	1.50
Camden	105	1.57
Carteret	409	1.36
Caswell	788	3.94
Catawaba	1080	1.44
Chatham	261	0.97
Cherokee	433	2.70
Chowan	265	2.40
Clay	217	4.34
Cleveland	1811	2.74
Columbus	1191	2.38
Craven	2089	3.48
Cumberland	4734	3.15
Currituck	77	1.18
Dare	105	1.75
Davidson	802	1.00
Davie	230	1.43
Duplin	845	2.11
Durham	5522	5.02
Edgecombe	1256	2.28
Forsyth	7277	3.18
Franklin	1098	3.75
Gaston	2451	1.88
Gates	104	1.15
Graham	111	1.85
Granville	346	0.98
Greene	202	1.26
Guilford	4985	1.99
Halifax	2042	3.40
Harnett	1413	2.82
Haywood	770	1.92
Henderson	184	0.51
Hertford	670	2.91
Hoke	417	2.67

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Jones 4-H'ers Having Good Time at State 4-H Clubber Meet



Douglas Hill, Rt. 2, Dover, had a tough time in the 4-H horticultural judging, identification and information contest during State 4-H Club Week at North Carolina State University — even the girls looked

alike. Hill didn't mind, however. Here he takes time out to enjoy some peaches offered by his teammates, twins Carol Cauley (left) and Sue Cauley, while Lolly Byrd holds some extra ones. All team members live on Rt. 2, Dover.

Confused Confusion Compounded as Insurance Companies Tangle Over 1964 Accident Just West of Trenton

A voluminous legal action was filed this week in Jones County Superior Court which is one result of an accident about a mile west of Trenton on Highway 55 on August 13, 1964.

In this action the Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and its insured client, Fate Berry, are asking the court to clarify its claim that neither it nor Berry have any liability in that wreck nearly three years ago. The accident involved a car owned by Isaiah Hill and a station wagon owned by Carolina Dairies of Kinston.

Hill's car was driven by Thomas Lee Berry, son of Fate Berry, and the dairy wagon was driven by Robert Lee Creech.

Charles Henry Strayhorn, a passenger in the Hill car suffered serious injuries and brought suit against Hill, Berry, Creech and the dairy for \$100,000 damages in Jones County

Superior Court.

Creech in turn had brought suit in Greene County Superior Court for \$30,000 against Hill, Berry and the Employers Mutual Insurance Company.

Somewhere along the legal journey Fate Berry was drawn into the action simply because his son was driving the car of Hill.

Berry's insurance company in the action filed this week asserts that it has no liability since Thomas Lee Berry was past 21 years of age and was fully "emancipated", relieving his father of liability.

Scott Reunion

The family of the late H. K. Scott will have their annual reunion on Sunday, August 6 in the community building at Pollockville.

Branch Bank Burglary Bungled; Thief Scared Off, Leaves Equipment Behind

Either an amateur or nervous thief bungled badly an effort to crack the vault of Trenton's Branch Banking and Trust Company office Sunday night.

The abortive effort was not discovered until about 8 Monday morning when Estal Taylor of Trenton route 1 noticed that the bank's front door had been forced open.

Inside two acetylene tanks, a 5-pound hammer, crowbar and welder's gloves were left behind and wires inside the office to telephones had been torn loose.

Aside from the damage to the door and the wiring nothing else was disturbed.

Sheriff Brown Yates called in both state and federal officers to assist in the investigation of the effort.

The general feeling around Trenton is that an emergency call answered Sunday night by the Trenton Rescue Squad scared the thief off, since the siren on the Rescue Squad ambulance could have easily been mistaken for that on a police car, which the thief may have thought was coming as the result of a burg-

Kinstonian Killed in Guilford Accident

James W. Cole, 43, was instantly killed last Thursday night at about 10:20 when the car in which he was riding was wrecked in Guilford County about 11 miles south of Greensboro.

Cole, a World War Two veteran, had gained considerable notoriety from his connection with the Ku Klux Klan in the past 12 to 15 years.

Paul LeClair of Greensboro who was owner of the car died from injuries he suffered.

lary alarm being touched off somewhere in the bank.