

WHEN RICH POLITICIANS BEGIN WORRYING ABOUT "THE PORE FOLKS", WATCH OUT!

By Jack Rider

One of the oldest axioms of politics is that when rich politicians begin worrying about "The Pore Folks" those "Pore Folks" had better watch out because they are just before getting the shaft, and deeply.

Such a rich politician who has been expressing solicitude for "The Pore Folks" of North Carolina is rich-as-cream-Dairy-plutocrat Ralph Scott, who is also an uncle to the governor as well as a senator in the general assembly.

Over the weekend Scott explained his solicitude for "The Pore Folks" while trying to help jam through his nephew's tax

bill in the general assembly which is also trying to help "The Pore Folks" by putting an extra two-cent tax on each gallon of gasoline used by "The Pore Folks", which has already been "promised through" the general assembly, and by putting a five-cent tax on each pack of cigarettes smoked by "The Pore Folks." Not to mention a one-cent tax on any cheap cigar that a prosperous feeling member of "The Pore Folks" might feel called to light up on a pay-day.

What Rich-As-Cream-Scott avers, and alleges, is that an unholy alliance of diabolical Eastern North Carolina politicians is

trying to hurt "The Pore Folks" by joining a coalition that wants to reduce his nephew's smoke tax from five to two cents per pack and substitute for that a one-cent per bottle tax on "The Pore Folks" champagne, sometimes called soft drinks, but more often called "Coke" or "Pepsi" or just plain pop.

So let us take a little look at this rich politician's concern for "The Pore Folks".

First let us see what these Milk-Peddling Scotts are in favor of and what they are against: For; the extra two cents tax on gas, which has given North Carolina the highest gasoline tax in the nation. For; the five

cent per pack tax on cigarettes, one cent per cigar tax on all sizes and prices of cigars. For; a two-per cent tax on all insurance premiums. Against; an additional one-cent sales tax to be divided on a per capita basis with the cities and counties of the state.

The latest figures indicate a per capita income in North Carolina of \$2439, which is something in the order of a \$9756 per year income for each family of four in the state. But let us not use these figures of affluence, since the concern of the Scott Family is not for the average working, tax paying citizen but is for "The Pore Folks."

Persons with family incomes of \$3000 per year and less are categorized as poverty-stricken by federal, state and local authorities on such matters, which is an income per family of \$57 per week or less.

The consumption of cigarettes last year in the United States was 137.5 packs per person, so in a family of four that adds up to an annual consumption of 550 packs of cigarettes per year, or 10.5 packs of cigarettes per family per week. The five-cent Scott tax would hit "The Pore Folks" a 52½-cent per week lick. It would be impossible for an additional one-cent sales tax to hit such a hard lick.

The per capita use of gasoline last year in North Carolina was 400 gallons or 1600 gallons for each family of "The Pore Folks". That is a 30.7-cent per week lick at the average family since whether it is used in their family fivver or in someone else's the cost of it is tacked onto the things "The Pore Folks" have to buy.

And for the latest year the per capita consumption of soft drinks in North Carolina was just over 600 bottles, which is 1.6 per day or 44.8 per week for a family of four, and as any progressive math student can quickly determine this would

add another 44.8-cents to the tax package being prepared for "The Pore Folks" up in Raleigh.

Anyway the taxing-pie is sliced; whether the Scott way or the unholy alliance way which the Scott's aver and allege there obviously is no merit in the malarky being spread around that anybody has any concern for "The Pore Folks."

What it is, is the oldest device known to political science: Divide and conquer, or divide and tax.

This ancient and not honorable device works in this fashion. Let us levy a heavy tax in this session on gas, and cigarettes, and perhaps soft drinks, and in the next session we'll pay our taxing respects to milk, and advertising, and medicine and fertilizer.

The very plain and ugly truth of the matter is that far too many politicians ignore the fact that everybody shares in whatever benefits there may result from the expenditure of any tax dollar, and in view of this every citizen and every commodity of trade should be taxed in exactly the same ratio. Anything else is certainly immoral, and possibly illegal.

But politicians have used such whipping boy industries as whisky, tobacco and a few other so-called "luxury" items, lulling the natives into a tax-paying coma on the premise that somehow such so-called luxury taxes are soaking the rich more than the poor.

The absurdity of this ought to be clearly visible to anybody with passing intelligence. A rich man can smoke no more cigarettes than a poor man, drink no more booze than a poor man, and all things being equal can probably burn no more gas than the poor man since he's able to keep a newer car in better repair that ought to be more gentle on the gas tank than the poor man's rattletrap.

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Jones Central Grads Get Scholarships Having Total Value of Over \$82,000

Guidance Counselor Sue Parker Banks of Jones Central High School reports that the graduating class of 1969 has been awarded more than \$82,028 in financial assistance.

Beatrice Andrews, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Andrews, Trenton, Route 1 — Prospective Teachers Scholarship. Miss Andrews plans to attend Atlantic Christian College.

Dalton Ange, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mack D. Ange, Cove City, Route 1 — Educational Opportunity Grant and National Defense Student Loan from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Jay Bender, son of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Bender, Pollocksville — Vardell Scholarship from St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

Carol Cauley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Cauley, Dover, Route 2, a Meredith College General Scholarship.

Sue Cauley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Cauley, Dover, Route 2, a Meredith College General Scholarship.

John Creagh III of Pollocksville — University of North Carolina — OH Scholarship.

Tony Criscitiello, son of Mrs. Vera C. Morris, Maysville — George W. Harriet Scholarship. This scholarship is given by Mrs. Harriet in memory of her husband who was a former superintendent.

Deborah Haddock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Haddock, Trenton, Route 2 — a Grant-in-Aid from Meredith College.

Sylvia Hargett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hargett, Jr. Trenton — Duke University Scholarship, Student Loan and Grant-in-Aid.

Janice Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nolan D. Jones, Maysville — Escheats Scholarship and National Defense Student Loan from UNC — Chapel Hill.

Judith Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aiken Jones, Trenton — Prospective Teachers Scholarship, and from the University of N. C. at Greensboro The National Defense Student Loan and an Educational Opportunity Grant.

Michael Koonce, son of Mrs. Amelia L. Koonce, Trenton, Route 2 — Wake Forest University Scholarship, Educational opportunity Grant and National Defense Student Loan.

John Mallard, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Mallard, Pollocksville — Educational Opportunity Grant and National Defense Stu-

dent Loan from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. James Moore Jr., of Trenton, Route 2, — Winston-Salem State University Scholarship and Johnson C. Smith University Scholarship.

Rodney Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Scott, Pollocksville, Route 1 — Mittrey Amon Courie Scholarship. This scholarship is given by the Nick F. Courie Family of Kingston in memory of their son. Scott plans to enroll at East Carolina University.

Cecelia Simmons, daughter of Mrs. Clara Bell S. Brimage, Pollocksville — Educational Opportunity Grant and National Defense Student Loan from University of N. C. at Greensboro and also from North Carolina State University an Educational Opportunity Grant and a National Defense Student Loan.

Storma Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herber J. Thomas, Pollocksville, Route 1 — Wake Forest University Scholarship and National Defense Student Loan.

Leslie Strayhorn Jr., Trenton — Grant-in-Aid from East Carolina University; Educational Opportunity Grant and National Defense Student Loan from UNC — Chapel Hill.

Welfare Department Issues Releases to Further Explain System and Functions

By Mrs. Zeta Burt,
Jones County Welfare Department

There is probably no other Agency in Jones County whose functions are less understood than those of the local department of public welfare.

Some attitudes toward public welfare, and this widespread lack of real understanding of how it functions on a day-to-day basis, provide a realm of controversy probably unequalled in any other public venture at the present time.

The problem was pretty well summed up recently by North Carolina Welfare Commissioner Clifton M. Craig when he said, "Our nation at present is in the midst of a social revolution as evidenced by the rioting in the streets of our cities and the various demonstrations being held in many places. At no time in our history is it more important for the public to understand

really the problems of the poor — for it is the responsibility of the public through their elected local, state and national representation to determine the type of programs that will be offered in the future and to help alleviate some of the shortcomings of the programs in the past."

This newspaper in a series of articles will attempt to provide the factual information on the public welfare programs in our county and how they are administered and financed.

The first article appearing today will be on how public welfare is organized statewide and how the local department fits into the picture.

Public Welfare in North Carolina is a State supervised and county administered program. What makes it even more complicated is that most of the ser-

TWO JONES ARRESTS

Two arrests were reported during the past week in Jones County. Paul Meadows of Maysville was booked for being publicly drunk. John Cleveland Eubanks of route 1 Maysville was arrested for larceny.

DAWSON OFF VIETNAM

Personnelman Second Class Jake A. Dawson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Dawson of Route 1, Pollocksville, and husband of the former Miss Dorothy A. Toler of Route 4, New Bern, is serving aboard the cruiser USS Saint Paul off the coast of Vietnam.

JERKINS WITH APOLLO 10 RECOVERY FORCE

Seaman Apprentice Roger G. Jerkins, son of Mrs. Verna Smith of Route 1, Trenton, is serving aboard the communications relay ship USS Arlington, a unit of Task Force 130, for the manned flight of Apollo 10. The ship's mission is to serve as the major relay station for communications of the primary recovery units. The Apollo 10 mission was one of the final steps before reaching the ultimate goal of the Apollo program, to land men on the moon for limited observation and exploration and assure their safe recovery upon return to earth.

Jones County School Superintendent Rooks Resigns, Replaced by Joseph Collins of Apex; Franks Promoted

John E. Rooks, superintendent of Jones County Schools, has

resigned effective July 1. He plans to return to the Wake County School system.

JONES CASE DISMISSED

Donald Ray Coombs and Linda Dawson Coombs filed a case versus Jake Dawson of Pollocksville but the case was dismissed since neither the plaintiff or the defendant appeared for the hearing.

LEATHERS AT OKINAWA

Seaman Apprentice Isaac Leathers, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Mack of Route 1 Pollocksville, is serving with Patrol Squadron 28 at the Naval Air Facility, Naha, Okinawa.

ED MITCHELL TO VIETNAM

Army Private First Class Edward L. Mitchell, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie R. Mitchell, Route 2, Trenton, was assigned April 22 to the Americal Division in Vietnam.

vices offered are Federal programs established by congress and the majority of the funds to support these programs are supplied by the federal government. More federal funds come into North Carolina through the State Department of Public Welfare than through any other state agency, including the education and highway departments. Recent reports have indicated that this state appropriates a

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Rooks stated that he had enjoyed his work in Jones County and that the "cooperation of the board was as good as he could ask."

Joseph Speight Collins has been chosen to succeed Rooks as superintendent. Collins is currently a school principal in Apex. He is 39, married, and has four children. He received his B. A. and M.A. from East Carolina University and has done advanced work at Duke University.

In other education changes, C. C. Franks, principal of Jones High School, has been appointed director of Jones County's Title IV project.

In order to accomplish complete desegregation of Jones County Schools the 1969-70 school year, Jones High School will be converted to a junior high school for grades 7-9 and Jones Central High School will be for grades 10-12.

Succeeding Franks at Jones High School will be William A. Penuel who is currently serving as principal at Great Falls Elementary School in Rockingham.

Penuel earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees at East Carolina University. Penuel is married but has no children. His wife is also a teacher.