

BUREAUCRATS HAVE GREAT FUN PLAYING 'GOD' WITH MATCHING FUND AGENCIES

By Jack Rider

There is no aspect of government in which the ugly face of socialism rears its head more inequitably than in that never-never land of local governmental agencies whose money comes from an assortment of matching funds.

Operating under the Marxist guile of "Each according to his needs" this juggling of matching funds robs bankrupt metropolitan areas and heavily populated industrialized regions to play "god" with various sociological projects among the "poor people" in the "poor states" and in the "poor counties" of those poor "states."

While pounding the egalitarian pulpit with one hand these intellectual thieves are picking everybody's pocket with their other pink paw. The name of the game is total confusion, so no single unit of government will ever know exactly who is doing

what to whom and with whose money.

While preaching the claptrap of equality these bureaucratic gods are committing on an unimaginable scale the grossest inequities on that most lonely of all domestic animals: The taxpayer, who has neither the time, the stomach, the brains or the courage to closely examine just what kind of a gypping he is suffering.

And in no field of government is this inequity in the name of equality more flagrant than in the not-so-fair field of public schools.

Take 1966-67!

In 1966-67 the current expense cost of all North Carolina public schools was \$471,860,768.77. (For those who are not initiated in the jargon of the bureaucrats current expenses includes such items as salaries and all other actual operating expenses except new construction, purchase

of new vehicles and land and major repairs or additions to existing structures. These latter items fall in the category of "capital outlay.")

That \$471-plus million spent in general operations in 1966-67 averaged out to be \$426.29 per pupil that year for each of the 1,106,894 students in daily average attendance in all of the state's public schools.

This money came from four sources, speaking governmentally, but all of it naturally came from the taxpayers before either federal, state, county or school district officials got it in their hands.

In 1966-67 68.5 per cent of this total came through the state treasury, 16.1 per cent came through the various county and school district treasuries and the remaining 15.4 per cent came from the federal treasury.

Which means that the state average expenditure per pupil

amounted to \$292.18 from state funds, \$68.45 from local funds and \$65.66 from federal funds.

The galling thing about this is that no two of the 159 school districts in the state shared the same in the distribution of these funds.

Cherokee County got the most from state funds with \$365.85 per pupil and Cumberland got the least with only \$259.41. The total spent per pupil in those counties that year was Cherokee \$533.52 and Cumberland \$373.81.

From local funds Mecklenburg suffered worst putting up \$166.47 per pupil, while Yancey fared best, having to dig up only \$20.19 per pupil of the \$441.35 it was spending on each pupil that year. Mecklenburg was spending \$478.89 per pupil that year.

The allocation of federal funds ranged from the high of \$172.14 per pupil spent in the tiny Morven school system in Anson County to the low of \$15.92 per pupil allocated to the Iredell County school system. The total per pupil spent that year in each system was \$509.69 in Morven and \$334.67 in Iredell County.

Wrong Assumption

It is a wrong assumption in educational circles to presume that the logic of spending the same amount of money per pupil prevails. It does not exist between states, or counties or between school districts in the same county. It is unlikely that any two of the nearly 30,000 school districts in the nation spends the same amount of money per pupil as any other.

If each school district were footing the entire bill for the operation of its schools this unlikely happenstance would be fine, since it would be a reflection of the diversity across this broad land, but it is anything but a happy reflection when federal funds are being used to underwrite such gross discrepancies on a nationwide basis and when in each state the same abuse of state funds is being permitted by the taxpayer who has a way of falling prostrate before the Throne

of Education every time the sacred act of educating his children is involved

In North Carolina this inequitable spread supported and even encouraged by these three participating agencies saw a high of \$533.52 per pupil spent on the children in the Cherokee County school system and the low of \$334.67 per pupil spent in the Iredell County school system.

If the same expenditure per pupil had existed all over the state that was accepted in Cherokee County the total cost that year would have been \$590,550,686.88 instead of the \$471,860,768.77 that was spent.

And on the other hand if every school district in the state had been fed out of the same thin spoon as Iredell County it would have only cost \$370,423,214.98 to educate those 1,106,894 students for that school year.

Anyway these figures are studied there's one hell of a difference between the lavish outlay in Cherokee County and the stinginess with which Iredell County students had to suffer.

From any point of view the Great State of North Carolina had to be overspending at the rate of better than \$220 million per year in this single category, or viewed more charitably from the bureaucratic point of view the state was under-spending to about that same \$220 million tune.

Of course when pointed questions are asked the bureaucrat has an instant reply: "We're trying to raise the Cherokee children" in Clay County, Cherokee's next door neighbor, in which they were spending just \$442.87 per child compared to Cherokee's \$533.52. Or how about "pore old Jones County" where they were just spending \$449.1 per child, or even poorer Dare County where they were just spending \$447.31 per child?

The consistent fact is that there is no consistency, nor rhyme, nor reason to the abuse being heaped on the students and their taxpayer parents by the sacred cows of public education.

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Sister and Niece File Caveat in Will of Stella Oxley Gray, Saying Undue Influence Exerted on Her

The standard allegations have been made in a caveat filed in the will of the late Mrs. Stella Oxley Gray, who left the bulk of her \$100,000 estate to provide scholarships for graduates of Jones Central High School.

The caveat was filed last week by Ethel Oxley Lovett, a sister, and Merle Oxley Morgan, a niece and it alleges that Mrs. Gray was the victim of undue pressures in the making of her will and that she was not physically and mentally capable of making a will at the time she made the will.

The caveat was each left \$1,000 in the will. The will included a clause which says, "If any legatee or devisee herein named shall institute or cause to be instituted any legal proceedings upon any ground whatsoever the purpose of which is to contest this will or any part thereof, such legatee or devisee shall take nothing whatsoever, and the part which such legatee or devisee would otherwise have taken shall become a portion of the property and funds passing under the residuary clause of this will . . ."

Under the will special bequests included \$1,000 to sisters Mrs. Hortense Oxley Taylor, and Mrs. Ethel Oxley Lovett;

\$1,000 each to nieces Linda Quinn Caricofe and Merle Oxley Morgan, \$10,000 to nephew H. L. Oxley, \$500 each to nephew Murray Rouse and Niece Lera Belle Smith; \$200 each to nephew James Rouse, Alvah Rouse and Douglas Rouse; \$500 to grandniece Ann H. Moore, \$1500 for funeral expenses of brother Harvey Oxley, \$2,000 to Foy's Memorial Methodist Church and the rest to the trust fund to be

administered by Branch Banking and Trust Company.

This trust fund would provide scholarships to "academically deserving" graduates of Jones Central High School who would be chosen by a committee including the principal of the school, the senior trust officer of the bank and the senior class sponsor of the school.

Mrs. Gray was the widow of the World War One Veteran Henry D. Gray, and they were childless.

Pending adjudication of the matter the court had ordered suspension of all distributions ordered under the will. The matter has been scheduled for trial in Jones County Superior Court.

Jones County District Court has Busy Week Largely With Traffic Cases

The following cases were processed during the past week in Jones County District Court with Judge Walter Henderson presiding.

Edward Green was ordered to pay a \$25 fine and the court's cost for having no operators license.

Edwin Jerome Kelley was ordered to pay a \$200 fine and the court's cost for driving while his license was revoked.

For making an unsafe movement in traffic Lester Sinclair was ordered to pay the court's cost.

Terry Bryan Koonce was found not guilty of careless driving.

Mary Burden and Carrie Lee Hill received nol prosses from the state. They were charged with making a church disturbance.

Fate Padgett was ordered to pay the court's cost for a fishing violation.

The state took a nol pros in the case of Cpl. Carroll Liller who was charged with having no operators license.

Teeny Leathers was ordered to pay the court's cost for trespassing.

John L. Davis was ordered to pay the court's cost for disobeying a stop sign.

Rodney I. Meadows was ordered to pay the court's cost for driving on the wrong side of the road.

Carlton Lee Wood was ordered to pay a \$10 fine and the court's cost for failing to yield the right of way.

Jason Allen Wetherington was ordered to pay a \$5 fine and the court's cost for speeding.

Sgt. Larry Carnell was found not guilty of speeding.

The case against James Edward Taylor who was charged with driving too fast for existing conditions was dismissed.

The case was dismissed against Frederick D. Smith who was charged with driving left of the center line.

The case against John E. Cameron who was charged with failure to secure a load was dismissed.

Two Jones County Students Complete Tough Engineering Courses at State

Two Jones County men mastered demanding engineering studies to win degrees at North Carolina State University Saturday morning, May 31.

Chancellor John T. Caldwell conferred bachelor's degrees on Robert T. Noble and Lonnie Scott.

Noble and Scott were among a record number of 2,300 men and women who were awarded degrees Saturday. That total represented all who have completed degree requirements since June 1968.

Last year, NCSU graduated some 1,900 men and women.

Included in the record class of 1969 were some 460 master's degrees and 140 doctoral degrees, record numbers.

Those figures rank NCSU as a major center for advanced studies in the South.

Noble earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Noble of Route 2, Dover.

Scott earned his bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Scott of Route 3, Kinston. Scott is married to the former Brenda Jones.

Both are graduates of Jones Central High School.

Barrus Construction Company Purchased By Ashland Oil And Refining Company

A. K. Barrus, chairman of the board of Barrus Construction Company of Kinston, announced Wednesday the sale of the company he has headed since 1945 to Ashland Oil and Refining Company of Ashland, Kentucky.

This Kinston-based company whose principal business has been in the road and street building will operate under the same name and with the same personnel, except for Barrus, who at 73, says he is going to take things a lot easier

Warren Brothers Company of Cambridge, Massachusetts, a division of Ashland Oil and Refining, will supervise the overall operation of this major Kinston industry which presently employs 500 people.

The road-building division of this Kentucky company already operates in North Carolina through Thompson-Arthur Paving Company of Greensboro, and a branch of Warren Brothers Company which operates out of Asheville.

Barrus Construction Company includes paving plants in Kinston, Goldsboro, Greenville, Princeton, LaGrange, Deppe, New Bern, and Jacksonville and ready-mixed concrete plants in

Kinston and Jacksonville.

Barrus is retaining title to the real estate of the home-office area just east of Kinston and he is leasing this central office and 12 acres around it to the purchasers.

In a letter distributed to all salaried employees of the company this week Barrus explained that this step is being taken "in order to insure the continuance of this company in a sound financial position. . ."

Barrus said in a search for such an affiliation his aims had been to seek "a company which was engaged in a similar type work and whose concept of operations and aims was similar to our own; a company with equal or better opportunities for the employees of Barrus Construction Company, who have been responsible for the success which it has enjoyed throughout the years and a company making the best proposal to the stockholders of Barrus Construction Company which was consistent with the first two considerations."

Ashland Oil and Refining Company has interests in all facets of the petroleum industry and had net sales and operating revenues last year amounting to \$1,068,442,861. Its paving division operates in 20 states and several foreign countries.