

WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE NATION AND ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH?

By Jack Rider

No responsible person can escape frequent and serious study of the question: What Lies Ahead for Public Education in The Nation and Especially in The South?

Massive public resistance to the outsized spending on education is building and has already been felt with a majority of school bond issues and school special taxes having been voted down all across the nation this year.

In North Carolina we see no leadership at either the state or local level. Those who should be carrying the ball in this vital area are either stumbling along in numbed silence or are simply bending their energies toward spending every penny they can grab from state, federal or local sources.

But in the ranks of education a vast majority of those people who have dedicated their talents and their lives to education are frightened.

Unfortunately until now too few have been frightened badly enough to make them act in defense of their profession. Too many still occupy their talents with the acquisition of buildings and staffs and ever-larger budgets to be much concerned with their first business at hand which is education.

In Raleigh confusion has been compounded as the result of a federal official for the second time asserting Raleigh's racial integration plan is in compliance with federal law; despite the fact that his superiors in Washington have previously ruled that the plan was not legal and had ordered him to restudy the plan and come up with a new finding.

There's hardly a school district in the South that has not been confronted by such official Washington idiocy. "Freedom of Choice" was sold to the public and to school officials who spent hundreds of thousands of dollars advertising and pamphleteering on this specific point, but by the time this concept had been accepted by a majority of people the official line as drawn by those same idiotic policy makers in Washington was that "Freedom of Choice" was not nearly enough and that it was the solemn responsibility of every state and local school official to move forthwith to do away completely with every facet of a dual school system. This in spite of the fact that the civil rights act of 1964 specifically forbids any such compulsion.

In Jones County three plans in one short summer were not enough to sate the lust for power of a backwoods federal judge from Sampson County, who ordered instant an total racial integration of every facet of that small county's schools and did all of this on the eve of school opening when the public was not prepared for such a shock and at a time when the school officials had no recourse except to close the schools or bow to the petty whim of this Sampson satrap.

Duplin County at this moment is in the throes of an identical idiocy perpetrated by this same judicial jerk.

And while this Sampson County pipsqueak has been wheeling and dealing his junior colleague in crime from Jones County has cast his thunderbolts about in Craven, Martin, Pitt, Bertie, Greene and numerous other counties. Even to such extremes as ordering perfectly good schools closed and forcing the transfer of students into expensive temporary quarters that had to be purchased by the cowardly school boards that surrendered to such judicial jerk-

ery. Atop these imbecilities of federal gestapo agents and federal judicial tyrants these same beleaguered school boards have been caught on another sharp tine of this educational pitchfork. And that, of course, is the irate public.

And more recently another needle has appeared to make life more miserable, if possible, than before in the "Black Militants" who are demanding such things as "Black History," "Soul Food", and watermelons at recess.

In this sea of much discontent the poor souls who have accepted the thankless job of serving on a public school board have staggered from one surrender to another.

Their superintendents and principals and teachers want more money for less work. The several greedy paws of federal interference have no more interest in education than they do in doing an honest day's work for a fair day's pay. Their only interest is "brotherhood" and "democracy" and instant integration.

For half a century public schools have grown with the warmest and most generous kind of public support. This has been a nationwide phenomenon. Each generation was not only willing but was anxious to spend greatly expanded amounts on the education of their children. It was perhaps more American than apple pie for each parent to be willing to bankrupt himself so that his children could get more education than he had gotten.

But now, with permissive stupidity taking the place of paternal sternness on college and university campuses all across the nation and with more employees charging vastly more for teaching fewer people there is a growing per cent of these free-spending parents who are beginning to question this Sacred Educational Cow.

Counties such as Jones and Duplin are looking for alternatives, but more than alternatives their crying need is leadership, and recently in the field of education it has been a game of follow-the-leader with Washington doing the leading while local officials — bribed with their own money — stumble meekly along trying to keep step with the quick-step-change artists who waste the public funds in their petulant tyranny.

There are alternatives, but none will walk up and bite the beleaguered. Jones and Duplin Counties, and every other coun-

Receive Approval

In action other than the CIG's appearance at the Commissioners meeting, the Commissioners approved the change of Neuse River Economic Development Commission to the Neuse River Regional Planning and Development Commission. Also Horace Phillips made a motion that the Neuse Mental budget be revised from \$3,814.00 to \$3,014.73. The motion was carried unanimously.

GREEDY GUEST

The Kinstonian Motel west of Kinston had one unwelcome guest last week. When he checked out he took with him a television set, two bed spreads, four pillow cases, two pillows, three sheets and broke open a vending machine and took \$25 in coins.

UNUSUAL CHARGES

Last week Kinston police indicted Mary Elizabeth Whitfield of 109 Railroad Street for contributing to the delinquency of minor children after they had arrested her daughters aged eight and nine for stealing chickens.

ty under attack have enough church school rooms and other private meeting places to easily house every child. Education does not come from a building but from teachers and textbooks. But to use these available facilities takes leadership and hard-work and courage.

And it would vastly surprise even the people on many school boards to learn how much more economically children can receive quality education privately than publicly.

Private schools operate at from 20 to 50 per cent more economically than public schools. This is true locally and nationally and the children from these private schools do better in college entrance exams than those attending the far more expensive public schools.

The reason is not that less well equipped people work in private schools and in public schools but that private schools do not have so many unproductive drones on the payroll.

It may be the greatest godsend to education and to the taxpayer if enough private schools are started as a result of this chaos in the public schools to give the

general public a yardstick for comparison.

Far too many people automatically equate private schools with the expensive prep and finishing schools used by the wealthy and the near wealthy, and since these schools are all boarding schools where food, shelter, medical care, recreation and constant supervision must be provided they are necessarily quite expensive.

But a private school without all of these burdens of the boarding school only needs to provide comfortable classroom space, a teacher for each class and the very minimum administrative staff.

It is easy to understand that a class of 25 students per teacher with each teacher being paid \$6000, with 10 per cent for administration and reasonable amortization of building operations can be provided for something in the order of \$300 per child per year. Last year the Lenoir County schools spent \$488.46 per child and this was just for operations and not for amortization of building costs which would have pushed the cost past the \$500 mark.

With the state average class

of 30, this means, among other things, that the taxpayers are putting up something like \$15,000 per class per year. The classroom teacher surely is not getting anything like that amount, but the deadheads cluttering up administrative offices and other non-essential factors eat up that \$15,000 per classroom, in spite of the fact that the teacher is getting no more than a third of that expenditure.

Teachers leaving the public schools to teach in private schools find a great relief from the endless tedium of non-educational activities forced upon them by the make-work projects of administrators, who have to come up with something to justify their reason for being.

As trying as these present times are, and they are hell on parents, teachers, principals, superintendents and school boards; they may just very well be the most productive labor pains education has suffered and they could give birth to a vastly improved education system — both public and private in the very near future. It is a possibility and with each additional pressure this happy thought becomes a more reasonable probability.

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Carolina Legion to Boost Tobacco, Help Needed on Project

In the parade of the National Convention of the American Legion to be held in Atlanta August 22-28, The North Carolina float will proclaim the state as the number one tobacco growing area of the world.

Members of the state delegation will march behind the float and pass out leaflets of tobacco to delegate onlookers, many of whom have never seen a leaf before except in a picture. Fifty states and eight foreign nations will be represented at the convention.

An appeal for a supply of tobacco for the purpose is being made by the Joseph Dixon Roundtree Post 43 of Kinston. Post adjutant Ed West has set up the collection point at his office at 706 N. Heritage Street.

He asks that anyone who can give a few pounds of good tobacco to bring or send it to him before August 13th, so it can be tied into "hands" and shipped ahead to the North Carolina headquarters in Atlanta. At least seventy-five pounds will be needed.

Monday Night Wrecks Injure Two In Lenoir County

Wrecks in Lenoir County Monday night sent two men to the hospital. In the first at 9:15 p.m. Frank Turner of LaGrange route 1 suffered leg injuries when he rammed an embankment on the Jim Sutton Road near his home.

And just after midnight Sammy Manning of Kinston route 7, a passenger in a car driven by Herring Smith of Ayden, suffered serious face and head injuries when the car rammed the rear of a tractor-trailer just north of Kinston on the Green-

Civic Interest Group Presents Another List of Grievances

Cannon Goes Off!

Kinston police were looking for Andrew Cannon of Kinston route 6 with warrants charging him with stealing a car and resisting arrest Friday night. Highway Patrolman Earl Smith went along in his car to help Detectives Aaron Brooks and Carl Johnson. Cannon roared by both police cars and was finally pushed off the road east of Kinston after which he was additionally charged with drunken driving, reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, failing to stop for police cars and once more resisting arrest.

LAND TRANSFERS

The following land transfers were reported during the past week by Jones County register of deeds Bill Parker.

From Clara Phillips Hadnott and C. M. Hadnott to Mary Elizabeth Conway Bull 25 acres in Pollockville township.

From Ed Johnson to Thelma Rhodes .5 acres in Trenton township.

From Mary O. Thomas Weede to Charles F. Dixon .26 acres in Trenton township.

From Leslie Lee Parker to Benjamin Leroy Parker 4.25 acres in Trenton township.

From Sue Brock Jones to Charles C. Jones .1 acres in Trenton township.

From Patricia Allison Thompson to John H. Thompson 4 tracts of land in Trenton township.

From Lawyer Dove to Emmett D. Flemmings .5 acres in Trenton township.

Investigation of both accidents has not yet been completed by the Highway Patrol.

Members of the Jones County Civic Interest Group (CIG) presented a list of demands to the Jones County Board of Commissioners during the Monday meeting of the board.

Although the CIG's four demands were purported to be from "the people of Jones County" various Negroes in the county have stated that the CIG did not represent them. The group presenting the list of grievances to the Commissioners reportedly had less than ten adults in the crowd of 67.

The statement issued by CIG read as follows: "We the people of Jones County demands that the following list of grievances be approved and acted upon by the Jones County Commissioners being the governing body of the County:

1. That the Medicaid and WIN programs be accepted and put in force in Jones County.
2. That all Jones County agencies have Black Personnel.
3. That Blacks be appointed to committees that is appointed by the County Commissioners.
4. That Black Registers be appointed to the polls."

Commissioner Clifton Hood said they were told the only demand they could help them with was the first one. As for Negro personnel for all Jones County agencies, Hood said appointments were made for two-year terms and those terms would not be up until December of next year. The group was informed that a Negro was recently appointed to the Social Services Board. CIG replied the person was a "colored person" and not a "black," the difference being "colored" people are manipulated by whites and "blacks" are not.

CIG is the same organization that recently presented a list of demands to the Jones County Board of education.