

WELFARE CHANGES PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT NIXON LACK ONE ESSENTIAL PROGRAM

by Jack Rider

A lot of people who have very good reason to be cynical over political promises are hopefully but not too optimistically awaiting the attempted implementation of President Nixon's recent declaration on welfare.

The reception of Nixon's plan has ranged from jubilant to total rejection, very largely depending on the political orientation of the particular person who has reacted publicly.

North Carolina's Welfare Commissioner has said there is nothing new in the Nixon approach, but he said this so quickly after the unveiling of the Nixon plan that his reaction is viewed as more political than dispassionate.

In congress there is largely a wait-and-see attitude, and with the present congressional recess a lot of pulse taking on this particular point is being done by a majority of the serious-minded members of congress.

For every taxpayer this is a

matter of much concern; whether the taxpayer is aware of it or not.

The welfare program in the last fully documented fiscal period cost the taxpayers \$6,486,563,000. The federal tax collector provided \$3,553,500,000, the state tax collector dug up another \$2,110,948,000 and county tax collectors provided the remaining \$824,116,000. This was the cost in fiscal 1966 and since then the figure has moved steadily upward.

This money went to 2,073,000 persons in need over the age of 65 and is called Old Age Assistance, 84,000 blind or nearly blind people, 588,000 totally or badly disabled people and to 4,666,000 people who were members of families being helped under the program called Aid For Families With Dependent Children.

This latter category is both the largest and most controversial—in fact the only controversial area of welfare and it is also

called that part of the welfare program which represents a total failure since it has failed in its mission which is to not only take care of people in need but make it possible for those families involved to move off of welfare.

In 1950 there were 2,233,000 people being helped under this program and in 16 years the number had more than doubled and the amount of money spent on the program had more than tripled.

Over the same span of time Old Age Assistance recipients had dropped from 2,786,000 to 2,073,000; aid to the blind had dropped from 97,000 to 84,000 and the aid to disabled grouping had risen from 69,000 to 588,000 but this latter increase was due most largely to liberalization of eligibility requirements and was a program that was first initiated in 1950.

President Nixon's plan touched all of these areas of public assistance to the needy, but it

dwelt primarily with the problem of families with dependent children.

For this program he proposes a minimum income to a family of four of \$1,600 per year, and he further proposes to permit an unemployed or under-employed father to remain in the home and share in this subsistence; a permission which is not granted in a majority of the states at present.

Nixon plans further to permit such families to have incomes of up to \$60 per month — or another \$720 per year without any loss of welfare aid and would further permit a loss of 50 cents for each dollar the family earned above that \$60 per month.

In theory this would mean that a family of four could earn up to \$3,920 per year before it lost all public assistance. This would include the base of \$720 per year and \$3,200 income that would wipe out the \$1,600 family grant on the ratio of a 50-cent loss for each dollar of income.

This plan involves two basics: To permit the family unit to remain intact and to permit the family to work its way up and hopefully out of the welfare category. The plan calls for either job training or public works employment for all breadwinners of such families who do not find private employment.

In the past fathers have left their families in many instances so they could receive welfare aid and perhaps in more instances husbands have been chased away from home — often on trumped up charges by wives who learned from neighborhood observation that in all too many instances a welfare check was far larger than her husband's take home pay.

The popular misconception that the vast majority of children in such families were illegitimate, deliberately brought into the world for the specific purpose of getting a larger welfare check has just enough truth in it to give the entire program a bad reputation.

Illegitimacy has grown rapidly in the past 10 years, but this is very largely due to the urbanization of huge masses of farm-oriented people, who had simple but effective methods of controlling the problem out on the farm that are far more complicated in an urban surrounding.

Obviously, when nearly five million people — including 3,526,000 children are involved

there are some of every kind. Nationally the majority are white, because the majority of the nation's population is white, but the ratio of colored children on relief is more than twice that of whites. Here again this is a reflection of the sudden agricultural revolution that displaced so many colored farm workers and threw them up on the hostile city shore.

President Nixon's plan as outlined so far would initially cost a great deal more than the present program is costing since it obviously would be available to many more people than the present program which all but bans poverty stricken families in which the father still lives.

Viewed as a fraction of the gross national product and in comparison with what the nation spends on other functions of government such as the space program, the Vietnam War, Foreign Aid and overall military spending the expanded cost of the Nixon program is not beyond the nation's reach either politically or economically.

Although the majority of the wage-earning and tax-paying citizens growl a great deal about the overall welfare burden, their complaint is a generalized one and that number who would summarily deny an aged person, a blind, a crippled or a needy child a very thin slice of this nation's abundance is very small. So small as to be politically inconsequential.

But even the most liberal-minded member of the body politic has every right to demand that a greater effort be made to eliminate the 100 per cent chiseler.

The welfare worker, however, is confronted not with theory but with people; and there are no two exactly alike in their needs or in their ability to help themselves.

Consider two families of four — mother, father and two children. Let them be exactly the same age, and in one instance both mother and father have the intelligence and character to find work, to hold a job and to use their money wisely.

The other family includes a mother and father of limited intelligence, no character and neither the inclination or the ability to either find a job or

Continued on page 8

THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 18

TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1969

VOLUME XVII

Record Opening Day for Kinston's Tobacco Market Has Record Thievery

Kinston has sold more pounds of tobacco and paid out more dollars on a given day on its tobacco market but it has never approached the \$73.64 per hundred pound average of Tuesday's opening day.

Sales Supervisor Eck Wall reports the market sold 1,543,877 pounds of tobacco to get the 1969 sales season off and paid farmers \$1,136,886 for that poundage to establish that record high average price.

But with this record along came another; not so happy.

Some grand thief stole a truck-trailer belonging to Ramon Mercer that was parked Tuesday night at the Austin-Carolina Tobacco Company plant in south Kinston and it was loaded with 25,000 pounds of that high priced nicotinish weed.

The tobacco was waiting to be processed in the plant for the Flue-Cured Tobacco Stabilization Corporation.

Police report the license number of the lost load of tobacco as 62-H, and it was on a red 1965 International rig and the tobacco was covered with a yellow canvas.

It ought not to be too hard to find, but at presstime it was still among the missing.

The stolen truck was found on Highway US 301 near Lucama shortly before Noon Wednesday but the \$17,000 worth of tobacco, like smoke had vanished in the air.

Kindergarten to Open in Maysville September 2nd

Sylvia Jenkins, operator of the Maysville Kindergarten, this week announced that regular classes would begin September 2nd.

The private school is held in Maysville Methodist Church and is open to students from Jones and joining counties.

Hours are 9 to Noon Monday through Friday.

Persons desiring more information may contact Miss Jenkins at Telephone 743-5161.

Glenn Daugherty at Lackland Air Base



Airman Glen P. Daugherty, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Columbus H. Heath of Route 1, Trenton, has completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex. He is remaining at Lackland for training as a security policeman. Airman Daugherty is a graduate of Jones Central High School.

Fletcher Barber is Named to County's Welfare Board

Farm Agent Fletcher Barber has been appointed a member of the Jones County Welfare Board.

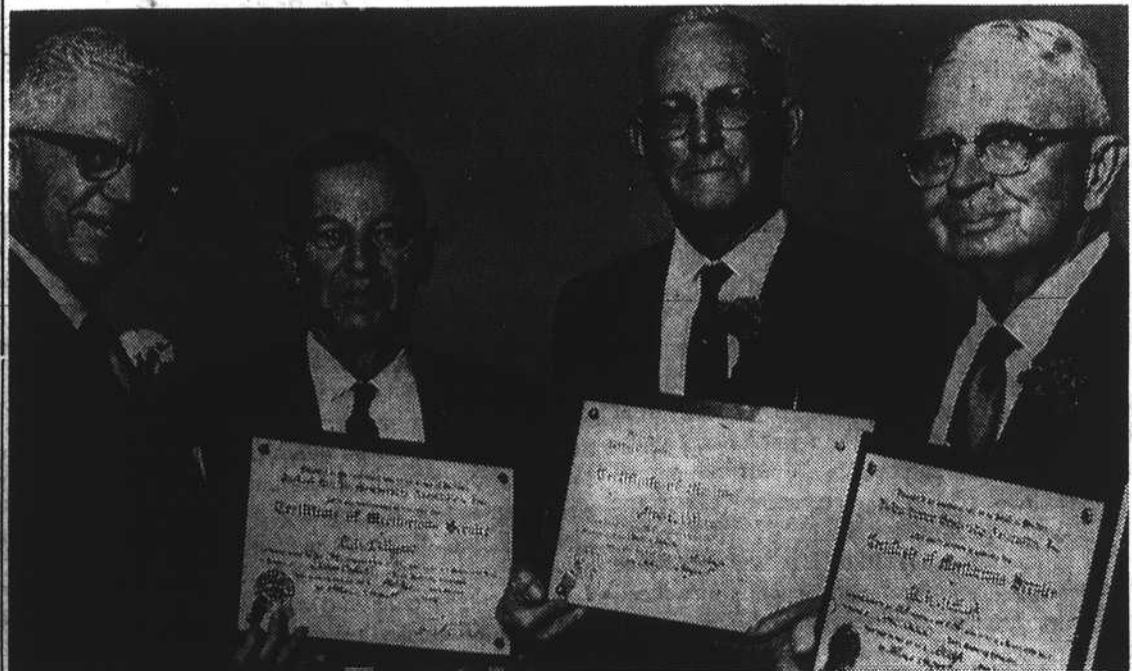
Barber is the state appointee to the board, and he will serve a three-year term.

One member of the board is appointed by the county commissioners and one by the state welfare board and those two then appoint the third member.

Barber has been a farm agent for many years in the county and it's felt that his presence on the board will be a big help in dealing with the problems of the colored clients of the department.

Barber succeeds Preston Banks.

Veteran REA Co-op Official Honored for Service



Noel Lee Jr., president of Tarheel Electric Membership Association (left), presents certificates for 30 years distinguished service in the rural electrification program to E. M. Philyaw of Comfort, Albert N. Venters of Route 1, Jacksonville and H. M. Mallard of Trenton. All three are directors of Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation of Jacksonville. The presentation was made at a meeting of TEMA in Raleigh August 12-14. Alvin C. Morton of Jacksonville is Jones-Onslow EMC's general manager.

ON DUTY IN FLORIDA

Navy Ensign Donald G. Powers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn W. Powers of 413 Dabney Drive, Henderson, and husband of Mrs. Elizabeth A. Powers of Route 1, Trenton, is serving with Training Squadron Three at the Naval Air Station at Whiting Field, Milton, Fla. He will serve as part of the team which trains approximately 800 flight students each year. Students are trained in precision, instrument, formation and night flying.

New River Grape Growers Assoc. Holding Meet 28th

The annual meeting of the New River Grape Growers Association which includes many Jones Countians is being held this year in the Rhodes Town Community building between Richlands and Jacksonville.

Members will be treated to a full blown fried fish supper and before the supper the annual Scuppernong Golf Tournament will be held at the Jacksonville Country Club.

Special tours of the area will be held during the day and before the supper.

All members of the association have been urged to make a special effort to attend this annual get-together.