

# AS DISRAELI SAID: 'THERE ARE LIARS, DAMNED LIARS AND STATISTICIANS'

by Jack Rider

One of the places to which those with a vested interest in exciting the natives frequently point with alarm is the average weekly wage of workers in manufacturing in North Carolina.

Every viewer-with-alarm from C&D Director Roy Sowers on down uses this sad little statistic to flog us Tar Heels into a greater frenzy in this endless effort to "industrialize" our countryside.

Some of the smart boys in the back room of Wachovia Bank put out a neat little pamphlet called "Wachovia Index" and the most recent issue of this includes more of the same.

North Carolina ranks a flat 50th in a field of 50 in this important economic category.

But does it? In the "Wachovia Index" North Carolina has the unhappy lot of following "Pore Mississippi"

in manufacturing wages at \$94.06 per week, while Mississippi edges ahead with an average weekly manufacturing wage of \$94.86.

It is duly recognized that these figures come from the United States Census Bureau, the Employment Security agencies of the several states and estimates made by Wachovian economists.

Then we turn the page and find that the per capita income of North Carolina for the same year it ranked 50th in manufacturing wages was \$2954 compared to Mississippi's \$2244.

In fact North Carolina ranked ahead of Alabama (\$2600), Kentucky (\$2896), South Carolina (\$2652), Tennessee (\$2837) and West Virginia (\$2614) in this comparison of the Southeastern States which is the principal business of "Wachovia Index."

And further the "Wachovia In-

dex" alleges and avers that in 1957 North Carolina accounted for 11.2 per cent of the total personal income in these Southeastern States, raised its per cent to 11.8 in 1968 in 1969 and still ranked flat last in the weekly pay of factory employed workers.

And during this same period from '57 to '69 North Carolina's per cent of the total population of these Southeastern States dropped from 12.5 per cent to 12.3 per cent.

Fewer people earning more but ranking last in weekly average pay?

This might make sense if it were true that North Carolina had fewer factory workers than these sister Southeastern States, but far from it, North Carolina has far more, and here's where the statistical rub really comes.

Having so many more factory

workers than its sister states, a North Carolina is also bound to have along with its highly paid factory workers a lot of less highly paid factory workers.

And additionally, the statisticians do not, because they cannot, divide factory workers into breadwinners and supplemental wage earners.

Some industry-hunting types have had a lot of harsh words to say about the fact that North Carolina has too many needle work factories, whose overall pay scale is not comparable to a Du Pont or a General Electric.

This is, of course, grist for the brave new feminist movement for it reflects the nationwide fact that women are not paid, even for the same jobs, as well as men. This is not fair, but it is true, and the same is true in the textile industry and in the tobacco industry because each of these has historically used a far higher per cent of women workers than most other factory industries. There are very few women working in steel mills or on the assembly lines of Detroit.

But the meat in this economic cocoon is the total take home pay of the working family, and in that category the only Southeastern States ranking ahead of North Carolina are those in which bloated federal payrolls cause an imbalance such as in Virginia and Maryland, and Georgia and Florida where

a number of factors work to push the per capita incomes higher than in North Carolina.

Maryland ranks at the top in per capita income of \$4176, Florida is next with \$3435, Virginia next with \$3419 and Georgia next with \$3102.

But here again we get into this part of the nation with a realm of indistinct assertions from one very happy reason: North Carolina has more farmers than any state in the union and fortunately nobody has yet figured out how to compute the per capita income of a farmer.

The farmer figures it this way: If he lives off the farm, buys a new truck, a new tractor, buys a high priced herd boar and builds a few new farrowing houses and winds up at the end of the year with \$300 more than he had in cash at the beginning of the year that he has made \$300.

The nitpickers who try to put into the farm computer each homegrown egg or turnip or ham or cucumber consumed by the farmer are sucking air from the opposite end of this statistical vacuum, or trying to.

Luther Hodges, a fellow who had, and some say still has, an eye for fine figures, confessed freely when he was governor that estimating farm income was both thankless and futile task so he devoted his considerable energies to more productive continued on page 4

## THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 1 TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1970 VOLUME XVII

### Three Democratic Nominees to be Chosen in Saturday's 2nd Primary

Jones County voters go to the polls again Saturday for the second time in four weeks to select Democratic nominees for three of the county's most important political positions: Sheriff, clerk of court and fifth seat on the county board of commissioners.

Veteran Sheriff Brown Yates faces the toughest test of his long career from a former deputy, Dan Killingsworth and very few Jones Countians are betting their house rent on which way this hard fought contest will end.

Incumbent Clerk of Court Rogers Pollock is facing his first test for this post, having been appointed in 1968 to fill out the unexpired term of Walter Henderson, who was elected on of the Fourth Judicial District's four district court judges.

Pollock has to get by Arthur Mallard who ran second in the three-way first primary competition which eliminated Harold Hargett Jr.

Pollock, a former member of the county board of education, is facing his most difficult political hurdle in this Saturday's voting and this, like the sheriff's race, could go either way.

The third race is between fifth place candidate Delmas Brown and sixth place candidate Nick Mallard for the county board of commissioners. In the

### Deborah Haddock Gets Award

Awards Day at Meredith College, held Monday, May 18, recognized outstanding achievement on the part of the students in many fields.

Miss Deborah Haddock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Haddock of Route 2, Trenton, was presented the National Guild of Piano Teachers award. She was one of six recipients.

### Still Destroyed

Officers of the Jones County Sheriff Department and ATU officers from New Bern destroyed a 380-gallon still about two miles west of Maysville Tuesday afternoon and captured two men, who had the still in operation. The still had sweated out 34 gallons of stump-hole before the officers arrived and caught Lonnie Blount Odum and John Floyd Pittman, both of the Belgrade section of Onslow County.

voting on May 2nd they wound up just a very few votes apart, making this another contest that is too risky to bet too heavily on.

Voting is expected to be lighter than in the first primary, which reduces the struggles to just about the level of which candidates can get their own supporters to go to the polls.

### Medicaid Gets 27 Additional Counties In Financial Trouble; Jones County Still Being Sued for Not Funding It

The rising number of public assistance recipients and increased medical costs under Medicaid have caused a financial crisis in 27 of North Carolina's 100 county departments of social services.

The State Department of Welfare, based on estimates of expenditures from now through June 30, announced today in Raleigh that 28 county welfare departments will probably deplete their appropriated funds before the fiscal year ends.

A few counties have already notified the State Department of Social Services that they have insufficient funds to pay for their current social services expenditures and have no other county funds available for this purpose for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Clifton M. Craig, Commissioner of Welfare, announced in Raleigh that if the counties are unable to supply their share of the non-Federal funds required, the State will have insufficient funds to pay the medical costs of patients who are already receiving medical services in these counties.

The medical services payment to be made around June 10 will be mostly for services rendered these patients in April by nursing homes, physicians, dentists, pharmacies and other medical providers.

Under the present Welfare system in this State, the Federal government pays the largest share of the costs. The

State and counties' share the remainder. State law requires that counties supply their share of the funds.

A court case is still pending against Jones County which refused to appropriate its budgetary share for this fiscal year.

The other 27 counties who are in financial difficulties at present appropriated their estimated share, but the rising number of public assistance recipients and medical costs could not be anticipated.

This is the second time this year that the rising number of recipients has created a financial crisis. Recipients in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program had to take a cut in payments in January due to insufficient funds. The State and the counties were able to secure additional funds and the cuts were restored in the February checks.

### Four Jones Arrests

In the past week the office of Sheriff Brown Yates reports booking the following at the county jail: Jimmy Moore of Dover route 1 for larceny, Charles Bender of Pollockville for assault, Godfrey Wider of Trenton route 1 for public drunkenness and Milton Cannon of Kinston route 6 for assault with a deadly weapon.

### Jones High School Graduates Getting Over \$65,000 in Financial Assistance

The Jones High School Guidance Counselor reports the graduating class of 1970 has been awarded more than \$65,000 in financial assistance for continuing education at the various colleges and universities in Carolina.

Seniors receiving this award are:

Robert DeVaughn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeVaughn, Maysville — Presidential Scholarship Award from North Carolina A & T State University.

Kay Eubanks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Eubanks, Trenton, Route 2 — Prospective Teachers Scholarship. Miss Eubanks plans to attend Lenoir Community College.

Dasretta Gadson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gadson, Maysville — Bennett College Scholarship, Educational Opportunity Grant and PACE Program.

Jo Ann Greene, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jobbie Greene, Trenton, Route 1 — Shaw University Scholarship.

Deborah Jenkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Jenkins, Trenton, Route 1 — North Carolina State University Educational Opportunity Grant and College Work Study Program; East Carolina University Scholarship; Meredith College Scholarship, College Foundation and PACE Program.

Catherine Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jones, Maysville, Star Route — Winston-Salem State University National Defense Student Loan, Work Study Program, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Scholarship.

Marlene Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Jones, Trenton, Route 1 — William Harriett Scholarship. This Scholarship is given by Mrs. Harriett in memory of her husband who was a former superintendent. Miss Jones plans to attend Lenoir Community College.

James Maides, son of Mrs. James F. Maides, Maysville, Star Route — University of North

Carolina — Wilmington Scholarship and Mitty A. Courie Scholarship. This Scholarship is given by the Nick F. Courie family of Kinston in memory of their son.

Nellie M. Roberson, daughter of Mrs. Nellie Roberson, Trenton — North Carolina State University National Defense Student Loan.

Eugene Roper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roper, Pollockville — North Carolina State University National Defense Student Loan.

Gregory Strayhorn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Strayhorn, city of North Carolina - Chapel Hill National Defense Student Loan, PACE Program and University Program.

Betty Jean Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Taylor, Trenton, Route 1 — Lenoir Community College PACE Program.

Thomas Waller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Waller, Pollockville, Route 1 — North Carolina State University National Defense Student Loan.

Michael Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Thompson, Maysville — University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, University Scholarship.

Franklin Wooten, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Wooten, Maysville — Wake Forest University College Scholarship, Educational Opportunity Grant, PACE Program, National Defense Student Loan.

### Open House

Sunday the Craven County Mental Health Association is holding an open house Wednesday, June 3, from Noon until 2 for the new Neuse Clinic, which is located next to Craven County Hospital and which will serve Pamlico, Craven and Jones Counties.