

DISTRIBUTION OF LOCAL OPTION ONE-CENT SALES TAX MADE AS OTHER COUNTIES ENVY

by Jack Rider

The State Commissioner of Revenue has made the second quarterly distribution of the local option one-cent sales tax that was approved in 25 of the state's 100 counties in referendums that were held last year.

The dividing up of this new source of operating revenue for hard-pressed city and county governments is causing a majority of those counties that voted "no" last year to now be either on the verge of calling for a vote on the matter or seriously considering such a step.

Under this the additional one-cent sales tax collected in those counties which approve it is distributed in two ways: The first half goes back to the county in which it was collected and

is divided between the county and each of its corporate communities on the basis of their relative listed tax valuations. The other half goes into a 25-county pool and is then allocated to those 25 counties on the basis of their respective populations, and the division between each county and its cooperative communities is made on a per capita basis.

The most recent distribution of this fund covered the quarter July, August, and September. The tabulation with this article shows allocations to counties and towns in this immediate area.

The total distribution for all 25 counties was \$4,142,039.96.

Small counties in which there are no major shopping centers get back considerably more than

is actually collected inside the county since it is conceded under this formula that they shop in neighboring larger communities which in turn send back some of their sales tax payment to those smaller counties.

Greene County, for instance, during this quarter in its own retail stores collected \$20,322.99, yet the county and its three corporate communities got back \$33,409.42.

Jones County retail outlets collected \$12,699.39 and Jones County and its three corporate communities got back \$22,462.64.

Larger Lenoir County with major shopping centers collected \$240,613.26 and the county and its four corporate communities got back \$230,188.28; slightly over \$10,000 less than was collect-

ed but this went to such counties as Jones and Greene.

Grifton is largely in Pitt County, which is one of the counties that voted against the new tax last year, but a small section of Grifton is on the South side of Contentnea Creek and it got the small (\$484.76) slice represented by its population and tax listed valuation.

Pitt County, which just this month approved a \$9 million bond issue to build a new hospital is one of the counties that will shortly vote again on the additional one-cent sales tax and now it is considered almost certain that the tax will be approved.

Larger Wayne County collected \$291,008.26 and the county and its six corporate communities got back \$308,210.61, since its population in relation to its retail sales was greater than Lenoir County's.

Wake County, another that vetoed the new tax last year, is cranking up for another vote on the matter as it faces a huge school bond issue.

The Raleigh News and Observer is the principal opponent of the sales tax in North Carolina, making the typically socialist argument that an ad valorem tax on real estate and personal property is preferable.

This short-sighted editorial attitude overlooks the unavoidable fact that every tax of every kind is a consumer tax. It also avoids the confession that the best way to make people conscious of the cost of government is to keep tax on top of the table, where it will serve as a constant reminder to all—rich or poor—that they get nothing free from government.

Paying a higher rent to a landlord whose ad valorem tax has been increased makes the tenant mad with the landlord when the basic cause of his higher rent is higher spending by govern-

ment. The indirect tax is the opiate of socialism. The direct tax is the best antidote to expanding government ever conceived.

Distribution of One-Cent Sales Tax in This Area

Unit	Received
Greene County	20,732.99
Hookerton	702.91
Snow Hill	2,329.06
Walstonburg	313.06
Jones County	19,406.68
Maysville	1,447.23
Pollocksville	710.76
Trenton	837.97
Lenoir County	168,027.50
Kinston	55,471.06
LaGrange	5,062.58
Pink Hill	1,142.38
Grifton*	484.76

October Sales Tax

Local 1% sales and use tax collections by counties for the month of October, 1970.

County	Net Collections
Buncombe	\$224,498.75
Camden	1,689.02
Chowan	12,323.58
Clay	3,055.89
Cumberland	228,392.79
Currituck	4,130.85
Duplin	30,548.89
Durham	230,362.68
Greene	6,161.55
Hertford	27,612.72
Jackson	17,550.50
Jones	3,494.71
Lenoir	80,451.67
Macon	24,008.62
Madison	7,840.06
Mecklenburg	621,927.31
New Hanover	160,288.61
Onslow	77,985.79
Pamlico	4,869.09
Pasquotank	40,906.01
Perquimans	6,343.22
Swain	9,406.18
Richmond	50,170.34
Tyrrell	2,766.34
Watauga	38,326.15
Wayne	101,882.72
Total	\$2,016,994.04

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William Drake Convicted Again, Files Appeal Again in Wife Murder in '68

Last Thursday for the second time a jury found William Drake formerly of Kinston route 1, guilty of second degree murder in the Halloween night 1968 pistol slaying of his wife Patricia Huggins Drake.

For the second time the presiding judge gave Drake the maximum 30-year prison term for the second time he appealed to a higher court.

In September 1969, Judge Joe Parker handed down the maximum sentence but an appellate court ruled that Parker had made an improper statement in the charge to the jury and ordered that Drake be given a new trial.

Drake through his lawyer filed notice of appeal and Judge William Copeland set his appeal bond at \$50,000.

Shortly after the bond was set at \$50,000 it was signed by S. A. Wilson and his wife, Myrtle Wilson of New Bern Route 2, an uncle and aunt of the defendant.

At the time of the killing in

1968 Drake told investigating officers that a colored man came into their trailer home, shot his wife to death and inflicted a minor wound on him before leaving.

Drake did not take the witness stand in either trial, and ballistics experts said a .38 caliber pistol owned by Drake "could" have been the weapon with which Mrs. Drake was killed.

Other damaging evidence against Drake included his purchase of several insurance policies on his wife shortly before the murder took place.

Hunting Charges

In the past week Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports the arrest of Brack Dudley and J. C. Taylor who are charged with two hunting violations: killing a doe deer and killing an antlerless buck deer, and possession of same.

SMITH BACK IN STATES

Navy Petty Office Second Class William H. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Smith Jr. of Maysville has returned to Patuxent River, Md., with Patrol Squadron 49 after three months at Keflavik, Iceland. Smith, is a 1967 graduate of Jones Central High School.

Friday Conference May Decide Issue Of Regional Crime Lab for Kinston

A conference is to be held in Raleigh Friday in which is hoped that the issue of a crime lab to be located in Kinston to serve the nine counties of the Neuse Regional Planning and

Development Council can be settled.

A found of \$100,388 has been earmarked for this laboratory, but strong opposition by Attorney General Bob Morgan and SBI Director Charles Dunn have caused the expenditure of this fund to be held up.

The position of Morgan and Dunn is that such a lab would duplicate facilities and functions of the SBI central office in Raleigh.

Officials in the nine-county council argue that six to seven weeks is needed to get reports out of the SBI laboratory on matters pertaining to narcotics and other chemical analyses.

Morgan and Dunn are hoping that the 1961 general assembly will provide funds to expand the SBI lab in Raleigh and that opening a crime lab in Kinston or any where else around the state would lessen their chance of getting what they want out of the general assembly.

On both sides the issue has grown rather warm, with petty jealousies in some instances muddying waters on the basic issue which is increased speed and efficiency of all phases of law enforcement.

It is argued that North Carolina should be the earliest possible date.

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Male Teacher Charged With Beating Girl Student at Woodington School

Monday a warrant was issued against James Good, science teacher at Woodington School, charging him with beating a 14 year-old girl with a stick on Tuesday of last week.

Six witnesses have been listed to testify in the action against Good, who is teaching for the first time this year in the Lenoir County School system.

The events leading to the indictment are listed as a whistling incident that took place in the classroom during the showing of a movie last Tuesday morning, November 10th.

When the lights were cut on Good called the young woman and accused her of being the person who had whistled during the period when the room was in darkness for the moving picture.

Then after all the students except the 14 year-old girl had

filed out of the room she reported to her parents that he had snatched her books out of her hands and had severely beaten her about the legs with a stick.

Several members of the class reportedly peeped in and watched the beating take place and heard the girl's screams.

The school nurse is also called to testify in the trial since she had seen the bruises inflicted in the beating, and an officer of the sheriff's department was called to the school shortly after the beating took place.

Later in the week the parents of the girl met with School Superintendent Henry Bullock, Woodington Principal Stephen Carraway and Assistant Principal Amos Taylor.

The parents said they were asked by these school officials

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Lightning Rod Salesman Having Hard Time Collecting from Jones Countians

During the past week seven suits seeking to collect past due accounts have been filed in the office of Jones County Court Clerk Rogers Pollock and four of the seven were filed by the same outfit which was seeking to collect for lightning rods recently installed on Jones County homes.

The actions were brought by Frances Atkinson, trading as the Chase Investment Company of

Mount Olive.

The company alleges unpaid balances for lightning rods in the amount of \$165 against Minnie and Simon Jones, \$169 against Warren and Viola Frank, \$140 against "A. Smith and wife" and \$174 against John Lee Brown and wife. All defendants are listed as living in Pollocksville Township.

Other actions included a suit to recover \$187.57 from Walter and Helen Moore filed by L. Harvey and Son Company;

A suit for \$377.03 filed against Willie L. Jones by the American Mutual Liability Insurance Company, and

A suit for \$84.75 for a freight bill allegedly owed by C. A. Battle and Sons of Comfort to Transport Clearings of the Carolinas, Inc.

Routine Session of District Court

Last Friday's session of Jones County District Court was routine with nine cases disposed of, most involving traffic violations.

Clifton J. Miller was fined \$50 for reckless driving, Daniel M. Rand was fined \$10 for speeding, Arsie W. Willie was fined \$100 for drunken driving, Michael Griffin was fined \$25 for speeding 80 miles an hour, Lee Mitchell was fined \$100 for drunken driving.

Also Lem Kornegay was charged with drunken driving (of a bicycle) was permitted to plead guilty to plain public drunkenness for which he was ordered to pay the costs.

Theodore W. Hicks was fined \$10 and costs for hunting without license and a worthless check charge against J. E. Altman was noll prossed.

Six Jones Arrests

Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports six arrests in the past week, including Jerome McLease of New Bern, who was charged with stealing an automobile, Leonidas Willie of Pollocksville picked up on a capias, Ruth Haddock of Trenton charged with public drunkenness, Charlie Hill of Trenton charged with disorderly conduct, John Edward Bickens of New Bern and William Allen Braddy of Richlands both charged with drunken driving.