

PERSPECTIVE

Guest Editorial

Building a stable, growing economy is the challenge to state government

One of the most compelling challenges to state government over the next several years will be to build a stable and growing economy, while at the same time protecting the natural beauty and the good communities that make North Carolina one of the most attractive places to live in all America.

North Carolina has made tremendous economic progress over the past few years. But the next 10 to 20 years will bring special challenges:

•Nearly 90 percent of all new jobs will be found outside manufacturing and agriculture. Many of those jobs will be in small businesses.

•Advances in technology and new industries will displace many people from the only jobs they ever knew and require new skills.

•Competition for jobs will be fierce, and our people must learn the basic skills that will enable them to compete.

•The boom in construction will put unprecedented pressures on our ability to manage growth — to provide clean water and protect against ugly urban sprawl and billboard boulevards.

We have developed a comprehensive strategy for economic growth in North Carolina. And now is the time for us to join together — business, education, state, local and federal governments — to set North Carolina on a course that will mean long-term economic growth in the 1980s, the 1990s and the 21st century.

The strategy builds on investments in five critical areas: education, technology, skill training, environmental protection and the

public infrastructure.

The Commission on Education for Economic Growth, which I chair, will be calling for fundamental reforms in North Carolina's public schools — including tougher curriculum, more rigor in the basic skills, holding back students who have not made enough progress and making each a more attractive career.

These changes are vital if North Carolina's schools are going to be able to prepare our young people for a modern economy.

Technology is changing our economy, and North Carolina needs to help industry take advantage of technological advances — especially smaller companies.

A skilled work force is needed to support those companies, and the state must help train both new workers and older workers who have been displaced from their jobs.

Environmental protection has special importance. I will be asking this General Assembly to make some important investments in a clean water program that will protect our water against harmful toxic discharges.

Finally, we must continue to invest in the infrastructure of our communities — good roads, bridges and airports.

All of these investments are part of North Carolina's strategy for economic growth and preservation of good communities.

We are not going to solve all our problems today. But we can make a start — a start that will mean a better life for our children and grandchildren, for generations of North Carolinians.

1866 sale inventory offers a depiction of early household life

Although thousands of property inventories are on record in Perquimans County, a room-by-room list of household furnishings is extremely rare. One such rarity is Joseph M. Cox's sale inventory of 1866, which permits some depiction of household life.

friends might enjoy (or endure) a performance on the parlor piano. It is to be hoped the music was not interrupted by "zings" as those inclined to "chaw" aimed at one of the four spittoons.

A more intimate, family atmosphere characterized the setting room. It had a lounge and seven chairs. There were two tables, one of which held a Bible. Other books stood in a bookcase, a reminder that Cox was one of Perquimans' staunchest supporters of education.

Two maps adorned the setting room, which also had a clock. The timepiece probably stood on the mantel shelf, and with the fireplace below were a screen, a fender, some tongs and some andirons.

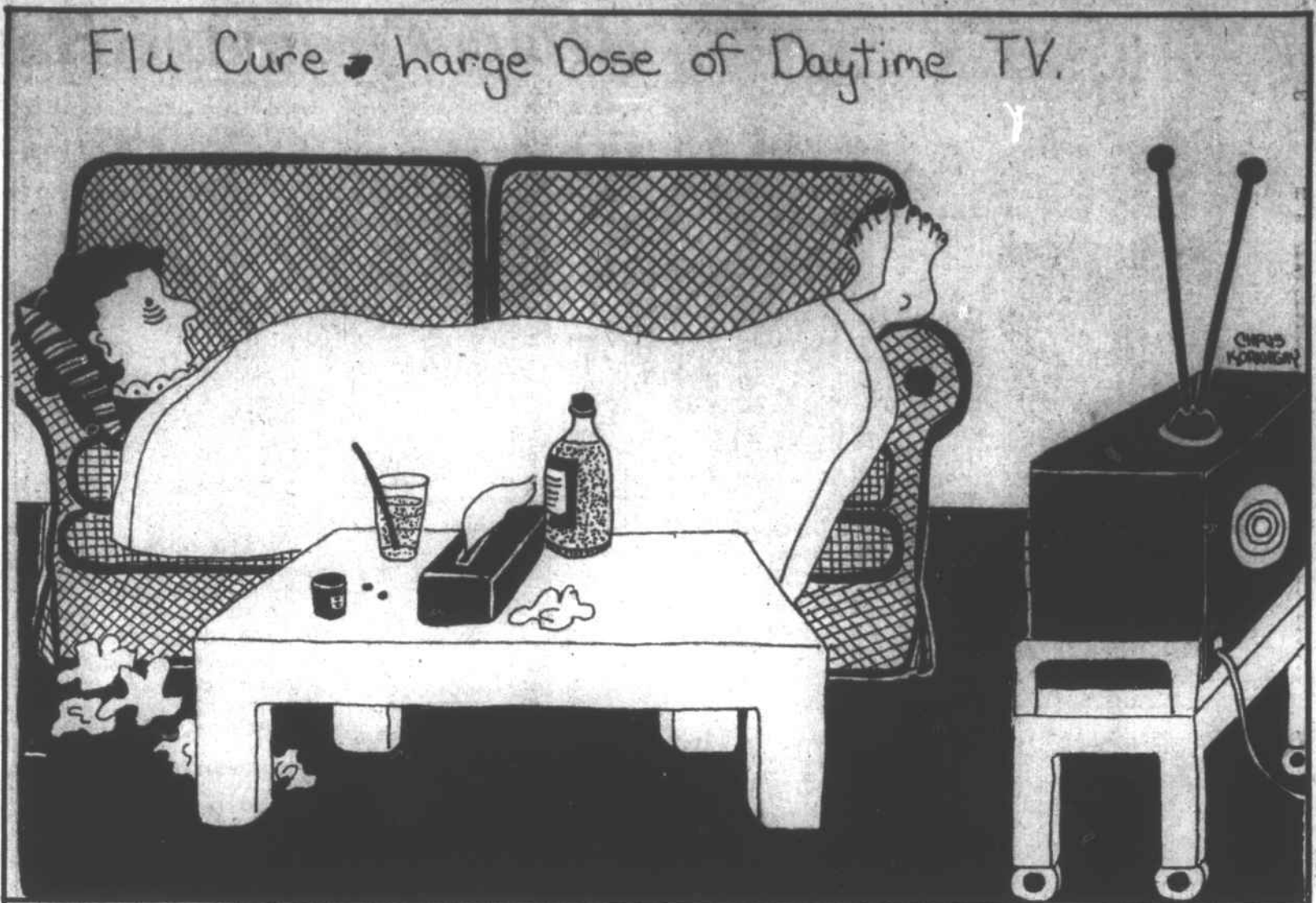
The dining room held two tables, six chairs and a lounge. The looking glass may have multiplied brilliantly the lamp's light during formal nocturnal dinners.

Dining accessories were kept in the dining room sideboard and in the pantry. A tea and dinner set; a set of knives and forks; a lot of demijohns and jugs (water, milk, or fruit juice, surely, in a temperance home); some glassware; a chafing dish; and some tin ware sat in the pantry.

Four bedrooms were needed to accommodate Cox's family, the orphans he gave a home and his numerous visitors. (On election night in 1858 Cox won a seat in the legislature and was carried home on the shoulders of local Whigs. The crowd consumed eight hams, and eighteen men stayed the night in one room.)

Bedroom furnishings generally included a bedstead with its bed (mattress) and coverings; a bureau; a washstand, bowl and pitcher; and a chair or two.

With the addition of several carpets and sets of curtains, Cox's home must have been quite pleasant.



Overcoming ignorance through education is the cure for racism in the U.S. today

As a general rule, I don't include opinions other than my own in this column. The following comments by Enfield minister, Rev. William H. Clark, are worth repeating.

Point of View
by:
BILL NIXON

His comments offer an excellent message to each of us, though they were directed to young blacks celebrating Black History Month in the schools of Halifax County.

Thirty years have passed since the Supreme Court outlawed segregation of the races in public schools and public facilities. Since that time many, many, changes have taken place in all phases of our lives.

Since that landmark decision by our Supreme Court in 1954, we have come to know that being black is not so much a matter of skin color as it is a state of mind — an attitude about the moral and spiritual value of persons, their heritage and the confidence of our future as a race — and most certainly — the confidence

of America in all of her people being educated and productive citizens.

As we celebrate Negro history and our accomplished heroes, let each of you be aware that every one of these women and men were people of character, good attitudes, high moral integrity and a desire for education in her or his chosen field.

Our schools are equipped with dedicated and hardworking people whose goals are to assist you in maximizing your potentials for good.

Each of you should do everything within your power to help these teachers to help you get a sound education.

The greatest evil in our country today is not racism but ignorance; therefore, this is a great challenge to you — do away with ignorance and racism will vanish from the face of the earth.

Let me talk about the classrooms at your schools. Each of yours has a realm — a sphere of influence. Each of you is responsible for what happens or may happen to you in that realm. Your realm — or space — is made up of your relationships, character, responsibilities and the world of nature in which you control.

In your individual realm God has given you potential, unlimited

potentials for good. It is time for each of you — if you have not started — to take some of the emphasis off race and color and start putting more emphasis on persons, character morals, integrity, attitudes, spiritual values and work ethics.

Education at its best make a people or a nation at its best.

You will have an important part to play in your realm which will be a part of the "world of works." Your education should and will prepare you for that world or works; however, you must claim your potential to do that.

Get serious about your educational goals, develop good attitudes, eliminate the nonsense and get down to serious business, and God will bless you and do great wonders in your lives.

In summary, I would like to leave this thought with you: "The height of greatness in any person or race is not measured by color of the skin, but in the content of his or her personal, moral and spiritual character."

Create an atmosphere of love. Get rid of the loud boisterous music that is blowing your brain out and diminishing your capacity to think properly, develop good attitudes toward yourselves and others

regardless of any situation, cut out the foul play and foul language, read enlightening books and materials that will build an intelligent thought pattern, read your Bible daily and take time to pray and meditate on God's Word, develop an interest in giving instead of waiting for someone to give you something, dare to cheat, steal or life, use your own potential to get ahead.

Finally, I congratulate those of you who are using your potentials to succeed in every realm of your lives. I invite you to form a coalition of your peers, parents and other interested groups of people in an effort to combat every negative force in our schools that hinders the process of education.

If this is done along with those positive things I have mentioned, then you will be able to say with conviction — "Free at last! Free at last! Great God Almighty, I am free at last!"

Our Editor was a little "under the weather" this week, so a "Chat With Jane" will return next week.

Letters to the Editor

Stewart Endorsed by State School Superintendent

Editor,
THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
Public School Law 115-c-21 (a) (2) says that it shall be the duty of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction "to keep the public informed as to the problems and needs of the public schools...by information furnished to the press of the state."

In response to that mandate I have chosen this month to break normal political tradition by directly

Thanks Students

Editor,
THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY
It seems we always have time to criticize our young people when they do wrong. But, we often fail to praise them when they do good.

I want to express my thanks to the students of Camden, Pasquotank and Perquimans who participated in the Junior Achievement Program for the outstanding job they accomplished.

Each participant had a part in organization, production, sales and then liquidation of a company that had good management techniques so it would be a profitable business. This was an introduction for them to our free enterprise system.

Let us say "Thank You" students, you are on your way to being our "Leaders of Tomorrow."

Penny Lane
Camden, N.C.

endorsing a candidate for Lt. Governor in the Democratic primary in May and the general election in November.

I have done this because the Lt. Governor holds such a key role in providing State leadership for public education through the Presidency of the Senate and key membership on the North Carolina State Board of Education.

I have strongly endorsed Carl Stewart for the Democratic nomination and election as Lt. Governor for North Carolina.

I have considered carefully all of the factors in making this endorsement; my duties as State Superintendent, the traditions of the political arena, the conditions of

stress and difficulty under which public elementary/secondary education has struggled and lost much support over the last four years.

Carl Stewart has a strong record of advocacy and action in education as a long-time member of the North Carolina House of Representatives and especially as Speaker of the House at a time of great progress in North Carolina.

We need, again, the kind of positive, caring, aggressive leadership of the type given in the early 70's by Carl Stewart, Ralph Scott and many others in days of real growth in education in North Carolina.

Carl has the wisdom, the

experience, the training and the true sense of what good government really is and what it can truly mean to education and to all of us. He needs to bring those talents and that commitment to the Presidency of the Senate and to the work of the State Board of Education.

The decision as to who shall be the next Lt. Governor is, I believe, the most important decision before the voters of North Carolina.

A. Craig Phillips
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Letters

The PERQUIMANS WEEKLY welcomes the opinion of its readers. We print letters to the editor on subjects of local, state, national and international interest.

Letters should be limited to 300-350 words and should include the name, address and telephone number of the writer. Only the name and address will be published with the letter.

The subject matter should be of interest to the community, not a personal gripe. Letters may be edited by our news staff for clarity and space limitations.

Mail letters to: The Perquimans Weekly, P.O. Box 277, Hertford, N.C. 27944, or drop them off at our offices at Courthouse Square.

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