



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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No Tolls For Blue Ridge Parkway

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE plans to charge tolls on Dixie's scenic Blue Ridge Parkway are impracticable.

North Carolinians should continue to make every effort to persuade the federal government to abandon its highly questionable scheme.

It is perfectly true that automobile, house trailer and motorcycle fees are now being charged at 15 of America's national parks and national monuments. Some have been in effect as far back as 1908. And admission and guide fees are in effect in about 40 other National Park Service areas.

But the Blue Ridge Parkway is primarily a scenic public highway.

It was built with public money. It was not built as a toll road.

Why should Tar Heels pay tolls on land their taxes purchased?

To impose a tax on the use of the road now would undoubtedly be a burden on the thousands of people who flock to North Carolina and Virginia for mountain sightseeing.

It must be remembered that tourism is one of North Carolina's biggest industries. It is absolutely essential to the state's economy.

Collection of the tolls will be constant source of exasperation to people who are willing to fork over fees set no lower than \$1 (tickets good for 15 days). The Blue Ridge Parkway runs from the Shenandoah Park in Virginia to the Great Smoky National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee. About 326 of its planned 485 miles are completed. Furthermore, the parkway is met by 25 U.S. highways and about 100 state roads and has over 600 entrances of one kind or another.

The National Park Service has planned only 20 collecting stations and the addition of only 30 new employees for the collecting operation. With this force, how can it expect to collect tolls without re-

peatedly interrupting the flow of traffic and driving motorists to distraction by frequent stops for ticket checks? Clearly, it will be a nuisance.

But there is still another side to the matter. This parkway is not entirely the creation of the federal government. In 1939, for instance, the hardpressed North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$450,000 for rights-of-way despite sharp cutbacks on other outlays for the 1939-41 biennium.

In dealing with landowners from whom rights-of-way were purchased, officials contended that the parkway would not be a toll road and would be open to all—rich and poor alike.

The recent National Park Service concession included free rides to North Carolina travelers to the Mt. Mitchell State Park and property owners who must travel the parkway to and from their property—hardly make up for the embarrassment caused the state or the bill of goods sold property owners who let their land go for what they thought was a "free" road.

Admittedly, it costs money to operate national parks for the people of the United States. But the National Park Service has no right to attempt to bail itself out of its financial troubles at the expense of a couple of accommodating southern states.

Parkway tolls are supposed to go for operating expenses of course. But there is no assurance that they will return at all. Fees collected by the National Park Service are funneled into the U.S. Treasury "where they become available for re-appropriation."

As for completion of the parkway, we believe that the state and nation have far more pressing needs right now anyway. More than 300 miles of scenic roads are open and these should be enough for collecting operation. With this force, how can it expect to collect tolls without re-



Here's Where It Goes — III

Cutting The State Tax Pie

By JULIAN SCHER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

YOU HAVE seen that your income tax dollar goes to a general fund and, of this general fund, most of your dollars are earmarked for education.

This general fund also supports health and welfare, mental institutions and penal operations.

In the overall state revenue picture, taking all sources and putting them into pots, we get to see your tax dollar goes to health and welfare, four cents to mental institutions and three cents to penal operations.

CUTTING THE PIE
The proposed general fund appropriation for 1955-57 is \$422,912,132. Of this, 7.32 per cent goes to welfare (\$31,322,366) activities and health (\$16,663,656) activities.

Here's how your money is spent on health.

Most of it (about 48 per cent) goes to tubercular sanatoria, which get more than \$8 million. The State Board of Health gets more than \$4 million or 29 per cent. The rest of the institutions supported are Memorial Hospital at Chapel Hill (\$1,600,000), Memorial Hospital's Psychiatric Center (\$700,000), orthopedic hospital at Gastonia (\$700,000), the convalescent hospital at Durham (\$300,000), the Alcohol Rehabilitation Fund (\$350,000), the Medical Care Commission (\$255,000) and Orthopedic Clinic (\$120,000).

MAJOR CRISIS
According to the budget report, the biggest crisis facing the State Board of Health is a reduction in federal aid (not included in these figures) given in the past.

The \$15 million used in welfare work will find \$5 million going to old age assistance, \$3,700,000 to aid to dependent children, \$1,400,000 State Blind Commission, \$1,300,000 aid to the permanently or totally disabled, \$800,000 to indigent care, \$600,000 to aid county welfare administration with the remaining money used by the Dept. of Public Welfare. Veterans Commission, aid to orphanages, hospitalization of medically indigent, care of dependent children and others.

Our mental institutions get four cents out of every dollar of taxes paid in North Carolina and 5.97 per cent of the general fund which your personal taxes support.

There are four state mental hospitals — at Raleigh, Morganton,

Goldboro and Builer — and the Caswell Training School in Kinston.

It is not necessary to study how much each of the five institutions get individually. The amount ranges from more than \$3 million to more than \$6 million for one to another.

The important thing is how the money will be spent by those institutions. The recommended appropriations show, therefore, a breakdown this way.

Most of it goes for professional care and treatment, a figure of nearly \$10 million or 31 per cent. Custodial care calls for more than \$8 million or 32 per cent. Money in down the scale, good hunk come out for agricultural, operation and maintenance of plants, administration, training schools, youth centers, etc.

Our penal institutions cost too.

The cents out of the dollar is used to operate them, or a to-

tal of 48 per cent of the general fund.

This picture is a bit confusing for the money used in the operation of the penal system also comes from another source.

The Highway Fund supports the prison department, Probation Commission and Parole Commission, costing about \$17 million for the biennium. About \$16 million of this comes from the sale of bonds on the roads and from agricultural and industrial operations.

More than \$2 million is used to support Stowaway Jackson Training School, Morris Training School, State Home and Industrial School for the Eastern Carolina Training School, State Training School for Girls.

The new money being used in spending \$19,230,952 on penal operations, which includes the \$17 million from highway funds.

Next: Other agencies receiving help.

People's Platform

Give Workers Decent Minimum Wage Law

Editors, The News, Cheraw, S. C.

I WOULD like to call your attention to the unfair Wage and Hours Law we have at present.

I have never thought it fair to some of our industries, such as textiles, to pay their employees a decent wage for an honest day's work here in the South, and other work here, such as hardwood lumber plants, saw milling and what have you. It is allowed to excuse paying their employees a decent wage. Yet we have these employees who work for an honest day's work and are allowed to excuse paying their employees a decent wage. Yet we have these employees who work for an honest day's work and are allowed to excuse paying their employees a decent wage.

I know of some families here in our county and state who have six, seven and eight in family who only get 75 cents per hour to work the week only about half the time. Yet the employers can build fine houses, have two and three nice cars to ride in anytime they wish. Their employees can't pay their honest debt to the doctor, drug store or their groceryman.

Meanwhile in heavily armed Nicaragua, President Somoza, the dictator general of the U.S. Marines built up three decades ago, had developed a virilistic hatred for President Jose Figueres, the Massachusetts Tech graduate who gov-

erns one of the few nations with no army and a true democracy.

Figueres, a liberal who has tried to improve living standards without immediately to stop the war. So it will be an extremely important test of American efforts to keep the peace.

Roosevelt's Uranium Co.
Roosevelt John Roosevelt, son of the late President, apparently doesn't want his name too closely connected with a uranium stock deal. He has changed his address on the stock registration. Nevertheless he is head of a uranium company which is offering stock to the public under conditions that certainly wouldn't please his father, who cleaned up the stock market.

It happens that the Central Uranium & Milling Co. of Russell Gulch, Colo., which John Roosevelt owns, has asked the public for 90 per cent of the stock but issued the public less than 30 per cent of the stock.

In short, the public put up practically all the money, but only 60,000 shares out of a total of 2,100,000.

Help For Crowded Schools — But Not From Mrs. Hobby

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON
When Oveta Culp Hobby took office as secretary of health, education and welfare two years ago, a survey of U. S. educational needs which Congress had ordered made was on her desk. It showed that an appalling shortage of classrooms and teachers existed and would continue to exist unless immediate steps were taken.

Today the survey has been brought up to date. It shows that despite all effort by most states, the shortage of classrooms is even bigger than it was. In the face of this, more than a million children entered school for the first time last year and the census figures show that this enormous influx will continue for at least six more years.

Secretary Hobby's solution so far consists of plans to call a White House conference in 1955 to discuss the problem. The facts which will be put before it could be obtained with one telephone call; they are so well-known to educational authorities.

HIGH BIRTH RATE
The cause of the swollen school enrollment of course is the increased birth rate which came with the war and cold war. The American children who are being born are the children of the men and women that President Eisenhower and Mrs. Hobby herself, as head of the Women's Army Corps, commanded in World War II.

In his State of the Union message the President indicated that his heart and conscience had been torn by the situation. He said that the "unprecedented shortage" of schools required "positive, affirmative action now, and promised to submit a program Feb. 15 next.

This is a change of mood at the White House. But the various commissions and committees so far appointed to make recommendations appear on their records to be opposed to anything resembling a case against the federal funds.

SEN. LISTER HILL of Alabama is chairman of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee which will conduct hearings on the bill. Joining with him in sponsoring it are most of the northern Democrats, the Democratic whip, Sen. Clement, and seven other southern Democrats. North Dakota has furnished both Republican sponsors, Sen. Frank Langer and Young.

Interested senators have frankly up expecting help in health, education and welfare from Mrs. Hobby. They find her bright and charming personally, but a states rights budget-balancer politically.

They are puzzled on two counts. They had planned with masculine fortitude to restrain her womanly emotion as defenders of the rights of women and children, the sick and the aged. They had expected to suggest, to the limits of her Cabinet authority, that they have to so many male members of President's Cabinet. This has not proved necessary.

Whether he does or not, they will fight for their bill. They propose to bring home to the American people the fact that American educational standards are going steadily down just at the time when the federal government states and localities would remain in full control of all aspects directly affecting the education of the children.

The group is anxiously awaiting the Eisenhower program. They hope he sees fully as great an emergency in the schools as in the highways for which he is soon to recommend a 15-year, \$2-billion-dollar program.

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Men, Get Out The Knives And String

LAST JULY the State Budget Advisory Committee visited Charlotte. It had been asked to budget \$86,950 for a college-technical institute here. The committee was impressed by the spirit of local backers of the project, whose attitude was summed up by W. A. Kennedy, chairman of a Chamber of Commerce subcommittee on college improvement. Speaking of the proposed college-institute he said:

"We're going to start it, if we don't have anything but a pocketknife and a ball of string."

The committee heard of the need for more technical training in this rapidly growing industrial area. It inspected facilities which could initially accommodate the college-institute. It promised thoughtful consideration of the admittedly worthwhile project.

But, pressed for funds with which only to maintain existing state government obligations, the committee did not grant any money for the proposed Charlotte operation.

Which means that local residents will, figuratively, have to go to the pocketknives and balls of string. And now is the time to do it.

Starlings Don't Bother Country Boys

GIVE a medal to the bird watchers of Hotel Charlotte. Write up their idea in the municipal magazines. They have done what learned scientists long tried but sometimes failed to do. They scared away the starlings. With a scarecrow.

Starlings, sweeping down by the thousand in flawless formation, and other birds, have plagued building managers and city officials, the nation over, in State College. Pioneers, professors, scarecrows, a scared starling squawk and amplified it. This noise disturbed the starlings. But it attracted pigeons. In Detroit supernoise "silent sound" was used. In Cincinnati chemists were called in, to

At least one professional organization and one company have already pitched in. The Engineers Club has given \$1,000 to the Charlotte Technical Institute, as well as \$800 each to engineering groups at Central Myers Park and Harding High Schools. Terrell Machine Co. has given the Institute a turret lathe. And Duke Power Co. has promised equipment as soon as adequate space is available.

Under the capable direction of Director John A. Natress, the Institute is growing from a dream into a reality. At present it and the associated community colleges are supported only by a two-cent per \$100 valuation tax, plus modest tuition. This provides scarcely enough revenue to maintain an existing school, let alone make initial outlays for equipment which the Institute must have to do its job of training youths for industry.

In other words, it's up to people in this community to put the Institute across. Our commendation to the Engineers Club, Terrell Machine Co. and Duke Power Co. may be the but the first of many to help equip this sorely needed community facility.

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Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
SELDOM has an international organization acted with such decision to prevent war as the Pan American Union did to head off a Nicaraguan invasion of Costa Rica. Its forthright action illustrated what the American nations can do in contrast to Asia—to keep the peace.

When news first broke that Nicaragua—inspired rebels were inside Costa Rica, the Council of American States, informally known as the Pan American Union, came into session at 4 p.m. They remained in session until 7 p.m., when by unanimous vote it was agreed to send a special commission to Costa Rica.

Then, after a one-hour adjournment for dinner, the council sat until midnight: ironing out detailed plans of how to stop the fighting. At 12 midnight the plans were finished. At 4 a.m. the five commission members were en route to the airport to board a special U. S. MATS plane to Costa Rica. Eleven hours later, at