

CHAPEL, May 25, 1933

-- President Wright

I haven't said a word to you about registering for the fall quarter next year, so far. We are not going to require at this time that you make a deposit of five dollars at the time you register, but would like for all those who are expecting to return to college next year to register. And I will appreciate it very much if those of you who are not returning will find a good deserving student who has a little money, and send her back in your place. This is one time when it will mean a lot to the college to have a large enrollment. I haven't emphasized that for a long time, but I find that other colleges in the state are working on the basis of enrollment, and a large enrollment this fall will be exceedingly helpful to your college. For the young woman who is not planning to teach, but is planning to be a homemaker--and that is perfectly proper, it is a blessing to have people planning to be homemakers-- there is no better training than that given teachers. The institution is primarily to train teachers, but there is no better course offered in any college for person who is to be a homemaker than the course in a teachers college.

The next year or two are going to be lean ones for teachers. We don't know yet just where the teachers is going to stand, or what she will get. It looks now that the average teacher in North Carolina will get only about fifty dollars per month, but we don't know yet. We do know that in figuring the cost of things sixteen million dollars is a tremendously large sum--in fact, I don't know how much money sixteen million dollars is, so I decided to bring it down to a unit and see if I couldn't get some concept of what it means. That is the amount of money appropriated for the schools next year. I took this sixteen million dollars and divided it by the number of children of school age and by eight months and find that the state appropriation is \$2.30 a month for the education of every child enrolled in the public schools of North Carolina. It

is about one-third what it should be. But that is the appropriation. Then I brought some other figures to the unit basis, and divided the six million appropriated by the state for county highways by twelve, and then by fifty-five thousand, which is the largest number of miles I find given anywhere, and find that the state has appropriated nine dollars per mile per month for the upkeep of highways in North Carolina. I do not think that is too much money. I am not giving you these figures to knock the highways. It will probably cost that much to keep them up. But if a mile is worth \$9.00 a child is worth more than \$2.30. The people of the state should know these facts. We hear a great deal about the state's indebtedness and the amount of money schools have cost the state. Most of our debts, we are led to believe, are due to highways and schools. As a matter of fact, out of the approximately half billion dollar indebtedness in the state only 14% of that is for schools, or \$75,249,148. For highways, \$161,682,050, so that roads and schools together amount to only \$237,000,000 out of the \$532,000,000. In other words, schools and roads are responsible for only a small part of the indebtedness of North Carolina, state and local. Local indebtedness for things other than schools and roads, very much to the surprise of the people--those who know it-- is fifty-eight and one quarter million dollars more than the total outstanding debts for both the schools and roads. The total per capita debt of the state, based on population, is \$164.74, for every person in North Carolina the debt is \$164.74. \$50.50

The per capita local debt for purposes other than schools is \$91.41; for schools, \$23.29, the smallest of the whole group per capita. The local debt is approximately four times as much for other things as for schools. The people of North Carolina are misinformed. Our great obligation is to the children of North Carolina and most people think they are the cause of all our financial troubles, and this isn't so. The upkeep of our schools, the teaching of our children

costs just a little less than one-third per child the amount spent for the upkeep of the roads and I certainly think a child is worth more than a mile of highway.