

FOR MARCH 21 ELECTION

Burke Steering Group Plans Community College Drive

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Precinct organization was started during the Wednesday night meeting of the Community College Steering Committee with interested citizens from all over the county. They crowded the community house to hear talks on the Community College and to make plans for pre-election and election day efforts to brought out the voters. Dr. E. W. Phifer, chairman of the

Steering Committee, presided. "I'm not one to advocate needless expenditure of the taxpayers' money or the incurring of bonded indebtedness," said Frank C. Patton, a member of the Steering Committee. He said he considered the Community College to be voted on March 21 "a necessary expense."

He said the college should not be viewed as an item in running up public expense.

"It is the most economical way of educating our children. We're living in a complex society. We're living in a complex world. When I was a boy there were some men of consequence and success in business who could hardly write their names."

He noted that such success stories of the past are no longer possible for the uneducated.

"A small businessman today must have the rudiments of education if he is to carry on. An educator today is a necessity if we are to make progress in this land of ours."

Patton spoke of the increasingly high cost of education beyond high school. He noted that a Community College in Burke County would make it possible for most parents in the county to afford to help their children receive more education. He said that only a few could afford college for their children if they had to be sent away to expensive boarding schools.

"We're giving to low and middle income groups the opportunity to prepare themselves for living. It's for all of us and for all the people in Burke County—and some adjoining counties," said Patton.

He then spoke of the central location of the proposed site on I-95 which is within 30 or 40 minutes driving time for anyone in the county.

"In my judgment if we don't take advantage of this opportunity we'll be setting our county back. I urge you to go to your communities, to organize, and take this matter to the voters."

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W. Stanley Moore of the Steering Committee asked each precinct to decide on a chairman and co-chairman, to be alert to any areas of resistance, and to fully explain the opportunity offered by the Community College. He asked for active campaigning to get out the vote through telephone, door knocking and transportation campaigns.

"We want decisive approval . . . to make Burke's college a model for the western part of the state," said Moore.

He called attention to the fact that Saturday is the last day for registration prior to the March 21 election and that there are many new people in the county who may not have registered. Registration books Saturday will be at the polling places from 9 a.m. until sundown.

William F. Davis of the Steering Committee discussed methods useful in getting out the vote. He also told of plans for setting up headquarters above Jackson Office Supply Co. on North Sterling Street. Volunteer workers will be needed for staffing this office, he said.

Moore said that offers to help with the campaign included public service radio time on both the Morganton and Valdese stations to better inform the public as to what is involved in the forthcoming election.



ORGANIZING COLLEGE SUPPORT—Members of a county-wide group hear Frank C. Patton (standing right) emphasize benefits to be derived from establishment of a comprehensive community college in Burke. Patton, a leader in the movement from its start, was opening speaker at a meeting in the

community house to help organize public support for an election March 21. A capacity crowd was seated at tables by precincts to consider a get-out-the-vote campaign. Dr. E. W. Phifer Jr., steering committee chairman, presided. (Staff Photo by F. H. Dixon).