



point of view

BY BILL NIXON

Editor's note: Nixon, an Edenton native, is vice-president of Parker Brothers Newspapers of Asheville. His column appears weekly in a number of that group's publications.

Members of Congress will get a raise. The House of Representatives will realize a 15 per cent gain in their income while members of the Senate, who decided not to participate in the raise, will see their income rise due to an increase in the total allowed for speaking engagements.

Hidden in a large money bill designed to keep the country operating, and signed by the President, Congress knows there will be comments from the voters and taxpayers. But as is the case in most issues involving taxpayers dollars, little concern will be noted from those elected to "serve" the interests of the nation.

An annual salary of \$69,762 is not such a large amount.

Western Carolina Receives Large Gift
CULLOWHEE — The largest gift ever made to Western Carolina University — 212 acres of lake front property valued at \$485,000 — was made Wednesday by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Hennessee of Sylva.

The property is located on Bear Lake in the southern end of Jackson County.

The appraised value of the land "clearly established this gift as the most magnanimous ever made to Western Carolina University," Dr. H. F. Robinson, WCU chancellor said.

The property will be held in the WCU Endowment Fund pending development of plans for its use, Robinson said.

A 25 per cent undivided interest in the land has already been turned over to the university. The remainder will be transferred in increments during the next several years, according to the terms of the gift.

The university's largest benefactors already were substantial supporters of the institution. W. C. Hennessee Lumber Company, which Mr. Hennessee founded, is a contributing Patron of Quality at Western Carolina and Mr. and Mrs. Hennessee in 1979 gave highly valued wormy chesnut paneling for the main lobby area of the WCU Mountain Heritage Center.

Hennessee recently told university officials and trustees he was planning to make the latest gift. He told them "Mrs. Hennessee and I have long admired Chancellor Robinson and what he has done and is doing in development of the university. We wanted to go ahead at this time to express our support for and interest in the university under Dr. Robinson's leadership."

when compared with many top industry salaries. But to Americans attempting to make it on much less per year, the increase will be hard to accept. The 12 million Americans out of a job will find it very hard to understand.

The activity of the Congress noted in this issue will create more distrust of elected officials. Taxpayers should be especially alarmed that the vote in deciding this matter was not recorded, thus keeping the voters from knowing how their particular representatives voted. Another classic example of Congress attempting to pull a fast one on the taxpayers of this nation.

What is just as alarming is the fact that members of the Senate pulled a fast one by not accepting the raise, but allowing themselves higher fees for speaking engagements. These fees, which are usually paid by special interest groups in an attempt to influence members of congress, are limited to a total of \$2,000 per engagement. But the number of times a particular group can pay a Senator to speak is not limited. It is easy to see

Scope Aids In Marine Fisheries

On a recent night a N.C. Marine Fisheries law officer raised to his eyes a piece of equipment first used on M-16 rifles the latter part of the Vietnam War.

The Starlight Scope, a modernistic device to vastly amplify existing light, enabled the officer to actually see in the dark.

With the scope the officer can shed away the protection of night. Used mainly to patrol polluted areas closed to shellfishing, an officer can "walk right up to someone and he will never know I am there." A cigarette glow at 1,000 yards, unseen by the naked eye, is like a flashlight beam when the smoker turns toward the officer using the Starlight Scope. An officer said the scope was designed for a marksman to be able to hit a ping pong ball at 450 yards on a pitch dark night.

For someone using one the first time, it is a Star Wars experience. Peering through the eyepiece on a dark night and suddenly being able to see in the dawn-like greenish glow someone 50 yards ahead, walk, bend over, and move his hands, it has the slow motion amaze-effect watching someone walk on the moon.

Marine Fisheries officers have been borrowing from the military Starlight Scopes for the past six

months. They use the \$3,500 - \$6,000 pieces of equipment in various ways. Gaining a vantage point, they can survey a large area and look for a light, a boat, or an unfamiliar lump.

The scope weighs eight pounds and is about 18 inches long. It is easy to carry, and it only takes seconds to get it out of the carrying case and ready to use.

Recently, near Wrightsville Beach, an officer had a tip about some men using a polluted area at night. Three officers went to the area, and sure enough, there they were. The officer with the scope situated at the edge of the marsh and the two other officers closed in on the five men from either side. By using the scope and his radio, one officer directed the other two as they chased the men back and forth throughout the night.

Court cases have been made with the scope. Surprisingly, one officer said, "nobody has thought to ask, 'how did you see what you were doing in the total dark?'"

The scope is being used at several locations along the coast. Cases have also been made against those caught shrimping in closed areas.

"Perspectives" Lectures Scheduled
GREENVILLE—Two noon-time lectures in a continuing series entitled "Perspectives" and sponsored by the humanities program of East Carolina University School of Medicine will be presented in January.

The first will be "The Case of the Desperate Haitian: Autonomy and Beneficence in Medicine," with Warren Reich, S.T.D., as guest speaker on January 10.

Reich is director of the program in Health and Humanities of Georgetown University Medical School and is a 1982-83 fellow with the National Humanities Center.

Dr. Irvin Blose, ECU professor of psychiatric medicine, will discuss the "History of Psychiatry" on January 25. This is a Charles E. Culpeper Foundation "History of Medicine" lecture.

The programs will be held at the Pitt County Memorial Hospital cafeteria in the upstairs conference room from 12:30-1:30 P.M. instead of the hospital teaching addition, the previous meeting place.

The public is invited, and there is no admission charge. For information telephone 757-2618.

There are 45 miles of nerves in the body.

While not a bad idea, it is doubtful that such a law will ever be passed. In order for such to become law, the Congress would have to vote on it. Past history has proven that Congress is not interested in having the voters know what they are up to; case in point, the non-recorded vote on this issue.

At a time when the average working American finds it difficult to enjoy even the simple things in life, Congress has shown very poor wisdom in digging into an already depleted tax trough. Voters and taxpayers must speak their disapproval now - if not through individual contact with members of Congress, then at voting time. This contempt for the taxpayers by those elected to "serve" must end. All Americans must shout loud enough to be heard from the halls of city hall to the great halls of Congress. Be sure your voice is heard.

Contact your elected officials today. On a lighter note, Americans aren't the only folks in the world with driving problems. Reports filed with an insurance company in Rome noted:

"I thought my window was down but I discovered it was up when I put my head through it."

Or this: "A pedestrian hit me and went under my car."

And, finally, this one: "The pedestrian could not decide whether to go backwards or frontwards, so there was nothing I could do but run over him."

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