

The Franklin Times

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Tuesday, January 4, 1966

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Irony

There is irony in today's front-page report of Monday's Board of Education actions. The Board approved a project calling for expenditure of nearly half a million dollars in the Negro schools this year. The money is part of the federal funds now threatened because of complaints from twenty Negro parents.

While this project met unanimous approval of the Board members, not a single penny is to be spent in the white schools because of federal provisions for its use.

In other words, if the Negro group's complaints stand up with the Office of Education in Washington and the funds are withheld, it will be the Negro children alone who will lose the

benefits of these funds.

It appears to be a case of cutting off noses to spite faces.

In this same meeting, the Board reviewed recent actions involving a suit in Federal Court brought by the same Negro group against the Board's Plan of Compliance to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The Plan was approved by Washington officials in August.

The irony seems to be that while the Board makes every effort to aid the children in the county schools, without regards to race, there are others who would allow race to destroy this aid.

It appears to be a high price to pay for early admission to white schools, regardless of the sincerity of those involved.

To Wonder Why

The United States is a peace-loving nation. It has been throughout the 190 years of its history. We know this to be true. People in other countries should know this by our past deeds.

Regardless of this fact, Americans have been involved in more wars during this time than any other country in history.

And, surprisingly, only in the first one in 1776 were we the underdogs. We have been caught unprepared in several, but in sports parlance we have been co-favorites or favored in all the others.

A question to keep one awake at night is how a country of nearly 200 million people, acknowledged to be the wealthiest on earth, with all the most advanced technical knowhow, is now losing wars to opponents with far less population, wealth and knowledge.

How, with the aid of our Allies, could we defeat the mightiest war machines the world had ever seen in the German and Japanese forces in World War II and lose to the North Koreans, Cubans and now to the

Viet Cong?

Make no mistake about it, we lost the Korean War, the so-called Cuban conflict, and we are losing the war in Viet Nam. Any time you don't win, you must lose. And, certainly, with the widest stretch of the imagination, none of us can truthfully say we have won any of these.

North Viet Nam has a population of 13 million, and they have this country and its almost 200 million population stalemated in a war area foreign to our forces and distasteful to our people. We are in the impossible position of appealing to them to give us peace.

It will take many sleepless nights and the ponderings of people far smarter than this writer before an answer is found to this question.

Again, in sports parlance, we always thought a good big man could always beat a good little man. The difference, however, is often the effort put forth by each. Little effort from the big man often hands the victory to the little man. Could this be our trouble?

NATIONAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Washington's Reputation

One would think over a hundred and sixty-six years after his passing, George Washington's reputation for honesty would be secure.

But it seems an amateur historian found reason recently to doubt the integrity of the Father of our Country. Fortunately, the would-be historian was quickly debunked.

A syndicated columnist suggested Washington sold crumbly, poor-grade sandstone from Aquia Creek near the District of Columbia, for use in the construction of the nation's new Capitol.

Soon, a network commentator and a nationally-distributed magazine repeated the allegation.

But Frank E. Morse, research and reference librarian at Mount Vernon, set the story straight.

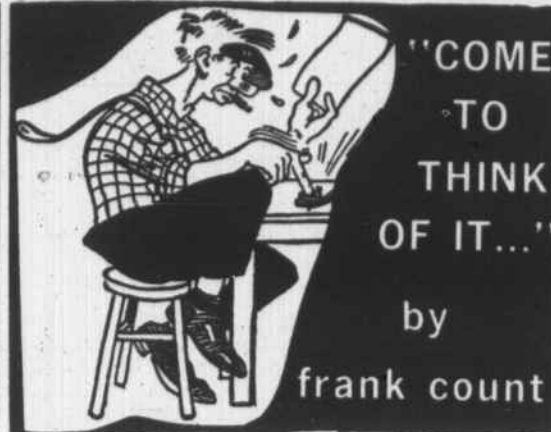
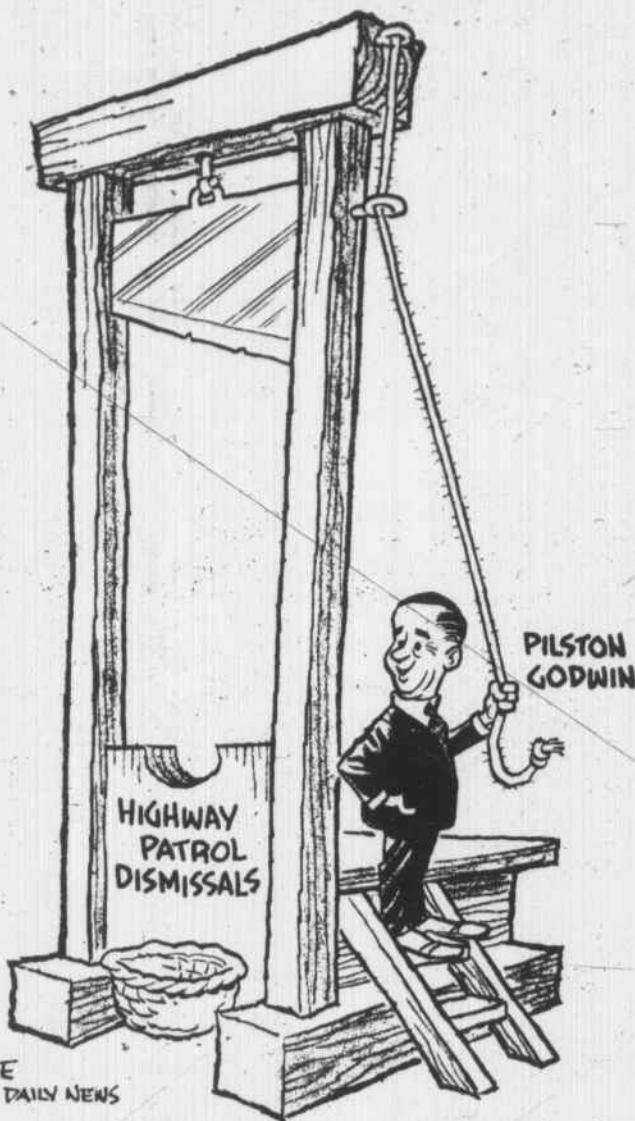
He says the reason the sandstone was used in parts of the structure was because federal funds were limited in those days and the builders were toiling against a deadline. Aquia Creek offered the only stone in the quantity needed within a reasonable distance.

Moreover, Washington wasn't President when the Capitol was being built—John Adams was. And Washington didn't own the quarry at Aquia, or any other quarry.

We're glad that's settled. But Washington's reputation is constantly under attack.

Morse reports that he recently came upon two school teachers visiting Mount Vernon who believed, and evidently taught their students, that Washington was illiterate.

"A Good Man Is Hard To Find..."



Well...everyone of you should be well over the New Year's Eve thing. And...without raising your voices...please, quietly...very quietly...answer the following question: Aren't you glad it comes but once a year?

We recovered gradually to the point it didn't hurt when we rattled the cellophane on the freshly-laundered shirt....Of course, this stage of recovery didn't come until Monday morning....

We began to feel somewhat better Sunday after checking the obituary columns and finding that we were not listed there....

But...boy did we ever have a time last Friday night. We sat up 'til almost twelve o'clock...and we might have made it longer, but the fire burned down and we got cold....

But we know some folks...and bet you do too...who did sit up way past midnight...and it is these folks who are having difficulty in recuperating. Us early bedders can make this New Year's Eve bit without any trouble....

And it is for these poor souls who celebrated 'til nearly one o'clock that we feel sorry...and maybe they'll know better next time.

Come to think of it...you can help them remember. Just walk up to the nearest one you see on the street...tip toe quietly...ever so quietly up to his good ear and then...at the top of your lungs yell...Happy New Year...He'll remember...and so will you.

reached the point that the cost of government cannot be concealed or disguised by the juggling of tax ratios, tax evaluations and tax rates. What really counts is the number of dollars a citizen has to pay. And the only problem is persuading him that the need exists and that he will be getting his money's worth.

A few years back, the City of Raleigh began toying with its tax ratio. It was a truly remarkable demonstration of the hand being quicker than the eye. To read newspaper accounts, one might well have gathered that the City Council and the County Commissioners were reducing taxes. And the tax rate was indeed reduced slightly. But the tax ratio was increased substantially. As a result, everybody's tax bill took a jump the following year.

All will hope, of course, that estimates are correct that new homes--new construction of every type--will provide a \$50 million-broad tax base. But this appears to be largely a hope. If the \$81.2 million school bond issue is approved, and if the taxable construction and improvements do not reach the \$50 million projection, then there necessarily will have to be a tax increase to pay off the additional debt.

The people are being asked to be contributing partners in this enterprise--that we call local government. As such, they should know the truth as to what may be expected of them. And the only way they can know it is to be told it by those selected for positions of leadership.

That does not seem to be too much to ask.

The time to start your new Christmas Saving Plan, or old age saving plan is now; you will never get to it by planning it for a future date.

Looking For Honest Man

Viewpoint

By JESSE HELMS

Sometime, somewhere the sponsors of a bond issue are going to shoot square with the people and say: "We're not going to try to fool you. The new facilities which we propose for you to buy must be bought with borrowed money, meaning that it must be paid back with interest. One way or the other we may have to increase your taxes. We just hope that you agree with us that these new facilities are sufficiently necessary to justify giving your approval to us to borrow the money."

The Diogenes can put down his lantern. Goodness knows, he's been looking long enough for a completely honest man. One of our associates has long since wearied of the public statements that inevitably come with every proposal to issue bonds for roads, streets, water or sewer facilities, highways and every other facility built or purchased for public use. Always it is the same old headline: "Bonds Not Expected to Require More Taxes." Noting this headline again last week, he penned a letter to the leaders of the bond campaign. I plan to support your campaign, he said in effect, but please, can't the people be told the truth?

Most reasonable citizens are willing to support needed programs of community, as well as state and national, develop-

ment. This support necessarily involves the commitment of much tax money. Obviously, as in the case of Governor Moore's recent \$300 million road bond issue, the money has to come from somewhere. In that case, there was plenty of substance to the argument that the state might well have considered a pay-as-you-go plan, instead of becoming involved in a multi-million dollar debt which will require the payment of additional millions of dollars in interest on the borrowed money.

But that is beside the point. In practically every public statement endorsing that bond issue, the impression was left that taxes would not be affected. It hardly needs saying that if \$300 million can be borrowed and spent without increasing taxes, then there should have been a tax decrease if the bond issue had not been approved.

The Raleigh-Wake County school bond election on December 11 is the result of a need that surely is evident to everyone with even a casual knowledge of the population explosion in the city and county. We cannot believe that it is necessary to deceive the people in order to obtain their support for providing the money to assure that our young people will not have to attend classes in broom closets. Sure, it's going to cost money to build the schools that Raleigh and Wake County need and will need. And the money will have to come from the taxpayers, as it always has and always will.

So, a little candor is in order--for a change. We have

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOTE:

We have received another excellent letter to the Editor which we wish we could share with our readers. However, the letter came unsigned. We welcome reader views on any subject of general interest but all letters must be signed. When writing, limit letters to one page double-spaced in length and typewritten, is preferred though not necessary. And remember, they must be signed.

Quinhon, Vietnam
27 Dec. 1965
Dear Mr. Editor: and the people of Louisburg,

I am writing this letter from the Republic of Vietnam, to all the citizens of such wonderful city. I am very proud of you for all you are doing in order to keep communism from spreading throughout Southeast Asia.

Out of all the papers I have read since I have been here I have not heard or read where a draft card was burned at home. Therefore it makes me know my service here is not in vain.

I wish to emphasize some points to the young man who is facing the draft. If and when you are called

in service remember:

1. Obey the cadre appointed over you for they are most likely combat veterans.
2. Never sleep in class (the point you miss might cost you your life).
3. When in doubt ask questions.
4. Watch the demonstrators very closely when they are teaching combat tactics.
5. Eat the food the service serves you (it is a well balanced diet).
6. When taking exercises put your whole heart in it.
7. Please take care of your equipment (it will take care of you).

There are many more I could point out, but those are the most important ones. They will save your life.

Again I must say I am with you all the way and if you keep the communist off the back step we will keep them off the front. (Happy New Year).

Very truly yours,
S/Sgt Herman Alston, Jr.
RA 44080786
119th T Co (TS)
APO San Francisco, Calif.
96238

Well, there aren't really any more minutes in 24 hours. Perhaps many farmers feel there should be. The days just don't seem to last long enough. At least not long enough to get all the things done that need to be done on a modern farm.

The answer? Mechanization ---getting the back-breaking, time-consuming everyday jobs done the automatic way. Sounds like a good idea, doesn't it? It's an idea farmers can find out more about

on January 19 and 20 at the N. C. Farm Materials Handling Exposition in the Reynolds Coliseum at Raleigh.

The show will have more than 75 exhibitors, with many money-saving, time-saving ideas. The experts who keep up with the fast-changing world of mechanized farming will be there too. They'll be glad to discuss their ideas with you---and yours too, for that matter. Who knows? They may have a cure for an aching back.

Wake ELECTRIC
MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION
Wake Forest, N. C.

The Franklin Times

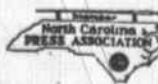
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