

Tuesday, May 10, 1966

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Confusion Over N. C. 56 Project

Perhaps some confusion has arisen from the fact that the County Better Roads Committee, in approving a priority list as recommended by the State Highway Department, overlooked any reference to N. C. 56 from Louisburg to the Nash Co. line.

The Committee felt that N. C. 56 is already set and therefore saw no need to list it again. The listing was for primary road improvements from State Road Bond money. N. C. 56 is supposed to be a Federal-aid project with matching funds from the regular state highway allotment.

But, confusion is fast becoming N. C. 56's middle name. There may be primary highways in the state in greater need of repair, but we doubt it. And this need has existed for a very long time. The people traveling this stretch have lived on promises for a long time. It is natural, when seeing no mention of this project, they became disturbed.

In January, 1963 (that's over three years ago) Cliff Benson, at that time

Fifth Division Highway Commissioner, reportedly told County Commissioner Chairman Norwood E. Falukner to expect "relief real soon" on Highway 56.

In April, 1963, Governor Terry Sanford, reportedly sent a release to State Senator Wilbur Jolly and Rep. James Speed "indicating the improvements to N. C. 56 would be given 'official approval'."

In September 1963, Faulkner was reportedly told by Benson that "preliminary work on N. C. 56 had gotten underway."

A right-of-way hearing was held here in December of 1964; and a letter from new Highway Commission Chairman Joe Hunt in October, 1965, assured that the project would become "a reality."

If there seems to be confusion on N. C. 56, it seems to us to be justified. Perhaps the new Roads Committee can get the project moving. One thing seems certain: It surely can't delay it and it is doubtful if it can add any more confusion to the status of the project.

Setting The Road Equipment Hassle Straight

Viewpoint

By JESSE HELMS

It is said that once upon a time there was a gentleman who had the reputation of being a bit careless with the truth and who was called upon to introduce the speaker at a political rally. He possessed only the barest knowledge of the speaker's background, a disadvantage which did not prevent

him from launching into a long and involved introduction. Nobody was more astonished than the speaker at the details presented in the introduction, particularly a statement that the speaker only recently had made five million dollars in oil wells in Oklahoma. As the speaker began his ad-

dress, he felt compelled to get a few things straight. "About that five million dollars," he said, "I think you should know that it wasn't 'recently'-- it

was 20 years ago. And it wasn't in Oklahoma--it was in Texas. And it wasn't in oil wells--it was in raising cattle. And it wasn't five million--it was five thousand. And it wasn't I--it was my brother. And he didn't make it--he lost it."

The speaker paused for a moment, and added: "Otherwise," he said, "the gentlemen who introduced me had his facts straight."

If ever a carload of garbled information has been unloaded on the public, some of the state's major newspapers did it last week with a series of misleading news stories implying that state officials were engaged in some high-priced hanky-panky in the purchase of several hundred thousand dollars worth of heavy highway construction machinery. For days on end, the press waved a smear brush in every direction. No doubt some readers gained the impression that a brazen bit of political payola was in progress.

As this station's news department reported on Friday night, however, there isn't a word of truth to it. Still, this should be an instructive episode for Governor Dan Moore and the men he has chosen to assist him in the operation of the state government. Not only must they perform their responsibilities in complete honesty; they must keep their lines of communication open and free from any short-circuits by newspapers which opposed Moore's candidacy so vigorously in 1964.

It is a practical impossibility to straighten out quickly all of the twisted statements published last week. Even the selection of a place to start is difficult enough. Most important of all the aspects, however, is the fact that the specifications for the heavy equipment to be purchased were drafted by career employees of the highway department who, by reason of training and experience, best know the performance standards which highway equipment must meet. They know the horsepower the engines must possess; they know the weight, the size and the structure that scrapers and bulldozers and

other items of equipment must have to do the jobs of maintenance and construction of roads and highways. These are professional, not political, judgments--judgments which neither the press nor even the Department of Administration possesses. And, in any case, contrary to reports, no equipment company was favored. Nor was any excluded. Competition was not limited in any way.

The suggestion that Raleigh businessman A. E. Finley was supposed to be the beneficiary of "rigged" specifications is absurd, and an insult to a citizen whose contributions to the progress of his community and state have earned for him a place of honor and respect. Moreover, Mr. Finley is retired, and owns only a small minority interest in the company he once headed. If anyone is to accuse Mr. Finley, implicitly or otherwise, surely Mr. Finley is entitled to a forthright accusation rather than be subjected to hit-and-run innuendo.

It is perhaps significant that the first suggestions of "rigged specifications" were voiced by a reporter who once wrote editorials for THE NEWS AND OBSERVER and who, in 1964, served as a publicity man for the gubernatorial candidate defeated by Dan K. Moore in the Democratic Primary runoff that year.

And, finally, the highway department's career employees--the men who prepared the specifications for the equipment which the state proposes to buy--have been consistent for many years in their judgments about the performance needed from such equipment. They deserve praise instead of unfounded suspicion. They have remained constant during the administrations of Governors Cherry, Scott, Umstead, Hodges, Sanford and now, Dan Moore. They obviously couldn't care less who sells the equipment they recommend, just so it meets the standards of durability and performance. And that attitude, it seems to us, serves the public interest well.

It would also serve the public interest if the press would get its facts straight.

Last Of The Great Spenders



GRASSROOTS OPINION

ISLE, MINN., MESSENGER: "Our new linotype operator (my wife) is getting pretty good. In December she was just a novice--now she's setting a galley per hour--a good trick for any linotype operator. She's getting so good, I've decided to double her salary. I can afford it. Two times nothing--is nothing. In fact, if she keeps up the good work, I may double her salary again in a couple of weeks!"

PORT GIBSON, MISS., REVEILLE: "It is not hard-hearted to say the reasons some people are 'poverty stricken' is because they do not want to work. There is no use beating around the bush, some people are plain lazy, and want all they can get without any effort on their part. Certainly, help the real unfortunate, but the industrious do not have the obligation to care for society's drones. The Good Book says man shall live by the sweat of his brow, and we haven't read in the Bible where any Great Society has to take care of him."

NASHVILLE, ARK., NEWS: "More than words, the migration to Australia speaks of protest against the Great Society and politicians. . . Fifty years ago, it would have been unthinkable that as many as 4,000 citizens would be fleeing from America to make a new home. It's happening today. . . Freedom from the bureaucrats and from oppressive big-government is getting harder to find, backed now into a corner of the Pacific."

"Teaches Us To Hope"

"Not for fame or reward, nor place of rank, Not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity,

But in simple obedience to duty as they understood it,

These men suffered all, sacrificed all, dared all . . . and died."

These words, inscribed on the Confederate Monument in Washington, D. C. clearly describe the men of the Confederacy. Today is Confederate Memorial Day.

Once the day was widely acclaimed throughout the South. Special ceremonies in honor of the fallen heroes were held. Today, save a few, the observance goes almost unnoticed.

But, perhaps it is befitting that we, who believe in individual freedoms and constitutional government, pause to honor these brave dead and at the same time to study events around us.

Many issues have been read into the Civil War. Some were real, some were not. Then, and even now, there were traditions, customs and styles in the South, which did not exist in other sections of the country. Then, as even now, others were attempting to push their ways upon the South. The men we honor today resisted that push.

Through them, the South learned the necessity of preserving the Union, but they did not leave their descendants with a lesson of submission. The South, land of opportunity for all, is not, can not, and will not become the whipping boy. This is the heritage left us. The heritage of individual rights and freedom exists today in the South, just as they did 100 years ago. Perhaps, the other sections of the country will one day be thankful for this.

As General Robert E. Lee put it, "It is history that teaches us to hope."

Monsters In Ocean Depths Are Stranger Than Legend

Washington--Real "sea monsters" are even weirder than the fanciful beasts of old sailors' yarns.

The most imaginative old tar might hesitate to claim that he had seen a creature with arms 35 feet long. Yet the giant squid has such tentacles and a 19-foot body to go with it--more than 50 feet of writhing sea monster.

Living deep in the ocean, the giant squid is almost never seen alive, the National Geographic says. An occasional dead specimen is cast up on a beach or remains are found in stomachs of deep-diving sperm whales.

Fish Live in Dark

Fish that live thousands of feet deep in the ocean must adapt to living in the dark. Plants cannot develop in the inky blackness, so the fish must eat either plant and animal remains that sift down from above--or each other.

The creatures of the deep are armed with ferocious teeth to enable them to make the most

of any chance encounter with their scarce prey. The jaws of some disengage, allowing them to engulf a dinner larger than the diner.

Mates as well as food are scarce. The male anglerfish solves both problems when it finds a female. He fastens his jaws to her body and remains attached for life.

The male's jaws and tongue gradually fuse with the tissues of the female. When the two blood streams join, the male no longer needs to feed. It then remains a parasitic dwarf, doing nothing but fertilize the female's eggs as they emerge.

Some fish carry biological lamps on the end of stalks or along the sides of their bodies. The pale glow, which can be flanked on and off, acts as a lure to potential mates or food.

Millions of Years of Ooze

The bottom of the ocean is covered by layers of various ooze, which have accumulated in places for eons. To avoid sinking into the soft mud, many animals walk on stilts. Crustaceans have enormously long legs, and fish have developed great extensions of their fins.

The vast pressure at great depths seems to have little influence on the animals living there. Since water fills their body cavities, the force inside and outside of their bodies is equal.

Man's knowledge of the ocean bottom is still meager, but one mystery recently was cleared up. Certain coiled tracks had appeared in many pictures of the ocean floor, but no one knew what made them. In 1965 scientists announced they had photographed the unknown animal: a three-foot-long enteropneust, or acorn worm, that feeds on the bottom ooze.

Sea life exists in what might seem a most unlikely place: under the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica. The invertebrates discovered there apparently feed on material washed under the ice shelf from ocean waters elsewhere.



The International Teamster

The Diplomatic Pouch

Enclosed is a copy of the letter we are planning to send to the various Heads of State. Is there a law of any kind against directing a letter to the head of state of a communist nation?

M. S.
Los Angeles,
Cal.

Dear Mr. S.:

Any citizen of this country is free to write to whomever he pleases at home or abroad. The Department of State, accordingly, would neither approve nor disapprove of your correspondence with Heads of State of communist countries. We do, however, feel obliged to point out that correspondence between citizens of the United States and communist countries is subject to use as a vehicle for the dissemination of communist propaganda.

I have noticed various reports of increased effort of the United Nations in recent weeks in advance possible negotiations with Hanoi and Peking. To expedite matters it would be interesting and possibly fruitful to have a committee of UN members, friendly and acceptable to Peking, to diplomatically offer as "bait" to Red China, the possibility that our country might approve her admission to the UN if Red China adopted a more conciliatory policy. Undoubtedly North Viet Nam would quickly start negotiations if Red China suggested such proceedings.

S. N.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Mr. N.:

We agree that a change of attitude on the part of the Chinese Communists could make possible a peaceful solution to the situation in Viet Nam. However, it seems unrealistic to believe that the prospect of admission to the United Nations would in any way prompt such a change in attitude. It might on the contrary convince Peking that its militant policy is achieving results and should be continued and intensified. Moreover, the Chinese Communists have heaped abuse upon the UN, insist upon extensive changes in it, and could be counted upon to seek to control the organization or paralyze its capacity to function if they were seated.

We also believe that UN membership cannot be considered "bait." To quote from Ambassador Stevenson, admission of the Chinese Communists to the UN would be a step which, "once taken, is irreversible. We cannot try it and then give it up if it fails to work. Given the extraordinary and forbidding difficulty of expulsion under the Charter, we must assume that, once in our midst, the Peking representatives would stay for better or for worse."

Finally and of fundamental importance, as you know, the United States recognizes the Government of the Republic of China and strongly supports its position in international organizations such as the United Nations. The Chinese Communists demand, as a condition for their joining the UN, that the Government of the Republic of China be expelled. Peking has reiterated this condition through its controlled press, official spokesmen, and government statements.

Under these circumstances, the opposition of the US to the admission of the Chinese Communists to the UN, far from being "face saving" on our part, is a consequence of the behavior and the demands of the Chinese Communists. Their present aggressive attitude toward Viet-Nam is another case in support of this opposition.

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