

Thursday, August 18, 1966

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Should Plan For Census Now

The time for the 1970 census is near. There are to be a number of changes in procedures for the massive national count. The most notable will be that questionnaires will be mailed to urban dwellers eliminating the visit by an enumerator.

One of the new provisions, with an application deadline of December 31, 1966, is the opportunity to have particular tracts counted. That is, Louisville and other towns may have a special count of people living in surrounding areas. This could be helpful in the event of annexation in the next ten years.

Persons residing in each of the townships in the county may be counted and thereby make available the exact population of any given area. People living in any school district could also be counted.

It seems that it would be to the advantage of the county to apply at once for this type of special tract count. The North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development recommends that "local people form a census tract committee and delineate census tracts in their community now."

Such a committee would be of great service to Franklin County. An accurate count of various affected areas in our county over the ten-year period 1970-80 could prove invaluable.

With the deadline for requesting this particular service by the Census Bureau less than five months away, quick action is a must.

It is hoped the Board of County Commissioners and Town Councils will take note of this and act accordingly.

Reserve Call

Recent demands on the part of Congressmen for the call-up of reserves to do battle in Viet Nam has raised some questions. It is perhaps true that it takes some pull to get into the reserves and National Guard nowadays and that such service is viewed as a way of escaping the draft.

Many young men have been elated to learn that they have been accepted for the Guard. This, to them, meant they could stay at home. Others, not so fortunate, have been called to report to various induction stations and later sent to Viet Nam.

The question at the moment seems to be, first, whether or not the reserve forces are needed in the war zone or at training bases and secondly, which should be called to service, the forces already trained or young men without prior service.

There is something to be said in defense of both groups. Certainly, reservists with families and job ties would suffer a hardship if called into active service. Then, on the other hand, the youngster, just starting his adult life sacrifices when he must put off his plans until he has pulled his hitch.

But, somehow it seems wrong to allow men to remain in reserve status year after year, while youngsters are being called. It is not an easy question to answer.

However, like most questions nowadays, it may be answered for us. If the hue and hollow continues among the national leaders, local reservists and guardsmen might do well to get their business in order. We have a notion, the locals will be among the first called.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Only The Victim's Eye

Whiteville News Reporter

A year ago this past July 30 a coed at the University of North Carolina was assaulted and stabbed to death as she walked to her dormitory through a botanical garden on the campus.

Upwards of 200 people have been questioned but so far the villain has not been found. He had waited concealed in the garden until the student came along. At the proper moment he snatched the girl into the bushes and perpetrated the vile deed.

The crime was planned and the

man whoever he is committed a capital offense. When he is run down, and officers say they will not quit until he is apprehended, will he plead insanity? Will doctors of various pursuits examine him and find he is not capable of discerning between right and wrong?

Several years ago an elderly woman in Charlotte was attacked in a cemetery. She was raped, killed and then her body was crammed into a mausoleum. Subsequently a man was arrested and held in custody by the police. During the period he confessed to the crime and was sentenced to death. But his case went all the way to the U. S. Supreme Court and that court a few days ago set the man free on the premise that his confession was given involuntarily.

Immediately following the freedom verdict, the Charlotte solicitor announced he would not retry the man for lack of evidence now that the confession may not be entered as testimony.

Here in our own midst a few months ago a man concealed himself in a woman's home. When she returned home after nightfall from her job he assaulted her criminally. When she recognized her attacker, he pumped several bullets into her body and left her to die, admitting to her that since she knew him he was going to kill her and thus destroy the evidence.

Caught in Baltimore and returned to the state, the man was examined by a battery of doctors and they found he did not know right from wrong and was incapable of standing trial.

A man hides on a University campus and stabs a girl to death as she walks through the garden to

The events in the news on any given day are indication plenty that the American people are not easily shocked anymore. Maybe surprised, maybe indignant, but not shocked. It is beginning to appear that we have lost the sensibility of revulsion. One of the press associations dis-

tributed a little item the other day that most newspapers apparently considered too inconsequential to publish. Yet, it was a stern measurement of our times. It was datelined New York City, and it went like this: "Not all New Yorkers remain oblivious to the plight of a fellow man in distress.

When Vall Malorni, 41, slipped on a banana peel at a subway station Tuesday, it was only a matter of seconds before two men rushed to his side. As Malorni was lying on the ground in a daze, the first man grabbed Malorni's wristwatch and fled. The second man attempted to steal his wallet but was frightened away by passers-by. Finally, help did arrive, and Malorni was hospitalized for treatment of injuries received in the fall."

That was the item, as distributed nationwide by United Press International. But, as we say, the incident is of a type so commonplace that news media in general tossed it aside. It wasn't news.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has for several years been warning Americans about the dangerous increase in crime in the United States. Occasionally Americans become indignant about it, but they continue to elect the same old crowd that has allowed the criminal element to threaten a take-over of the country. The perspective of the difference between right and wrong has been lost in a loud barrage of cliches about poverty and "rights" and under-privilege. The Supreme Court handicuffs the police, the President advocates the destruction of poverty rights, and the Congress trots along like an obedient puppy.

The Constitution is being ignored and virtually discarded. Some politicians and political judges are beginning to say that it is "outmoded," that it belongs to the horse-and-buggy days. Well, so do the Ten Commandments--shall we scrap them, too?

The emphasis today is on "change" --everything that we respected yesterday, everything that we believed in last week, must be changed by tomorrow. Nobody stops to ask whether it's a change for the better. Old-fashioned decency is ridiculed; it's cute to go unwashed and unshaved--and unrestrained by any of the old-fashioned moral codes. Rallies and protests and riots keep the idle busy--and keep the busy saddled with taxes to provide welfare checks for drones too lazy or too clever to work.

We don't suggest that an able-bodied man be denied his right to refuse to work. But we do suggest that he be let go hungry as a result of his decision. Let him raise pigs in his living room if he wishes--but that won't change the pig, only his living room.

It's simple enough, and perfectly justifiable, to blame the politicians for all of this if--and let us emphasize the word "if"--we first blame ourselves for our choice of politicians. As someone has said, some politicians are like cockroaches: It's not what they steal and carry off. It's what they fall into and mess up.

When was the last time you wrote to your Congressman? More important, when was the last time you voted for a fellow you believed to be a crook, not because you like crooks but because you wanted to preserve some government hand-out that is coming to you?

Judge Learned Hand once said: "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it." This is a profound truth that needs to be understood at this time when the spirit of people to preserve their liberties is diminishing year by year.

In that light, how do the "old fashioned" things look to you--that "outmoded" Constitution, and that "horse-and-buggy" religion? These were the foundation beams of our republic. And it is only by returning to them that the house of our fathers ever can be restored.

Do You Agree?

Note: The following is an expression of the editor's feeling on current events. You may or may not agree. You are invited to express your own opinion. Simply write: Do You Agree, The Franklin Times, Louisville, N. C. Make it short and be sure to sign your name.

Mr. Justice William O. Douglas once again has taken a bride of tender years and has announced that they will honeymoon in enemy Red China. Mr. Justice Douglas has as much of a Constitutional right to marry and remarry as Tommy Mansville, Frank Sinatra or Nelson Rockefeller. We hope that his trip to China will be a pleasant one. The country will be better off, if he takes the slowest boat.

American People Not Easily Shocked

by Jesse Helms

Patrotism

"... In the past 190 years, patriotism has been a sustaining power for America in her darkest hours. It has been a dominant force in our Nation's survival and in the preservation of the self-evident truths which were so dear to our Founding Fathers. However, some sophisticates today think an open show of patriotic emotion is old-fashioned. Patriotic symbols and teachings are scorned and neglected. In a Nation founded on an unflinching faith in God and made great by a rich reservoir of spiritual inheritance, it is shocking to now hear that 'God is dead' and that patriotism is unnecessary. Is this trend the vision seen by our forefathers who, 'with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence,' mutually pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the establishment of independence? I think not...."

"Meantime, our rights and privileges cannot endure unless each of us discharges the duties and obligations that go with living in a free society.... Respect for law and order goes hand in hand with love of country...."

J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

INDUSTRIAL NEWS REVIEW

Where's The 'Competition'?

The Greensboro Daily News

When Superior Court Judge Hamilton Hobgood signed a restraining order halting the sale of milk by a High Point foodstore chain substantially under the fixed North Carolina price, he was probably doing what he had to do--only applying the law as he finds it.

But the intriguing little law cited to him bears closer examination.

It passed onto the statue books

as 106-266.21--"Sale Below Cost to Injure or Destroy Competition Prohibition"--during the 1965 General Assembly--which is to say well before the latest boost in wholesale milk prices, authorized by the North Carolina Milk Commission, made milk prices a burning issue.

Unfortunately, even when its vital interests are affected, the public can follow only so much of the legislation that springs full-blown from the imaginations or special interests of legislators.

What is intriguing about the 1965 law, a law transparently passed to serve the special interests of the milk industry and invoked by attorneys for the Milk Commission before Judge Hobgood, is that it puts the burden of proof on persons accused of violating it. This is, to say the least, a novel twist on the presumption of innocence. The law reads, in part, as follows:

"At any hearing or trial on a complaint under this section, evidence of sale of milk by a distributor... or retailer below cost shall constitute prima facie evidence of the violation or violations alleged (that is, that such sales are "for the purpose of injuring, harassing or destroying competition") and the burden of rebutting the prima facie case thus made... shall be upon the person charged with violation."

It is difficult to say which is more laughable feature of this law: its setting of penalties for retailers who supposedly "injure competition," or its adoption of the alien idea that a person accused of breaking the law is guilty until he "rebutts" the "prima facie" case against him.

If anything is self-evident from the recent flap about milk prices in North Carolina, it is that for reason either good or bad or both there is no competition in the sale of milk in North Carolina. When grocers sell milk at or near the same price, where is the "competition" to be injured?

Milk prices are in fact tightly controlled by the North Carolina Milk Commission which, while it shies from fixing retail price lists directly, sets the prices paid by distributors to producers of milk and thus puts a fixed floor under wholesale costs.

If the Milk Commission graciously refrains from setting retail prices on this essential commodity, the reason is not far to seek: the 1965 act, as James Ross pointed out in his story on the Big Bear action earlier this week, makes it unnecessary. If the wholesale cost

of milk is effectively set by the Milk Commission and the 1965 act makes it unlawful to sell milk at less than 7 per cent above the going wholesale price, then the Milk Commission is setting milk prices. No doubt about it.

In fact, the dead giveaway is that the legal action to halt Big Bear's undersale of milk stems not from some other retailer, supposedly victimized by the injury to competition, but from the Milk Commission itself. In effect, the tax-supported public regulatory body is taking action to restrain a private retailer who seeks to give the consumer a break. The taxpaying consumer, that is, subsidizes his his own downfall.

To be sure, the whole question of milk prices and their relationship to the supply of milk is vexed. But it does seem a mockery of the function of law to pretend that what is rigidly fixed by a public commission is "competitive" and to penalize, with the burden of proof on the defendant, anyone who breaks the tightly-dressed ranks of non-competitive milk retailers.

It is to be doubted, we suspect, that the consuming public will tolerate such legalistic flummery for very long.

Helen Keller

Every so often life produces some gallant soul whose triumphs over crushing adversity become an inspirational monument of faith and courage for the folk of the world to ponder.

Few fit that characterization more completely than does the indomitable Helen Keller.

Her achievements have not gone unnoticed or unrewarded by a nation which ranks courage high on the list of personal attributes.



The Franklin Times
Established 1870
Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by

The Franklin Times, Inc.
CLINT FULLER, Managing Editor
ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Business Manager

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Advertising Rates Upon Request

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Single Copy 10¢
In North Carolina:
One Year, \$4.64; Six Months, \$2.85
Three Months, \$2.06
Out of State:
One Year, \$5.90; Six Months, \$4.00
Three Months, \$3.50