

Tuesday, February 28, 1967

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Sportmanship

Today, when the major colleges and universities are plagued with the lack of good sportmanship in many areas, it is heartwarming to witness the display of this most valued commodity in the recent basketball tournament played here.

Spectators, coaches, school officials and team members could not have exemplified the true sportsman and the true meaning of sportmanship more than was done in the past week.

At Louisburg College and at Louisburg High School, in both the Junior College Tourney and the County Tourney, sportmanship was excellent.

Basketball games, especially, when championships and trophies ride on almost every shot, can be a nerve-racking experience for players, coaches and

fans. Anyone would be hard put not to show some degree of displeasure when things are not going to suit them. This, of course, is part of the game and can be done, as it was in these tournaments, without being poor sports.

The fact that such good clean fun can be enjoyed by people of all ages in our county, is one of the high marks of the people here and the caliber children being reared in this area.

The tournament is a wonderful way for people in one section to visit with those from other sections of the county. To be able to do and to be able to take defeat and to accept victory is a mark of good citizenship.

We're proud that we have so much of this in Franklin County.

Where There's Smoke

We have no way of knowing just how much fire New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison is hiding, but one thing for sure, he has raised a great deal of smoke in the matter of the Kennedy assassination.

The killing of the President continues to be surrounded in a sea of unanswered questions. The Warren Commission, which was established in the hope of forevermore disquieting any suspicions and doubts connected with the slaying, has proved unsuccessful. Over three years later, there remains much doubt in the minds of the American people that things happened exactly as the Warren Commission reported.

The Manchester book, which has drawn so much publicity of late, has also managed to keep alive some of the controversy shrouding the death of President Kennedy.

If there were a plot, as Mr. Garrison implies in New Orleans, it would seem appropriate to us that every arm of the country's investigative agencies be thrown into the search for the truth. Mr.

Garrison, apparently pleased that he has something hot, seems to want to keep it to himself. He is perhaps justified in view of the recent mysterious deaths of at least two persons he says were involved. However, the American people want to know just what it is that Mr. Garrison thinks he has uncovered. They have a right to know.

It is a sign of our times that the public will no longer take at face value the statements of federal authorities as being accurate or indeed true. It is not surprising that the public in general holds some doubts about the Warren Commission report. The public has been fooled before by federal officials and in matters far less intriguing.

Someone, perhaps Mr. Garrison, should put the public mind at ease and disclose once and for all, everything known about the assassination. Some answers perhaps will never be forthcoming, but those in the possession of the few should be made public for all to see and hear.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Mansfield's Warning

Majority Senate Leader Mike Mansfield has issued another warning to the nation on the Vietnam war. Last year, at the close of 1965's fighting, he urged President Lyndon Johnson to seek peace. In a recent assessment of the situation exactly one year later his advice was much the same.

Speaking of Thailand, where Communists are now fighting the legal government, Mansfield says we might be in the initial stages of another Vietnam. "Our policy in Thailand seems to be treading the same path," he said, noting that we were now supplying advisers and transportation to the Thais, just as we did in Vietnam.

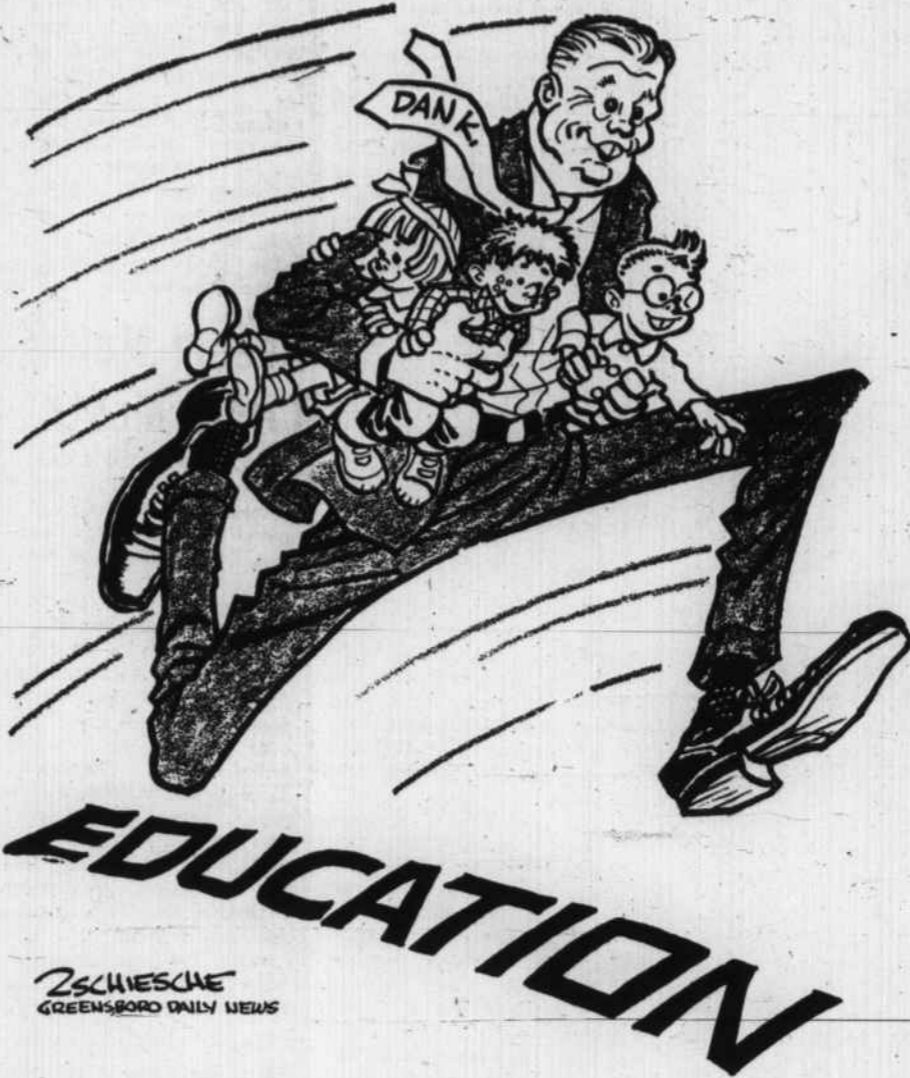
Mansfield says efforts in behalf of peace in the past year have produced "no progress toward a just settlement" and he believes the danger of an expanded conflict has increased in that time. "It's a war which could get out of hand through miscalculation or accident," he added.

He says the war "has escalated gradually" and points to certain facts which made stronger peace or compromise efforts desirable. "The world at large is not on our side in this struggle," he cautions. In addition, continued escalation and fighting will inevitably make North Vietnam more and more dependent on Red China, he warns.

Mansfield says we now have between 35,000 and 37,000 men in Thailand, a major increase since a year ago, and the danger of a new Vietnam-type war in that country, as well as an expanded war in Vietnam, are dangers we should avoid by every possible means. His new warning (he issued a similar one after a study on the scene in January of 1966) is certain to increase pressure on the Johnson Administration for some kind of settlement.

It is a grim note for the new year, one which must be considered by all thinking citizens.

"...Take A Giant Step..."



Rep. Fountain Introduces Bill To Strengthen Federal Govt.

Representative L. H. Fountain introduced a major bill to further strengthen our federal system through policies and cooperation, and the coordination of Federally-aided activities, between the Federal, State and local levels of government.

The Fountain bill, called the "Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1967," deals with a number of important problems examined by the House Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee, of which Congressman Fountain is Chairman, and by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, on which he serves as a Congressional member. The Advisory Commission, which brings together representatives of our Federal, State and local governments for the consideration of common problems, was established in 1959 as a bipartisan body through the enactment of legislation sponsored by Representative Fountain.

The bill is intended to accomplish these eight objectives:

(1) Provide that Governors and State legislatures be fully informed, upon request, about all Federal grants made to their States, and that grant funds be more uniformly and efficiently administered;

(2) Permit State and local governments to contract with Federal agencies for specialized technical assistance and training which the State and local governments themselves cannot economically provide. However, Federal agencies may not perform these services if they are reasonably and expeditiously available through ordinary business channels;

(3) Establish a coordinated intergovernmental policy on the administration of grants for urban development, with Federal agencies taking into account all viewpoints--local, regional, State and National--in the formulation and evaluation of programs and projects. It also favors the eligibility of cities, counties and towns as recipients of Federal urban development assistance in preference to special purpose units of local government which are not directly responsible to the voters;

(4) Provide for periodic Congressional review of new Federal grant-in-aid programs to insure that such programs are examined in a systematic fashion and are reconsidered in the light of changing conditions;

(5) Authorize the President to submit plans to the Congress for the consolidation of individual categorical grants within broad functional areas, subject to the same kind of Congressional veto procedures that apply to executive reorganization plans. The purpose of this provision is to help control the proliferation

of separate grants and to provide greater flexibility to the States in the use of grant funds;

(6) Require that the Federal government, to the extent possible, acquire, use and dispose of urban land in a way that is consistent with local planning objectives;

(7) Establish a uniform policy for fair and equitable treatment of owners, tenants, and other persons forced to relocate as a result of the acquisition of real property for Federal and federally-aided public improvement programs, such as highways;

(8) Establish a uniform policy for the acquisition of real property by Federal agencies and by State agencies using Federal funds for public improvement programs.

"This bill," Congressman Fountain said, "seeks to harmonize the many independent-administered Federal assistance programs for their more effective and coordinated implementation at the State and local levels where such programs are actually trans-

lated into projects and services for the benefit of our people."

Congressman Fountain further stated: "While the grant-in-aid has been a valuable instrument for facilitating intergovernmental cooperation, it has, nevertheless, created problems for the State and local governments whose strength and vitality we seek to nourish. Problems have resulted from the rapidly accelerating trend in recent years toward the enactment of a great many new and varied grant programs. We now have over 220 Federal grant programs administered by no fewer than 16 Federal departments and agencies. Problems have also resulted from a lack of effective coordination of these activities at the Federal level, and with respect to their impact on local communities and on the structure of State government."

It is toward the solution of these important intergovernmental problems that the Fountain bill is directed.

A Squeaking Contest With A Mouse

BY JESSE HELMS

Among Evangelist Billy Graham's lesser worries we would suppose, is the criticism of him by first one official of the National Council of Churches and then another. Insofar as we know, Dr. Graham has not dignified the criticism by responding to it, and he is wise in his silence. There is no point in becoming involved in a squeaking contest with a mouse.

Still, there is something revealing in the nature of the latest criticism emanating from the National Council of Churches, this time voiced by a Rev. Colin Williams who, by the way, made his comments while the NCC's General Assembly was holding its annual meeting at a plush Miami Beach hotel.

The Rev. Mr. Williams commented that Billy Graham is "obsolete". Dr. Graham emphasizes the personal nature of Christianity, Mr. Williams said, and that--he added--"is no longer an adequate symbol for the contemporary world".

It is small wonder that the reporters present found it necessary to ask Mr. Williams to explain a bit. Well, said the Rev. Mr. Williams, Dr. Graham "has lost sight of the social dimensions of sin and the way sin is to be overcome."

The Reverend still wasn't getting through to the reporters, so the questioning was pursued. And then the usual National Council of Churches dogma began to come forth. And the more it came, the stronger Billy Graham loomed as a dynamic central figure in the preservation of the Christian gospel.

Dr. Graham's trouble, according to the National Council of Churches official, was that he hadn't marched in the streets, he hadn't picketed the Congress, he hadn't participated in the various movements that have led to anarchy and destruction and violence. Rather, Billy Graham has been speaking to the hearts of individual men and women. He has preached that if mankind will take care of its individual sins, social reform will take care of itself--and in the proper manner.

It is not difficult to understand that the National Council of Churches objects to Billy Graham's refusal to follow the NCC format of disgusting

its own brand of politics and sociology with pious labels. If the National Council of Churches is interested in saving souls, it has not been apparent. The NCC has resembled nothing in recent years so much as a giant political lobbying mechanism. It presents itself as the last word on economic and social problems, and no discernible good comes to mind that the NCC has achieved. It may be that what the officials of the NCC need most to do is to attend a Billy Graham rally when Dr. Graham is emphasizing the importance of personal responsibility and individual Christian concepts.

Billy Graham, as a preacher, may be in the minority, but his principles are far from obsolete. A backsliding American cannot charge its travails to Billy Graham, for he has been sounding a warning--to individuals--for a quarter of a century and more. As J. Edgar Hoover observed the other day, there is today a departure by growing numbers of Americans from the recognition of an objective, or absolute, norm of personal morality. We are substituting, instead, what is called a "socially acceptable" pattern of behavior. In the course of this displacement, Mr. Hoover said, we have--in his opinion--"lost sight of two vital elements--the nature of God and the nature of man." There was a time, he said, when society demanded law and order. The average citizen refused to tolerate those who lacked personal integrity. Loss of honor meant total disgrace. Today, there is a national attitude of "it's all right if you can get by with it"--particularly if some excuse, such as race or poverty, can be dredged up as a defense.

Billy Graham, in the eyes of the National Council of Churches, probably is indeed guilty of preaching the old-time religion, and this reaching for the personal conscience and the individual soul of man. This seems to be neither the interest nor the purpose of the National Council of Churches. Billy Graham's old-time religion may be obsolete to the NCC, but we suspect there are millions who remain willing to say that "it's good enough for me."

Income

(Continued from Page 1) wonder crop. Plantings have more than doubled the past three years to a total of 17,000 acres which yielded an average of 24 bushels an acre and grossed \$962,500 to farmers. Farmers' cash receipts from livestock and livestock products reached a record total of \$3,288,190 last year. The gain of \$200,000 over the previous year was a result of continued good prices for beef and hogs, an increased number of hogs produced and better milk and egg prices.

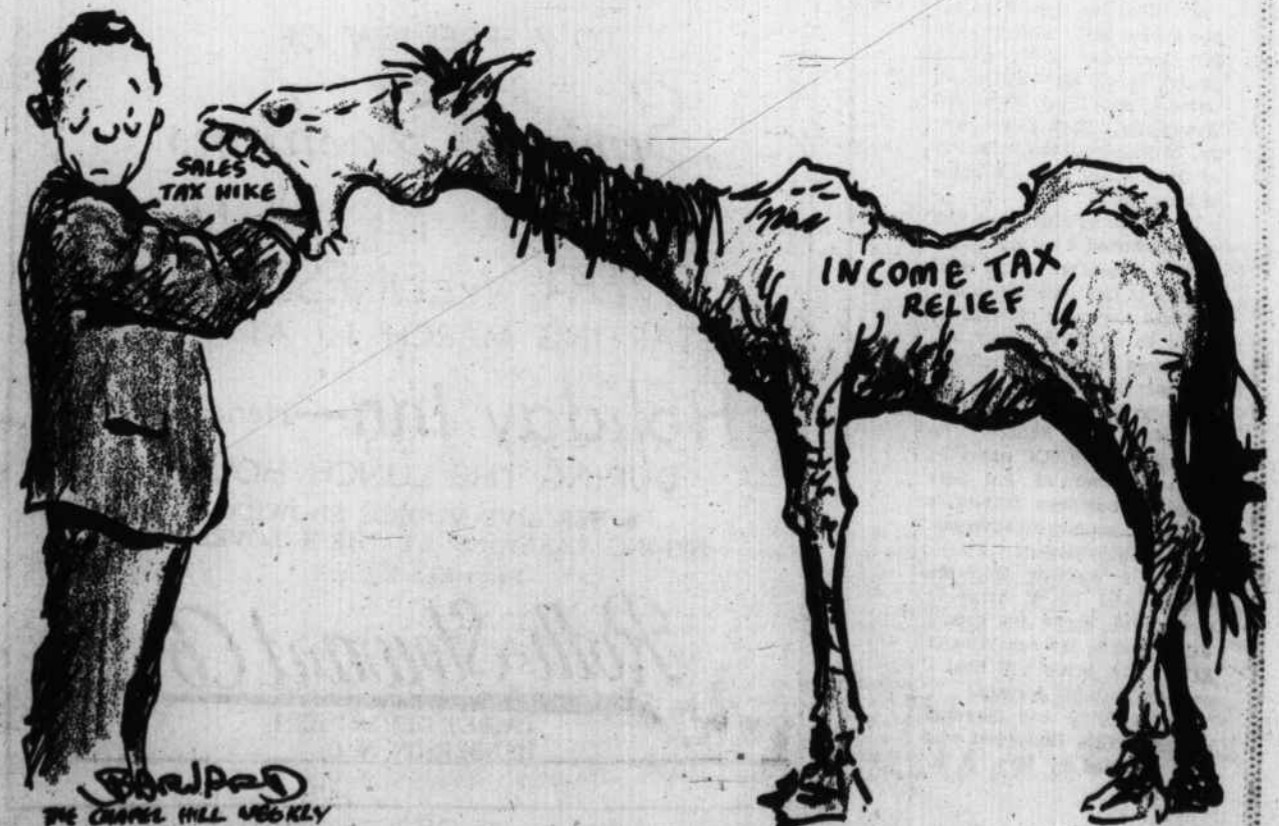
We have predicted a gross farm income of \$25 billion by 1971, says Dean. This is one of the goals set by farmer groups in preparing a five-year growth plan called "Target 2." Farmers are expected to reach their goal by higher crop yields, more livestock,

Schools

(Continued from Page 1) as possible. School Board members and school personnel are prohibited by law from influencing anyone in the choice of schools, it was stated, although questions on any other aspects of the plan should be directed to the school office. Forms are also on hand at the school office and in local schools for those who will enter the system after the 30-day choice period ends. These also include complete instructions in a letter to parents and the Notice of the plan.

and by higher prices received. "Yes, you can still say, when agriculture grows, the Franklin County economy usually grows with it," said Dean.

Gift Horse



The Franklin Times

Established 1870 — Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by

The Franklin Times, Inc.

Bickett Blvd. Dial GY 6-3283 LOUISBURG, N. C.

CLINT FULLER, Managing Editor

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Business Manager



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Three Months, \$2.06
Three Months, \$3.50

Entered as second class mail matter and postage paid at the Post Office at Louisburg, N. C. 27549.