

Thursday, May 25, 1967

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Clean-Up Week

None of us should need a reason for cleaning up around our homes and for demanding that the streets and sidewalks in our town be kept clean. But, in case some of us do, the Louisburg Garden Club and town officials have designated next week as Clean-Up Week.

While the designation will most likely not result in massive improvements where people themselves don't care, it will nevertheless serve as a reminder to those of us who do to put forth an extra effort.

One interesting point about next week's Clean-Up project is that a town ordinance exists which prohibits littering on the streets and sidewalks. Apparently it has existed for a number of years. We say "existed" because as far as is known this is all the ordinance has done. It has not resulted in cleaner streets and as far as we know, it has not resulted in anyone's

arrest for littering.

The same ordinance also prohibits the obstruction of sidewalks and streets by anyone for any reason. This comes somewhat as a surprise to us since there have been few days in the past years when the streets and sidewalks were void of boxes, crates and other obstructions.

We look forward to favorable results next week from the Town of Louisburg-Garden Club sponsored Clean-Up Week. We hope that every citizen will accept this as a personal responsibility and put forth an extra effort to brighten the appearance of our town. We also look forward to the enforcement of the existing town ordinance or, in lieu of this, perhaps, removing it from the books.

Louisburg will never give the appearance of a clean city unless all of us work at it more than one week a year, however great this effort might be.

Is There No End?

There seems to be no end to which our national leaders will go to reach new heights of absurdity; no end to which they will go to place another batch on the public dole.

The term "federal funds" is as misleading as any term could possibly be. The funds the federal government is doling out to every Tom, Dick and Harry are your funds, the taxpayer's funds.

The most recent disclosure, which we will call the "Stupidity-of-the-Month" since there are new ones coming along with increased regularity, concerns the poor, underprivileged murderers, robbers and rapists.

Already protected more thoroughly than any average citizen, the criminal is now slated to benefit from his months (or in some rare cases, years) of confinement.

According to Senator John J. Williams of Delaware, in a speech on the Senate floor recently, a convict solely as a result of his work while serving his term, can now, thanks to a new Labor Department ruling, "establish his eligibility for unemployment benefits, qualify for social security and under certain conditions have the time he has served in prison counted as Federal service for the purpose of increasing his pension under civil service retirement."

Senator Williams continued from the Senate floor: "Heretofore, Federal prisons have been recognized as places of punishment for persons after their conviction of a crime to society. The

Great Society, however, has now adopted an entirely new approach to the criminal, an approach where the fringe benefits may partially offset the punishment of confinement.

"In fact, so much is being said about protecting the criminal that we are losing sight of the rights of the victims of crimes.

"As part of this new philosophy the Department of Labor on June 27, 1966, issued a Special Bulletin No. 33. This bulletin dignified the work performed by a convict while serving his sentence by classifying such work as Federal service

"Secretary Wirtz recently confirmed the unemployment benefits by stating:

"Since employment under the provisions of the Prisoner Rehabilitation Act of 1965 and Schedule A established by the U. S. Civil Service Commission is 'Federal Service' under title XV of the Social Security Act, it would be considered in the same manner as any other Federal service in determining entitlement for unemployment compensation for Federal Employees.

"It is theoretically possible that upon release from prison, a claimant may establish entitlement to benefits under a state unemployment insurance law or the UCFE law entirely on his 'work release' employment and wages earned in private industry or a Federal job while serving his prison sentence."

And we had to ask what else could they do.

There was nothing natural about the death recently of The New York World Journal Tribune. It was a sudden death, a homicide, murder with premeditation. Its epitaph will be that it was a newspaper choked to death by ruthless men.

It is necessary to examine history in proper context in order to view the remains of what might have been a great newspaper. At the turn of the century, New York City had more than a dozen newspapers, all publishing with some degree of profit. A series of mergers, and a few bankruptcies, steadily reduced the number - and improved the quality - of the surviving newspapers. Then there began the golden years of journalism in the Big City, an almost legendary period when great effort and energetic competition made New York a marvel of journalistic achievement.

And then the city's newspapers fell under the domination of labor unions. A year ago, three of the giants of journalism dropped in their

tracks, unable to meet the demands of their unions. Out of the ashes rose a feeble effort to put the three giants back together again under one masthead. Men took the torso of The Herald Tribune, the arms of The World Telegram, and the legs of The Journal American. And 240 days ago, the first issue of The World Journal Tribune rolled off the presses.

It was a sort of Rube Goldberg contraption from the beginning. It had the body, legs and arms of great and honored newspapers, glued limply together with fear and apprehension. But its head was manipulated by the whims and the ruthlessness of labor union power, symbolized by a man named Bertram Powers. Powers spoke for the unions. Last week, when the desperately sick newspaper was struggling for survival, Powers demanded a 21 per cent wage increase for union employees - a demand that would have cost the already-unprofitable newspaper \$10.5 million.

When the newspaper protest-

ed, Mr. Powers retorted: "Either pay or shut down." The World Journal Tribune shut down, and 2,500 people were out of jobs. The nation's third largest newspaper was dead, and its former employees hauled out their bottles and had a drink at their desks.

There is a lesson in all of this, of course, for all men and all industries: The only real job security for any worker must begin with an employer who is allowed to make a profit. Any other philosophy must end in a fight over a cadaver.

It is something more than coincidental, meanwhile, that leaders of the North Carolina Press Association last week felt obliged to register a protest against threats of federal intrusion into the newspaper business in North Carolina. Earlier it had been disclosed that federal "poverty" funds would be used to establish and operate a newspaper in western North Carolina.

The first federal funds would amount to \$179,000, with more sure to follow. Most tyrants

are born small, then grow great. The federal government would hire 23 employees, including a \$10,000-a-year-editor. The paper would be mailed free-of-charge to a beginning subscription list of 8,000 people.

The leaders of the North Carolina Press Association were quite correct in protesting this proposed government competition. And we share their concern. Still, other businessmen, who have endured government competition for years, may be forgiven if they see a bit of wry humor in the situation. The newspapers of this state, for the most part, have encouraged government intrusion into other areas of private enterprise - into the electric power business, for example, medicine, financing; the list is endless. Now the shoe is

on the other foot - and newspapers should have known that it would be the inevitable result of a sprawling, domineering government. The government wants to get into the newspaper business.

The moral of it all scarcely needs repeating, lest it be mistaken for gloating - which it is not. Crises are beginning to come with a rush - even in the newspaper business. When the government finally gets complete control of the news business, the blanket of tyranny will have covered us all. And there is just one final footnote worthy of mention: In his budget for the current year, Lyndon Baines Johnson has \$425 million at his disposal for public information, press releases and public relations.

It's enough to make you stop and think, isn't it?

From The Office Of Congressman Fountain

Efforts Made To Improve School Bill

Washington, D. C. - By the time you read this, Congress probably will have voted on the Administration bill to extend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act beyond its expiration date of June 30, 1968.

At this writing, it is impossible to predict the eventual outcome of the legislation. You might be interested, however, in some of the efforts that have been made to improve the bill, nicknamed the "ESEA Bill," and make it acceptable to all parts of the country.

I have attended at least 25 sessions—either formal talks with large groups or informal chats with one or two individuals—to discuss the ESEA Bill.

These meetings included talks with Congressman Carl Perkins of Kentucky, Chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, and Congresswoman Edith Green of Oregon, second-ranking Democrat on the Committee and a longtime worker for better education.

Others included Albert Quie of Minnesota, second-ranking Republican on the Committee, who offered an amendment to substitute bloc grants direct to the states in favor of the Administration's plan to approve each project separately in Washington.

The idea of distributing funds to the states on a bloc basis has a lot of appeal. Many school administrators believe such an approach would provide for much-needed flexibility at the state and local levels and eliminate a great deal of unnecessary Federal red tape.

However, in the absence of hearings and a thorough study by the Committee, there seems to be a hesitancy on the part of many, including some who favor the general idea, of suddenly shifting courses until a fair and equitable formula can be worked out.

One of the biggest criticisms of the Quie Amendment was that it would have required far less funds to be spent in poorer school districts. Many felt this change of emphasis would defeat the original purpose of the program first enacted in 1965.

In all these discussions with proponents and opponents of the various bills proposed, I made clear my belief that such legislation should:

1. Make it unmistakable that Congress intends for funds appropriated for education to be used for education purposes and not for harassment of local officials.
2. Strongly support the freedom of choice system—as upheld by the courts.
3. Prohibit any deferral or withholding of funds from any local school district unless and until a hearing had been held and the district had been found guilty of discrimination.

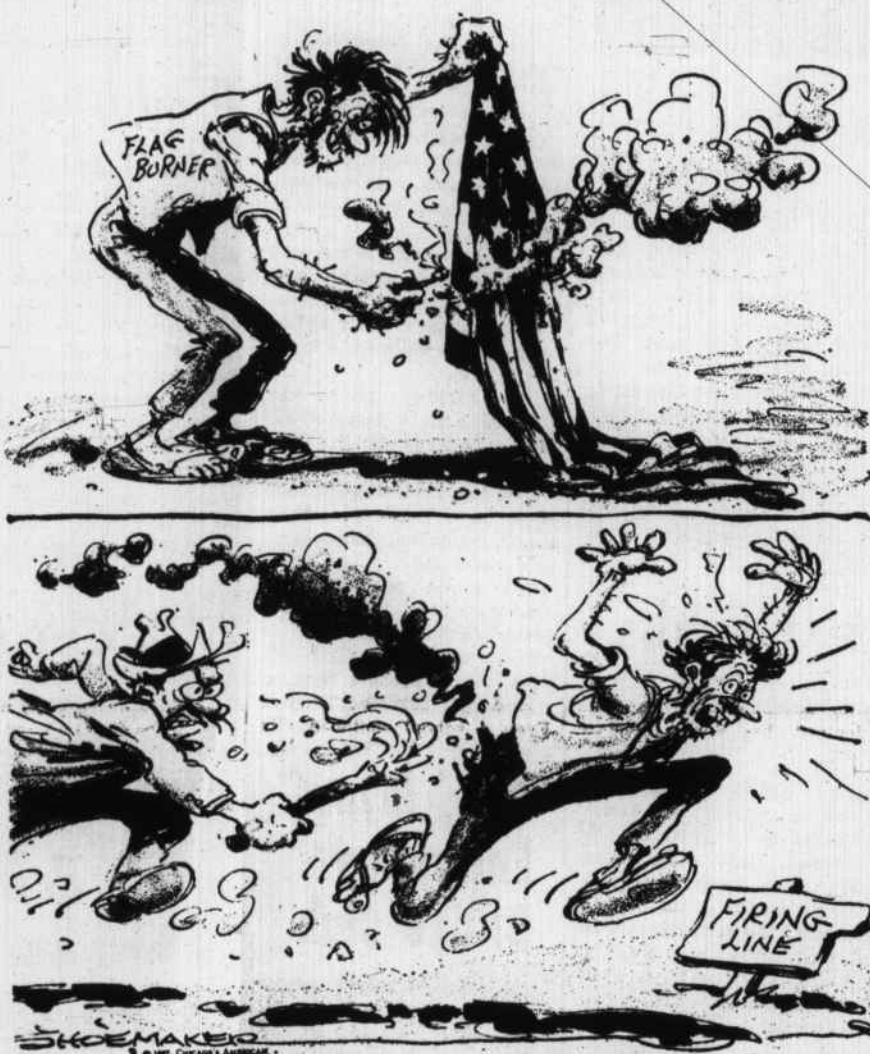
School groups continue to come to Washington as graduation nears for thousands of young people in the Second District. The latest to visit our office here was the Senior Class of Norlina High School.

It is always encouraging to see young persons interested in their National Capital and their Government. Although our visits are all too brief, I heartily welcome the opportunity to explain some of the problems of our country and to answer questions about Congress.

Remember, you have a standing invitation to visit our office here in Room 2400, Rayburn House Office Building.

And, speaking of graduation, I hope to see many of you in the next few weeks. I will speak at commencement exercises at Peace College in Raleigh on May 28, at South Edgecombe High School in Pinetops on June 2, at North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount on June 4 and at Norlina High School on June 5.

PUNISHMENT SHOULD FIT THE CRIME



Noted And Passed

Expo Montrea: Americans preparing to journey to the "World Fair" in Montreal, Canada, could prepare for some shudders that haven't been widely publicized in these parts. One, in particular, is the Cuban pavilion. There are some 250 Cuban delegates, 60 of them "security personnel." And it shouldn't take much imagination to realize the types that Castro will trust to depart Cuba to represent him in Canada. You can get a Havana cigar there if you wish. But don't turn your back on the types passing them out.

Truth in Packaging: In Tallahassee, Florida, State Legislator Donald Reed asked the legislature to amend a "truth in packaging" bill to prevent women from wearing hair dye, wigs, wiglets, false eyelashes, contact lenses, falsies, hippads, girdles or make-up. The language of the amendment included items tending to "alter the appearance of any package to such an extent as to deceive one as to the actual contents thereof."

The amendment was passed by an overwhelming voice vote. Whereupon it was quitting time and the legislators had to go home to the little woman.

Congressman Reed withdrew the amendment before adjournment.

Legislative News

by Representative James D. Speed

Raleigh--A bill to permit twin-trailer "long" trucks of sixty five feet overall length to operate on certain highways in North Carolina passed the House over strong opposition and has been sent to the Senate. I spoke in opposition to this bill on the House floor and voted against it on grounds that it will create additional hazards to highway safety and further glut our already crowded roads unnecessarily. Such two-trailer trucks are 10 feet longer than the largest now operating on our highways and I feel it will be almost impossible to find a place to pass such a vehicle safely on our two-lane highways.

The bill was amended to allow such 65-foot vehicles only on four-lane highways. This was a major improvement but I still disapprove and voted against the bill. It is obvious that this is a "foot in the door" approach to further requests for additional truck lengths (up to 100 feet in some areas) as well as additional permitted weight loads.

I cannot agree with the argument that this increased length and load space would be greatly beneficial to agricultural interests. The present length trucks along with railroads and air freight service provide adequate transportation for our present and foreseeable needs. Our real need is for more adequate highways in more areas of the state and for greater highway safety on the roads we have.

Meanwhile I have introduced or co-signed several bills which we consider to be of statewide importance. One of these is a bill, H. B. 1077, relating to state regulation of the pest control industry to a degree that the public may be adequately protected from fraud, deceit, overcharges and poor workmanship. We hope this bill will guarantee the public ethical and professional service in cases of need.

It will cost more because the bill provides an additional small percentage of the fee to finance a state inspection and regulation program in the Pest Control division of the N. C. Department of Agriculture. This department has been handicapped in the past because of inequities in the present law



as well as insufficient provisions to provide a good control program.

In recent months, however, the small inspection force has uncovered many cases in which the public has been overcharged and victimized by inadequate or unnecessary inspections and pest control treatments. Some complaints have come to me from our legislative district. A sound structural pest control bill is in the interest of the public in rural and city areas alike and should guarantee a dollar's worth of service

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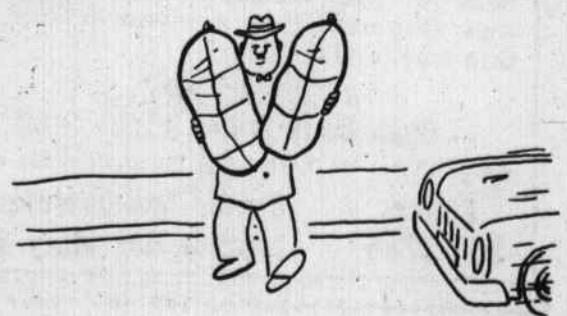
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