

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### In North Carolina's Best Interest

Franklin school officials have asked the Attorney General to enter the four-year old school desegregation suit, in the name of the people of North Carolina. The request is a reasonable one. The United States Attorney General has fought the battle of the NAACP throughout the case. It is time the odds were better equalled.

Indications are that the State will get into the case to some degree. A meeting between school officials and Attorney General Bob Morgan this week was described by one school official as "fruitful."

Franklin has stood alone against the power and might of the federal onslaught for four years. It has been costly and worrisome and it has resulted in a decrease in education for the children of the county. Little can be one about this at this late date and no useful purpose can be served by conjecture as to how things might have been had North Carolina joined the struggle at its beginning.

However, the latest charges involve every school system in the state and North Carolina, should it enter the case with any degree of enthusiasm, could possibly salvage some semblance of reasonableness from the middle of federal charges.

Two major points concern the entire state. First, the charge that Franklin should no longer be allowed to charge tuition for students whose parents live outside the district. This policy was set by the Board of Education based on a ruling by the Attorney General's office. Should the Justice Department be successful in knocking

down this policy in Franklin, it would kill it in every system in the state. This could lead to a mass immigration of out-of-state students to the Tarheel state to get a free education.

Secondly, Franklin County assigned students last fall by a method described as the "California Reading Test" and a readiness test for first graders. As far as can be determined most, if not all, North Carolina school systems assign students by the same or a similar method. Should Franklin suffer defeat in defending this method, every system in the state would no longer be allowed to assign students according to ability.

The State of North Carolina has much to lose in the Franklin case. The matter goes beyond the state's obvious policy of hands-off in desegregation suits. This, as the Fourth Circuit Court said, is now a moot question. Integration is a fact of life in Franklin and the state's fear of gaining a racist reputation is no longer founded.

The threat to lock up the Board of Education is enough to bring out a cry from the state and its people. The hampering of educational opportunities in Franklin, for which the state pays a major share, should have long ago brought forth some actions by the state. Surely, with the threat existing to all school systems, it is in the best interest of the people that North Carolina now join in the struggle.

It would be catastrophic for North Carolina to do less. Even as late as it is, North Carolina needs to do more.

### Is This Our Last Chance?

If it is true that today each of us begins the rest of our life and if this applies to our country as it begins the Nixon era, could it be possible that this is our last chance?

If the peace talks fail in Paris, will there be another time, another place? When again will we have the opportunity to bring peace to the world? If Nixon doesn't do it, who will. Will the chance still exist four years from now?

If rioting and demonstrating and general disrespect for law is not stopped now, will it ever be? If Nixon doesn't stop it, will it not be so big in four more years that it will be impossible to stop? Will these people not gain confidence and strength in this time? Who will come along four years hence, stronger and wiser to bring this anarchy to a halt?

If the thievery and waste in the so-called war on poverty is not stopped now, how much of America's resources will have been dwindled away in four years? If this thievery continues to go unabated, what happens to the payer of the bill? If Nixon doesn't stop it, who will?

If the ridiculous efforts of the federal government to invade the school systems of the nation is not stopped now, who will teach the children in the years ahead? Who will run the country if education falls as much in the four years coming as in the four years past? If Nixon doesn't bring some sense back to education, who will? If he doesn't do it now, will it not be too late?

If inflation continues to eat away at the working man's salary and the retired man's income, where will the welfare checks come from in the years ahead? If the spiral isn't stopped now, what will the dollar buy in 1972? And who will have the dollar?

If the federal government continues to pay people not to work and

if it continues to encourage the people to apply for welfare who's going to pay the bill? If qualifications continue to be lowered, who will be left to work? Isn't it getting late?

If criminals are continued to be set free because the courts rule against the police, who will protect the innocent? Will it not be too late, when man returns to the first law of self-preservation?

If the judiciary continues to be dominated by the executive branch of government, can justice survive? Without justice, can the nation live?

Richard Nixon has never managed to stir the pulse of the American people. Even as the bright-haired boy of the nation's hero President, Dwight Eisenhower, nobody's heart beat stronger when Nixon appeared. He does not excite. He does not have the color of statue of a Roosevelt or a John Kennedy. Nor does he have the plain touch of a Truman. But, he's all we've got. He is this nation's chance. And he may be the last chance we're going to have.

In this light, he merits all the support we can muster. Because, it is not so much, if not Nixon, who or when. It is, instead, if not Nixon, if



'Don't worry, Honey. A new administration won't effect the state of our union.'

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

### The Bib Overall Question

The Chapel Hill Weekly

Among the pressing and truly significant issues of the day, we mention the bib overall controversy at Jackson Junior High School in Greensboro.

To fill you in, briefly, Jay Bullard, 14, was sent home from school last week to shuck his overalls and get into some regular clothes, like trousers.

The authority issuing the order held that Jackson Junior High wasn't a farm, and overalls (sometimes pronounced over-halls) thus was inappropriate cover.

The youth's father, who sounds like an uncommonly sensible man, said, "He didn't wear them to show off and they were neat and clean. He wore the overalls because he wanted to. He asked for bib overalls for Christmas and I bought them for him. I wore them as a boy myself."

Having also worn bib overalls, including one-gallus rags in hard times, we can't hardly come down strong enough on the side of Jay Bullard and his daddy.

Whatever they lack in chic and hang, blue denim overalls are about as honest as any clothes that ever came off the cutting table. The bib not only has a pencil pocket and

storage for one thing and another, but serves as a handwarmer and keeps the shirtfront clean. That's more than you can say for a pair of pants.

With overalls, cuff-lengths are adjustable, no belt is needed, and you don't have to worry about the crease. The other considerable benefits mostly accrue to the woman of the house who does the washing and ironing.

It's true that bib overalls have gotten a bad name in some sections since they were adopted as formal dress by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other civil rights activist groups. It should be pointed out, however, that those fellows were wearing pants and shirts for a long time without causing a fashion commotion before they affected bib overalls.

To be thorough, accurate and fair, as is our way, it should also be noted that five students showed up at Jackson Junior High on Monday wearing bib overalls and after heart-to-heart talks with the principal were allowed to remain on the premises. This improvement in official attitude is encouraging. There's hope for America yet.

### IF HE HAD SIMPLY SAID GOODBYE

Mount Olive Tribune

We were ready to join in the sentimental spirit of the hour as President Johnson paid his last visit to Congress and delivered his last message. The welcome he received, the nostalgic look back over nearly 40 years on Capitol Hill from the bottom to the top, and the general atmosphere of fond farewell were inclined to make friend and foe join hands in a sentimental moment. His opening remarks added to the scene.

But then he had to switch to political subjects, and spoil it all.

In that farewell speech and in the following budget message to Congress,

he tried to reach beyond his reign to continue and enlarge the things which led to his party's loss of the Presidency. He asked for more socialism in several ways, asked for three billions of dollars more to be taken from working people each year under social security, and urged continued vast increases in government spending on the same type programs which have led to so many of our social and economic troubles today.

We wish he hadn't reminded us that under no other President has so much damage been done to the nation's economic wellbeing, social welfare, racial harmony, public school and higher education effectiveness, crime control, individual patriotism, and national unity.

We wish he had stuck with the nostalgia bit, shed a tear, and let us answer his "goodbye" with a different kind of sincerity.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for sharing the recent issue of the Times with me. I enjoyed the front page story and picture, plus the column by "Frank Count."

I shared your material with Governor Scott who found the picture of Frank interesting (to say the least!).

Sincerely,  
David Murray  
Assistant to the Governor

## A Letter To Frank Count

Frank Count  
Award-Winning Columnist  
The Franklin Times  
Louisburg, N. C.

Dear Frank:

I'm the bald-headed fellow who used to frighten little children every night on WRAL-TV, which I hear some of you folks up in Franklin used to watch before they could read Jesse Helms in the Times. Nowadays I'm the editor of a hifalutin magazine and I have to write and act dignified all the time, but every now and then I sneak a look at your column and then dash into the executive washroom and guffaw for a while until I can get settled down and put my dignity back on.

I saw where your column won a prize in the Press Association contest and you went down to Chapel Hill in your overalls to collect from Bob Scott, who was nice to you even though you said something uppity about his new executive hair style. I read all the big city newspapers, even the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, and they don't have nothing in them like your good old country writing. Those other papers have plenty of columnists, but all they ever want to write about is Viet Nam and the balance of payments and they're so solemn and down-in-the-mouth about it all that it makes me want to go back in the executive washroom and cry for a while.

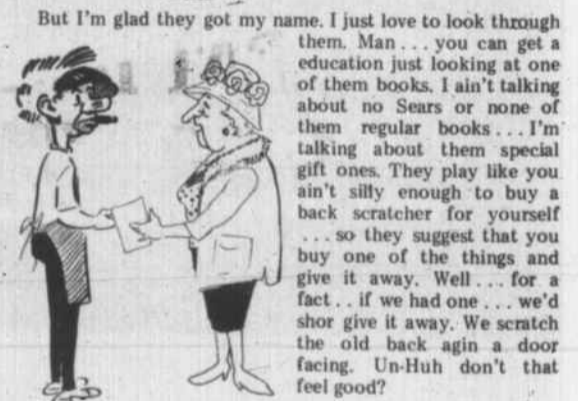
Anyway, I feel a lot more at home with your column not only because it's funny, but because if you're dignified and an intellectual you've got too much sense to show it.

Say hello to that fellow... what's his name?... Clint Fuller. It's too bad he can't write as good as you can, but after all he has to think up all them fancy, dignified editorials. He just don't have time to write good too.

Sincerely,  
Bill Armstrong, Editor  
We The People Of  
NORTH CAROLINA  
Box 1987, Raleigh, N. C. 27602



Got one of them catalogues the other day. Everybody gets them. Maybe some folks buy some of the curious things they show in 'em. We ain't never. Mostly because we ain't never got the money. And if there's one thing them catalogue folks like... it's money.



In this latest one you can get a zebra skin rug... shown in the book with a shapely blond on top of it... she don't come with the rug you understand... and if she don't, what in the world would anybody want with a zebra skin rug?

Then there's some suede neckties from Spain. I say it once and I'll say it a hundred times... everybody ought to have at least one suede necktie from Spain... and a pair of round shoe laces.

Then there's the bookshelf with wheels. This is shown being pushed by a pretty set of legs belonging to a female... we suspect... wearing either a very modern mini-skirt or a very old fashioned blouse. A rolling bookshelf might have some advantages... provided what you got at your house pushing it around. At \$19.98 it couldn't come fully equipped.

There's a little item on page 23 that caught my eye. Don't get ahead of me, now... it ain't no girls on page 23... 22, un-huh... but 23, oh, no. It's a tube of hair grooming selling for well-nigh four bucks... but hear this now... it is a "amazing formula developed through scientific research" (heard that one some place before, ain't you?). It makes thin hair thicker. That's exactly what it says and besides that... it says... it's pure. Ain't that nice?

But it's page 69 that is the real topper. That's near the back of the catalogue... sort of the adult section or the "M" rated pages... that's for the mature adults, in case you don't know what "M's" for. Among other things it lists a record for wives and it says there "is a way to get hubby away from the newspaper (not this column, you don't) and the ball games." We can't quite quote all the things it says... but it also says "it does away with the need for Dear Abby." Who's that?

As interesting as page 69 is... the little woman found out a long time ago how to get us away from the newspaper and the ball game. She calls "Come to supper"... and that does it. However... dear reader... if any of you don't want your catalogue... please slip it to me. The little woman caught me reading page 69. Oh, me.

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