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LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Answer Would Be Interesting

The editor of the Mount Olive Tribune raises a most interesting question in his editorial, "Fiddling While America Dies", reprinted elsewhere on this page today. He asks why the likes of Stokeley Carmichael are ignored while the United States Justice Department seeks to imprison the Franklin County Board of Education.

Carmichael has sought to destroy this country. He had advocated the overthrow of the government in speeches both here and overseas. Yet, the Justice Department had done nothing in the face of a number of violations of this country's laws by Carmichael and his kind. It is too busy

harrasing southern school boards.

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are too occupied checking out every unfounded complaint by a member of the minority race to look into the action of those who advocate the destruction of our country.

The Mount Olive editor asks if the Justice Department believes that the Franklin County Board of Education represents a greater threat to the security of this country than does the preachings of Stokeley Carmichael.

An answer from the Department of Justice would, indeed, be most interesting.

Same Sad Story

Fifth Highway Division Commissioner J. B. Brame of Durham paid another visit to Franklin County last week. He brought the same sad story he has brought before. No money is available with which to extend the NC-39 project beyond Ingleside. Costs are rising and Franklin is caught in the middle - a place most familiar to folks in these parts.

He left unanswered the odd arithmetic used by the Commission when it divided the Fifth Division's \$10 million dollar allocation from the State Road Bonds. Seven into \$10 million doesn't come out a short \$750,000 to most people in Franklin County.

Commissioner Brame did point out that upon his recommendation, the Commission allotted one "significant project" to each of the counties in the Division. Some, it seems, were more "significant" than others.

Neal Rattican, capable editor of the Roxboro, N. C. Courier-Times makes some interesting observations in his column "Here and There", reprinted elsewhere on today's page. He says that Franklin and Person are "riding in the same leaky boat together" and that they are the "red-headed

step children" of the Division. This statement will get little opposition in Franklin County.

Mr. Brame and other members of the present Commission are, of course, lame ducks. They are appointees of Governor Dan Moore. Franklin, Person and the other Have-Not counties of Vance, Warren and Granville - all in the same leaky boat - must await with some anticipation, indications from the yet to be named appointees of Governor Bob Scott.

As the Roxboro editor so aptly puts it, we may all "see the Deep Six". However, there is a growing indication that the Have-Nots have had it in the matter of unfair and unjust highway allocations. Unless some major adjustments are made when the new Commission enters office, chances are - like the old fellow said - you ain't seen nothing yet.

And let the Scott administration take heed. Some changes are needed in the Fifth Division. The easiest way to make them is with the new Commission. One way or another, the Have-Nots plan to bail out the boat. When they reach shore, somebody better pay attention.

Soul City, N. C.

The Tower of Babel failed because the Lord imposed the curse of mixed languages on those who were building a tower to reach heaven.

The Tower of Integration has collapsed because the Lord has imposed the same language on its builders, but has changed the meaning of the words each day.

For two decades a large, expensive and frustrating slice of the federal government's time has been wasted in the effort to rid the citizenry of its prejudices, and to force serious minded people to do what they know from long experience is not in the national best interest, nor in the best interest of either the Negro or Caucasian segments of our society.

And now out shouting from a federal roof top is a colored messiah from Durham, North Carolina, politely "amen" by the about-to-depart Secretary of Agriculture, and they both are going to lay hands, and a huge hunk of federal funds on 1800 not-so-fertile acres of Warren County and convert it into a Green Pasture, which is to go by the trade name of Soul City, N. C.

And so we have made the long

political journey; from bayonet enforced racial integration in Little Rock to federally subsidized total segregation in the clay hills of Warren County.

If these men were not so serious in their pious effort everyone could take another short snort and have a long laugh. But here we have an educated Negro from Durham where cooperation between the races has created the world's largest Negro-owned insurance company, and where many other co-operative enterprises have raised the Durham Negro society to one of the very highest in the world, and yet lawyer McKissick wants to turn his back on this success story and strike out in the wilderness, of course, with his pockets lined with federal funds.

There is no room in the United States for totally segregated groups of people. They breed fear, suspicion and hatred. The South has never had a totally segregated system. Whites and blacks worked and played and fought together, but practiced segregation in churches, schools and marriage because they had found from long experience that this was best for both races. - Lenoir County News.



I was only kidding.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Fiddling While America Dies

Mount Olive Tribune

It escapes us at the moment how the Justice Department can consider the actions of a school board in one small county more important to the security, present and future, of the nation than the rantings of admitted revolutionists of the Stokeley Carmichael type. Yet that appears to be the case.

Carmichael himself has broken enough existing laws to be put away for years and years, yet the Justice Department chooses to ignore him completely.

Franklin County, North Carolina, has a board of education diligently trying to comply with HEW guidelines for integrating the county's schools, at the same time being acutely aware of the children's and the county's needs. The board's proximity to the people makes it far more capable of judging how and how fast to complete HEW orders than the Justice Department; it seems to us.

Yet the Justice Department powers

that be ask for the imprisonment of the Franklin school board because integration has not proceeded exactly as the department believes it should have. All the while forces and folks which would really destroy our nation are given the silent treatment.

Wonder, for instance, what happened to those responsible for it after the disclosure that several million dollars worth of fuel, and untold millions of dollars worth of other U. S. supplies and material were and are being diverted from our servicemen in southeast Asia to blackmarket and other uses? The Justice Department is strangely silent, and for all the public knows, highly inactive, on these matters.

Everything built is composed of one element after another, no matter how small, being fitted together. Who's to say that the destruction of a society isn't accomplished in the same manner? - CB.

Ramsey-Brame Flap Would Be Pointless

By NEAL RATTICAN
Courier-Times Editor

Rep. James Ramsey of Person doesn't want to become embroiled in any running debate with Fifth Division Highway Commissioner J. B. Brame of Durham over whether Brame did or did not intimate to Ramsey that the commissioner has been pressured to divert this county's Highway 49 improvement funds to a Franklin County project. He's content to allow Brame to have the last word and let the matter drop.

Speaking at a chamber of commerce breakfast Jan. 8, Ramsey commented that Brame had informed him certain pressures were being exerted on the commissioner in this regard. However, a few days later The Franklin Times reported an interview with Brame wherein the commissioner "emphatically denied" that Franklin sources have been twisting his arm to siphon off some or all of Person's Highway 49 money.

Misunderstanding?

It may very well be true, that Ramsey's comment and Brame's denial could have resulted out of a misunderstanding, as Mr. Brame has intimated. Hopefully, that is the case. Both Person and Franklin counties have been the red-headed step children of the Fifth Highway Division, and it is certain that any squabble among themselves would not enhance their chances of getting the additional highway funds both deserve.

We doubt that Rep. Ramsey intended his remarks to the chamber group to embarrass Mr. Brame. But then too, we doubt Rep. Ramsey would have made such a public utterance had he not been led to believe that what he was saying had good foundation.

In all fairness to Mr. Brame, however, it can be seen how that Person solon's statement placed the highway commissioner in an uncomfortable position. When questioned by the Franklin County newspaper on whether he was being pressured to divert Person money to Franklin, Brame had little course but to deny this was going on, if only to save face. After all, the guy has to work with Franklin people, too.

Didn't Accuse Franklin

Of course, this whole affair could get into the area of semantics. For instance, Rep. Ramsey never said that Franklin County people were pressuring Mr. Brame, only that pressures generally were being exerted to have Person funds diverted to Franklin. Could be that Franklin has some "friends at court" doing the pressuring, if indeed there is any arm-twisting going on. If this be the case, Mr. Brame would be quite truthful in denying that the Franklin people are on his back. But this analysis, admittedly, could be a stretch of the imagination, although not improbable.

No doubt Rep. Ramsey is right in wishing to let the matter drop, for there would be no real point in starting a controversy. Neither would it be a good idea for either Person or Franklin counties to make too much of this thing. Both counties are riding in the same leaky boat together, and if the two let trivialities divert their attention from the bailing, that boat is liable to see the Deep Six.



It ain't always the big things that matter in this world. Sometimes, it's the little things that are important. Fact is, more often than not, it's the little things that make the big things big.

We recall one night recently, as we watched, the coach sent in a little fellow to play basketball in a game here. If the boy had stood on his own shoulder, he still couldn't have reached the bottom of the goal. He was about belt-buckle high to the other boys.

He stood out, though. Not because he was so big. It was because he was so little.

But, somebody had forgot to tell him he was little. He



didn't know that he didn't have any business playing with the big boys. He hadn't never heard that basketball is a game of tall boys. He just give it all he had.

When it come his time to jump center, he jumped. It didn't seem to matter that with all his jumping, he was still a couple feet below his opponent who was standing flat-footed. He jumped anyway. Guess he did it because it was required of him. It never occurred to him that his effort would be fruitless.

He played for a long time. Finally, he was taken out and a bigger boy went in. He patted him where they always pat each other and came off the court grimly. He plopped on the bench and hung his head.

One of the big boys came over and said something to him. Probably telling him how good he played. He won't no better'n the rest of them, but he won't no worse neither. For his size, guess you could say he done good.

But there he set. Dejected. He had been took out of the game. And no boy likes to be took out of the game, no matter what size he is.

But as he set staring at the floor, something happened. He sat up straight and seemed to be looking at his hand. He called the boy next to him to come closer. Yes sir, there it was plain as day... right there on his hand. A drop of blood. He had been scratched in the game. Naw, it don't hurt, he was saying. Shucks, it ain't nothing, he said. But the pride could not be covered up. He had played and he had played well. He had the battle wound to show for it. Just a little thing. One drop of blood. One very small scratch, but oh, how big it made the little battler.

As the crowds filed out and the lights were dimmed, the team began to slowly move out of the dressing room. The girls were waiting for their heroes. And, sure enough, there was enough to go around. The little warrior had his.

And as they walked arm in arm out the gym door, and as she looked with so much interest at the little wound, you hear him say, Shucks, it ain't nothing. And as he rubbed the spot and moved out of sight, we had to mutter to ourselves, it ain't always the big things... sometimes, little things mean a lot.

Flu

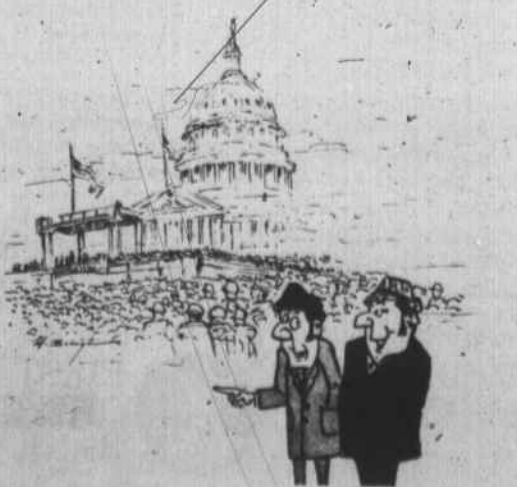
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attributed to flu and several others whose cause was not given. Another man died in Louisburg on February 28 and still another flu death occurred on March 14. After that date, no reports appear of deaths due to the Spanish flu.

There is no way of knowing just how many people died here because of colds, flu and pneumonia during that winter, but old timers have long pointed to it as the worst on record.

Thankful that the Asian bug did not match its cousin, the Spanish influenza, nobody will be saddened to see it go. Good riddance.

'As a Democrat, I've got mixed emotions about this Inaugural. I'm sad we didn't win - but happy the country is saved!'



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