

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### If Luck Holds

If its luck continues to hold, the Board of County Commissioners will come out of its building boo-boo unscathed. The boo-boo might not be entirely its doing, but in most quarters, the Board is getting the credit for it.

In the recent \$200,000 renovation of the county courthouse, elaborate plans were formulated for the protection of the valuable documents housed in the offices of the Register of Deeds and the Clerk of Court. Expensive, heavy, almost burglar-proof and certainly fire-proof vault doors were installed in both offices.

In the Deeds office, the cost of the project was increased in order to have brick walls instead of using the less expensive cement block. All this was done to protect the papers so vital to every citizen of the county.

When the project was completed

and the Board stood back to take a look at all it had done, one glaring error stood out. The tamper-proof vaults had one slight flaw. Thieves could not enter them from the inside, but the only hindrance to would-be robbers on the outside was a wooden framed, very thin common window. And these were without even everyday screens. In other words, the protection offered for irreplaceable deeds and other documents wouldn't even keep the flies out.

But, steps have been taken to correct this little boo-boo. Protective screens have been ordered.

And as we said in the beginning, if the luck of the Board continues to hold until the screens are put in place, the flies may not get in at all. And hopefully, people's honesty will continue to be on the side of the Board.

### A Mighty Thin Dime

The first seventeen days of the Nixon administration have left undetermined the question of the new President's intentions toward the South. However, events of these days, point strongly to the fact that Mr. Nixon has not thus far shown any inclination that he is going to be the friend most southerners thought he would be.

The one prevailing issue that gave Mr. Nixon his victory edge in the South is school integration. Most southerners were led to believe that the Republican administration would lessen the federal requirements. Many even felt that a return to some type of free choice would be forthcoming. It appears now that these people had their heads buried in the political sands.

Take for example, some actions taken by Mr. Nixon and his appointees in the past seventeen days. First, Robert Finch, whose efforts have been described in Washington as aimed at "bringing Negroes into the Republican Party" was appointed Secretary of HEW. Finch, himself is described as a "strong civil rights advocate." Finch has named as his Chief Deputy, California State Assemblyman John Veneman an even stronger advocate of civil rights.

The staff member handling the Martin County, N. C. and four other southern county school cases is Leon Panetta, former aide to the very liberal Thomas Kuchel, defeated California Senator.

Finch also expressed his disappointment at the resignation of Ruby Martin, a militant Negro lawyer who was Director of HEW's Office of Civil Rights. He even offered her a hike in pay and more authority if she would stay. She refused.

This week, Mr. Nixon announced the appointment of James E. Allen of New York as his new Commissioner of Education. Mr. Allen's first action was to go before the TV cameras to declare that his stand on school matters is the same as those of the departed Democratic Commissioner, Harold Howe, III. And in the South, tears fell like rain.

With great fanfare—designed to save the face of South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond—Secretary Finch announced last week that he was giving five southern school boards sixty days to buckle under. This, according to the Nixon administration represents an easing up of past HEW policies. The Democrats had ordered the funds withheld immediately. Such generosity surely touches the people of Martin County.

Reports out of Washington say that in this first "internal administration

battle—between Finch and Thurmond—Finch came out the clear winner." One need only guess once then to recognize the losers. Sen. Thurmond might as well continue his honeymoon. Nothing has changed in Washington.

Now comes the news that the much-heralded "team" from HEW has arrived in Martin County. The "team", however, is not a Nixon administration team. All three—two Negroes, one white—are left-overs from the Johnson administration. Can there be any doubt of the outcome in Martin County?

These same reports are saying that North Carolina Republican Representative Charles Jonas, the one man most responsible for Nixon carrying the state, "was furious, storming to both House Republican colleagues and over the phone lines to HEW."

So, both Rep. Jonas and Sen. Thurmond have learned early that their support of Richard Nixon in the South is not going to pay off. If there can be any doubt, let them look at the fact that Secretary Finch flatly refused to see a delegation of school officials from West Palm Beach, Fla.—a hotbed of Nixon support.

Needless to say, the early signs are not unpleasant to all who live in the South. The Negro groups are not unhappy with them, even though they didn't vote for Mr. Nixon. The liberals across the South are undoubtedly pleased with what they see. But, they did not vote for Mr. Nixon either. Those who voted for George Wallace knew from the start that Mr. Nixon at his best—or his worse, as the case might be—was not going to do the things pleasing to them.

So this leaves only those who supported the Republican ticket to do the suffering. And to this point, one is tempted to agree with the Wallace statement, "There isn't a dime's worth of difference in the two." Fact is, even that dime is mighty thin.

"Don't make sense, Strom Thurmond marryin' that 22-year old—he should git hisself a young wife!"



## Legislative Report

By Rep. James D. Speed

Raleigh - The General Assembly is only in the first month of what is expected to be a long and difficult but hopefully a very constructive legislative session.

Organization has been completed and some rough spots smoothed out. There are many new members and some innovations in the legislature this year but I believe we are beginning to scratch the surface on enactment of legislation which will benefit our district and all of North Carolina.

I believe a bill by Representative Ramsey to increase the compensation of election precinct registrars and judges from \$15 to \$20 a day for registrars and from \$10 to \$15 a day for judges is needed. I think this will offer more incentive to qualified election officials who are called on to work unusually long hours.



JAMES SPEED

I also favor a bill by Representative Edwards pertaining to licensing of Day-Care facilities for children. Some changes may be needed but I believe this is the best bill ever offered on raising standards of Day-Care facilities so important for the well-being of children of working mothers. It is far better than some bills presented in the past.

There is another elections bill to prohibit electioneering within 500 yards of a voting place on the day of a primary or general election, and I feel this will provide much more orderly elections. It is my intention to support a bill by Sen. Bowles to locate a new Central Deaf School at Greensboro, a location which would put more of these students nearer home. In addition, there are special deaf teaching and training programs at the University campus in Greensboro which I feel would tie in well with location of an additional school here.

I believe a bill to relieve anyone of liability for merchandise he did not order would serve a needed purpose. Under this bill, if a person did not order the merchandise he would not be liable for payment and would not be liable for returning it either.

Rep. Horton Rountree's bill to require a "caution" label on bottles of liquor sold in North Carolina is, I think, a good bill. It provides for the same working now required by federal law on packages of cigarettes. Liquor is much more harmful to the user and causes untold sufferings and hardships to the user and the user's family, and endangers the public in many ways. Look at the thousands of wrecks on our highways resulting from the use of alcoholic beverages, and ask why should tobacco be penalized with a so-called "caution" label if whisky is not.

I favor a bill by Representative Strickland to permit state educational scholarships to children of war veterans to attend private institutions, such as Louisburg College, in addition to public institutions. I think a bill to change four state holidays to Mondays, to provide five long weekends a year, has much merit if it will be in line with a proposal in Congress to do this for federal employees and federal agencies. This, if applied to all, would benefit all taking holidays and particularly state and federal employees.

Representative John Church and I were among the introducers of a bill to permit free fishing licenses to persons 65 years and older, and I do not think there will be great objection to this legislation. Rep. Church and I were among introducers of a resolution adopted Monday night honoring the life and memory of one of our distinguished neighboring citizens, the Hon. Frank Hancock of Granville County. A similar resolution is being prepared to honor the life and memory of a longtime public servant, House member and Senator and a former House Speaker from our district, the late John H. Kerr of Warrenton, and his longtime public service.

I have been privileged to be appointed to seven of the House committees. Again I will serve as chairman of the Agriculture Committee as I did in the 1967 session when this committee performed some very important and much-needed functions. I will serve as a member of the Joint Appropriations committee and as a member of its subcommittee on general government and transportation. I will be vice chairman of the committee on Veterans and Military Affairs and Vice chairman of the committee on Public Buildings and Grounds. I will serve on the committees on Roads, Education and Manufacturing and Labor.

All of these will be important committees and I feel they will be called on to render some vital decisions in the months ahead.

### BEING WISE

There are two ways of being happy. We may either diminish our wants, or augment our means—either will do. The result is the same; and it is for each one to decide for himself, and do that which happens to be the easier.

If you are idle, or sick, or poor, however hard it may be to diminish your wants, it will be harder to augment your means.

If you are active and prosperous, or young, or in good health, it may be easier for you to augment your means than to diminish your wants.

But if you are wise, you will do both at the same time, young or old, sick or well; and if you are very wise, you will do both in such a way as to augment the general happiness of society.

Benjamin Franklin

### ALL THINGS WORK OUT

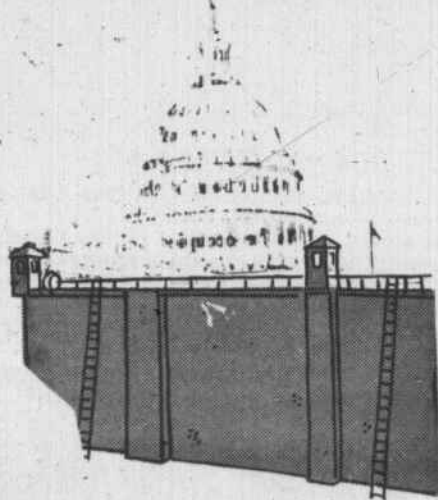
Because it rains when we wish it wouldn't. Because men do what they often shouldn't. Because crops fail and plans go wrong. Some of us grumble the whole day long; But somehow in spite of care and doubt, It seems at last that things work out. Because we lose where we hope to gain. Because we suffer a little pain. Because we must work when we'd like to play. Some of us whimper along life's way; But somehow as day must follow the night, Most of our troubles work out all right. Because we cannot forever smile. Because we must trudge in the dust a while. Because we think that the way is long. Some complain that life is all wrong; But somehow we live and skies grow bright. And most things seem to work out all right. So we'll bend to our troubles and meet our care. For the clouds must break and the sky grow fair. Let the rain come down as it must and will. But we'll keep on working and hoping still; For, in spite of grumblers who stand about, Somehow it seems all things work out.



I see by the papers that they're having a little rash of crime in Washington. Shore am glad Cousin Soul ain't up there. But I am a whole lot gladder that I ain't up there.

They're double locking doors and carrying guns and for the most part people with any sense are staying at home. That's why Cousin Soul says he's down here.

Now there's been quite a bit said about conditions in Washington in recent years... but you got to admit them's



The funny thing about it is that some of them Congressmen have been robbed lately and some smart-alecks even strolled in and held up a police station last week. Got a pocketful of money for the doing too.

It ain't that we're for robbing and that kind of stuff. Making a little moonshine is as far off the law as we think anybody ought to ever go. But it warms the cockles of the old heart to hear that them that caused it is getting to feel some of it. Them Congressmen, we're talking about.

They just sit up there in their plush chairs and smoke big cigars and vote themselves a big raise and us peasants a surtax. Let 'em get robbed we always say. They've had experience at it themselves. And maybe one day when they've lost their britches, they'll wake up and do something to earn that big salary. It's a crying shame that a fine citizen like my Cousin Soul is scared to go to his own capital. It's downright un-American.

But old Soul keeps his chin up all the time... mostly 'cause he's got a stiff neck... but it looks good on him. He's always giving forth with what he calls his words of wisdom and we guess we can stand him for a few more days. But that Nixon crowd better hurry up and clean up the mess like they promised. Otherwise I'm going to be et out of house and home.

Soul says there's one thing to be said for them hippies. He allows that they'd make good gardeners since they wear flowers and smoke the weeds. And he says he thinks they ought to put them fellows that make girl's bathing suits in charge of cutting the budget. He's pretty smart, Soul is... 'course, as I told you before... he ain't the smartest one in the family... I am.

He says the trouble with Russian roulette is that there ain't enough Russians playing it. But, I reckon it's highway safety on which old Soul is the most. He's always telling folks to drive safe giving some cute little remark to strengthen it. But even Cousin Soul ain't as sharp as that lady in Chapel Hill that told Billy Arthur the other day to "drive carefully... because 85 percent of all people are caused by accidents".

Ain't she smart, though?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### On Deserting Ships

To the Editor:

If you were to cut the mooring rope of a boat, what pride could you take if it drifted away and struck a snag that sank it?

None. Neither can those who stand aside and say "I told you so" each time a problem arises in our County school system.

It is far the easier course to be a pessimist than an optimist. It is a great deal simpler to criticize from a distance than to struggle to maintain where obvious rebuilding and strengthening are needed.

Our County needs our public schools, not their mere existence, but their healthy, sound functioning. They have always been a source of strength and pride for our communities and still can be if the support of citizens of both races stays where it should be: behind our schools and the children to be educated now and in the future.

While it is understandable that every parent is concerned that his own children get the best possible education in the best possible environment, it is inconceivable that some mothers and fathers may have forgotten the very lessons they have taught their children:

A quitter never wins.

Running away from a problem never solved it.

We need the confidence that comes from working together, emphasizing the positive, and keeping up our loyalty to our community.

How can we expect the state newspapers to print anything but the bad side of affairs in Franklin County when that seems these days to be the popular side for even her own citizens to look on?

Lucy Taylor Allen

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