

Tuesday, March 18, 1969

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

You've Lost Us, Knight Of The East

Being an eastern North Carolinian has not been one of the easiest lives to live in recent years. The area has long been neglected when the good things were being handed out and the target of all things bad when a scapegoat is needed.

For example, witness which section came under attack by the federal voting rights, boys, and which area has been the object of federal might in the field of school desegregation. And lest we forget, it is the east that is years behind in roads, industry and education.

Out of this almost hopeless dilemma has come in recent years, a knight in shining armor. While he does not exactly personify the true eastern North Carolinian, he has been about the best we've had. He has fought, primarily for education and, with the help of others, he made his institution a University in 1967. We said then "Bully for Leo." And on many occasions, Dr. Leo Jenkins, President of East Carolina University, has given cause for joy among his fellow step-children.

But, alas, it hurts to discover that the knight is, after all, only human. It is a bitter spill to swallow when the hero proves that he is not all things to all people in the east. He like so many others has surrendered to expediency.

And what a pitiful surrender it is, too. Had it been on the battle field of the General Assembly or in the political arena or even in battle against federal bureaucracy, Easterners could have held to their dream. They could have named something in the East for Leo. They could have built a monument and placed flowers at the base on certain days. But, so sorrowful is

the surrender, the quicker one forgets the better off one will be.

With 10,000 students on the East Carolina campus, Dr. Jenkins shucked his armor and surrendered to only ten. Purporting to represent ninety students, these blacks demanded and received from the knight assurances that never again will the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy wave from any University building. With millions of eastern Carolinians holding firm to true values, Leo sold out for a pittance.

We find it difficult to believe that any responsible Negro citizen is offended by the proper display of the Confederate flag. It is as important to American history as the Alamo, Pearl Harbor and Tripoli. Improper use of the emblem such as on automobile bumpers and at Klan rallies is offensive to a number of people of both races, but paying proper respect to those killed in the Civil War and to the memory of that great conflict should be offensive to no real American.

Flying the Confederate flag from an East Carolina building or from the Franklin County courthouse square should not be offensive to anyone. The Stars and Bars were designed here and the flag was first flown here and proudly so. The practice was renewed here in 1961, but has been quietly discontinued sometime since. The absence of the flag on the courthouse square is proving offensive to a number of people, as a matter of fact.

Maybe, until the flag of the Confederacy waves again here where it was born, one should not be too critical of Dr. Jenkins. But, for the time being, anyway, Oh Knight of the East, you have lost us.

Over Zealous Advocate Of A Cause

If today's turmoil results in the destruction of this country as some predict, future historians -- if any are still around -- may want to search for a reason. One place they might find a degree of success will likely be in the area of misused words. More properly defined, perhaps, one might refer to it as an over zealous advocate of a cause.

One such example is the Sunday column of Roy Parker, Jr., Washington Correspondent for The News and Observer. Parker and his newspaper have been over zealous advocates of a cause for quite some time now and very few things surprise his readers any more.

However, in his obvious attempt to move Durham's Negro activist Howard Fuller into the arena of great American statesmen, Parker used very poor judgement in his comparisons.

He compared Fuller to the great American statesman John C. Calhoun, saying, "Howard Fuller comes on something like John C. Calhoun must have, and there are other similarities, too".

Fuller's record as a trouble maker in the Durham area is well known. He is supported by the North Carolina Fund which is supported by the non-profit (and non-tax paying) foundations. His car, paid for and kept up by the Fund, was used by a group of

Negroes to set fires in Durham last week. Fuller, like all other Americans, has a right to say what he pleases, advocate whatever he pleases and to fight for whatever cause he chooses so long as he stays within the law. His innocence or guilt is not the point. His public actions are.

For whatever that Washington correspondent might think of him, he is a long way short of John C. Calhoun.

To emphasize Parker's misuse of words in his comparison let us point to some of Calhoun's record:

- He served twice as Vice President of the United States.

- He served as Secretary of War under Monroe.

- He served as Secretary of State under Tyler.

- He served 17 years as a United States Senator.

Could it be that because of his oratorical ability and the fact that he became the greatest spokesman for the South's cause that he is now being compared to the likes of Howard Fuller?

We doubt that even Fuller himself will agree with Parker's comparison, over zealous advocate of a cause that he is.

"Oh, Is He C.I.A.? I Thought He Was F.B.I."



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Treasonous Deed

The News Reporter, Whiteville, N. C.

We see by the papers where a group of Negro students at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte pulled down Old Glory and the North Carolina Flag from the top of the staff and ran up their black Black Power emblem. The black bunting is the emblem they use to designate the power of their power.

The report says their emblem was allowed to remain at the top of the staff for an hour and then security guards took over and restored the American and state flags. During the hour, sharp jawing rent the air between Black Power adherents and members of the normal student body.

While this treasonous deed was being perpetrated, across the country

loyal voices are rising telling Americans they owe respect and allegiance to the National Emblem as they have never owed before.

These voices are telling Americans the time has come for a revival of patriotism and adherence to the principles of freedom and justice so meaningfully borne by the Stars and Bars.

But this sacrilege perpetrated on the campus of an American university. If the disgruntled group wants to display its Black Power slogan, the better they should turn to their textbooks and pack knowledge between their ears sufficient for contributing something of value to the country that allows them to roam in freedom and peace.

Tax Guide Trap Exposed

With April 15 approaching and taxpayers paying more and enjoying it less, an area tax adviser has pointed out one of the reasons so many locals are having to dig deeper this year. With most workers already fretting over the large amounts withheld from their regular paychecks, the adviser indicates that as more and more begin to file their forms, the "tax guide trap" takes its toll.

Hundreds of local federal income taxpayers, and this is presumably true throughout the country, are finding themselves unexpectedly saddled with a heavy tax debt to the tax collector as income tax filing time reaches its peak between now and April 15.

While some people have the tendency to blame the shortage in federal withholding on the surtax, the real culprit is the Internal Revenue Service itself and their new tax withholding guide, issued in May of 1968.

The "Employer's Tax Guide" has this trap built into its wording, a local accountant explained today. The heavy underwithholding occurs when payroll clerks figure payrolls from the official tables. In the sheet labeled "Married" to determine the amount of weekly withholding, it is the tendency of payroll clerks to use one, two or three exemptions, depending upon the employees claimed exemptions, while

they do not know that the word MARRIED carries an extra exemption since it assumes that the spouse does not work.

For instance: A "Single" person with one exemption making \$100 a week has Federal withholding of income tax shown as \$15.50 per week with one exemption. (Page 23). Then if you turn over a leaf in the withholding guide you will find that a "Married" person with one exemption making the same \$100 a week is only withheld \$13.80. This quite misleads most people since the difference in withholding is \$1.70 a week. Multiply this by 52 weeks and you will see the seriousness of the underwithholding. The joker in the "Married" tables is that hidden "second" exemption.

It can be readily understood then that a married couple, both working, both being withheld as "Married" are actually being given take-home pay as if they had four exemptions. When they file, of course, they then have only two exemptions.

Fire Deaths By Age

NEW YORK—The highest death rate by fire is among persons 65 years of age and older, according to the Insurance Information Institute.



One of them new credit cards come in the mail last week. I reckon I was sent it because I used to have a little piece of money in the bank. It didn't stay there for long, but I guess they still got my name down there in the vault.

Fact is, I didn't intend for my money to be there in the first place. It come from that fellow that bought my dog. He didn't want to buy him but he done it because of his youngins. He wanted to stay out of jail and feed them. So's he took the judge's advice and paid me for ole Blue. He done it mostly because he run over ole Blue. I wouldn't a made so much of it, but he run over ole Blue while he was asleep under my front porch.

But, anyway, I was glad to get it. Not the money for ole Blue but that pretty yellow credit... or is it charge... card. I carried it in my pocket but them letters stamped on it kept rubbing through my pocket. When I seen my name printed on my leg, I allowed as it was time to put it in my billfolder with all my other important papers.

I was just aching to use it if I could find a place where nobody knowed me. So I headed out of town. I don't like to charge things at home. Folks might think I'm broke. So I just charge stuff out of town. That way nobody but the mailman and a few lawyers knows about it.

There I was on the big crowded street... looking for a place to use my charge card when I seen her. Big as life and twice as pretty. There she was coming up the street in that yellow dress I'd seen on television. The man had said if you recognized her and showed her your card, she'd give you a hundred dollars. My mouth watered. I could spend the hundred dollars at home.

"Hello, there mam", I said smiling with my hat in my hand. "I sure am glad to see you". Man was she ever pretty. I almost forgot what I was going to tell her. "I recognize you. I recognize you", I shouted. I seen that big cop look my way from down the block. But it won't none of his business.

"Please, let me pass", said the pretty little blond. "Sure, mam, just as soon as you give me my hundred dollars".

"I don't know what you're talking about", she said. But I could tell... them television actresses know how to put a fellow on. She was joshing. I could tell.

"Mam", I said, "The man on the television said if I should see you and if I recognized you and if I showed you my little yellow charge card, you'd give me a hundred dollars. Now, I seen you. I recognized you. I showed you my card. Now I want my money".

"If you don't let me pass, I'll call that cop", she pleaded. I knowed right straight that she and that policeman was in cahoots. He was probably one of them television actors, too.

Taking her by the arm, I headed toward the policeman standing on the corner. She pretended she didn't want to go. I nearly had to drag her there. I can play along with them candid camera fellows. I can show them I know how to act, too.

I finally got her there. I had to go back to get her shoes. They fell off when she wanted to be toted. When I got back, the strangest thing happened. That big old cop was holding his handcuffs at the ready.

"It ain't no use arresting her officer", I said. "I can take a joke. I ain't going to press charges".

Well to make the sad story sadder and shorter, let me tell you one thing I found out. That little yellow card ain't worth the plastic it come on for bail money and soon's I get out, I'm gonna burn it.

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Your Gifts

Next time you get some unordered merchandise in the mail, you can feel free to keep it.

The General Assembly enabled North Carolina residents to do that with a bill enacted Wednesday.

The measure, given final approval by the Senate, specifies that unordered merchandise may be considered a gift.

Television, Radio Industry: Since cigarettes are a menace to public health, I hereby propose to ban their advertising through your media.



Tobacco Industry: In keeping with our subsidy programs, the following is the money you will receive this year... in round millions, of course...

