

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

What Will Replace It?

There has been a great deal of discussion in recent days about a bill in the Legislature to abolish capital punishment. Proponents of the bill say that legal execution is inhuman and should be done away with. Opponents say that the death penalty is seldom carried out, but is nevertheless a deterrent to major crimes.

We subscribe to the theory that rules, regulations and laws are things to be obeyed, not violated. When such proves unworkable or when it is found that such has been passed in error, the rules, regulations or law should be changed.

In keeping with this theory, we believe that the General Assembly should address itself not to the abolition of capital punishment, but to amending existing laws to make it more effective. Sponsors of the bill say that rich people are never put to death and imply that the death penalty is only carried out against the poor. This is perhaps true to some extent in all things in our judicial system as well as other segments of our society. The rich usually have a way of getting what they want and the poor have to take what they can get.

However, there are precautions already established to safeguard against this to a major degree. Court appointed attorneys and avenues of appeal are always available to all, regardless of their social or financial standing.

While it is true that very few incidences of execution have taken place in recent years, the death penalty still acts as some deterrent to those who defy the law. It may not be perfect. Few things are. But it should not be abolished until something with the same deterring power is established. We don't believe there is any other alternative.

There may be some punishment appropriate for such a crime as that committed against that little 13-year-old school girl in Wallace but we doubt it. In New York—and it could happen here—twenty-one members of

the Black Panthers were arrested yesterday charged with planning to blow up several department stores at peak shopping hours. The criminals also planned to blow up a police station and a commuter train. Had they succeeded and killed and maimed thousands, would the death penalty have been sufficient? It would have come much closer to causing second thoughts among others so inclined than a pat on the wrist and a commutable—and perhaps pardonable—sentence.

We have too long been willing to take the easy way. We have listened to the do-gooders until it is no longer safe to go out of our homes at night. Our children are not safe coming from and going to school and in many parts of the country housewives are afraid to go to the corner grocery.

We have pampered criminals; handcuffed the police and taken some sort of moralistic pride in having a broadened outlook. Coddling criminals has become the "in" thing. We have joined the smart set who want to change the world, but aren't willing to work at reasonable and responsible changes.

We have become swept up in a tide of irrationality. Intellectuals have replaced common sense with theory. Projections have replaced the old adage that history always repeats itself. It is no different in crime.

Somewhere in this land, there are others planning to blow something or somebody to kingdom come. Somewhere there is another little 13-year-old girl unknowingly awaiting a fate similar to the one suffered by the grandchild of a county native. Faced with the certainty—not maybe or not at all—of death, there remains the possibility that these and other tragedies will not take place.

The death penalty should be kept and strengthened. Otherwise let the members of the General Assembly and other do-gooders take a trip to Wallace and tell those bereaved parents what they think should replace it.

HEW Is Hard To Please

(Henderson, (N.C.) Daily Dispatch

Exactly what the Vance County Board of Education could order in the way of desegregation that would please the bureaucrats of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare is not clear. Every plan that has been worked out and sent to Washington has missed the mark so far as HEW is concerned. The attitude assumed and refusals which regularly result add emphasis to the feeling that the primary interest is integration pure and simple, with actual education of students of vastly lesser concern. A spokesman for HEW as much as said that here some time ago.

Every one is interested in the best training possible for young people of both races, and the school board has tried to devise a program acceptable to local school patrons as well as the autocrats in the national capital. To say that it is a difficult, if not impossible, objective is an understatement.

It has all along been our understanding that the Civil Rights Act

permitted the freedom of choice procedure. President Nixon as a candidate last fall said he favored that interpretation. But he has reversed himself since taking office and chooses to go along with HEW, which only encourages that agency in its hard-boiled attitude.

Not many of us can offer much comfort or hope to the school board in endeavoring to placate the people in Washington. The board's hope is to preserve as much as possible of the best of the schools rather than meekly submitting to government officials wrecking the schools by exercise of the authority they claim. Schools across the land can be better operated by local boards for the benefit of the students than by high-handed theorists in the capital. They have done an acceptable job in the past and there is no reason to suppose they would not continue to do so if given the chance and if dictators would keep hands off.

'President Nixon says we should handle campus disorders ourselves without federal assistance . . .



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More Pressing Issues

To the Editor:

Tom Inman sent me a clipping of two recent editorials from your paper, Leo Jenkins and me, etc.

I know it is hard to fill up a weekly edit column every week. I used to toil in that vineyard myself. And I am sure you feel very keenly about John C. Calhoun, the Confederate flag, and that sort of thing.

But, my god, man, there are much more pressing issues, as only you can know much better than I. Admittedly, I sit up here in an atmosphere far removed from what passes for reality in Franklin County.

Far from allowing you to be reckless, however, that gives you a much greater responsibility. Sure, I may be an "overzealous advocate of a cause," but what I say doesn't really move many people on the scene. What you say does that every day and week.

Of course, I suppose you are going to reply that all is well in Franklin County, that if only overzealous something-or-other would stay away, all problems would disappear.

But if you say that to me, then I'll have to disagree. I may be removed from the scene, but I was born, grew up, and return frequently. I know that all is not well, all the problems aren't over with. And I feel sure that a man with the trust and influence enjoyed by a weekly newspaper editor ought to have something more important than to fill up a column—one of the 104 he has in a year—with such irrelevant stuff, even if it does have the commendable attribute of fitting the hole.

Best wishes,
Roy Parker Jr.
Washington Correspondent
The News and Observer
1253 National Press Building
Washington, D. C. 20004

One Campus

To the Editor:

Your Editorial of March 11th, "Foolishness Long Enough," was sent to me and I wish to thank you for the complimentary remarks and implications you made concerning Free Will Baptist Bible College.

We do believe that we have as wholesome a situation on our campus as you would find anywhere in America. One encouraging thing is that there is a host of young

people in this country who prefer a climate of decency in which to receive their education when given a choice.

Thank you for your nice comments.
Yours truly,
L. C. Johnson,
President
Free Will Baptist
Bible College
Nashville, Tennessee

Old Memories

To the Editor:

I look forward each week to receiving my copies of THE FRANKLIN TIMES.

In a recent issue I enjoyed very much your article, The Monument: "Heroism Is Never Lost." I was born only a block from The Monument, and I was filled with nostalgia when I read your most interesting article. I remember Dr. Malone, for part of my family was related to his family. I also remember, as a very small boy in Mapleville, that great minister, the Rev. George M. Duke.

Thank you for bringing back old memories.

Sincerely,
W. E. Uzzell,
President
Royal Crown
Cola Co.,
Columbus, Georgia

Report From Raleigh

By Rep. John T. Church

Raleigh - Give a young man or woman a purpose and they will find their way.

I believe there is a great deal of truth in this saying and this is the basic reason that I, along with several other legislators, are supporting a measure to establish and support youth councils across North Carolina.

The title of the bill states its purpose: "to provide the youth of North Carolina an opportunity to develop leadership skills and become responsible citizens."

In this day and time of uncertainty and confusion and often misguidance among our young people I believe it is the responsibility of all our citizens to try to give more direction and encouragement. The youth councils bill would promote participation by young people in programs affecting civic and governmental affairs. Thus far it has received very favorable response.

The measure itself would set out a declaration of purpose and create, by law, a Youth Advisory Board, a State Youth Council and

Local Councils. This organizational system would function in both public and non-public high schools and would involve young people of the ages of 16 through 18 and certain younger groups.

The idea is the teaching of citizenship and development of leadership skills.

It does not require appropriation of any tax money nor special appropriations from the state. The bill is to give official state recognition and backing to a program of this sort which I feel is needed and would be very beneficial in future years.

The legislature is making substantial progress in many

directions. We have a great many bills in committee at the present time and all are receiving careful study and analysis. I do not see any advantage in undue haste in acting on various bills of statewide importance and I think the public realizes and recognizes the importance of giving everyone an opportunity to be heard.

I do favor certain bills now up for floor action which would allow county commissioners to fix local salary scales—those of members of the board of commissioners, the chairman, sheriff and register of deeds in the several counties. It has been the duty of members of the legislature to do this in past sessions, and perhaps will be during this session. I have been preparing legislation affecting salaries of certain officials for Vance County. In 1967, it was our duty to fix salaries for certain court officials but this has been removed by the uniform district courts act of 1967.

I feel that local officials, elected by the people, can and should assume this responsibility and that they will do so responsibly.

Among the committees, the joint Appropriations and Finance committees are the most active. These groups are equally divided among members of the legislature and meet almost daily. During this session the procedure is



CHURCH



Dear Readers,

This is Frank's "Little ole Woman." You been reeding about me in that column of his in that there county paper.

I got to thinking that it was high time I had my say to you, all whose been reeding his column.

He's allus talking about how I don't let him walk in my cleen house. He says that I holler at him when he tries to get in his own house, but I lets the cleaning man cum in and I acts reel nice to everybody else. Them fellers achually looks at me and talks reel nice words to me. Frank he jest shuffles and waddles in heading strait to his papper and his cumfort chair and his "Crazy Box" (T.V.). He never wants to know nothin but when his vittles is going to be ready.

That talking part don't bother me much cause he jest knows them ball games and politics. He don't know nothin interesting to a woman. He's forgot all them purty words he used when he wuz trying to git me to becum his "help meet".

I don't care if he rits colums and watches ball games and poletics and watches mini-skirts, but when he laffed about legislatures-puttin a price on females he got my dander up.

He thanks I can't read much, but what he don't know is

that I went to one of them night schools for a refresher course, so I cud reed his writin. Now I know what he said about that price on females. I got me a plan.

I'm going over there to Rally and meet with them Legislatur Wives in that Queen Elizabeth Cabinet. I'm a gonna get them to work on their husbands to get this worth 'of females worked up. Then when Frank gits his pay for me, I'm gonna use the old G T Y H P Plan (Going Through Your Husband's Pockets Plan). I'm going to writ Minny Peal for the latest in fashions; buy me some new clothes and start gitting out in the world.

I heer that travel eddicates one, so I figur that I will git enough money to take a fur piece. By the time I git thru with that Frank Count he'll have something else to think about.

I might even git to that new Figure and Health Center I hear is coming to town.

I'd better go git the chitterlins reedy.

The Little Ole Woman



Let some folks get near a typewriter and right off . . . they think they're Frank Count. Give 'em a pencil and they think they're a writer.

I ain't quite sure the little woman wrote this. Soon's I got it, I went to the bank and borrowed all I could . . . give it to her and I ain't seen her since. There just ain't no telling how good it made me feel when she or her facimile wrote that she wanted to start "gitting" out in the world. I'm for that alright.

I noticed she wrote that travel eddicates one. I always heard it broadened one. And if there is anything my little woman don't need . . . it's broadening. If you know what I mean.

But now that she's said she is gitting out in the world I reckon the world ought to be warned. It may not be prepared for the chock. Since I am a true-blue citizen and believe in being fair I am putting her picture in this column today. Several folks have been asking me to do this, but I was afraid the sight might give the children some kind of new-ros-sises.

Actually, it ain't a real picture of her. But you knowed that, didn't you. It's a drawing of her. It don't look much like her. It was done when she was young. She sure did love to stir that wash pot back in them days. Folks don't stir wash pots much anymore. Thinks sure do change. I used to love to sit on the door steps and watch her stir that pot: She was a sight to behold. But, time has took its toll. She ain't as young as she used to be and as you can see by the likeness shown here, she ain't quite as pretty neither.

But if you see her now that she's gitting out, don't shoot. Just send her home. It's near bout supper time.

(P.S. And if you don't think ole Frank knows who wrote that letter, just wait until I get around to it. You're gonna be sorr-ree.)

to break these big "money" committees into smaller groups or subcommittees to study tax and appropriations proposals more closely. It is the general feeling that this method will lead to more efficiency and also a closer look at actually what is being done with our tax dollars.

A proposal has been made to give the General Assembly its own budget overseer without relying upon the Budget Bureau in the Department of

Administration. This presents interesting possibilities. I do not know whether it is necessary but I feel that a closer look at state spending would be a very good idea. Our state budget has reached a record high and all fee that if there is waste and "fat" in it, it should be cut out.

There are too many pressing problems and needs by the state of North Carolina to be wasting money anywhere in our record high budget.

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