

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Preliminaries About Over

The preliminaries are about over in the long, drawn out Franklin school case. Sometime within the next ninety days the main bout is expected to take place. Attorneys for both sides are now busy getting documents ready for inspection by the other side and while more conferences are slated, it is expected the case will come to trial in late June or early July.

This may be the final page in the almost unbelievable story that began in December of 1965. Along the way, some of the plaintiffs who begun the suit said they thought it had long been settled. However, the entry by the government into the case in January, 1966 prevented the case from coming to a close.

In the hearings in Clinton Wednesday, School Board attorneys felt they had won their share of the contested points. They came away optimistic. The Board of Education will get to take a look at the FBI reports, including interviews with county teachers and other citizens and will become acquainted with the nature of the evidence which brought charges of civil contempt of court by the U. S. Attorney General.

The government in exchange will get names and addresses of students who are required to pay tuition because their parents do not live in the district and the names, scores and race

of students plus copies of tests used in making classroom assignments. It appears from the rulings made Wednesday by Judge Algernon Butler that the government is not to be allowed to go on what Board attorneys term a "fishing excursion".

Judge Butler limited information to be supplied by the Franklin Board to matters pertaining to the 1968-69 school year and restricted much of this to be used by attorneys only. The School Board had contended that the Justice Department had filed motions to have documents produced in the hope that such papers would disclose some evidence that the School Board had not complied with the court order. The attorneys pointed out that the Department should have had evidence before the charges were filed and that such a motion was made to enable government attorneys to go on a "fishing excursion".

Whatever the outcome, there will be some sigh of relief when the final shot is fired. For the past forty months—perhaps even longer—Franklin schools have been in a degree of turmoil. School officials, parents and students could not know what was to come next. Settling down has to be a real advantage to education in Franklin County and the sooner it comes, the better.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

How The Do-Gooders?

The News Reporter, Whiteville, N. C.

Now what will the opposition, the do-gooders, have to say about the death penalty and the 23-year-old textile worker of Duplin county who took the life of a 13-year-old school girl?

The abduction was planned, premeditated, and the suspect has signed a statement though all that he told Duplin's sheriff has not been revealed. His victim was the essence of innocence, trusting, exhibiting, when told that her mother was a hospital patient, love for her parent and desire to comfort her as her daughter could.

But the scheming man behind the wheel had a motive. What that motive

may have been is not fully clear now, but all know a young life has been taken without provocation.

Should the perpetrator of the crime be allowed to live out his natural life in prison or pay for the crime with his own life? If either is a deterrent to crime, which?

If there is sufficient money for the defense, will some psychiatrist come along and plead the young man was in a trance and did not know what he was doing?

The life he took can't be restored but a jury can give, and should, as he took.

Heritage Denied

The News Reporter, Whiteville, N. C.

Way off yonder, up yonder or wherever, Richard Joshua Reynolds is probably in tantrums and exclaiming "traitor" to those left behind to carry on the great manufacturing empire he established nearly a hundred years ago.

If he is not turning in his grave, there is good cause for attempts:

R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in Winston-Salem is taking the word "tobacco" out of its corporate name. American Tobacco Co., just a few miles away at Reidsville, is following the same course.

The deletion, so they say, is necessary because these combines are branching out into the food processing business, so the new name would be more comprehensive of their pursuits.

But don't put too much by the food acquisition. Cigarette manufacturing and smoking is under attack from all sides and perhaps the makers don't mind doing a little crawling to dodge, in a way, the darts coming their way.

But tobacco is tobacco. The senior Reynolds started the billion-dollar empire and now to erase the name of the commodity that brought him and succeeding generations riches is nothing more than a blemish on the founder's name.

Tobacco may be a devil in the minds of many but in contrast to

some other popular commodities it is a sainted child. One never hear of the golden weed breaking up a home, putting a man in the gutter or being the cause for murder. But some would accuse tobacco of crimes just as hideous.

Reynolds and American were born and grew up by the plant but now they would deny their, say, heritage. It looks as if the "wheels" are squirming in their juice and are afraid to take the darts coming their way.



Just a little bit down and the rest of your life to pay. Why, friend, you can't afford not to own one!

Our Best Bargain

By George Putnam, Los Angeles
Television Newscaster

Reprinted From Pacific,
California Business Magazine

It is this reporter's opinion that now, more than ever before in all of our history, is the time to walk up to our lawmen—police, sheriffs, highway patrolmen—and all other men of law—and simply say "Thank you. Thank you for a job well done."

It is time to reassure them that we believe in them, respect them and appreciate their dedicated efforts. That we realize the increasing demands being made upon them in protecting our lives and our property. And that we are no longer apathetic and permissive as regards their day to day efforts.

One of the greatest frustrations in the life of a police officer is the public's lack of knowledge of what our police are actually doing for us. Too often, our only contact with a policeman is through traffic control or a traffic ticket. And if we would be completely honest we would admit—many of us—that too often such contact does embody some resentment.

But we cannot judge our police on such a relatively small portion of the overall picture. It is this reporter's opinion that for 797 dollars a month—his average salary—we,

... for 797 dollars a month ... We get a man sworn under oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the state, county and the city in which he works. And he does this at the risk of his own life ... He is expected to make split second decisions on the spot—decisions it took the United States Supreme Court months of deliberation to arrive at ...

the people, get the biggest bargain in all history. We get a man sworn under oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the state, county, and the city in which he works. And he does this at the risk of a lawsuit which could take his home and car and the necessities of life from his wife and children.

The policeman performs his duties without flinching, while some citizens in present day America allow a neighbor to be stabbed to death in the streets, ignoring the cries for help. The citizen's only excuse—"I don't want to get involved."

For 797 dollars a month, a policeman is expected to enforce the law—act as a psychiatrist, a social worker, yes—even as a midwife. He is expected to make split second decisions on the spot—decisions it took the United States Supreme Court months of deliberation to arrive at—and then by a slender five to four margin. And the courts may spend days—weeks—even months—trying to evaluate what the officer did on the spur of the moment and whether he acted properly. And the officer may be

chastised or punished according to that decision.

That 797 dollars a month pays a man who is expected to risk his life—if necessary—to protect your home or your place of business. The policeman knows, as you and I know, that five of these dedicated public servants are killed each week in line of duty. No other occupation has such a high fatality rate.

A policeman's chances for a happy married life are less than any other occupation. None has a higher divorce rate. That 797 dollars pays the salary of the man who believes that his wife and yours should be able to walk our streets in safety. And for that 797 dollars, the policeman spends countless days off in court waiting his turn to testify against criminals who resort to any fabrication to serve their purpose. He watches thieves, rapists, perverts, dope peddlers—and even murderers—go free on a flimsy technicality. And he wonders why he risks his life—wastes his time—when he sees habitual criminals and dope fiends and dope peddlers go free again and again.

The present day police officer knows that within three years after release from prison, at least half of the criminal element are back in prison again. And our policeman asks you, Mr. Citizen—you, Mr. Judge and Jury—does the rapist, the robber, the thief, the sex pervert, the dope peddler, the murderer—deserve such special treatment? The policeman knows that we are losing the battle against the criminal element. And he worries that too many so-called leaders have become so concerned with the rights of the individual that they have almost forsaken the rights of the law abiding public.

But most of all these fine young men—our policemen—are asking the public to remove the handcuffs that have rendered their efforts close to ineffective in our permissive society. The policeman leads a very lonely life. He works more than three hundred hours per year overtime—and he does it without pay. And in certain instances, when assigned to vice and narcotics work, some police work eight hundred to a thousand hours overtime each year in their dedicated efforts to keep the vermin from touching you and your children.

And so I implore you to respect your police. Teach your children to respect your police. They're the best investment we can make for a stronger and a better America. Only 797 dollars a month—the greatest bargain you can make to protect you, your family, and your property.

It is the biggest investment bargain in America. Next time you see one of our fine policemen or sheriffs or highway patrolmen serving you, I suggest you walk up and say—"Thank you. Thank you for risking your own life and your own family's well-being to protect mine."

A husband was teaching his wife to drive, when the brakes suddenly failed on a steep downhill grade. "I can't stop," she shrieked, "What'll I do?" "Brace yourself," advised her husband, "and try to hit something cheap."

Gulf Breeze

"My dad is an Eagle, an Elk, a Moose and a Lion," one youngster boasted.

"Yeah?" gasped his wondering companion. "How much does it cost to see him?"

Gulf Breeze



Run into old Snake Endergrass the other day. You remember old Snake. He's the town gossip. There just ain't nothing that goes on that old Snake don't know about first. Sometimes I think maybe he bugs the meeting places of the bridge clubs. 'Course, this is illegal and besides it down right dangerous and I doubt old Snake is brave enough to tangle with all the bridge women. But somehow he always delivers the news... most of the time before it even happens. Sometimes I suspect that old Snake makes up a lot of it.

Snake was telling me about a big mouthed insurance agent here in town. Snake called him big mouthed. I didn't. He says the fellow is running his mouth same as usual but nothing is coming out. Snake says its a blessing and that it's the first time he's seen the man's wife and children smile in years.



Snake checked with a doctor friend and found out that 'surance man has laryngitis (and if you don't think I had to look up that spelling you ain't been reading Frank Count). I can just see old Snake right now trying to say it... let alone understand it. Anyway Snake says the boys at the coffee shop are counting it as a blessing and ain't asking how it happened. They're just grateful that it did... Snake says.

Snake also reports that a certain grocery store executive was given a curious present for his birthday last week. Snake says he can't come right out and tell what it is or they are but he hints that they was blue and had ribbons and lace on the or it. He says he don't think the fellow can wear them... even if he had the nerve, he ain't got the figure for it, Snake says. He ain't telling who give 'em either but he did say something about the color of her hair.

Snake is always coming up with some interesting news like this. And he always looks around to see if anybody is listening before he tells it. He's always secret, that boy is. He don't want nothing to get out on his friends... unless he tells it that is.

Snake is always giving advice, too. He read the other day somewhere that there are going to be over 200 million ears by 1975. He's been standing on the corner at the stop light every day since telling everybody "if you're gonna cross the street, you'd better do it now".

He calls this public service. Something like that fellow that give that 'surance man the laryngitis, he says.

Well Snake said he had to go after our little chat and I didn't want to hold him. He seemed happier than I'd seen him in years and just before he got back on the wagon I asked him how come he was smiling so.

"My wife just whispered to me the five sweetest words in the world," he said. Well, after all these years, old Snake had done it, I thought. Must a made him mighty happy but I had to ask him the words.

He said she said: "I failed my driving test". Now don't you wish yore woman would say something like that?

Report From Raleigh

By Rep. JOHN T. CHURCH

Raleigh - There are indications of increasing opposition to the governor's proposals to place additional taxes on tobacco.

This is, of course, very encouraging to those of us who are against this particular part of the tax program now before the General Assembly.

I continue to favor the proposal to increase the sales tax statewide by one per cent and return half of the proceeds to local governments on a population basis.

I have co-sponsored and am very much in favor of a bill to limit the seating capacity on school buses to the number of seats available.

This will be a relatively expensive item but the cost should not matter when measured against the safety and welfare of the more than 48,000 children who ride our state school buses each day. The purpose is to relieve overcrowding and to eliminate potentially very dangerous conditions.

The bill would require approximately 600 additional school buses at a cost to the individual counties of about \$8,000. The state bears the cost of gasoline, oil and drivers plus maintenance, and this would cost the state not

more than \$800,000. Maintenance is calculated at about \$1,360 per bus per year.

The buses cost about \$5,500 and over a 10 year span the salvage value is reduced to only about \$400.

Studies indicate that many of our state public school buses today are badly overcrowded each day and that this greatly increases the danger of serious injury in the event of an accident. It also increases the probability of accident.

We must give primary attention to the safety factors involved in this problem. This bill has very strong support among members of both the House and Senate.

It is evident to all of us here in Raleigh that a speed-up of the legislative process is necessary. And I look for this to come about very soon. I believe the Assembly will get into high gear shortly after the Easter weekend and start moving on major legislation.

At the same time, I agree with Speaker Earl Vaughn that the work cannot be judged entirely by the number of bills passed and ratified.

I am happy to report that Rep. James Speed of Franklin County, my legislative seat mate and colleague in our House District, appears to be recovering nicely from a recent illness. He was discharged from Duke Hospital at Durham the other day and is convalescing at Franklin Memorial Hospital in Louisburg. We wish him a speedy recovery.



CHURCH

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