

Thursday, April 17, 1969

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Breaking The Faith

In the aftermath of the war-like act of shooting down an unarmed American plane by North Korea, the President of the United States found time Wednesday to meet with advisers and arrive at a decision on school guidelines.

Meeting with his HEW Secretary, Robert Finch, Attorney General John Mitchell and others, Mr. Nixon through Secretary Finch announced the result of the meeting was that "no change is contemplated in the guidelines".

This, of course, is not surprising. Mr. Nixon is not the first politician to ignore campaign promises after being elected. Chances are he will not be the last.

Aside from the fact that the most pressing business today is the loss of the airplane and the 31 American lives, Mr. Nixon's reason for arriving at the "no-change" policy for schools is startling.

Under Secretary of HEW John G. Veneman told newsmen Wednesday that "in addition to it being a moral issue the administration could not

afford to break faith with thousands of Southern school districts that had desegregated under the current guidelines".

Even the most seasoned political observer will have to admit that this is one of the most ludicrous utterances yet to come from any administration.

Last year Mr. Nixon toured the South telling one and all that things would be better for school administrators, school boards, children and parents in the next four years if only he were elected. He was, he said, opposed to federal bureaucrats threatening school units and forced integration.

Now the administration has the brass to tell the public that the reason it is not carrying out its campaign promises is that it wants to keep the faith with those to whom the promises were made by not keeping the promises.

If Mr. Nixon could just fox the North Koreans and the North Vietnamese as he has done the southerners who accounted for his election, we might have peace in the world.



'Gentlemen, we're facing a serious crisis in the middle east. The Israelis insist on defending themselves.'

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

WHO'S GOT THE ANSWERS?

Mount Olive Tribune, Mount Olive, N. C.

Some questions are really bothering us, and we can't find easy answers because they seem to lie beyond a curtain which the mind shrinks from drawing aside.

Golden Frinks, for instance, is quoted as having promised the late Good Neighbor Chairman David Coltrane that he would end the boycott of schools in Hyde county by some several hundred students, but since Mr. Coltrane died before the boycott was to end, Mr. Frinks now feels no obligation to call for its cessation. Question: how can hundreds of school students circumvent the N. C. State Law which says they shall attend school until they're 16 years of age? Question: Does this mean Mr. Frinks is more powerful than state law? Question: Is anybody doing anything about this particular open lawlessness?

Now, also from Hyde county, comes news that a delegation which Willie Bolden, a Southern Christian Leadership Conference official says may reach 5,000 persons, is going on a pilgrimage from Swan Quarter to Raleigh Sunday to "dramatize" the Hyde county school desegregation dispute.

Now the folks will travel by bus, except that they will alight a few miles from towns along the march route, and parade through these towns. Question: Has no one considered the traffic problems to be created by this type of activity, and done anything to prevent it? Question: Does anyone other than the marchers have any rights to pursue the activities of their choice Sunday? Question: Shall a delegation from Hyde county, even 5,000 strong, disrupt traffic, the normal activities of usually-peaceful Sunday afternoons, with impunity? Question: Is there no law protecting the rights of nearly 2,000,000 other Eastern Carolinians next Sunday afternoon who might wish to travel the same streets and roads of these bus-traveling marchers?

Recently a Beaufort lawyer billed the state, and collected, an exorbitant fee (in the minds of most legal and all non-

legal citizens) for searching the title for lands bought by the State Ports Authority. The fee was \$28,600, and justified by the "Code of Ethics" subscribed to by all practicing attorneys which says how such fees shall be determined and how minimum they shall be. Question: what is the difference in attorneys joining together in price-fixing activities, and corporations, such as drug-manufacturing concerns, doing the same thing? State Attorney General Robert Morgan has announced he is filing suit against five nationally-known drug firms accusing them of conspiring to fix prices of certain wonder drugs.

But attorneys, through their "code of ethics" can conspire to fix prices the public must pay, and there's no hope for the public caught by the code. Question: would an attorney who would take advantage of such codes to extract such a fee from the taxpayers (you and us), and his fellow lawyers who helped develop such practices, and approve of them, be depended upon in a "court of law" to correct such practices?

You get the picture. Even on the national level the action by Congress this week in raising its own pay beyond any reasonable percentage figure brings forth question after question, with no answer for the average citizen.

Now then, the final questions: in the light of the trend toward national and public dishonesty, avarice, greed, selfishness, and unconcern for one's fellowman, how long can we possibly last as a nation? Question: which way will the mass of average, decent, law-abiding citizens who make up this nation ultimately turn? Will they join the minority tearing our society to bits and pieces; continue indifferent to the collapse of law and order from what it was when this nation was a-building into the greatest on earth; or rear up on their collective hind-legs and fight once again to put the parasitic, debauched, dollar-sucking, publicity-hungry kooks where they really belong in our social order?

We're getting awfully tired of the first two reactions.—CB.



"Frank," said the little woman the other day, "We got to do something about it. We can't let the youngins know."

"Oh," I said, "I think they're old enough to understand. After all when we were their age, we knew what it was all about."

"I know, Frank," she said, "But things change. We got to protect the youngins nowadays. When they're older, we'll try to explain it all to them."

"I don't know. At their age, I'm sure somebody has already said something to make them wonder. Who knows, they might have already picked up something about it at school or maybe at the pool room."

"Well, I'm worried. They been acting funny lately and I'm afraid they'll let their curiosity get the best of them. They may even decide to try it themselves, Frank. I just couldn't stand that."

"I think you're over reacting, woman," I said. She always get excited over the least little crisis.

"Well, if I am, I am not alone. You read where they're gonna clean up television. This is so's the youngins won't see all the stuff that's causing them to act up. There's some talk of cleaning up the magazines and newspapers and the books. I tell you, Frank, it's serious. You can't go anywhere nowadays without seeing it going on. The youngins are bound to notice."

"It ain't all that bad, woman," I said. "It's been going on for a awful long time and hiding it ain't going to do any good. Sooner or later, the youngins are gonna try it for themselves."

"Maybe we ought to just confront them with it head on," she said. "Maybe we ought to call them in and tell them the facts, Frank. You may be right. They might already know more'n we think they do. It's mostly yore fault anyway," she added.

She always did manage to blame me for everything from cancer to hangnails. Now she was accusing me of contaminating the youngins. It shore must be nice to be a woman and not have no faults at all.

"Naw," I said. "Just leave it alone. Let them learn for themselves. It won't hurt them none. Let them decide if they want to or not. You can't tell. They might not like it and they might decide to wait until they're older."

"I don't know. I read where Congress is going to take some action. Maybe them Congressmen can do something. It's about time somebody done something for the youngins of this country. It's a pore shame the way they show it on television and every place else. Folks don't seem to care anymore, Frank."

They gotta help us raise our 'n and we got to help them raise theirs. A lot of folks done forgot that, Frank."

"I wish you'd stop fretting, woman. It ain't the end of the world. The youngins is smart. They know what's right and what's wrong. I done told them to behave. I done told them to act like me and they'd be a success. You know that, woman."

"It ain't no use, Frank Count," she blasted. "The time has come for action. You gotta quit. That's all there is to it. I done made up my mind. I ain't going to worry about it another day. Them youngins is going to be raised right."

"Aw, come on now. You gotta be joking. You know I ain't gonna quit. I can't quit and besides I can't see where its hurt me none."

"Well you can go on living in sin if you want to but you gotta do it where the youngins can't see you. Yes sir, I done made up my mind. From now on, Frank Count, you're gonna do your smoking out back of the barn. You ain't going to do it where the youngins can see you."

Back of barn? Well, come to think of it, that's where it all started anyway.

Medal Winner Reenlists

Philadelphia - Sgt. David C. Dolby, a Medal of Honor winner has re-enlisted after a year as a civilian and has asked to be reassigned to

Vietnam. The 22-year-old sergeant said he felt he was better suited to helping his fellow man in the Army than at construction work.

provisions. But if a person had no record of accidents or traffic violations in a four year period I believe the written examination might be waived.

Pilots And Cuba

Amsterdam - The International Federation of Airline Pilots Association has warned that it may call a world wide strike for 12 or 24 hours if airline hijackers are not suitably punished.

Firecrackers

Washington - James H. Crimer, a geological survey engineer in Memphis said they are using firecrackers to make subsurface seismic surveys and maps needed for urban and suburban construction projects. He explained that each type of soil or rock resists differently to sound waves.

Raleigh - The legislative days in Raleigh are busier since the Easter holidays. The daily calendars are lengthier and the committee sessions more crowded with bills which must be studied, argued and finally voted upon.

This week brought the deadline for introducing local legislation during this session and a great many local bills were sent up in both the House and the Senate.

The House defeated rather decisively, by tabling motion, a bill to abolish capital punish-

ment in North Carolina. This bill had been sent out for floor debate by the committee to which it was referred. However the vote against it was not surprising. The present governor and several other high state officials have expressed their view that capital punishment should be abolished. Many legislators, reflecting the feeling of their constituents, continue to feel that a degree of punishment to fit heinous crimes should be provided. They feel that there have been a great number of such crimes in recent years which resulted in the travesty of the criminal, while convicted of the crime, escaping punishment because of court decisions, delays, so-called legal errors or by len-

By Rep. JOHN T. CHURCH

lency of the administrative officials.

Whether right or wrong, it appears the North Carolina legislature is not ready to take the step to abolish capital punishment entirely. Not now.

The legislature presently is concerned with a great many measures of various nature, ranging from taxes and highway safety to provisions of insurance policies.

The House has been debating a bill to permit legal compensation in court cases proving "wrongful death" of a spouse, specifically a wife. Earlier this has not been allowed under North Carolina law. The bill, already passed by the Senate, is described as a "worth of the wife" bill.

Report From Raleigh

The Franklin Times

Established 1870 - Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by

The Franklin Times, Inc.

Bickett Blvd. Dial GY6-3283 Lousburg, N. C.

CLINT FULLER, Managing Editor

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Business Manager

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1969 ACTIVE MEMBER

Advertising Rates Upon Request

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In North Carolina: One Year, \$4.64; Six Months, \$2.83 Three Months, \$2.06

Out of State: One Year, \$5.50; Six Months, \$4.00 Three Months, \$3.50

Entered as second class mail matter and postage paid at the Post Office at Lousburg, N. C. 27549.



CHURCH