

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Must Like The Way Things Are

Analyzing any election is a risky business and any attempt at figuring results of a municipal scrap is nothing less than an invitation to trouble. However, this week's balloting in the four towns in the county has left a few signs along the political route even though none are of a surprising nature.

Across the county, the voter seemed to say, things are going well—let's leave well enough alone. Except for one incumbent in Youngsville who fell by four votes, every incumbent seeking reelection won. The only new faces belong to those who sought to fill a hole left vacant by an incumbent not seeking another term.

Louisburg elected one new council member. Franklinton named one new School Board member. Centerville has one new councilman and Youngsville has one new member of its council.

Other than these one-change-per-town exceptions, things in the towns of the county should remain about as they have been.

It is good that in these days of unrest across the country, voters in this area like the way things have been handled. It is a credit to those officials who have labored in the past and should add to a continuation of stable government throughout the county.

Incumbents are difficult to move in any election, especially if they have not become involved in some type of public quarrel. It might be a testament to their service that few people chose to oppose them in the recent races. But, as we said at the beginning, analyzing any election is a risky business.

It might not have been this at all. It could have been people apathy.

### A Two-Way Street

The vibrant hub of this society of ours has been over the years the sense of fairness imbedded in the people. This sense of fairness or justness has allowed people to live together in harmony. Working together, sharing alike and possessing a mutual respect for one's neighbor has made this nation great.

There are those who relate fairness with equality. No two people have ever been equal. No two people have ever been exactly alike. The premise that a good-for-nothing loafer is equal to a hard-working, industrious person is wrong. Both and all should be treated fairly. What's good for the goose should always be good for the gander.

So while the country rocks on he misguided theory that there is some miraculous way to make all humans totally equal, little attention is being paid to the doctrine of fairness. Fairness, after all is nothing more than honesty in action. Treating one's fellow as he would like to be treated himself.

What is fair about a judicial system which threatens to jail members of the Franklin County Board of Education because of some alleged instances of segregated classrooms while a member of the U. S. Supreme Court accepts a \$20,000 fee from a financier in trouble with the federal Securities Commission?

What is fair about a Congress that passes a law prohibiting bussing of children to accomplish racial balance and yet youngsters in Franklin County are bussed daily for this purpose?

What's fair about a country that sends its men unprotected to spy on hostile nations and threatens to court martial the same men after they have

been captured and tortured? Justness demands that they be treated as heroes instead.

What is fair about a President who denounces his opponents for the things they did during a campaign and does the same things once elected?

What is fair about Ralph Abernathy arriving in Greenville, S. C. aboard his own private jet, riding a limousine to within three blocks of the destination in order to join in a march for poor people?

What is fair about fire bombing businesses of innocent people in Raleigh while demonstrations go on asking equality?

What is right about an HEW Secretary telling a Senate Committee that money should be given freely to welfare recipients in lieu of food stamps so that they might have "freedom of choice" to spend it where they please and the same HEW Secretary denying freedom of choice to millions of parents of school children?

What is just about college administrators defending militants for taking over their campuses while thousands of responsible students suffer in their search for an education?

What is right about a country that will allow servicemen to be court-martialed for disobeying an order and yet tolerates small groups of hoodlums attacking the ROTC programs?

Fairness. That's the key. Unless the people insist that the word and its full meaning be reinstated in the government of this country as well as in all individuals, stability will be a long time coming. To be fairly treated is all one can rightfully ask. Most people deserve this much. All must realize, however, that fairness, like many other human endeavors, is a two-way street.



*Thanks to Lefty we have reached the ultimate in legitimacy. He got a federal loan from the Small Business Administration.*

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

### HEW's Arbitrary Dig

The News Reporter, Whiteville, N. C.

The suit filed recently against Cannon Mills Company by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare charging discrimination in employment and housing in violation of the Civil Rights Act has the flavor of putting a hand in the hat and taking a number. The number picked was Cannon's and it could have been another's in the Deep South of elsewhere, considering events past and present.

Within more recent days, a clamor has arisen that the Nixon Administration has gone soft on Civil Rights and so HEW's enforcement staff "lowed" as how they would lower the boom in a rather arbitrary action. Right off a staff member got on television and promoted, to show HEW was not soft on enforcement, pointed out that a North Carolina plant had been indicted on trumped up violations.

Nobody in his right mind has any cause whatever for apologizing for Cannon Mills, how the company operates, its working conditions which are among the best, and the loyalty of its thousands of employees. Company employees work under the right-to-work law, never found reason one to resort to organized labor to plead their case, and the company has never been hounded by labor trouble.

Its employment policy is above reproach—workers hired without regard to race, creed or national origin—and no company-owned homes for employees have been built since 1928 except about 100 prefabricated units at the end of World War II to take

care of returning veterans. Good roads and automobiles have obviated the home-building necessity. In fact, the company owns fewer houses now than in 1927. A number have been dismantled in recent years to make way for plant expansions.

And the meanest stroke of all was that Cannon Mills was not notified about the suit until two days after the news media had the story spread about the country. Evidently, HEW was trying to build up its own case in the public eye rather than being ethical by letting Cannon know first what was coming.

Of course all can see in this example of bully Ivory Tower dictation. It is nothing less than an attempt to make Cannon Mills a whipping boy, despite the company's record of strict compliance with the Civil Rights law and its policy of an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Presently, the company has housing for about 18 per cent of its employees and it has built churches and schools, parking lots, all for the convenience of its working staff and families. All property is maintained in good condition by a crew that does nothing but take care of such property.

Cannon Mills and industry generally are concerned about this blatant dig at one of the nation's most reputable manufacturing firms. But HEW has to make a show that it has not gone soft on the Civil Rights law.

### Stooping Pretty Low

The News Reporter, Whiteville, N. C.

Because some belligerents have jumped on the Reserve Officers Training Corps to display their hate of the Vietnam war, questions have arisen on the purpose of the ROTC and whether it is proper for young men to undergo such training in colleges and universities.

If this basic instruction in military training including the building of a sound and erect body is a sin now it was and has been a sin ever since Ethan Allen brought his Green Mountain boys down from Vermont to win the battle on Breed's Hill at Boston and thus assure the beginning of this nation's fight for independence.

Of course there will always be dissidents, disgruntled folk who will oppose anything and be obstructively against Mother's Day and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner. That kind of breed still infests our land and they will be around henceforth and forever.

ROTC training isn't and never was meant to create a warlike spirit and a desire to shoulder a carbine and march forth intent on killing.

But the program is intended to teach young men the basic elements in military discipline so that should the time come they might have at least

some command of what they are supposed to do in defense of their country.

Further, ROTC instructors are selected from among the best, for they must not only know their stuff but also be exemplary in conduct and habits in the classroom, on the drill field and gentlemen as host or guest.

As a rule, the first two years are mandatory for the student unless he is exempted for health or other reasons. The second two are optional and the minimum pay has helped many a boy through to graduation.

New Hanover high school in New Hanover county has the only high school ROTC unit in the state and it is one of the very few in the South. Do parents in Wilmington kick? No, they are proud when a son comes down the field leading his platoon and proud when he salutes Old Glory with raised blade.

We think this accusing finger pointed at the ROTC is stooping pretty low and especially so when the cue comes of rabberousing students on campuses and their disruptive tactics. To question the value and intent of ROTC training from such a point is no more than defending the campus rowdies.



I got a friend on the Louisburg Town Council. Now this don't make me important but it does get me some pretty good rumors once and awhile. I got the inside dope on some things. Naturally, I ain't gonna tell none of them. Then you'd be smart as I am and I couldn't fight that.

And it ain't no need to ask me who he is. I ain't gonna tell that either. I especially ain't gonna tell which one told me the following. I come up on him this morning. He had his back turned. The elections are over. Last week he had his face facing everybody. This week he's showing his good side.

"Congratulations, old buddy", I said cheerfully. "You got two more years to louse things up". This was a joke. He didn't really louse things up. I just said that. He had help.

"For what?" he asked. Last week he wouldn't have said that. The elections are over.

"Well, for being reelected", I said. "It ain't everybody that gets elected to the Town Council. Look how proud it makes yore mama", I said.

"Frank", he said, getting mighty serious. "It ain't like it use to be. Things on the Council are tough now".

"How's that?" I asked. "You always said you had real fun at them meetings, arguing and fussing and then voting like everybody else. What's changed?"

"It's them women", he said. "They done changed everything".

"You mean that the women on the Council are changing the procedures at the meetings?" I asked. I like using procedures. I looked it up. I could tell he was impressed. He didn't know what it meant, but he was impressed.

"Yeah, that's exactly what I mean. For instance, they done made us move every chair in the room. I moved mine to the corner and one didn't like it there. I moved it to the other corner and the other one didn't like it there".

"Where'd you finally put it?" I asked.

"In the window", he said. "They made us move the table to the back wall and that didn't suit them so they made us move it back. And there ain't no ash trays on the tables no more. They said there'd be no smoking while the ladies are present. And Frank, you're gonna like this, they ain't gonna let us chew no more in the meeting either. No place to spit, they said."

"Man they are changing things, ain't they?"

"That's just a start. They want to hang curtains on the windows and put a rug on the floor. I ain't never heard of such foolishness. One of them even suggested soft music be piped in while we meet".

"Well", I said trying to cheer him up, "look at it this way. They might beautify the Council room and you'd be mighty proud to invite the public in. You might want to have open house one night. You know, announce that you're gonna meet and ask the public to come to the meeting. That'd be a change, wouldn't it. The people might like that. It could start a trend."

"You might be right, Frank", he said. "The place has looked so bad for so long, we didn't want the people to see it. That's why we ain't been announcing the meetings. To tell the truth, we'd rather nobody'd come. It's the way the place looks, you know how it is, Frank".

"That's what I been trying to say. Look on the bright side. The women might help. They might bake a cake and bring it to a meeting. You always did like cake. I remember that and one of them might take one out of the freezer and bring it down there to thaw."

"Yeah, I guess you're right, Frank. There might be some advantages. I hadn't thought of the cake. But one thing still bothers me, though."

"Yeah, what's that?" I asked.

"When we're ever gonna get around to running the town. Three of the men are home now with busted backs from moving all that furniture."

I went away thinking that maybe he did have a problem. Maybe we don't pay our Council enough at that.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Praises Officials

Dear Editor: Several months back, I asked three members of the Louisburg Town Council, Mrs. Breatie O'Neal, Grover Harris, and George Bunn to please do something to improve the roads in Oakwood Cemetery.

All three agreed that something needed to be done and assured me that they would do something if possible, to improve the roads.

Today, May the 7th, was a very good day for me. I visited Oakwood Cemetery and something is being done to improve the roads. I am sure that when the work is completed, the roads in Oakwood Cemetery will be better than

ever. To the above members of the Town Council and to any other persons responsible for this improvement to the cemetery, I for one am deeply appreciative and to them again, I say THANK YOU!!!

Your truly,  
Page B. Hicks  
914 N. Main St.  
Louisburg, N. C.

### U.S. Uranium

The Atomic Energy Commission said it is seeking proposals to limit total deliveries of uranium concentrates from companies now under contract. The government supply is overflowing and would like to ease up on deliveries for the present.

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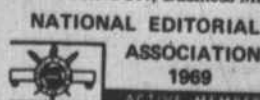
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