

Thursday, May 22, 1969

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Talton Reverses Decision

"For the good of the Industrial program", Harold Talton withdrew his resignation as Chairman of the Industrial Commission late Wednesday afternoon. The action apparently brings to an end a heated controversy between the energetic Commission head and the Board of County Commissioners.

The Board rescinded an earlier action which sparked Talton's exit and straightened out the appointments of Commission members thus removing the "final slap" that Talton indicated brought on his resignation.

It is good that the county is not going to lose the talents of Mr. Talton in its drive to obtain new industry and to expand those already here. His success in this field is a matter of public record and his decision to quit brought on howls of protest from industrial development supporters across the county.

Some purpose might have been served in airing the dirty linen and if so, the tainted image that the incident has given the county might prove to be worthwhile. If the Board has learned to be more particular in its handling of appointments and other county business, several points can be scored for the people's side.

Very Little Choice

Local taxpayers might as well grab hold of the old belt. Another notch is about to be taken. The current bug-a-boo is the Public Assistance section of the Welfare budget. Undoubtedly, before the final budget is approved, there will be others. This is the way of things these days.

Before any of the overburdened take it upon themselves to tar and feather the Board of County Commissioners, however, it should be noted that these men had very little choice in this matter.

State and federal regulations, as they have done often in the past, ganged up to trap the Commissioners. Under the law they could do little but approve the increase. They are required to levy a tax for a host of things and this apparently is one of them.

Part of the increase comes as a

If, on the other hand, no lesson has been learned by this controversy, the county has suffered an undeserved blot on its reputation.

At best, there have been hard feelings raised in the heat of the matter and some citizens become stirred enough to begin to pay some close attention to their local government. Talton's withdrawal of his resignation could bring to an end this interest. If it doesn't, another point or two might be tallied on the county's side.

Chances are the matter will now be forgotten. New issues will arise and other things will come up. In a way, this will be good. The sooner things get settled down again between the Board and the Commission, the sooner those involved can turn their efforts to more constructive avenues.

However, the matter should not be totally forgotten. The basic trouble which brought on the public display in the first place, still exists and although, now put back to sleep, it is likely to rise again to bug the people.

Two things can deter this expectation. The Board's intelligent application of individual thinking to upcoming issues and more importantly, the people's interest in seeing that it does.

result of the medical aid program passed in 1967 to become effective on January 1, 1970. This law obviously sneaked up on the Board. Regardless, had they known it from the beginning, there would have been very little they could have done.

The motion approving the 43 per cent increase carries a notation that any "additional money being received by the Welfare Department is to be used to decrease this portion of the budget."

This column does not always agree with the County Commissioners and it would have better if some way could have been found to have reduced this large increase, but in fairness to each member, no way was available. They took the only action apparently open to them and they, like the rest of the people, will have to pay the piper.

That's Unreasonable - I'd Lose'



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

You've Seen Everything

Henderson, (N.C.) Daily Dispatch

Now you've seen everything, or just about everything. The demand of the National Black Economic Development Conference on the National Council of Churches is one of the most absurd proposals of record. But spokesmen for the National Council urged serious study of what is termed a "black manifesto" demanding \$500 million in reparations for past injustices to Negroes. The manifesto, as reported in news stories from New York, did not elaborate on "past injustices."

Liberal as it is, the National Council could hardly be held to blame for what it had no part in. Moreover, it is quite unlikely that the church organization could raise anything like half a billion dollars, nor was there detail as to how the money would be spent even if it were available.

Just what form "widespread disruption of church agencies" would take was not clearly outlined, though it said there would be postponement for the present of the course apparently agreed upon.

The present generation of Americans is not responsible for what its predecessors did a century ago - if that is the object of what the manifesto embraced. Even officials of predominantly Negro denominations expressed doubt that the demands represented the views of most black people. Nor, for that matter, could the National Council speak for the some forty million members of denominations it claims are affiliated with it. Some of the major church groups in the country are not aligned with the Council.

Often, on occasion, leaders of various groups speak out in what they term the sentiment of their members, when actually there are many, but an undetermined number, who do not support the Council. Its extreme liberalism at times is repulsive to large elements of denominational affiliates, so much so that at times there has been refusal to contribute to support of the agency.

Before taking a stand either for or against demands in the manifesto, the National Council leaders should inform themselves as to specific uses to which \$500 million would be put if it could be raised, which most likely it could not. It would be utterly absurd to turn over to any group that much money without definite commitments as to how it would be applied.

It will be interesting to see what the Council will decide after it has studied the manifesto. It must surely recognize its own limitations financially. However willing denominational communicants may be to do as much as possible for the good of black citizens, they are not prepared to swallow such a choking dose as this would be. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to raise such a sum of money in this country for a purpose which has not been outlined in detail.

Black slave labor of more than a century ago is generally regarded as an injustice. But the present generation of Americans cannot rightly be held accountable for what their forefathers did, even before those now living were born. Making demands of this character is not likely to generate sympathy for the black people, regardless of any high degree of readiness to help them.

of the final product is inborn. (In reply to your remark that there still is a good deal of controversy about these issues, I must point out that while we indeed hear debate about an exact measurement here, or a fine point there, no controversy can be sustained as to the side on which the overwhelming preponderance of the existing evidence falls, nor can there be any justification whatever for basing all our public policies on the assumption that the opposite of this evidence is true.

The one thing our people need most today is to be led out of this slough of fawning self-abasement in which we wallow and in which excellence feels forever obliged to surrender to its opposite. It is destroying moral courage throughout our society. "And I might add that nothing is more certain to increase trouble than cowardice toward the troubles you already have."

That was the end of the letter. And I would urge friends of this column to re-read the excerpts I have given for, in my opinion, the words of Carleton Putnam are as understandable, and as truthful as we've ever strung together on the problem that is rapidly making a shambles of this nation.

A vacation is not going away from work; it is getting work out of your mind.

CARLETON PUTNAM TO DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN
JOHN J. SYNON

Some weeks ago, Time, the slantwise news magazine, ran a piece on race in which it quoted Nixon as having said that a person's intelligence is formed "largely" by his environment.

And because the President's man on Urban Affairs (i.e. race), Daniel P. Moynihan, was involved in the story, the unflagging Carleton Putnam wrote Moynihan a letter. Putnam wanted an understanding of what was meant by the equivocal word Nixon had used, "largely."

In time, Putnam received a now-you-see-it-now-you-don't response, but not from Moynihan. It came from one of Moynihan's handy men; a brush off.

But Carleton Putnam doesn't brush.

So, the man who built an airline wrote Moynihan a second letter, a copy of which is at hand. In part, it went, so:

"I have never disputed the fact", Putnam wrote (as politely as a surgeon preparing to open one's innards), "that environment plays an important part in the realization of potential ability and character. Environment does not, however, alter potential. I would say that the most profound, damaging and dangerous misunderstanding in our society today is the assumption that poverty and inequality are primarily the result of social injustice. The primary cause resides in genetic differences in potential human capacity, both individually and racially.

today. It has given the Negro an imaginary grudge against the White man, and the White man a false sense of guilt toward the Negro with its related attitude of appeasement and permissiveness, which in turn has spread intracracially throughout our homes, our schools and our courts."

"The emphasis has been totally wrong," Putnam continues, "and the consequences are approaching a national disaster. The essence of the American dream was a fluid society in which ability and character at the bottom could rise to the top; it was never intended to be a society in which the bottom, regardless of either ability or character, could permeate and dominate the top, lowering its standards, flouting its laws, draining its substance and initiating the obvious current decline in our civilization."

"Everything therefore which tends to further the fallacy - such as Nixon's statement that intelligence is largely formed by the environment - is to be regretted. The best evidence today, as you know, is that 80 per cent

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by frank count

There used to be a woman some years back who would always look at me and say... "You are the prettiest thing I've ever seen". Sometimes she'd say I was the cutest thing she'd ever seen and more often than not, she'd add and you're the sweetest thing in the world.

Of course, she was a little prejudiced. She was mama. To get to the main point... I ain't had as much attention from the fairer sex since the passing of mama as I've been getting lately... mostly since I got so famous with this column.

I been getting letters... a few phone calls... and I ain't gonna tell you anything else. I ain't one to say much, but I gotta say I ain't crying over this turn of events. If that's what turns 'em on, let them have their thing. I always say, I do wish, though, that them that are gonna write would sign their names or leave their telephone numbers. I ain't much good at guessing.

Following - when I get to it - is another letter. Now we've had some from women claiming to be the little woman and we know that ain't so. The little woman can't write. Now comes one from "Yer little ole gal friend". It can't be. I ain't never had a old gal friend in my life. Young, maybe. Old never.

And there's something sneaky about this whole thing. This letter was "found" unstamped on a certain desk in a certain office and found its way to me. I ain't pointed no finger yet but I'm getting ready to. Anyway, you read it-if you can-and I hope you enjoy it.

Dear Frank:
i just wanta let ya know that i read yore collon whenever anybody will giv' me a ole copy of De Frankling Times. i sit on ma front pooch and watch all them city slickers carry on thei'selves' community business. Rite now i'm recollecting them elections for the locale internal governmental officers for the ole 'burg. i sees that de womenfolk are step'ing up in de world. (They had bet'a watch out sos they don't step too high with them mites of a skirts on. Ha!) i dinks that us womenfolk need to take part in civilian affairs but me being an ole aristocrat SOUTHERN belle, well me thinks de most befit'ing place fer ah woman is in her home looking after her man and hers chil'ens. Ther now, i's done said ma piece.

Now Frank i wanta to ask ya a personnel quest'n. If'n that wuz yore ole womane who writ in your collon last week, is you really henpecked or is'n her trying to make folks dink she is boss? i just wanta to say that if'n she ever gets the rol'n pen after ya, well ya just come on down to ma house and we'll sit on the front-pooch fer a spell and dip snuff and when's you feels like it, ya can use ma antiquated typewriter to write yore famous collon with and i promise i won't be nowhere near to be abreathing down yore neck. Yes siren, ma house is run by a lady, a gentile lady. It's de down home kind'a place where yous can kick off's yorn shoes and swing on de front pooch til dark and listen to de whippersnappers calling fer ya to listen to dem.

Dis here'n letter is living proof that there's plenty of folks left from de ole rare breed, that some womenfolks stil dinks theirs place is in de home. Dis is ma sound-off letter, Frank. i really appreciate what's yore doing fer us homefolks, giving us a place in de sun. Whenever ya feels discouraged and lik'en to give up yore collon writings, dinks of all us folks who ain't got no welfare, no socially security, and no nothing, except 'an our pride and how's we wait fer weeks for an old copy of yer newspaper, then please Frank, sit back down and put your dinking cap back on. If'n for nobody else do it fer me.
Yer little ole gal friend

Honey child, even though I'd rather have money, I'm doing this column just for you and a few other folks who can't read good either.

American boys are dying in places their parents never heard of, but will never forget.
An honest man, after reviewing his own life, will be inclined to let youth chart its own course.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:
On Monday evening the students in grades one through four at Franklinton High School participated in a musical program in the school auditorium. It was one of the best children's musical programs that I have ever watched.

The children not only sang, but danced, played rhythmic instruments and demonstrated their knowledge of notes, time and musical terms. This program was under the supervision of Mrs. Bruce Honeycutt, who is working under the E.S.E.A. program at Franklinton. This type of musical training has been needed for many years in the Franklinton Schools. But it was not until the E.S.E.A. program was set up that such training was provided.

During the 6 years that I served on the Franklinton Board of Education, I made a plea for a Public School Music Teacher. I exhausted every effort possible to secure such a teacher. Little encouragement did I get as there were other priorities. So after a period of about twenty years, a Public School Music Teacher has been obtained due to the Elementary Secondary Education Act.

This is one of the tangible results of the expenditure of taxpayer's money through this Federal Project.
Sincerely,
Mrs. Richard Whitfield

