

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Work Both Ends

Taxpayers, beware. We are now entering a period of crisis. These are the waning days of the Legislature and in the rush to adjourn strange things are likely to happen.

Just to mention a few, one may note this week's actions designed to make North Carolina a 99 county plus one state. Mecklenburg, some say, should be different from the rest. Witness the actions to increase the width of buses on the highways. One spokesman says this should be done for the convenience of the bus traveler. Most folks are more interested in just getting there safely these days. And, certainly not finally, the little gem of naming the squirrel as the state's official mammal. More are likely to come.

It has become a tradition in the General Assembly and the Congress that waning days are anything-goes days. And these late hour enactments are just as much law as the first bills passed. They are just as binding on the population. Unfortunately, they are not always as wise.

Reliable reports indicate that Franklin taxpayers are sure to be taxed with a seven-cent increase for welfare and preliminary peeks at the budget show we might get hit with as much as a 27-cent increase. This is costly.

Congress is certain to keep the ten percent surtax which was imposed temporarily last year. This with social security increases, takes quite a chunk out of the old paycheck for Uncle Sam.

Already the honorables have tagged two cents a gallon on gasoline; they're

still talking a cigarette tax and a local option sales tax among other things.

Even committed to the philosophy that death and taxes are a certainty, too much of either one is too much. And we've long since become convinced that both are entirely too permanent.

It is the people's duty to support their government and to pay for services rendered the people by that government. Few, if any will question this. However, many a weary taxpayer has to wonder how things might be if the honorables in the Legislature and in the Congress would spend as much time trimming the excess fat from the cost of government services as they do looking for new ways to drain the taxpayer.

As one legislator said in a speech recently, "Now gentlemen, I want to tax your memory". One of his colleagues, sitting nearby muttered, "Gad, why didn't I think of that?"

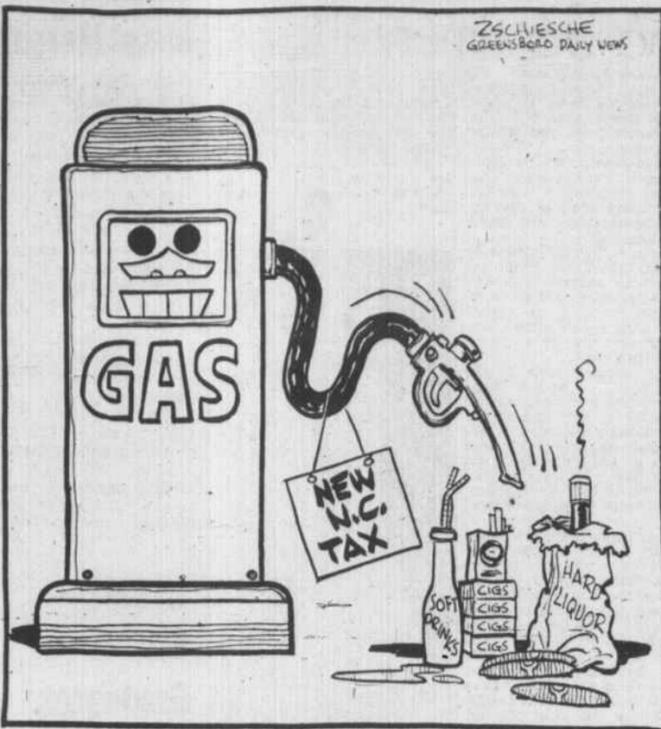
There aren't but a very few things not now taxed. At the rate they're going, few will predict but that sooner or later these, too, will be included.

Disposable income has come to be known as "take home pay" because after taxes and deductions, you can't afford to go any place else and many is the man who dreamed of earning the salary he can't live on today.

There are only two ways to meet today's ever increasing cost-of-government spiral. The lawmakers can cut away some of the excess fat or they can, as they seem ready to do, continue to raise taxes.

It would be nice if they would begin working both ends of this street.

'They could be next ...'



Kennedy's Leadership Is Marred By Ambition

The (Asheboro, N. C.) Courier-Tribune

THE LOYAL opposition as exemplified by Senate leaders Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Everett Dirksen (R-Ill.) operates on a lower plane where Senator Ted Kennedy is concerned.

Perhaps it's just the Kennedy nature to be pugnacious. More likely he's taken seriously the family mission urged on by a zealous chorus of militant leftists who see in the youngest son an opportunity to slow the nation's drift toward moderation under Richard Nixon.

All the familiar faces joined in the hue and cry against the administration's soft-pedaled anti-ballistic missile (ABM) system, assisted by the customary ham-handedness of the military industry which tends to take itself too seriously.

The men in uniform vary in popularity — held in low esteem after World War II, in the latter stages of both the Korean and Vietnam wars. Remember all the hoop-la over our "Green Berets" — surely the younger Kennedy can recall his brother John's infatuation with this romantic knight's corps?

Unfortunately the polls suggested the public, if not the U. S. Senate, favored ABM.

That left Sen. Kennedy out on a limb from which he neatly scuttled down.

Leadership against ABM spells political hazard which might survive to haunt an ambitious man in the advanced stages of his career.

This senator wasn't willing to chance. Of late, he has abandoned front ranks of the anti-ABM movement to others more willing to take the risk (i.e. with no further poli-

tical ambitions).

The senator since has helped swell ranks of the Senate doves.

Whoa, now! Who opened this Vietnam Pandora's box!

If we recall, it was the late President Kennedy who beamed up our military "advisors" to Saigon from a few hundred to about 15,000. It was just a short hop, skip and jump for his successor to pyramid our involvement from this into the hundreds of thousands, which he did much against his 1964 campaign promises.

(Remember when they laughed at Barry Goldwater for suggesting we "defoliate" the jungle to fight the Viet Cong — then U. S. chemical warfare experts did just that in 1965 after Lyndon Johnson broke all his promises?)

(Remember too that the late Sen. Robert Kennedy numbered himself among the hawks from the beginning of the senior Kennedy's presidency, as indeed most of the nation by then seemed to be to some extent.)

(Remember too that it was brother Robert who admitted John Kennedy had been wrong in committing U. S. forces to Vietnam, but this was long after the American public had soured on the war effort. Robert said he changed his mind. Has Edward Kennedy changed his mind too? Where did he stand during the Kennedy reign?)

Now the newest Senate whip suggests American preoccupation with outer space should accept a back seat to inner space, that is, matters of poverty, the ghettos, militant demands, racial discrimination — the whole "guilt

complex" bag of the liberals buried in a nest of domestic pork-barrels.

In short, the moon-or-bust mania needs to stop right there. Satisfy man's curiosity by making a lunar touchdown, then pack NASA's toys up and divert the government's muscle to more earthly matters. The Russians can have Venus, we'll opt for Harlem and Watts instead.

(Remember, it was John Kennedy who first put Americans into a crash lunar expeditionary craze. Sputnik had jarred the U. S. and "catch-up" was the administration's popular phrase.)

Now, the surviving Kennedy says that's enough of that.

The swerving preoccupations of the Kennedys have been legendary. Had Robert Kennedy returned unscathed from California, been elected to the presidency and then proposed foreign aid to the moon, brother Edward would probably dutifully tagged along.

Expediency. It has served the Kennedys well, with due respect to their memory as public servants and unquestionably as patriots.

It's only that the youngest son isn't wearing too well with us as leader of the administration's loyal opposition.

Reflecting on the relationship between Senate leaders Lyndon Johnson, Dirksen and Mansfield with their respective presidents it appears that the traditional accord has degenerated into partisan bickering which could, in time, bring government to something of a stalemate.



I ain't much when it comes to going to sad events like weddings and graduations. But, when your neighbor's youngin is gonna do something you gotta go. I seen more ball games and piano playings than Carter's got whatever it is Carter's got, all because of George and Myrtle. You remember George and Myrtle. They're my quarreling neighbors. My drinking neighbors live further down the road.

Well, their little Mabeline graduated. I ain't never going to understand why nor how, but she did and I seen her when she done it. And if setting in that hot school house with a tight collar and shoes to match ain't being neighborly then I'm gonna be a isolationist. (In case you're wondering, I got that from the President's speech. I had to look up the spelling, though. He didn't spell it. He just said it and I ain't sure either one of us knows what it means.)



I always have said that folks are the curioest things. I always have said that. Take George and Myrtle (and I wish somebody would), they worked twelve years ... fourteen really cause Mabeline ain't the smartest youngin I've ever seen. She ain't the prettiest either. But them folks worked all them years just getting little Mabeline to the graduating point and what did they do? They set there and cried. Now, I ask you, ain't that the silliest thing you ever seen?

Me? I laughed. I knowed now she'd be leaving the neighborhood. And I know one neighbor that ain't gonna miss her neither. Well, I gotta admit, I might miss her some. Like when you got the itch. It feels so good when you scratch it, naturally you miss it some when it's gone. And the itch is what little Mabeline is like.

But I reckon I'd have to say I was kinda proud of her at that. Most of her was covered with all that gowns and caps and stuff. She looked about as good as I'd ever seen her ... what of her I could see, that is. It ain't every day old Frank gets a chance to see his neighbor graduate. Fact is, it ain't ever day that old Frank gets to see anybody graduate.

I can remember when folks in my neighborhood didn't know there was any kind of diploma except a high school one. And them few kids that got one of them was often called on to do surgery when anybody got hurt or was having a baby. They was the smart ones alright. I remember one boy fresh out of high school wore his gown for seven days so's everybody would know he was better 'n the rest of the neighborhood. He never did give back the cap.

One thing about them gowns. They're democratic. I'll say that for them. Everybody looks pretty much alike in them. You shore can't tell whether they're wearing a \$30 suit or a pair of overalls under them things. And the same things goes for girls. Course can't many folks tell what girls is wearing under these days anyway.

But there I set acting like I understood everything the bright young kids was saying as they made their speeches. They done right well. Most of them talked with some kinda yankee brogue. They said w-a-s instead of wuz and they said s-e-v-e-n instead of saiden but I followed most of what they said. Man I didn't know there was so many challenges hiding out there in the future. Made a fellow wonder if he wants to get there. Then there was a heap of tal about problems and facing the future with courage and mar. I hear to tell you after hearing all them speakers, if you ain't got a heap of courage, you'd best forget the whole thing cause there ain't a whole lot a good up there ahead according to them folks doing all that fancy talking. It pretty near scared the daylight out of me and I know it hit them youngins hard. They won't in no hurry to march out of the building and I didn't blame them. I was scared to go home myself.

But when it was all over, I watched them two boys helping dear little well-educated Mabeline up the aisle. She always did faint easy. Specially if there was boys around. Never did quite understand that. Boys seem to have a adverse effect on Mabeline.

I finally found out what I went for. How did Mabeline do it. How did that precious little bothersome youngin graduate? George finally told me. Myrtle and the school principal was third cousins and like I always have said, blood is thicker than water. Everybody's but mine that is. Mine is water.

Don't be a fault-finding grouch; when you feel like finding fault with somebody or something stop for a moment and think; there is very apt to be something wrong within yourself. Don't permit yourself to show temper, and always remember that when you are in the right you can afford to keep your temper, and when you are in the wrong you cannot afford to lose it.

— J. J. Reynolds



'Til Drink To That!

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

How Does Your Town Score?

McLean County News, Calhoun, Ky.

Here are 32 virtues of a progressive community. Students of community development say that if a community can honestly answer "yes" to 24 or more of these items, then citizens can take pride in it. And it will make progress and continue to be a good place to live and work.

Most high school and college graduates stay in town.

The local paper constantly pushes civic improvements.

There's a place to swim within easy reach.

Young couples have little trouble finding a place to live.

The head of your city government is a "get-things-done" man.

Teachers' salaries are better than the state average.

There's a library with a good collection of new books.

Service clubs and women's organizations team up on projects.

A modern hospital is within your trading area.

There's a hotel or motel you would enjoy, if you were a visitor.

It's easy to find a parking space in the business section.

Prompt, reasonable priced ambulance service is available.

Streets throughout the community are well-lighted.

There's as much interest in local as

national elections.

There's an active Parent-Teachers' Association.

Citizens have a positive outlook and attitude about their town.

Firemen must take regular training courses.

There's an annual Clean-Up, Paint-Up, Fix-Up week.

More than half the church congregations are under 40 years of age.

Local speeders pay the same fines as out-of-towners.

Newcomers quickly feel they're a part of the town.

Schools have plenty of room for students.

All streets are paved and sidewalks are in good condition.

At least one restaurant serves outstanding meals.

It's easy to get volunteers for any worthwhile project.

There's a livewire Chamber of Commerce.

There's at least one doctor for each 800 people.

Well-stocked stores keep shoppers in the town.

There's an ample supply of good drinking water.

The sewer extension programs keep pace with new housing.

Good zoning keeps commercial firms away from residential areas.

Accomplishment

THE JOY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT springs from the knowledge that whatever needs to be done—can be done. This is especially true where such confidence is based on the spiritual fact that intelligence or Mind is limitless ... and all-inclusive.

To have faith in oneself is important in every line of endeavor, for it establishes courage when courage is most needed ... while at the same time it dissipates any negative approach that looks for ... and sees ... failure at every turn by admitting "it can't be done."

To succeed in any accomplishment, therefore, one must have faith in himself, and in others ... for if one's objective is worth reaching for—it is worth striving for ... even though the road be rough and troubled, or seemingly blocked. Actually, it is at this testing point that victory is won or lost ... where the weak in spirit drop out, and the strong march on.

Shakespeare said, "There is neither good nor bad but thinking makes it so." And this truism has been proved through the ages by men who dared to throw off the shackles of ignorance and limitation by changing the "I can't" to "I can." The degree of accomplishment is not as important as the accomplishment itself—and to the extent that one is able to replace the "negative" with the "positive"—to that extent will success be his.

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