

The Franklin Times

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LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Natives Are Restless

A 19th century preacher once wrote that the "inevitable consequences of being too fond of glory" were that we would have "Taxes upon every article which enters into the mouth, or covers the back, or is placed under the foot... taxes on everything on earth, and the waters under the earth."

In their efforts to obtain the glory of an all-protective government—one which would take care of the sick, the poor, the foreign, the aged and finance the world, Americans have reached the stage referred to over 100 years ago by Rev. Sydney Smith. We, as taxpayers, are now suffering the "inevitable consequences".

Or perhaps it is the consequences of the glory-seeking politicians which we suffer. The elected official, entrusted with our welfare—as opposed to public assistance—has learned that to continue in office he must tax and spend, tax and spend.

This process has been going on now for quite a long time. Instead of answering or eliminating our problems it has only served to compound them. Money, it now seems, is not the answer to all the things plaguing this country, this state or this county.

And while it has been a long time coming, the taxpayer is now showing some signs—however weak they may be—of becoming disturbed.

Governor Bob Scott's troubles with a non-cooperating General Assembly is an example of this stirring. Members of the North Carolina House are politicians and all we know subscribe to the theory of tax and spend, tax and spend. It is reasonable to assume that more taxes under normal circumstances, would have made only a few blushing. And surely it is not due to any lost interest in spending by the lawmakers, that brought out the "No's" last week.

Fountain Comments On Tobacco

Washington, D. C.—This week's tobacco battle in the Congress has ended, but the war against tobacco goes on, and if finally won, would bankrupt the Second District and much of North Carolina. This we must prevent. Excessive cigarette smoking, like excessive anything else, may be harmful. Representing an agricultural district, I am naturally partisan, but I am also unalterably opposed to the "big brother" decisions of government, which are gradually destroying our freedom.

And, since so many of our people probably believe the anti-tobacco propaganda, I'd like you to read parts of what a member of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee says. After listening to every witness during the tobacco hearings, Congressman Richardson Preyer of the Sixth District of North Carolina said:

"Congress has the duty to warn the American people of dangers to their health, whether arising from tobacco or any other product. It also has the duty not to go beyond the facts in doing this."

"I approached the tobacco hearings from this point of view. Being from a tobacco state, I was determined to see that tobacco got a fair hearing but knew that the health of our people came before the health of the tobacco industry. I thought that the medical facts would prove to be very bad indeed. Like most of the public, I thought that a case against tobacco had been made by disinterested and well-informed groups acting on behalf of the public—such as the U. S. Surgeon General and the Public Health Service—and by certain health organizations, such as the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, and the National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association. I thought that it was only the tobacco industry and the tobacco farmer—both having a substantial self-interest—who questioned the scientific facts."

"This was very naive. After sitting through 13 days of hearings and listening to every witness, the picture that

If the rumblings indeed be those of a taxpayer revolt as some like to term it, they come late but they surely come well justified.

Many is the hard working, tax paying citizen who has time to contemplate his world while waiting, cash in hand, to pay his bill at the checkout behind the man with a book of food stamps. Armed with the knowledge that it takes cold hard cash for him to buy the groceries and doubly informed that part of the fellow's bill just ahead of him has come out of his pocket, too, there is little wonder that at long last, he begins to stir.

Exposed to Senate hearings where all kinds of manipulations are being aired concerning defense contracts which seem to double between the time they're signed and the product is delivered, the taxpayer must begin to wonder who's looking after his interest.

Faced with ever increasing interest rates on money he has to borrow—approved, of course, by his elected lawmakers, the taxpayer must question who's paying interest on his, taken out each week—often a year ahead of its due date.

With alarming regularity, government on all levels has forgotten that the man who pays the bill has a limit. Day by day and almost hour by hour any taxpayer can avail himself of information—proof positive—that not only is nobody looking after his interest, nobody apparently any longer cares.

This may not yet be a full scale revolt. The taxpayer is known to be long suffering. Patience has long been his main virtue. But the signs are becoming impressively clearer. Something is amidst. The taxpaying native has, indeed, become restless. And it's about time.

reopening of the Surgeon General's Report of 1964.... A caution should be given to our major voluntary health agencies—the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the National Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association—and to our governmental agencies—such as the Public Health Service, the FCC and the FTC—to hold up until more facts are in and more questions answered.

"The best that can be said of the testimony of the major health agencies is that it was well-intentioned. But any objective trier-of-the-facts would be very concerned about these matters: (1) The agencies themselves produced no witnesses who had done independent research. (2) Agency witnesses were woefully misinformed about some basic facts. For example, they testified that "smoking causes the lungs to turn black" (untrue); or, "your chances are better at Russian roulette than they are of smoking and not impairing your health." (The fact is that five-one-hundredths of 1 percent annually of all smokers develop lung cancer). Or, that "there is an epidemic of lung cancer in this country." (Fact: respiratory death rates in 1900 were over five times what they are today. There is a declining rate of increase in lung cancer, indicating that the incidence will level off in the next few years.) (3) Many of their statements are seriously misleading.... The statement that "heavy smoking will shorten your life by 8 years," is highly speculative... and based on a statistical study by an employee of the American Cancer Society who did not testify and who has refused to disclose the raw data in his studies so as to permit independent evaluation. Is this the way to get at the facts?"

The above remarks come from one of the most able members of the "Committee Jury"—also an experienced lawyer and former Judge who has practiced the art of fairness and objectivity. Many tobacco battles lie ahead, but honest and proper basic research is the only way to bring the war itself to an end.

'I Can't See Any Cuts To Make...'



LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Old Glory On The Moon

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has finally announced that Apollo 11 astronauts will plant an American flag when they land on the moon next month. It is a sign of our times that there was ever any question about this.

Since the days of Columbus, the flag of the country footing the bill has been hoisted over any new discovery. Most people would have taken for granted that Old Glory had earned the right to be first on the moon.

But there were—and still are—some who advocated that the flag of the United Nations should be raised first on the moon. This, they say, would be a gesture of goodwill. Where are the gestures of goodwill from member nations of the U.N.? Most of them don't even bother to pay their dues. Certainly, none have shared in the cost of the United States space exploration.

Congress got into the act recently and a couple lawmakers flat out told NASA that the Stars and Stripes would fly first on the moon or they'd cut off the money. Not too surprisingly, NASA suddenly became most patriotic after this little nugget of news arrived.

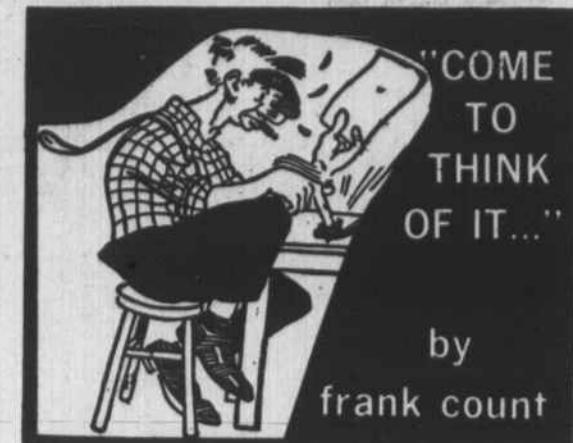
And so, now Old Glory will be planted on the moon. It might not be a big thing but to the lowly taxpayer who has slaved all these years to help pay for the trip, it'll be good to know it's there.

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I ain't got me one of them Miss A. Landis files but every now and then I get balled up with a mess of little things that need to be got off my chest and ought to be passed on to you folks. So today is clean up day in case any of you got any place to go right now.

There's a newspaper columnist up in Browning, Montana named M. K. Fields. He writes for the 1400-circulation Glacier Reporter and he says he saved his readers \$2.5 million in the last two weeks.

The way he figures it, he says, the government is spending \$4.281 every second and it takes five minutes to read his column—he must not have much to say. Anyway, he didn't write his column for two weeks and at the government's rate of spending \$1.28 million every five minutes, he says he's saved his readers some \$2.56 million.

Now who said us columnists don't wear white hats?

We run across a little thing done by Rob Wood for the Associated Press awhile back and we been hanging onto it for quite a spell hoping to git a chance to pass it along in case some of you ain't no Associated Press readers.

Cousin Rob played a guessing game and then give the answers. He asked for instance What's the county seat of Macon County? It ain't Macon, according to him. It's Franklin. Macon's in Warren County. And everybody in this wide wide world knows good and well what's the county seat of Franklin County. Don't they?

Then he asked What's the county seat of Washington County? He said it's Plymouth and that Washington is in Beaufort County and that Beaufort is in Carteret County. He also said thank the Lord there ain't no Carteret. He said the town of Columbus ain't in Columbus County. It's in Polk and Polkton is in Anson County and Whiteville is the county seat of Columbus.

Greenville ain't in Greene County, neither. It's in Pitt but Pittsboro ain't. It's in Chatham. Graham ain't in Graham County. It's in Alamance and Davidson ain't in Davidson County. It's in Mecklenburg. Rockingham is in Richmond County and not in Rockingham County.

Old Rob went on for quite a spell with his name dropping and finally asked What's the county seats of Durham, Camden, Wilson and Halifax. It says so right here in his piece. Ain't you glad Franklinton is in Franklin County? There's less confusion that way.

Well, of course, anybody knows that. It's Durham, Camden, Wilson and Halifax. It says so right here in his piece. Ain't you glad Franklinton is in Franklin County? There's less confusion that way.

KNOW SALE

The manager of a local Department store was puzzled recently when it was discovered that a certain cash register showed more than 100 "no sales." An investigation disclosed that a teen-age clerk was punching the "no sale" button every time a customer walked away without making a purchase.

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