

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday Serving All Of Franklin County

Your Award Winning County Newspaper

Thursday, July 10, 1969

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Dark Side Of The Moon Appears

In the beginning of the school desegregation move it was decided by those who had pushed the 1964 Civil Rights Act and those who had fostered the 1954 Supreme Court decision, that the blame for whatever such a move might bring should be placed as far away from themselves as possible. It was decided that the least harmful place of all to them would be the local school boards.

When this decision was finalized, there must have been great shouting in the sacred halls. Truly this was a political masterpiece if ever one had been devised. Local school boards had neither the finances nor the political power to fight back. So, early in the movement, it was decided that the local boards would be the patsies.

Congress passed the Act in July of 1964, but put off its effective date until January 3, 1965. The Congress, while willing to pass this legislation, lacked the stomach to enforce it. Obviously, had this law applied equally to every section of the country and had every school system been required to obey the law together on the date of its enactment, it would never have passed in the first place.

No, the answer is now clear. Congress wanted to appease the liberals who were crying for such legislation as a monument to President John Kennedy and it was passed in emotionalism following his tragic assassination the November before. Once, it was decided who the goats would be, Congress could have its cake and eat it too.

Implementation of the law was given to Health, Education and Welfare. That it's been a hot potato is obvious. Who ever heard of HEW before it became involved in school desegregation? Now, it was HEW's turn to make sure all the blame was placed on local school boards. HEW actions have been so well publicized, they hardly need repeating here. Privately HEW officials pressured local boards with harassment, threats of the cutting off of funds and finally with turning the case over to the Justice Department for court action. Local boards knew from the start to buck HEW was futile. Yet, HEW authorities allowed that it was not they, but local boards that were operating the schools. Desegregation plans were the brainchild of local authorities they said. HEW has done an outstanding job of making local boards of education the goat in desegregation.

Even the courts have joined in many cases. Local boards are ordered to come up with a plan. When the local plan fails to satisfy the courts, another plan is ordered. This continues until the local boards have devised a plan suitable to the court. True, it is a local plan, but what choice was there?

In hundreds of school systems across this country there is no inte-

gration. Federal officials have looked the other way—mostly southward. Washington is apparently scared to tackle such financially powerful and vote-heavy districts as Houston, Texas, Chicago, Ill. (although President Johnson made one stab at it and now President Nixon has moved in that direction) and even nearby Raleigh. There are too many votes in these places for HEW to push too hard and the boards of education have the resources to make sure that they do not shoulder the blame for decisions made by someone else.

All this makes many local boards look bad. How can some justify disruption of their schools when neighboring systems continue as they were before 1964? If integration is good for some children in one system why is it not good for all. If its bad, why not bad for all? Every system should be treated alike. And it should be made clear just where the decisions are being made. One thing is certain, it has been a long time since local boards made them.

Here in North Carolina, the ultra quiet Department of Public Instruction has been jarred out of its slumber by a recent decision by federal Judge Algernon Butler. The federal jurist ruled this week that the State could not be removed from the Johnston County case. In effect, Judge Butler said that the State has as much obligation to push desegregation as do the local boards.

Back in the fifties, when North Carolina went to the Pearsall plan as a result of the 1954 Supreme Court ruling, operation of schools was supposedly given to local boards. The State wanted no part of all the confusion to come. This way, the State Department could join Congress, HEW and the courts. They, too, could make the local boards the whipping boy.

Well, the federal court has now moved to eliminate this. The State, in light of this week's ruling, is going to have to carry its share of the load. If North Carolina public education falls by the wayside, the blame must hereinafter be shared. Congress has felt the rath of the people in recent months and some voters are waking up to the fact that Congress has a share of the blame and needless to say, the public is now wide awake to HEW's game.

So, the dark side of the moon suddenly appears. Local boards of education are beginning to be viewed once again with some degree of understanding. There hasn't been any reports of burning a board in effigy in months. The people are beginning to realize that the whole business was designed to make their local neighbors the scapegoats in a national tragedy not of their making.

It's about time the instigators of the plot were brought to light. But then, give a man enough rope, as the saying goes.



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Could Raise Or Lower Own Taxes

The Smithfield Herald

To paraphrase an old saying, you cannot avoid death and taxes. But the old saying is not exactly true. North Carolinians may not be able to avoid all the tax increases imposed by the 1969 Legislature, but they can avoid some of the increases by exercising some options.

The Associated Press has figured that the tax increases will amount to approximately \$60 a family—that is, a family of four that drives its one car 12,000 miles a year, consumes two packs of cigarettes a day, drinks three six-packs of soft drinks a week, plus two six-packs of beer and a pint of whisky.

The AP itemizes the effect of the tax increases: "The gasoline tax would amount to \$16 a year, and the cost of the auto license tag will go up \$3. The tobacco levy would add \$14.56, the soft drink tax would amount to \$9.36, and the liquor tax will rise by

\$8.32 until July 1, 1970. After that it will be \$12.48. When it buys a new car, this family will pay an additional \$15 as a result of an increase in the sales tax. The cost of a \$200 boat will go up \$10."

The tax increase for many Tar Heel families will be considerably greater than \$60 a year—the families that consume more than a pint of whisky a week, the ones that stock up heavily on beer and soft drinks, the ones that include heavy smokers, also the families that drive two or more cars and run up mileage well beyond the 12,000-a-year mark.

And, of course, the increase will be much less than \$60 a year for the families that exercise their options to drink less or not at all, to smoke less or not at all, or to calm down the go-go spirit that keep the family car (or cars) constantly on the road.

Encouraging Future Lawlessness

Mount Olive (N.C.) Tribune

After reading reports in the daily press on the Klan-Negro shoot-out in Hyde county Friday night, we don't know who's to blame. But the outcome as finally determined by State Police when they moved in contributes nothing toward the desirable end of discouraging such incidents in the future.

It boils down to the fact that both the Klan and the Negroes were wrong, that neither should have been shooting at anybody. If the Klan had retained its composure in the face of provocation by Negroes driving by, perhaps nothing further would have occurred. Or, if the carload of Negroes had reported the shooting and left it to the law, as they should have done, there would have been no further incident between the two groups apparently, for according to reports the Klansmen never left their legally-owned property during the entire affair, including the "war" which followed when some 100 Negroes appeared on the scene with guns.

It also appears that the law officers were in the wrong. In spite of obvious evidence that both sides were using firearms unlawfully, and each side just as unlawfully as the other, no arrests or attempted arrests were made among the Negroes. Only Klansmen, still on their own property, were

seized and disarmed. Fortunately, injuries from the gunfire were few and not serious: One 12-year-old Negro girl was wounded in the leg, presumably from the Klan gunfire, though the report didn't say. It didn't say, either, what a 12-year-old girl was doing there. Nobody else was hit except some of the officers, by gunfire from the Negroes. Yet, no Negroes were arrested or disarmed.

We don't want to be interpreted here as defending the Klan in any sense. There are no services which we desire from them, any more than from the Black Panthers and their kind. These two groups are on opposite extremes from reason, although the activities and publicly declared aims of the latter make the Klan look Sunday schoolish by comparison.

But please do interpret us as deploring the one-sided action of law officers in this incident. It can do nothing but encourage two tragic beliefs in opposite quarters: One, that anything done by a large enough group of Negroes will go unpunished; and two, that there will be no help from the law for whites in such confrontations. As we understand it, that situation after the Civil War is what gave birth to the Klan in the first place.—EB.



There ain't many folks in this world has a harder time than I do. My old pappy use to say... "Frank", he'd say—he always called me Frank—"You'll git along in the world 'cause you got a good face". My ole pappy was pretty smart. Bad as I hate to do it I thought I got to say he was only half right that time. I have got a good face.

Just to show you what I mean... you take the other day. The other day while the little woman had a gang of girls over to the house quilting, I come in with my overalls on. Well, sir, she nearly pitched a fit right there. She would have, but she didn't want the girls to know we don't get along too good. She thinks they think we're still on our honeymoon—whatever that is.

She got me over in the corner and give me what-for. "Frank", she said—she always calls me that, too—"You got to get you some britches like them other men wear. I'm sick and tired of you coming in with your overalls on. I had a thought about that remark but I kept it to myself. I won't born yesterday.



"If you don't go get you some new britches, I'm gonna leave you", she said. Well, I knowed she won't going to do what she said, but I went to buy some anyway.

The first store I got to, a pretty girl come shash-shaying up and asked if she could help me. She could, I told her. I wanted to buy a pair of blue britches. What size she wanted to know. I didn't know what size. If it'd been overalls, I could have told her.

When I said I didn't know what size, she grabbed a long strip of numbered paper and grabbed me around the waist. I nearly fainted. I ain't never been so embarrassed. I knowed I had a good face, but being modest—as I always am—I didn't know it was that good. I jumped back scared as you know what and she purred, "I am not going to hurt you." She said it so pretty, I stopped jumping. My blood all stayed in my face, but I stopped jumping. She measured me. When she got through, she just smiled.

"How long should your trousers be?" she asked. Well, long enough to cover my shoe tops, I told her. "No, I mean do you know how many inches in length you've been wearing," she said. I didn't naturally. And here she come with that tape again. I got to admit, I won't scared no more and I didn't jump one bit.

But when she started to measure I'm here to tell you... that won't no place for old Frank. No, sir. I'm brave as the next fellow and I know how good looking I am and how some girls just can't help it, but I ain't never going back there. No, sir. If that's what it takes to buy a pair blue britches, it's back to the overalls.

Down at that next place, I seen there won't nothing but men in there so I decided to give it one more try. "I want to buy a pair of blue britches," I told the boy. "I want some with pleats," I said.

"Sorry, we don't carry pants with pleats any more," he said. "No pleats?" I said. What kind of pants you got young fellow I asked him. "Bell bottoms are the latest things," he said. "Bell bottoms?" I yelled. "What in the world is bell bottoms?" He showed me. You wouldn't believe me. They took that little bit of cloth it took for pleats and made the bottom of them britches big enough to wear upside down.

"You got any blue ones?" I asked. "No, sir. Blue is out this year. Bright colors are in. You want to see a stripe or a plaid or perhaps a check?"

Well, here I was, threatened at home if I wore overalls; attacked in that other store 'cause I looked so good in them; and now I was down to stripes, plaids and checks with wide bottoms. Ain't many folks in this world has a harder time as I do.

I made out like I'd be back and went out fast as I could. Next place I told the man I was just looking. He walked off and I started hunting for a pair blue britches. I didn't think he's mind if I unpiled some of his britches while I looked. He did, though. He said so. But finally I spotted a pair blue ones. The color was just right. I called him over. "Mister", I said—since I didn't know his name—"I'll take that pair blue britches right there".

He almost cried. "Sir", he said. "I'm sorry but you don't want that pair. Let me show you something else." "Wait just a minute," I said getting somewhat irritated. "I got the money and I want to buy that pair right there." He got irritated too. I could tell. He grabbed up the britches, wrapped them, took my money and told me goodbye.

When I got to the door, I asked him how come he didn't want me to have them blue britches. "Because, sir", he said, "they're ladies trousers". Ain't nobody has as hard a time as I do.

THE SUMMING UP OF 1968

- 55,300 deaths a 5% increase over 1967
- 4,400,000 injuries 200,000 more than 1967
- Accidents involving speed resulted in more than 800,000 casualties in 1968
- One third of the drivers involved in fatal accidents were under 25 years of age
- 40% of the deaths and 33% of the injuries occurred on Saturday and Sunday
- 4 out of 5 deaths occurred on dry roads in clear weather
- More than 55% of the deaths occurred during the hours of darkness

How Does This Grab You?

The Courier-Tribune, Roxboro, N. C.

According to the publication "Commerce", important federal government research projects include: "Mating Calls of Central American Toad Frogs," cost \$21,200; "Sexual Incompatibility in Higher Fungi", cost

\$4,800; "Social Dominance Behavior of Rodents," cost \$28,000; "Heat and Water Balances of the Camel," cost \$31,200; "Respiratory Mechanisms of Cultivated Mushrooms," cost \$8,000.

The Franklin Times

Established 1870 — Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by

The Franklin Times, Inc.

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

CLINT FULLER, Managing Editor

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Business Manager

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 Louisburg, N. C. 27549.