

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

No Real Joy

Civil rights advocates are up in arms today. President Nixon has named a southern judge to the Supreme Court. The nomination by the President Monday of Fourth Circuit Court Chief Judge Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr. brought cries of protest almost before the Greenville, S. C. jurist was informed of the appointment himself.

Be this as it may. It was expected. But there is no real joy emanating from the boundaries of Franklin County. Southern Congressmen, including those from North Carolina are praising the appointment. It is a great day for the South, they are saying. But, Southern Congressmen have been overjoyed of late at any crumb thrown their way. Anything less than Jacob Javits and Howard Fuller is considered by most leaders as a conservative triumph.

Granted the appointment could have been of the Javits cloth and that Judge Haynsworth is well qualified for the position, it still leaves Franklin citizens cold.

Five times last year, the Judge concurred or wrote Fourth Circuit

opinions against Franklin schools. Three weeks before last year's opening an appeal to Judge Haynsworth at his Greenville home for a delay in execution of a District Court ruling to totally integrate the schools fell on deaf ears.

Last December he ruled the appeal by the Board of Education "had little or no merit at the outset and became substantially moot when the Board, failing to obtain a stay, achieved complete compliance with it."

By any measure, Franklin's plight last fall—unlike any other community at the time—merited a careful look by the higher court. It didn't get it and a period of great strain and confusion followed.

Franklin citizens may view Judge Haynsworth's appointment as something better than might have been expected. Surely it is a sizable improvement over Abe Fortas, but no flags will fly; no bands will play. There is no real joy here over the appointment.

If Judge Haynsworth is a southern conservative, we're in worse shape than we thought.



"I thought vaudeville was dead on their planet."

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Pension For Chair Warmers

The News Reporter, Whiteville, N. C.

During the first months of 1970 the electorate of this state will probably hear a tune from candidates for state senator or representative something like this:

"Now, boys, give old Tom a break. You know I am not a wealthy man

and I'm not getting any younger. Go with me this time and I will be eligible for a retirement of \$100 a month for the rest of my born days."

If the office seeker doesn't come out and say what he's thinking voters out front will see his plea etched in his wrinkled face.

Isn't it wonderful. Some Joe spends about five sessions warming a state-owned chair seat and is rewarded with a pension for life. He has a business at home to which he hurries early Friday to tend and then stays with it until late Monday.

Actually, the senator or representative puts in only three days a week of so-called General Assembly work. Give him credit for a sort of check-in Monday night and his month's attendance, not altogether intensive work, will run not more than 12 to 15 days if that much.

Take the 1969 session just concluded. The first month was spent messing around discussing whether they should put a tax on tobacco and what the results would be. That month produced little in the way of constructive legislation and the whole 170-crowd might as well have been home skinning clients or catching up on mercantile pursuits.

A whole lot of talk, just talk, was spent on what to do about the fishing industry, these so-called experts, you know. Just time wasted because these authorities, if you may, refused to listen to fishing folk, those who know the problems and know how to deal with them. The people who get up at 4 a.m. and sail to the ocean at five o'clock know more about the fishing industry than these elected chair warmers will ever know. But the chair-borne command assumes it knows all of the answers.

Who gets the pension? The chair warmers... and they voted to take care of themselves.

Every one of the 170 ought to drop his head in shame. Thousands of public school teachers with 10, 20, 30 and 40 years of service in schoolrooms nine months of every year have been set aside as "too old" and forced to survive on not much more than these political opportunists voted for themselves.

We have had and still have a minority of energetic, statesmanlike members in the General Assembly, real working men and women, but not so with most of them. If some are disgruntled about pay and pension, who pushed them into the job?

Call the retirement stipend a pension if you so choose. To us it seems to be something akin to welfare... the taking care of political hacks for questionable questionable service.

Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor said GA members work not more than three days a week at best. So that \$100 a month, more for some, is pretty fair wages.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Enough People Could

Henderson Daily Dispatch

Governor Maddox of Georgia Expresses high hopes for the conference he has called in Atlanta for August 16 to combat methods of Federal desegregation in the public schools. He has invited governors, congressmen, senators and school people to attend the mass meeting projected. It will be interesting to observe the number who respond.

Certainly the ends sought could be achieved if there were enough people banded together to make their voice heard. It is questionable, however, whether a group composed only of southerners can turn the trick.

There are enough laws on the

books if Congress as the final authority would muster enough stamina to make bureaucratic agencies in Washington knuckle under to what the lawmakers have approved. Trouble is that heads of agencies and commissions assume the role of policy making which belongs to Congress alone, and Congress as a whole sits supinely by and refuses to act as its own prerogatives are being eroded. They appear to be content in their \$42,500 salaries to let events take their course.

Last fall, President Nixon, when a candidate, said he favored freedom of choice as policy in school desegregation. We believe the Negro people are

as harassed and disconcerted about high-handed dictates of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare as are the white people.

There is no longer the opposition to the program that there once was, so long as parents were allowed to choose the schools their children will attend. But the crowd at HEW is adamant and determined to impose its own ideas, when actually many of those in so-called authority there don't know as much about local school conditions and problems as local school boards have forgotten. Nor, as we understand it, do they actually have the power under the Civil Rights Act to go as far as they are going in imposing their theories upon an unwilling people.

When congressmen, as Mr. Fountain has done, remind the HEW people of what the law is, it appears to go in one ear and out the other. Bureaucratic defiance has carried to the point where it apparently is illegal. But nothing is done about it in Congress or elsewhere. Mr. Fountain is as anxious as any one that reason and justice prevail. But as one man he is powerless. Most of the others on Capitol Hill seem not to be concerned.

Most southerners in Congress probably are largely of the same mind as Governor Maddox, but at best they are a minority and their hands are tied by being overpowered from other sections of the country.

Whatever the motives of the Governor, and however meritorious, it remains uncertain as to what can be accomplished. The South could switch its party affiliation, but it could at the same time continue to be the whipping boy of those from the populous centers who, to put it mildly, may be saturated with prejudice and jealousy over the progress this section of the country has made and could continue to make if allowed to do so.

Centerville

(Continued from Page 1)

Assault with a deadly weapon brought by Cloice Burnette, Jr., 18, who claims he was assaulted with a pistol; Assault with a deadly weapon by Rufas Jones, 16, who claims he was assaulted with a shotgun and a warrant was issued against Lancaster for interfering with an officer.

Six warrants were issued against James Lancaster as follows: Assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill by Rodney West, 16, who claims he was shot at, but not hit, by a shotgun; Assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill resulting in damage to personal property brought by Bobby Debnam; Assault with a deadly weapon by Cloice Burnette, Jr. who claims Lancaster shot at him with a shotgun; Assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injury against Tyree Lancaster as follows: Assault with a deadly weapon by Bobby Debnam, who claims he was struck by Lancaster with his fist; and permanent injury, not resulting in death brought by Elmer C. Griffin, Jr.; Assault with a deadly weapon brought by Rufas Jones; and Assault with a

deadly weapon with intent to kill resulting in permanent injury not resulting in death brought by James S. Finch, Jr.

Jerry Lancaster is charged in a single warrant with simple assault in charges brought by Bobby Debnam, who claims Lancaster struck him with his fist. All three men are free on bond.

Trooper Todd said Monday he will charge Debnam and Finch with careless and reckless driving. He says he has no evidence at this time to back up charges against others or to support the drag racing reports.

During the melee, Dement reports that a telephone booth was damaged by gunshot. One youth was inside the booth and another was standing beside it when it was blasted with shotgun pellets, according to reports. Neither youth was injured. A third youth reported he was shot at as he ran away from the scene and still another, reportedly a passenger in one of the cars said he was nicked on the arm by a pellet. None of these filed charges, however.



I like rich folks. I always have liked them. They got money. They're my kinda people. Creech Gooch, who lives not too far from me, ain't exactly rich. He ain't got no money and he ain't exactly my kinda people. But somehow Creech got himself into one of them shindigs the other night.

Now, if there's ever been anybody that likes to talk big about where he's been and what he's done, it's Creech. He repeats the good parts over and over. Half the time he ain't doing nothing but dropping names of folks he thinks are big shots. He had a field day over that thing. They was all big shots, to hear Creech tell it.

"Frank", he said last night, "You just ought to a been there. We had steak and biscuits and coffee and entertainment. It's was the year's biggest tear".

I know'd he was dying to tell me all about it and since I hadn't done my good deed for the day, I encouraged him. "Tell me all about it Creech", I said. Man was that ever a mistake.

"They all was there, Frank. The politicians, smiling, shaking hands, the businessmen, the car dealers, the wood dealers, the salesmen and all was there. The man with the microphone made funny jokes about them and everybody laughed. You'd a died Frank if you could have heard all that was said."

"They give away a mess of stuff, too, Frank. They give away a car, a color TV and some golf clubs—you'd a like them, Frank, they're good at killing chickens. You could a given them to George, if you'd a won them. Then they give away a shotgun and a camera, too, Frank."

"Course, the strang thing about it all was that they didn't really give away the car, the clubs and the color TV. Some fellow bought them. He didn't exactly buy them himself. He bought the tickets that was supposed to have won them. Does that make any sense to you, Frank?"

"Well, yeah, Creech, I guess so. You lost me back there when you mentioned a thing called steaks. I meant to ask you what they was and to tell the truth, I wasn't paying much attention after you passed there."

"Frank, I was telling you about all them prizes they give away. Man did they have fun. Everybody could play the game. There was fellows who ain't never seen that much yelling they'd pay thousands a dollars for them tickets. Then there was some who ain't seen even that much saying they'd sell 'em for less. Finally one of them quiet fellows jumped up and shook hands with one of them ticket holders and closed a deal. The party broke up after that, Frank."

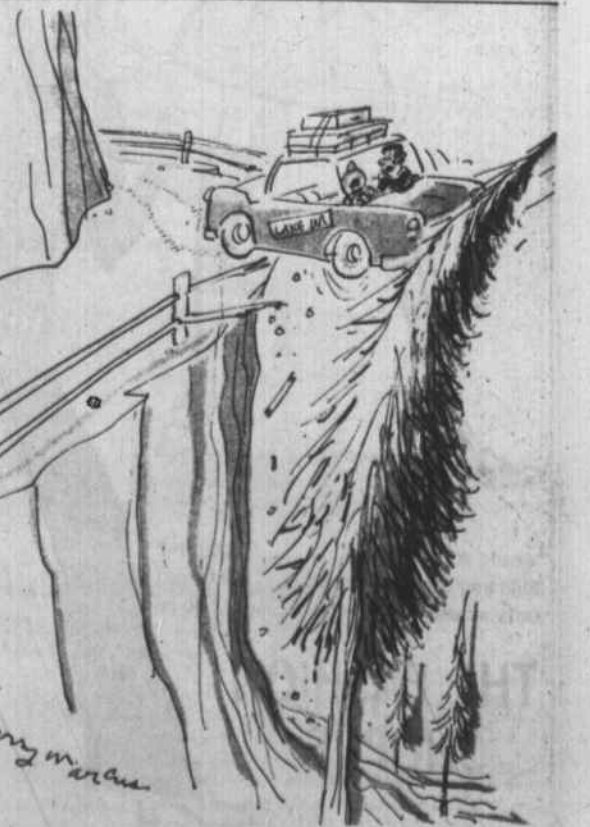
"But, I just got to tell you about them folks. They all come prettier up. They was wearing their fancy suits with coats and ties and they looked real nice. When some of them left, they was lucky to have on their pants. It was the heat, Frank. It was terribly hot at the party."

"But, I shore had a big time, Frank. It was worth washing all them dishes just to get to see all them big shots. Two or three of them even spoke to me, Frank. Made me feel real good being spoken to by them folks."

"I decided they was real nice boys having a good time and they shore do know how to put on a party."

"Well," I finally said, "Creech, I am glad you could go and I'm glad you had a real good time. Parties ain't exactly my cup of home-brew but what ever turns you on, I always say."

"Me", I continued, "I'd rather been invited to the Centerville shoot-out, but I didn't get a invitation. I don't know what your party accomplished, Creech, but I bet the other done away with the Centerville drag strip for awhile. It ain't safe, Creech. A body could git killed drag racing."



"Ted, wake up. I think you'd better take over for a while."

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BISSELL, in the Nashville Tennesseean

GOLDEN GLEAMS

Be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear. -Psalms 2:10-11.

A good and faithful judge prefers what is right to what is expedient. -Horace.

The good judge condemns the crime but does not reveal the criminal. -Seneca.