

The Franklin Times

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LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Moratorium

Tomorrow is the day of the Vietnam War Moratorium. The left-wingers have announced that all across the nation students will skip classes and workers will stay off their jobs. By so doing, they are supposed to bring about some type of modern day miracle. The Moratorium, they say, can end the war. That's what they say. We say hogwash.

It is foolish—bordering on the moronic—that anyone should think the President needs pressure exerted upon him to end the war. His political future depends on getting out of Vietnam. Mostly it depends on getting out with some degree of face saving. Surely it does not depend on surrender.

It is time the responsible people in this country stood up and recognized this sort of thing for what it is. These left wingers are not interested in bringing home our servicemen. Look at the number of service wives who have denounced this sort of thing. Surely they above all others want their husbands home.

These Moratorium people are afraid they will have to go. They are cowards. Or they are working in the best interest of the Communists. Or they are being led by those who are working for Communism. It is shocking indeed to see college presidents and teachers falling victim to this cry for peace at any price. This country is in real trouble. When the public will not support a fight against an enemy as dangerous as the Communists, we have no place to go but down.

Surely these who study history or

otherwise keep abreast of world happenings cannot be blind to the things Communism has done and is doing in much of the world. Surely they cannot be so naive as not to know that the same thing can happen here. Understanding this brand of American gets more difficult every day.

Nevertheless, tomorrow, there will be demonstrations against the war. And while Americans die in Vietnam protecting the rights of others to protest, responsible Americans will turn their heads away as if nothing is happening. And the left wingers and their sick causes will continue to plague and endanger the freedoms of every citizen. Today they want us to sell out to the Viet Cong—tomorrow, as it suits their purpose it can be the Russians or the Chinese.

Once we get into the habit of surrender, there is likely to be no end. Should Russia or China decide to carry out a Pearl Harbor type attack on us tomorrow morning, they would not meet with the resistance that greeted the Japanese in December, 1941.

It's a shame of our times but Americans—many of them—no longer love their country. Except the love for what it affords them personally. They have no interest in its future, its safety or its principles. Think about these things on Moratorium day. Ask yourselves how many of the demonstrators would have stood and fought at Yorktown, Gettysburg, Argonne Forest, the Bulge or Iwo Jima. Frightening, isn't it?

No Tax Needed

Whiteville (N.C.) News-Reporter

Johnston County's State Senator J. Marvin Johnson in a letter to The Smithfield Herald says our state government could have provided every pay raise proposed this year and every capital improvement needed "without picking the pockets" of North Carolina citizens by means of taxation.

Senator Johnson cites the continuing increase in tax collections on the state level to substantiate his claim that the gas tax of two cents per gallon, tobacco tax and more were not needed, but nevertheless were saddled on state citizens.

Here is the heart of Mr. Johnson's argument:

In August of this year, the latest Revenue Department statement shows, net Highway and General Fund collections amounted to \$94 million. In August 1968, collections totaled \$77.3 million.

General Fund collections were up to \$73.8 million from \$62.2 million a year earlier. Highway Fund collections jumped from \$15.1 million in August 1968 to \$20.3 million in August this year. Gasoline tax receipts amounted to \$19 million this August. A year earlier, the State collected \$13.9 million in gasoline taxes.

For the first two months of the

current fiscal year (July and August) General Fund revenue collections ran \$19.8 million higher than in the corresponding period of 1968. Highway Fund collections were up \$8.6 million. Gasoline tax collections were up \$8.5 million.

Senator Johnson's letter to the Herald stated:

"I enclose herewith a copy of the North Carolina Department of Revenue statement of revenues received for the month of August. It is supplied to all legislators monthly and also to the public.

"I used this as my basis for opposing all, each and every tax proposed by the Scott administration. It speaks just too loud for a prudent person to close his eyes and ears to. Every salary and wage raise proposed and every needed capital improvement could have been provided for without 'picking the pockets' of North Carolina citizens for a single or additional tax. Individuals and businesses are certainly not realizing any such upward gains and profits as are reflected in these published revenue collections.

"The public, I believe, is not being properly informed as to the real facts concerning our State revenue situation."

Still There



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Fight To Win, Or Get Out

Mount Olive Tribune, Mount Olive,

Some time back we talked with a man who has more than usual reason to understand the thinking of government in fighting the Viet Nam war on a limited or halfway basis.

His explanation in a nutshell was that the U. S. could not do things like bombing the heart of the nation's warmaking capacity, or blockading and destroying ports without the danger of bringing Red China or Russia into the war on a direct basis.

That's what we have suspected, and the simple translation is that we will not and cannot win the war with the official thinking to date.

If Russia or Red China intervenes, it will be to keep North Viet Nam from losing, whether the cause be bombing, blockading, or action in the south. So, in effect, our policy is actually to see that North Viet Nam does NOT lose, for fear of bringing its big allies directly into the war. As a result, we're not even doing a good job of self-defense for our men over

there, much less moving toward victory.

That's a shameful way for America to go to battle. All decency and humanity call for any war, if it happens, to be ended as quickly as possible. We should win this one because our national honor and our international commitments call for us to be over there. If we don't do this, then there's very little more shame, if any, in just pulling out as soon as possible.

We should begin trying to win this war. If we're afraid to do that, we should hang our heads in shame and get out.

And, begin preparation at once for the next war, bigger and nearer home, which such a weak posture would surely encourage.—EB.

Words of Wisdom

Wisdom is knowing what to do next, skill is knowing how to do it, virtue is not doing it.

—Tribune, Chicago.



CURIOUS NEW ROLE FOR A SUCKER FISH

JOHN J. SYNON

The Pittsburgh dust-up between white construction workers and blacks who want into the union holds a curious potential.

See why: Labor, since the early days of the New Deal, has been both the darling and the backbone of the Democratic party; the Liberals.

Successive Democratic administrations have enacted preferential legislation of such benefit to Labor as to vitiate employer resistance to Labor's demands. Today, as for 35 years, Labor gets what Labor wants, smooth, slick, with hardly a ripple of protest.

In return, Labor has spent, does spend, multiple millions of tax-free dollars in electing Liberals whose principals permit such political favoritism.

Thus, Labor has waxed fat while the cynical Liberals got on with their schemes.

One such scheme has been this civil-rights drive; the natural get of the Liberals. Out of that has come the demanding blacks of Pittsburgh; socialism in the raw.

Black demands are based on force, irrespective of merit. And, since they are, they are on all fours with the historical demands of Labor.

Specifically, the blacks want into the unions, now. They want in and they want "more", by whatever means, "more" — and they mean to get "more" — in this instance, right from the hide of Labor. And that is an unheard of development — taking from Labor. Rather like an overture to the queen. You can't do that, you know.

The theory of unionism is one of exclusion, not inclusion. Moreover, unionism is productive for its members only within the context of a free-enterprise system. Labor unions, under socialism, are but shells: Every worker, under socialism, is a "union" man, therefore the extorted rewards that accrue to card carriers, under free enterprise, are not there under socialism.

How could it be otherwise? There is only so much in the trough and if everyone has equal access to it, there is no point to a union, to paying union dues.

The Labor Bosses know that.

And that is why this Pittsburgh thing is irreconcilable: Unionism is (the sucker fish of) free enterprise; "civil rights" is (the face of) socialism. Ideologically and basically, the two are repugnant to one another.

The blacks see little merit in a scale of wages pegged to productivity. (Labor doesn't either, as a matter of fact, except as it suits Labor's selfish purpose). That stuff is out, man. To hear black spokesmen tell it, their unskilled, individual needs are as great as those of any white carpenter, mason, electrician, or steel worker. Therefore, under the theory of socialism — made a reality, ironically, by Labor money—they are entitled to their "needs": "From each according to his ability", so the canard runs, "to each according to his needs".

What may come of it is interesting and curious. It may be Labor has enough muscle to throw back the Pittsburgh blacks. But even if it has, so what? That won't end it. There is already another front under way, embodied in the government sponsored Philadelphia Plan, a quota system for blacks that is scheduled to begin in 10 cities.

It won't work, either. Despite the hypocritical, integration incantations of George Meany, Labor's pooh-bah, Labor will be no more share its bone than will any other predator. That's one reason the plan won't work. But the principal reason, as I imply, lies in the heart of unionism, exclusion. If the unions cannot exclude, they will die. And you may believe it, nobody connected with the trade-union movement is about to see its house carried away; its rank-and-file is every whit as hard-fisted physical as are the black militants.

Something new, I suspect, is in the making. This confrontation may see the sucker fish turn into a tiger shark, blooding the streets in curious defense of free enterprise.

And somewhere in Valhalla, J. P. Morgan will laugh to see such sport, as the blacks run away with the bone.

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