

# The Franklin Times

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## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### More Pressing Concern

Franklin voters overwhelmingly defeated the sales tax in Tuesday's election. It came as no great surprise that the tax was voted down. The margin was somewhat surprising, however, since many believed the tax issue had some merit.

The county will now face the coming budgetary year with the knowledge that property owners must be called on to pay more. One informed source predicts a minimum of 25 cents per \$100 valuation increase will be needed, perhaps more.

Be this as it may. The voter has spoken. The sales tax—good or bad—is now a dead issue and concern over the wisdom of the voter's decision at this stage of the game is wasted.

Of far greater concern and posing a far greater danger to the future of the Franklin County community is the utter lack of interest illustrated by the citizen in Tuesday's elections. Just over one out of five bothered to go to the polls. Less than one-percent of the registered voters in Franklin decided the issue. The margin of defeat was 782 votes or .07 percent of the registration.

When citizens desert their responsibilities to vote; to take a part in their community affairs; to be a part of the decision-making processes, the time has come for grave concern.

We have seen in this county in recent years small minority groups rule. Minute percentages of our total

population have managed to have their way, even when it meant going against the will of the majority. A hundred students on a college campus of 20,000 have been known to wreck the orderly processes and indeed to shut down the institution. A relatively small percentage of people have caused this country great embarrassment as they speak loud against our involvement in Vietnam while the overwhelming majority of Americans wholeheartedly support our efforts there.

There is little need to expand on this. All of us know what small groups, well organized can do. But the startling fact remains. They could not; they would not if the so-called quiet majority paid attention to their business—that is, their business of deciding issues for themselves.

The sales tax issue had it carried would not have measurably changed the lives of any of us here. In its defeat, it is unlikely to cause any earth murmurs. But, all of us should understand—make it crystal clear—staying home on election day and letting somebody else make our decisions for us can shake our very foundation.

Make no mistake. They're not doing it to us. We're doing it to ourselves. And we wonder what's wrong with the country.

Who needs three guesses?

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

### Only Americans Can Defeat U.S.A.

The Wilson Daily Times

President Nixon made a somber and low key appeal to the American people for support of his policy on ending the war in Vietnam. He made no startling announcement as many desired and hoped he would. He did not promise anything new or set a time table except as has been outlined in his policy of shifting the defense of South Vietnam to the Vietnamese people.

He did make the point—and with emphasis—that the more divided we become as a nation, the less likely the North Vietnamese will be to negotiate. As he said, they will wait for one concession after another. And here he emphasized that anything is negotiable except the right of the people of South Vietnam to decide their future.

The President told of his private efforts to negotiate or to find an avenue for negotiations. He reviewed the policy he is following, which is to shift the burden of the war to the government and people of South Vietnam. He spoke of the troop withdrawals but he did not announce any stepped-up plans than the already announced withdrawals, although he said the rate of the withdrawal time table was more optimistic than when made in June.

He was firm in his conviction that a nation cannot run away or betray its allies. So as he said the question is, "How can we win America's peace?" In other words, how can we conclude

America's part in the fighting with honor, a fighting war he inherited from the Johnson administration.

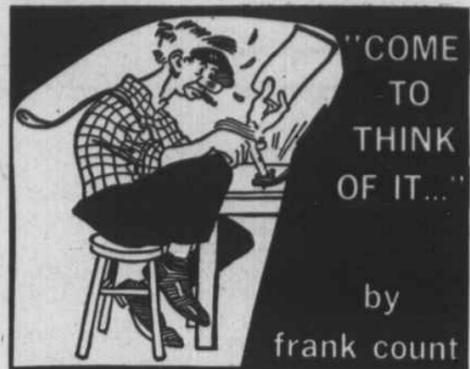
How will the Fullbrights and their ilk interpret the address is yet to be heard. There was nothing which gave them hope for immediate peace, or withdrawal at any cost. President Nixon did recognize the casualties are much smaller than when he took office and he expects these to further decline.

Yes, there was no answer to "End the War Now" as some of the signs say. There was hope held out to the silent majority of Americans that he present policy will bring the war to an honorable conclusion and possibly sooner than we know. For the President rightly said that he would not make public — for the benefit of North Vietnam — the timetable for withdrawal or the circumstances.

His concluding sentence should ring in the hearts and heads of Americans as we go through the trying days ahead. The President deserves the support of the people in his policy which is bringing the soldiers home and shifting the burden of the war on those who must eventually bear the brunt of the defense of their home land.

The President is right when he says "Let us understand North Vietnam cannot defeat the United States only Americans can."

'One of Those Campus Extremists—He Studies'



"Big-Mouth" Bass is a talker like I been telling you all the time. Where else would he have got his name? In most every case "Big-Mouth" got the answer. He knows more 'n anybody I know not to know nothing. But, like most folks suffering from this same condition, he don't let that worry him none. He ain't losing no sleep over it.

"Frank", he said to me last night while he was punching the fire. It was cold in case you didn't notice. "Frank, I been thinking. Them folks ought not to talk about him the way they do. A man's got to have something in him to git to be vice president. It just ain't something anybody can do. No, sir, it takes a special talent. Do you know that he is just one heart-beat....."

"Wait a minute, 'Big-Mouth'. Slow down a mite and tell me who you're talking about. And punch up that fire a little more. My feet are froze."

"The vice president, Frank. Who'd you think I was talking about. Them fellows are saying he ought not to have called them people 'impudent snobs'. Frank, I say, he's the vice president and he can call them what he wants to. He's got a important job, Frank. It ain't everybody that stands as high as a vice president and furthermore....."



"Gimme the poker, 'Big-Mouth' if you're gonna talk instead a poke. My feet are froze. Now, I reckon I agree with you on what you're saying, but I ain't got the foggiest idea what you're talking about. Vice presidents got rights. I know that. And they deserve them. They have a whole lot to put up with—being second fiddle so to speak."

"Why, Frank, some folks find fault with him calling them hecklers effete intellectuals—whatever that tastes like. No, sire, Frank, I say a vice president got a right to speak out and say what comes to his mind. This is a free country, Frank. Patrick Henry seen to that and Eugene McCarthy and Teddy Kennedy know it. I just can't understand why folks get so fired up over a few words by the vice president. Everybody ought to be paying more attention, Frank. The country would be better off and furthermore....."

"Pass me that stick of wood, 'Big-Mouth'. My feet are froze. How about setting closer to the fire so's some of that wind will hit it. Might make it catch up and burn. My feet are froze. I got a lot of sympathy for the vice president, 'Big-Mouth'. Why his name ain't even a household word. After all this time there's some folks who don't know him. Why you take Zeke....."

"I know what you're gonna say, Frank and you're absolutely right. I was telling Zeke just the other night about this and he agreed with me one hundred percent. That Zeke's intelligent, Frank. I hate to admit it but he always shows good sense. He ain't never disagreed with me in his life. He ain't pretty but he shore is smart and furthermore....."

"Ain't you got no kerosene, 'Big-Mouth'. This fire sure does need something. My feet are froze. I been saying all along that folks ought to pay more attention to the words of the vice president, 'Big-Mouth'. A whole lot of the time he speaks for the president himself. The president don't want to make nobody mad so's he lets the vice president do it. And that's good, 'Big-Mouth'. A mad president ain't good for the country. I really think he's got a good man in Agnew, 'Big-Mouth'."

"Agnew? Who's he, Frank. I ain't never heard of him. He a Yankee or something?"

"Big-Mouth", I declare you are the stupidest, hot-natured neighbor I ever seen. Gimme that old newspaper over there. Got to git this fire going. My feet are froze. You been setting there talking about him for a hour and now you say you ain't never heard of him. Your brain must be froze and the way you build a fire, I don't doubt it."

"Frank, I ain't been talking about no Agnew. I been talking about the vice president."

"Well, 'Big-Mouth' who do you think Agnew is—Hubert Humphrey's uncle? He's the vice president, 'Big-Mouth'. He's the vice president of the country. Who, if not Agnew, you been talking about?"

"I was talking about Hank Tweedle, Frank. He's the vice president and he made a talk the other night at the poker club and he called Juniper Jones a impudent snob and a effete intellectual. Juniper jumped up and was mad as fire—sorry about that, Frank—but I told him it was unpatriotic to hit the vice president. Old Tweedle jumped up and agreed that I was right. I say, a vice president got a right to speak his mind, Frank. What do you say?"

"I say I'm going home to git warm. My feet are froze."



## Statewide Tax Vote

County	PR	TP	YES	NO	County	PR	TP	YES	NO
Ala'ace	26	26	1,877	10,855	F'nklin	11	11	849	1,631
Alx'ndr	14	14	1,431	1,470	Gaston	44	44	493	2,105
Alg'ny	7	7	296	866	Gates	7	7	279	322
Anson	13	13	725	1,431	Graham	5	5	333	596
Ashe	19	19	611	2,119	Granvl'	19	19	1,267	1,322
Avery	20	20	511	800	xGreene	12	12	823	499
B'fort	29	29	759	2,617	Guilford	78	78	13,303	17,847
Bertie	11	11	326	916	Halifax	25	25	1,926	3,302
Bladen	17	17	955	1,636	Harnett	21	21	913	3,506
B'swick	18	18	705	2,044	Haywood	32	32	2,629	3,973
xB'nc'be	50	50	13,548	6,134	Hend'son	22	22	2,371	3,086
Burke	39	39	853	5,893	xHertford	8	8	1,296	662
Cab'rus	24	24	1,621	4,872	Hoke	13	13	648	901
Cldwell	18	18	1,089	3,845	Hyde	7	7	238	896
xCamden	3	3	370	173	Iredell	23	23	539	8,372
C'tret	24	24	699	2,655	xJackson	17	17	1,472	1,157
Caswell	14	14	600	1,013	Johnston	23	23	1,474	4,146
Catawba	32	32	2,764	6,939	xJones	8	8	662	386
Chatham	22	22	1,072	2,814	Lee	11	11	10,072	15,012
Ch'kee	17	17	697	950	xLenoir	22	22	4,401	1,248
xChowan	6	6	722	485	Lincoln	23	23	1,035	2,818
xClay	7	7	413	205	xMacon	15	15	1,057	958
Cl'land	28	28	267	5,943	xMadison	8	8	856	404
Col'bus	26	26	1,569	3,679	Martin	13	13	926	1,222
Craven	21	21	2,813	8,225	McD'ell	17	17	1,553	6,376
xC'bland	45	45	5,287	3,153	M'burg	88	88	3,812	29,907
xCu'tuck	12	12	499	329	Mitchell	13	13	548	966
Dare	15	15	541	739	Mn'g'ry	13	13	862	1,881
Dav'son	44	44	1,844	7,382	Moore	20	20	1,752	2,509
Davie	12	12	704	1,900	Nash	23	23	1,275	4,722
xDuplin	19	19	1,939	1,530	xN. Ha'vr	23	23	1,371	5,306
xDurham	38	38	8,651	5,706	Nthpton	17	17	389	1,537
Edg'cbe	13	13	1,175	2,777	xOnslow	26	26	2,863	1,773
					Orange	25	25	2,814	3,033
					xPamlico	17	17	623	761
					xPasq'lk	14	14	1,543	832
					Pender	12	12	644	894
					xPrq'ans	7	7	656	422
					Person	19	19	580	2,155
					Pitt	26	26	3,134	3,749
					Polk	10	10	768	1,110
					R'dolph	39	39	1,870	4,789
					xRchmd	15	15	4,487	2,858
					Robeson	31	31	1,287	2,821
					Rkn'ham	30	30	1,749	5,811
					Rowan	45	45	1,840	19,649
					Ruth'frd	35	35	1,025	5,129
					Sampson	24	24	2,102	2,494
					Scotland	10	10	581	1,131
					Stanly	29	29	1,433	4,732
					Stokes	17	17	348	1,890
					Surry	20	20	1,101	3,895
					xSwain	7	7	559	249
					Trns'vnia	18	18	1,438	1,925
					xTyrrell	6	6	215	188
					Union	19	19	860	1,634
					Vance	16	16	1,331	2,448
					Wake	66	66	10,514	15,972
					Warren	14	14	379	1,661
					Wsh'nton	7	7	360	1,328
					xWayne	13	13	2,633	1,383
					xWat'ga	18	18	2,314	2,211
					Wilkes	31	31	761	4,500
					Wilson	20	20	1,346	3,624
					Yadkin	13	13	939	1,722
					Yancey	11	11	721	730

## Fountain Reports On Draft

Washington, D. C. - We all want the Draft to be as fair and equitable as possible. The best interests of our young men, consistent with national security, must be looked after.

If we look back 29-years to those unsettled Pre-Pearl Harbor days when the present Draft system was set up, the vast majority would say that Selective Service has served our nation reasonably well. People would agree on this despite certain weaknesses here and there and the cold-blooded treatment some of our boys have received in connection with deferment problems.

We are still free, though world wars and limited wars have come and gone, and even though we are still, unfortunately, engaged in a fruitless war in a remote corner of the world. The Draft, directly or indirectly, has given America most of its armed might.

I know there are millions who hope the time will come when we can eliminate the draft, when we will be so strong and secure we'll no longer need it except in time of war or grave national emergency. I sincerely hope the time will soon come when peace settles down upon the world and mankind can devote all its energies to constructive, peaceful progress.

But, most would agree, that times are not peaceful, that today's world is torn by revolution and change, complicated by confusion and frustration, and that our nation's security demands a powerful force in being always ready to spring into action.

All the same, I know the constant presence of the Draft hangs heavy over the lives and careers of all of our draft-eligible young men. I've talked to hundreds of them.

For seven long years, our young men are susceptible to being drafted. Jobs are interfered with, college careers are interrupted, families suffer economic hardship. It's almost a lost period in their lives. It's wasted in too many cases. Their problem is not "should I serve," but when.

Even so, most go uncomplainingly to serve their country and, in fact, serve it well. The Selective Service System and the Army would not and could not, function, if the majority did not support them.

But there's always room for improvement and I'm happy to note a change for the better. A revision in the Draft law has passed the House of Representatives and been sent to the Senate for action. It probably won't suit everybody and doesn't incorporate all the changes I might wish for, but it does improve things somewhat.

The new law will change the Draft from an oldest-first to a youngest-first basis, so that a man will become less vulnerable to the Draft as he grows older, instead of more vulnerable.

As it is now, a young man can be drafted anytime during a seven-year period. Planning his life with any degree of certainty is impossible. Under the new bill his period of uncertainty will be reduced to only one year.

To insure fairness in selection during a man's "prime" year (19), a lottery system will be used. All dates (birthdays) during that year will be randomly drawn in advance. This will establish a sequence for inducting members of the prime age group.

For example, if August 25 was the first date drawn, then those with birthdays on August 25 will be the most draft susceptible that year. If March 4 is the last date drawn, then those in the prime age group whose birthdays are on March 4 would be least draft susceptible.

At the beginning of the prime year, the young man has simply to examine where his birth date falls on the list of dates, and he knows his relative susceptibility to the Draft during the year.

However, local Draft boards will still be able to defer men for such reasons as undue hardship or college study. Random selection or the lottery only establishes an order of inducting for those who are already classified 1-A. After the deferment period is over, the man then enters his prime year as if he were 19.

Let us hope and pray that peaceful times are on the way and that soon there will be no necessity for the draft, as we now know it. But, in the meantime, let us not weaken ourselves and fall prey to the Godless forces of the world.