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### May Be Worthy Of Study

Eight of 43 defendants scheduled to appear in Warren County District Court last Friday failed to appear to answer to charges filed against them. Of the eight who failed to appear for trial five were charged with violations of the motor vehicle laws.

This, we believe is just about par for the usual session of the district court, and has become quite a problem for the court. Many of those who failed to appear will be tried at a later session, unless they live outside the state, after a capias is issued and bond set for their appearance in court. But not before the court has been put to needless expense and delay and many witnesses and court officials have been inconvenienced. We would like to see more contempt charges lodged against those who fail to appear in court for the sake of justice and the good name of the court.

Some of those who fail to appear in court to answer charges of violating the motor vehicle laws are from outside the state and forfeit their bonds rather than make a special trip from a long distance back into the county.

A suggestion of The (Whiteville) News Reporter may hold the answer not only for local violators of traffic laws, but to local persons failing to appear in court to answer to violations of traffic laws. The Whiteville paper relates:

A major problem arises in our judicial system when a case is set for trial and the defendant does not come to court. District Court Judge Ray Walton attended a recent conference in Alabama and brought home a good idea to correct this injustice. Instead of instructing the violator to appear in court on a certain day, the arresting officer would collect the offender's driver's license and issue him a temporary permit, good until the day of the scheduled court appearance. When the defendant paid his

fine or was declared not guilty, he could get his license back.

Under the present system, a North Carolina resident is cited to appear in court with no bond. He will appear, but often not before the court, law officers and prosecuting witnesses are called to court, only to find the accused person did not bother to come. Under the new system the burden would be on the defendant: If he wants his driver's license back, it is his responsibility to get it - either by paying his fine or appearing in court as he is required by law to do.

The plan seems to have considerable merit and we hope that it receives consideration from those in authority. Should there be some legal reason why it cannot be adopted in North Carolina, we would like to see a law along similar lines adopted for North Carolina by the next session of the legislature.

Another change we would like to see is a change in punishment for those who violate traffic laws. Drunk drivers usually have their licenses revoked for a year, hence the efforts to change the charge to reckless driving which usually carries a fine and court costs. If we had our way, all defendants found guilty of violations of traffic laws would have their licenses revoked, the length of revocation depending upon the gravity of the offense, from one week to forever. A careless and reckless driver can be just as dangerous as a drunk driver, and it does not make sense that he should get off with only a fine while the drunk driver loses his license for a year. To many drivers a fine and court costs, totaling from \$25 to \$40, is but a slap on the wrist. But a loss of the privilege of driving for a period of time is something else. This type punishment also has the virtue of falling on rich and poor, the influential and the non-influential alike.

### John Mitchell's Sobering Words

The Smithfield Herald  
 What Attorney General John Mitchell says about the U. S. Supreme Court is refreshing. He reminds us that the Court, in the 19th as well as 20th century, "has found itself in the center of almost every significant and social issue." From the early days of the Republic, he tells us, the Court has been accused "of arrogating powers reserved to other branches of government and of substituting partisan political bias for neutrality and fairness."

And this Cabinet member, who has been described as the toughest conservative in the Nixon administration, goes on to make this forthright statement (in an article in the June-July issue of Trial magazine):

"The lesson we should draw from history is that extremist critics of the Court have vastly overreacted and that most of the basic principles enunciated by the Court have proved to be the best course for the nation." Much of the popular dissatisfaction with the Court, Mr. Mitchell says, seems to be "ill-founded or maliciously motivated." He says he does not believe that any responsible lawyer or responsible citizen disagrees with the fundamental principles of the Court's anti-segregation decision of May 17, 1954. Nor do responsible lawyers and citizens, he says, disagree with the decisions guaranteeing equal treatment to all criminal defendants regardless of their financial status. In these and other major decisions of recent years, the Attorney General says, the court has stood "for principles of our society—principles of equal protection, of the right to counsel, and of freedom of speech and religion."

Disagreements over application of principles enunciated by the Court are inevitable and proper, but the principles themselves are sound, Mr. Mitchell says.

He cites a random CBS poll of 1,138 adults showing "that perhaps many people really disagree with the Constitution and not with the Court." For example, 76 per cent of the people interviewed said citizens should not be allowed to organize protests against government, even peaceful protests. Fifty-five per cent of the people interviewed would forbid the news media, even in peacetime, from reporting any story that the government feels is harmful to the national interest. The results of the poll reflect popular misunderstanding of the true nature of "the American way."

The Attorney General calls on lawyers "to insure that a free and vigorous public debate concerning the Supreme Court is conducted in a responsible and restrained manner, and that

the debate is always calculated to increase public respect for the Court rather than to undermine it." The Court deserves public respect, Mr. Mitchell says, because the sincerity, scholarship, and devotion of the justices "to this generation and future generations is beyond reproach."

What the Attorney General says so well needs no additional comment. The fitting response to his sobering defense of the Supreme Court is a resounding "Amen."

### Human Relations

CARL GOERCH in The State Magazine  
 I was driving along U. S. 64 between Farmville and Greenville. An elderly man, driving a light truck, turned out of a country lane, and we almost had a collision. My car skidded and for a moment I was afraid it was going to turn over.

When I finally brought it to a stop, I got out and started walking toward the truck. The other individual also alighted from his vehicle. As we approached each other, he raised his hand and said, "Wait a minute, mister, before you say anything, I've got a question to ask you."

"What is it?" I demanded gruffly.  
 "Ain't you never made a mistake in your life?" he inquired.

It was so unexpected that I couldn't help but laugh. We chatted in friendly fashion for a couple of minutes and then went our different ways.

### Quotes

The worst sin toward our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity.—George Bernard Shaw.

Most ignorance is vincible ignorance. We don't know because we don't want to know.—Aldous Huxley.

There is nothing, absolutely nothing which needs to be more carefully guarded against than that one man should be allowed to become more powerful than the people.—Demosthenes.

Avoid membership in a body of persons pledged to only one side of anything.—Henry S. Haskins.

### Mostly Personal

By BIGNALL JONES

The Carnegie commission study of the public schools, in essence, says that learning and teaching ought to be a joy arising out of informality and spontaneity, but that public education today is largely "oppressive" and "joyless."

If "oppressive" means discipline and "joyless" means lack of fun, it seems to me that the commission has spent \$300,000 to find out something that is as old as education itself. Based on my own experience of many years ago education was largely oppressive through the student's eyes and filled with joylessness and was something to be endured for its ultimate rewards.

When one contrasts the modern school with the schools of my generation, one may be amazed that the schools with larger student participation and all kinds of study aids, extra-curricular activities, and playground facilities, one may wonder that today's school may be joyless and oppressive, but human nature remains largely the

same over the years and to a child discipline is oppressive and compulsion is joyless. In other words I think that is nothing new or particularly alarming about the findings of the commission.

When I was a child there were two excellent private schools at Warrenton, Miss Lucy Hawkins' School and the John Graham Academy, and a rather inadequate public school. But all three schools had two beliefs in common, one was the authority of the teacher and the other was that to spare the rod spoils the child, which was a carryover of the discipline of the home.

I was fortunate that I was never whipped in school, but many of my classmates and friends were, and the school whippings and the whippings in the home were accepted as a part of the discipline to which children were exposed. The children, I hope, learned that the school discipline would be found later in the business world and that worthwhile things seldom come without effort. If a rather long life has taught me one thing, it is that in this world there is no easy way.

I suppose that there must have been joyous moments in my school days and a certain satisfaction in accomplishment, but by and large I never really liked school and was glad when the school day was over and I could do what I wanted to do instead of being told what I must do, and I have found business much more fun. From time to time I have dreamed that I was back at the old graded school in Warrenton and awakening was a joy.

Most of the students were nice and friendly and friendships were formed that have lasted through life, but we had a few boys that were really tough. One of these once threw an ink well at the principal and later cut the principal's coat with a knife before he was expelled with no thought of what expulsion might have on his life. Many of us were mischievous, and to dip the long dangling hair of a girl into an ink well was not an unheard of thing; neither was it uncommon to hurl chalk across the room when a teacher's back was turned, nor to carve a desk with a pocket knife and to play railroad with a pencil in the carved grooves of the desk when we should have been studying.

Perhaps things are different now. I often have wished that I could have attended the John Graham public school. I think that I would have enjoyed the carpentry tools, the chemical laboratory, the organized sports, the gymnasium, the sense of participation through student organization, the excellent library which would have gratified my love of books.

We had no playground worthy of the name at the old graded school, not even a baseball diamond at a time when all boys played baseball. We had no organized sports in the school and none of us had ever heard of a cheerleader.

We had a few excellent teachers whom we remember with gratitude for what they drilled into our unwilling minds and for their character and dedication. But while I may have respected and admired my teachers I never loved a school

teacher until years after I had completed my formal education.

Our fourth grade teacher was Miss Willie Macon. She was a good teacher and an excellent disciplinarian and we admired and respected her, perhaps partially because she so often outwitted us. She could have her back to her class as she worked on the blackboard and yet detect a pupil as he hurried a piece of chalk across the room. It took a long time for us to figure it out, but we finally learned that the action of the pupils were reflected in her eyeglasses.

Occasionally we would skip school, whether out of boredom or out of devilment, I have never determined. But I remember sitting all the school day in the woods with Edward Davis when we were supposed to be in school, and just sitting in the woods is not my idea of fun.

Our school was heated by stoves and our water supply was contained in a water bucket and from time to time they had to be replenished. We considered ourselves lucky when called upon by the teacher to go outside and get a bucket of water or bucket of coal to relieve the tedium. Strange how different it was at home when we were told to get some coal or wood or bring in a bucket of water.

When I think of bringing in a bucket of coal I often think of Mr. J. Edward Allen who was my teacher in my senior year of high school. Among the subjects he taught was chemistry, which I liked. I soon learned that coal and kerosene are derivatives of carbon. But one day

when Mr. Allen asked me if I knew the difference between kerosene and coal, thinking he meant the chemical difference, I told him that I did not know. To which he replied, "You would be a poor man to send out for a bucket of coal."

Although corn grows as high as 20 feet, it is a form of grass and sometimes is called "giant grass."

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