

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press At Franklin, North Carolina Telephone No. 24

Entered at Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Table with subscription rates: One Year \$2.00, Six Months \$1.25, Three Months .75, Single Copy .06

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Two Questions

Two puzzling questions about national defense policy keep bobbing up in the minds of average citizens. One deals with manpower; the other with military training.

Our defense program is just beginning to get under way, and the administration plans an armed force of only 3 1/2 million men at this time, yet we already are finding it necessary to draft 18-year olds, and only Monday the daily press carried a headline that "Women Are To Replace Combat-fit GI's".

During World War 2, when we had 12 million men under arms, it was the latter part of the war before we drafted 18-year olds, and before we used women in great numbers to replace men.

The question inevitably arises: Have we reached a manpower situation already that did not arise, only a decade ago, until we had been engaged in an all-out war for several years? And if we have, why have we?

The other question is: Why is it necessary, as our military leaders tell us, to have both the draft and universal military training? If we have one, why do we need the other? Do they not duplicate? And isn't the draft, with its effort at selecting the men to serve in the armed forces, the more orderly of the two methods for a time of stress?

There may be—there quite possibly are—good answers to those questions. But it is important that the answers be given.

Until and unless they are, the government in Washington will be handicapped by lack of the whole-hearted support that can come only from a public opinion that is informed. And if these and similar questions remain unanswered long enough, another, more serious one will arise: Is the government being entirely frank and honest with its citizens?

There probably is no deliberate intent to cover up or deceive. But there is going to be the feeling that there is, unless the apparent conflict in the statements and the decisions that are coming out of Washington are explained.

Consider the Newspaper Headline

Consider the newspaper headline.

Somebody, some day, surely will get his Ph. D. degree for writing a thesis on this extraordinary phenomenon, and on what it has done to the English language. A single instance: The word "meet" is rapidly coming into ordinary language as a noun—"I attended the club meet". But, by all the standards of both the dictionaries and etymological logic, "meet" is a verb and nothing else—"I will meet you".

The reason for the headline being what it is, and doing what it sometimes does, is, of course quite simple: The headline writer must tell the story in brief; and he must do it in a narrowly limited space, and a space that is exactly as flexible as the steel bars that surround the type as a newspaper page is made up.

Here are a few examples of what happens under those circumstances:

"Taft Raps Truman; Hoover Plan Lashed". Analyze the words. First you get a picture of Senator Taft, ruler in hand, rapping the knuckles of President Truman—just like the school teachers of another age. Next you get a picture of a whip coming down upon the bared back, if it had a back, of a plan. It happens to be a plan sponsored by former President Hoover.

Another:

"Deadline Finds Strikers Clearing Up Freight Jam". Now jam, of course, is a perfectly good word in that sense; the sense of things thickly packed together. But the headline, if analyzed, brings to a lot of minds a picture of a lot of men with wet rags, on their knees, wiping up jam—maybe it's strawberry—around a freight station.

Another:

"UN Group Drops Russian Charges". The first picture is of some kind of explosive,

presumably made by the Russians, being dropped. But obviously that can't be right. So we turn to another meaning of "charges", the idea of someone for whom another is responsible, usually someone under age. The picture then becomes that of a lot of Russian children being held up by the heels, and suddenly dropped.

Still another:

"Percenter" Figure Indicted".

Read the story and you'll find out that a man mixed up in the per cent business in Washington is facing trial, but the use of "per cent" and "figure" together certainly suggests that somebody wrote a figure in percentage—and that the headline writer meant to write the last word "indite".

Do you really read your headlines? Take time to do it, and you'll get double pleasure out of your newspaper; a lot of laughs along with the information.

But, if you've got time to do that, take a little more and shed a tear for the poor guy who sweats out these headlines. Better still, cover up the headline and try to write one yourself.

Bouquets

Members of the Franklin Rotary club, at last week's meeting, had an opportunity to see firsthand what is being done at the high school here toward teaching public speaking. Four students, two girls and two boys, who previously had been chosen in an elimination contest, spoke to the Rotarians on "World Peace".

Public speaking is being taught here by Miss Roberta Enloe, as a part of her courses in history, and by Mrs. S. F. Beck, as a part of her courses in English. The public speaking is above and beyond the literal call of duty for these teachers. They are due the community's appreciation, therefore, for this extra effort.

We take most good things for granted. In a town or city, such things as uninterrupted electric current, plenty of water, available by the mere turn of a spigot, and prompt, effective fire protection are expected; most of us think of them only when they fail.

In the small town, however, at least one of these—fire protection—is usually prompt and effective chiefly because of the fire department's members' willingness to serve their community and pride in doing a good job.

Franklin is fortunate in the attitude of the members of its fire department. These men not only respond to every call; they respond with an efficient promptness that would do credit to a full-time city department. Recent alarms, persons who live in the vicinity of the fire station say, have found the fire truck on its way even before the alarm siren ceases screaming its call.

"Solons Face Problem of Stream Pollution", says a headline. We might get more action if we'd make 'em smell it, too.

Who was it complaining that "we don't have cold winters any more"?

Others' Opinions

HE'S AN EXPERT

While standing in the hall at the High-School during the Farmers' School, we heard one elderly gentleman explain to his friends that he didn't come to Siler City to attend no "dern fool school."

"Them county agent fellas can't teach me nothin," he exclaimed. "Why I know more about farming than them young squirts will ever know. Why, I done worn out three farms already!"—Jim Parker in Chatham News.

IT SHORE DID!

Two Sanford men went up in the western part of the state recently on a hunting trip. They wanted to turn off on a side road but there was a sign which said, "Do Not Enter, Road Ends." They talked it over for a while and one insisted that he knew the road was open so they drove on in. They drove for a mile or two and then suddenly the road ended. There was nothing they could do but turn around and drive back out. As they entered the main road again they noticed that some other passerby had scribbled on the back of the sign, "It Really Did End, Didn't It?"—Sanford Herald.

SCHOOLS THREATENED

The people of North Carolina cannot afford to take lightly the warning of the State Board of Education that the schools of this state face disaster unless the general assembly increase substantially the appropriations recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission.

The State Board of Education has demonstrated time and



JAN. 31, 1754 - ROBERT MORRIS - MAY 8, 1806

"EACH TO HIS ABILITY... THE SOLDIER CAN FIGHT, THE STATESMAN CAN INSPIRE - IT'S MY TASK TO RAISE MONEY"

ROBERT MORRIS BACKED THE CONTINENTAL ARMY TO THE EXTENT OF \$600,000 - A VAST SUM FOR THOSE TIMES - PART REPRESENTING THE LOAN OF HIS OWN FORTUNE, PART RAISED BY PLEDGING HIS PERSONAL CREDIT, AS HE WENT ALL-OUT FOR THE CAUSE.

TODAY, THE FINANCING OF OUR MILITARY PREPAREDNESS CALLS FOR THE SAVINGS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE - "EACH TO HIS ABILITY" - AND ALL OF US BACKING THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM WITH THE SAME FAITH THAT LED ROBERT MORRIS TO PLEDGE HIS DOLLARS FOR DEMOCRACY.

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE Editor Weaverville, North Carolina

Poetry

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Women

HOME OF MY DREAMS

I dream of a home that looks to the hills, That is sheltered by kindly trees, With a sweep of meadow beyond where grey rocks hold their mysteries And a clear brook sings its way through banks Of blue-ets and wild marsh grass— Where a somber group of pine trees watch the miracle seasons pass: The apple blossom wonder Spring, The drift of a Summer cloud... The bright, swift glory of the Fall— old winds crying loud...

I dream of a home that looks to the hills, To the woods and the fields and the streams— Reminding myself, when it seems far off, That all things first are "dreams"!

BESS HINSON HINES.

Oxnard, Calif. (Formerly of Highlands).

time again that it is a very conservative body. The last demonstration was in its recommendations for the budget for the 1951-53 biennium, for which the present general assembly will appropriate.

The Board of Education asked for 169 more teachers for the 1951-52 school year and 730 for the 1952-53 year in order not to increase the present teaching load which is, without exception, the highest for any state in the entire United States.

The budget commission made provision for only 30 of the 169 additional teachers requested for next year and for only 77 of the 730 requested for the following year.

Now actual figures on the daily attendance for the first months of the 1950-51 school year are available and these figures show that the board's requests were far too conservative. Instead of the 169 teachers originally requested or the 30 allotted by the Budget Commission, the actual need for next year is 558 additional teachers. And the following year (when the record breaking number of births in 1946 will first be reflected in school attendance) the actual need will be 1,884 in contrast to the 77 allotted by the Budget Commission and the 730 originally requested.

When it is remembered that none of the above figures contemplate reduction of the outrageously high teacher load, but merely the retention of that already inexcusably high ratio of students per teacher, the importance of this matter is easily seen.

Provisions of enough teachers to maintain the present niggardly standard is only a part of the picture.

The Board of Education points out that the appropriation recommended by the Budget Commission is similarly inadequate in almost every detail. There will not be enough busses to haul the children, not enough drivers to man the busses and not enough money to operate the busses the entire school year. There were also arbitrary cuts in such essential items as fuel for the school buildings.

On top of all that, it is proposed that teachers take a 10 per cent cut in their present salaries.

The State Board of Education again demonstrated its conservatism when it said: "It will be utterly impossible to operate the schools on their present levels; it may even be impossible to avert a disastrous deterioration in the state school system."

The North Carolina public schools need improvement. The least the general assembly can be expected to do is to maintain present low levels.—Salem News and Observer.

Business Making News

By BOB SLOAN

I have a question on my mind and before the Editor stops me from editorializing in this column I believe I'll get it off. Besides after February we have to get back to work any how.

So that I won't stray too far from the general idea of this heading the question has to do with a phase of business—saving money.

I believe that by such a simple thing as a change in our attitude, the Federal government could save enough money so that Senator Harry Byrd's proposed budget cuts would look like in comparison the difference between the Indian Mound and Wayah Bald.

Here is the question: Why do we citizens, who are going to have to pay the bill in the end, when dealing with the government figure that the more we can make it cost the better. As I said, we are only running up a bill for ourselves. I will give two illustrations, one local, one national, to illustrate what I mean.

There has been considerable talk here in the county to the effect that the government should pay the lodging for draftees who find it inconvenient to be here at the early hour of 7:30 a. m. when they are leaving to go in service. That way they would spend the night in Franklin. However, if the policy is applied throughout the United States as any draft regulation must be applied, it will cost thousands of dollars. Now ordinarily if those boys were coming to town for amusement or even to see about a job they would get a neighbor to bring them if they didn't have a car. Perhaps they would pay him. Immediately you say, and we agree, "Well! the nerve of him, suggesting that our boys ought to have to spend their money to get to town when they are going in the service of our country. We certainly are NOT suggesting that. Here is our suggestion. The (Turn to Back Page 1st Section)

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK Some Hayesville young-bloods are just now catching the fever that Franklin's y-b's had over a dozen years ago. They are experimenting with home-made telephones.

It would be interesting to know whether the weather man had his eye on the ground-hog this month.

Under Charley Reece's new administration as jailor, Monday morning in broad day light "Bud" Waldrop, who had been caged for playing with "moonshine", walked out of the jail and hid himself away with all ease.

Our neighbor county of Jackson is very much agitated about an attempt to have the county site removed from Webster to Sylva.

25 YEARS AGO

You cannot afford to miss Lockhar and his Lassies. They are acknowledged to be the best attraction on the Lyceum circuit. At the court house February 15.

A certain citizen of Franklin is buying a lot of farming lands. He evidently goes on the theory that "A farm a day will keep the wolf away."

Mr. J. H. Stockton left last Saturday to spend a month in Florida. Horner and Mr. Lee Leach have quite a bit of land listed and no doubt Mr. Stockton will sell enough land on this trip to pay expenses—and then some.

10 YEARS AGO

The Junior class of the Franklin High school is sponsoring a costume valentine carnival in the high school auditorium Friday evening.

Services are being held each week in the new Highlands Baptist church, although the interior of the building has not been completed.

Monday, two timber stand improvement demonstrations were conducted in Macon County.

The Higgins building, occupied by Cagle's Cafe and dining room, is undergoing extensive repairs.