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and  
The Highlands Maconian

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MARCH 7, 1957

## Shades Of Ben!

There's more to that tax proposal before the General Assembly than just tax relief for the corporations.

Consider this, for instance:

Under the plan, the state would take certain sources of tax revenue away from the towns and cities. Since they can't operate without tax money, obviously they would have to be given other sources.

Well, here are two of the new taxes the Town of Franklin, the Town of Highlands, and any other town or city in the state would be allowed to levy:

1. A tax of up to \$10 a year on every automobile owned by a resident of the municipality. This is in addition to all the other automobile taxes.
2. A tax up to \$10 on every person holding a job. That's correct; a right-to-work tax of \$10 a year. Shades of Benjamin Franklin and the American faith in the virtue of being industrious!

## Plain Talk, Closed Minds

That was straight talk from Macon's George B. Patton in Washington last week.

Present in his capacity as attorney general of North Carolina, Mr. Patton testified at a hearing of the senate subcommittee on constitutional rights. That is the group, considering the Eisenhower administration's program of civil rights legislation.



GEORGE B. PATTON

"I deplore and greatly regret", he said, "what I perceive to be the spirit of animosity and vindictiveness running through this proposed legislation . . . They (backers of the bills) would like to change a basic rule of federal procedure . . . This is an insidious and completely unjustifiable effort to subject private citizens to harassing investigations by political appointees . . . The relationships between the races in North Carolina gradually worsened during the two years following May, 1954 (when the Supreme Court outlawed segregation in the public schools) . . . We already have enough federal laws on the subject of civil rights which will cause dissension and, regrettably, even violence, for years, without asking for more."

That was plain talk, and we are inclined to think it makes sense. But we suspect Mr. Patton wasted his breath. Because he was addressing closed minds. How closed is indicated by the fact that, during

### ORDERING GROCERIES BY MAIL

## EUROPEANS GET BETTER MAIL SERVICE AT LOWER COST

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This discussion is made timely by the U. S. Post Office Department's proposal to increase the letter mail rate from 3 to 5 cents.)

We're the most efficient people in the world, and so it is a puzzle why our postal system is so poor. Poor even according to the performance of Europeans.

Sometimes it takes three days for a piece of mail to get from Asheville to Raleigh, or from Raleigh to Manteo, though a

careful driver can travel the distance in six hours. If Jack Riley, just a block away in the Insurance Building here in Raleigh, drops a note by mail, it takes Uncle Sam at least a day and sometimes two days to get it to me, though you can walk it in three minutes.

And how is it with our benighted cousins overseas? Listen to Robert Bendiner, reporting in Collier's:

"Indeed, I was downright awed at the speed and efficiency of the service. Living on the

fringe of New York's metropolitan area, I had come to think it normal to allow two days for a letter to reach me from the city, though the train trip takes hardly more than an hour. In London, by dizzying contrast, a housewife without a telephone can actually mail her grocery order before 10 in the morning, count on it reaching the store by early afternoon, and have her groceries delivered in time for dinner. First-class mail, by the way, is slightly cheaper than ours.

much of his testimony, no member of the committee—the persons for whose benefit such hearings are held—was present.

Unhappily, there are closed minds on this subject all over the country.

## Another Fence

Down in Raleigh, a legislative bill is pending that would build one more fence between the public and public business.

Backed by the State Board of Health, the measure would close records of births and deaths to the general public. They would still be open, though, to any lawyer, doctor, welfare worker, or federal, state or local official who wished to see them.

It would appear that state health authorities have forgotten that public records are kept for and in behalf of the public, not certain classes of the public. They seem to have forgotten, too, that you don't repeal a basic principle just because it sometimes is abused; that's like burning down the house to roast the pig.

The bill not only is bad as another attempt to keep public affairs secret; it is bad as setting up privileged classes. The latter consideration, it seems reasonable, would make it unconstitutional as well as undesirable.

## True In Reverse

Give tax relief to corporations, so we can develop industrially, and thus be financially able to support our schools, urges the chairman of the Tax Study Commission.

We have no quarrel with the logic of that argument.

We think it would make even better sense, though, reversed: Educate people, so they can produce more, and thus be financially able to support the schools.

Even more important, education means development along all lines, not just industrially. That has proved true, ever since the days of Aycock.

## Don't Be So Decalogue

(The Montreal Star)

A newspaper editor, with some space to fill, set up the Ten Commandments and ran them without editorial comment. The next day he got a letter from a subscriber which said: "Cancel my subscription; you're getting too personal."

## Letters

### Keeping Up With Home Town

Editor, The Press:

I have been taking The Press for several months and have enjoyed every issue of it. I started taking it when I came to Atlanta to work last June; that's one way of keeping up with home town news.

Let me say again that the paper sure is helpful when you are away from home.

(MISS) NANCY DAYTON

Atlanta, Ga.

### Wouldn't Miss An Issue

Editor, The Press:

We received The Franklin Press today, and enjoyed it very much.

The story about little Donnie Seagle was such a heart warming story; I think that is a treasured moment both for the child and the parent when they bring home something special from school.

We have been away from Franklin since 1948. It is really amazing to go back each year and see the progress that is being made. Keep the paper coming to us, we wouldn't want to miss an issue.

MRS. JIM HOGSED

Canton, Ohio.

## "By The Way—In Your Spare Time—"



STRICTLY

## Personal

By WEIMAR JONES

Of all the things I don't like to do the most, it's to lick postage stamps. And of course the bigger the stamp, the more surface there is to lick.

That probably is my private, secret reason for criticizing the Post Office Department for putting out so many special stamps: because most of them are big, very big. So big that, when you start licking, you think they're the size of a paper napkin (another pet aversion of mine).

Now of course they aren't really all that big. But they might as well be, because rarely can you just give 'em "a lick and a promise", and get away with it. (Promises just won't make 'em stick). And so you lick, and lick, and lick. And all the time the taste in the mouth gets worse and worse, and the disposition gets meaner and meaner.

Imagine my chagrin, therefore when I went to the post office the other day to buy 100 threes and was handed a sheet nearly big enough to print a page of The Press on.

"Haven't you got any regulation-size stamps?" I growled.

"Sorry", came the courteous reply; "that's all we have".

Grudgingly, I handed over my three dollars and started to lug the big sheet of stamps away. Then it occurred to me to wonder what was the special occasion, this time. So I looked at the stamps; and what words do you suppose jumped out at me, 100 times?

"Labor Day."

Behold a mystery! For what Labor Day are we celebrating in February, Mr. Postmaster General Summerfield, Labor Day of 1956, five months late? or Labor Day of 1957, seven months early?

To me, nothing is more beautiful than these:

A winter sunset, the dark moun-

tains below serving as a foil for its brilliance.

The English language, at its best. When spoken, with the right modulation and clean-cut enunciation, it can be superb.

The eagerness of a child, facing it knows not what but ready for whatever may come.

The faces of the serenely old, the deep-cut lines spelling out the character written by the trials, the sorrows, the achievements of so many, many years. . . .

This interesting discussion on word distinctions is from Miss Beatrice Cob's column in the Morganton News-Herald.

An English newsman on a visit to this country is said to have listened as two American newsmen discussed clarity in news writing and the need for simplified language.

"And how you Americans do simplify it," the English visitor said. "I am interested in the use here of the word 'fix'. I am invited to dinner and my host asks how I would like a drink fixed. He means mixed. My hostess calls to us to hurry because dinner is all fixed — and she means prepared. My host says he must get a flat fixed — and he means repaired. You say you are on a fixed income — and you mean airplane 'station'?"

steady and unchanging. You say you will fix something to the wall — and you mean attach. And you say 'I'll fix him' — and you mean get revenge.

"Finally you remark that you are in 'a Hell of a fix' and I see that you may have some comprehension of my predicament in trying to follow your simplification."

Over in Asheville, they're getting ready to hold an election on the issuance of bonds to build an airport.

Now whether the people of Asheville vote for or against the bond issue is their business; it is none of mine.

But one of these days we may find ourselves facing the same problem: How to get a modern airport? And so some questions the Asheville situation raised in my mind are likely to have to be answered here sometime.

The questions: What would the people of Franklin have said if Belk's had asked them to vote bonds to build a new home for that business establishment? What would they say if the bus company or the Tallulah Falls Railway asked them to vote bonds to build a bus or railroad station? Why, then, should public funds — to be paid in taxes — be used to build an airplane "station"?

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

### 60 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

At 2:30 o'clock to-day at the residence of Mr. James B. Addington, Mr. James A. Porter will lead to the altar Miss Mary Addington, where they will be joined in the holy bonds of matrimony by the Rev. T. E. Wagg, presiding elder of this district. We congratulate this couple in advance and wish them a happy and prosperous life.

Work has been suspended on Dr. S. H. Lyle's new building, as the contractors are about to engage in some litigation.

County Commissioner John T. Berry is almost a facsimile of Lt. Gov. Reynolds who presides over the State Senate. Berry is the better looking man, however.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Virginia Anise Crawford, 92, the oldest woman in Franklin if not in Macon County, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Frank T. Smith, on Harrison avenue, about noon last Saturday after an illness of three days.

Dr. Furman Angel announced this week that he is planning to start work this spring on an addition to Angel Brothers' Hospital which will make it the largest hospital in W. N. C.

Mayor George B. Patton had recovered sufficiently Wednesday to be out around town. He had been ill several days with influenza.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Romulus F. Carpenter, Franklin taxi driver, told this week how he was robbed, on a lonely Georgia road last Friday, of his automobile, between \$130 and \$140 in cash, his watch, his cap, and his personal papers. Two men are being held in the Toccoa, Ga., jail in connection with the case.

Members of the County Board of Education, at a citizens meeting here Saturday, were asked:

1. To make the office of county superintendent of public instruction a full-time position and to require any person holding the office to give it his full time and undivided attention.

2. To learn without further delay, from the present superintendent, whether persistent reports that he plans to retire at the end of his current term are true.

3. To hold regular board meetings at stated times and a stated place, at least eight times a year, and to open their meetings to the public.

## VIEWS

By BOB SLOAN

"President Eisenhower declared tonight, 'the United Nations has no choice but to exert pressure upon Israel' to get her troops out of the disputed Middle East areas.

"Eisenhower thus threw out an apparent hint that the United States stands ready, if a showdown comes, to support some kind of sanctions against Israel for her failure to heed U. N. demands to withdraw."

"The United States is working on a Middle East proposal designed to get Israeli forces out of Egypt and the Gaza strip without imposing sanctions on Israel."

The above two excerpts taken from Associated Press news accounts on events less than a week apart show how changeable and unstable the foreign policy of the United States is under the leadership of President Eisenhower.

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