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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1982

Letters to editor

The editor received last week for publication a letter detailing a harrowing but valuable experience the writer had.

The writer, however, asked that her name be withheld. The letter wasn't published because it contained references to the writer, and with the name withheld it would stimulate creation of rumor, which could lead to attributing the author's identity to the wrong person or persons.

The editor has found through experience that any time anyone, be it a public school board, county commissioners, city council, elected or appointed public official or private citizen dealing with a matter of public interest, withholds information from the public, rumors start, and the rumor is often worse than the facts.

The reason the writer wished to remain anonymous is understandable, in view of the details the letter contained, and she has the editor's sympathy. But for the reason stated above, the letter cannot be published.

The News-Journal has withheld names of letter writers on request, but only when the subject concerns a public service, such as local government, law enforcement, school systems, or other public agencies, and the writer's job would be in jeopardy if the writer's identity were made public.

In these cases, they are the subjects, not the personalities concerned, that are significant for the public. In these cases also, the letter writers made their names known to The News-Journal, a requirement for The News-Journal has before publication of the letter without a signature is considered.

--BL

Excuse for non-exercise

A medical column says strenuous exercise may be hazardous to your health, like if you're pushing middle age.

Now we don't have to feel guilty anymore about following our old rule: when feeling like exercising, lie down till the feeling passes.

--BL

'Let Poland be Poland'

From The Christian Science Monitor

Many people have expressed at least mild embarrassment over the administration's television spectacular "Let Poland Be Poland." Not because they oppose a strong statement of moral indignation at the suppression of freedom in Poland. But because a government-sponsored program, replete with Hollywood stars, risks criticism as a propagandistic and undignified vehicle for such a statement. The fact that the Poles cannot see it, that the West Europeans have shunned it, and that many American TV stations also are reluctant to show it suggests that the program serves domestic politics more than the needs of international diplomacy.

What is significant, however, is that the administration has not closed the door on a diplomatic demarche to Poland. Almost in the same breath, as "Let Poland Be Poland" was going out over the airwaves, the administration decided to repay some \$70 million owed by Poland to American banks, without requiring that they declare Poland in default. This may strike the public as slightly inconsistent, but the inconsistency is understandable and points to the dilemma confronting US diplomats. For reasons of Mr. Reagan's political constituents, they cannot be seen to be "soft" on Poland; yet they must seek a way of encouraging a political accommodation in Poland that will make it possible to put the nation back on the road to economic solvency.

The fact is, the Western bankers have an enormous stake in stabilization and reform of the Polish economy. Default by Poland of its \$27 billion debt would have substantial impact on the West's financial institutions. Therefore General Jaruzelski's actions — raising food prices and inducing farmers to deliver their produce to the state — are doubtless looked on more understandingly by Western financiers than by the Polish people. It has long been recognized, by economists in and out of Poland, that bringing prices in line with production costs is crucial to good management.

Much more is needed, however. General Jaruzelski's first priority seems to be to stabilize the economic situation. He cannot expect official endorsement from abroad for the unpleasant actions required to bring this about. But the question is what comes afterward. Washington, by not letting the American banks declare Poland in default, indicates it is not tossing in the towel on Poland. What is not clear is what terms will be exacted for some form of dialogue and reconciliation.

So far the terms set are high: an end to martial law, the release of all detainees, a restoration of press freedom, and talks between the Polish government, the church, and the Solidarity free trade union. It is relevant to ask, however, whether these are terms which General Jaruzelski can accept and whether the demands can be refined in a way to give all sides room for maneuver in a constructive direction. Does the US require, for instance, that Solidarity be returned to its pre-Dec. 13 status of a political opposition — an objective that would most certainly be unrealistic? Or would it be satisfied if it were permitted to be a free trade union again? Does the three-way discourse have to show results, or could it just be seriously begun before some Western help were forthcoming?

It is clear that the Western nations can no longer underwrite Poland's discredited economic system. It is also clear that they have

'Be patient — we're going in the right direction'



an interest in trying to ensure that the reform movement is not entirely lost, that a liberalization process resumes even if does not go as far as some would like, and that Poland not be forced into total dependence on the Soviet Union. This means using the leverage which the US and its partners hold in terms of rescheduling the Polish debts and offering further, perhaps government-backed loans and other aid. Talking about such incentives publicly may be politically foolhardy and diplomatically premature. But it is to be hoped that plans are being worked out behind the scene in Washington and other Western capitals regarding the specific conditions under which Poland could expect help — and perhaps being quietly communicated to Warsaw.

The US decision to repay a portion of Poland's debt to American banks does, at any rate, keep open the door to negotiation. And that, we suspect, is more important in the long run — even to Polish-Americans — than "Let Poland Be Poland."

Letter To The Editor

Editor, The News-Journal
Raeford, N.C.

In asking for an additional one-cent sales tax, Superintendent of Public Instruction Craig Phillips and some members of the state educational establishment are sending a message that needs to be examined.

The advocacy of regressive sales taxes hints at the superficiality of their own educational qualifications. Even elementary knowledge of the principles of taxation involves some awareness that such taxes discriminate against moderate and low income earners.

Not only does such advocacy indicate educational superficiality; to ask for a substantial increase in the cost of food and of basic necessities during a recession points to a troubling lack of imagination and of compassion. Phillips and his allies would obtain their objectives on the backs of

those least able to pay.

And their resort to this sort of tax suggests also a certain toadying of the rich and powerful who hate taxes in general but love sales taxes in particular. Why does Craig Phillips never request additional revenue from the affluent? The state constitution already permits more income taxes from corporations and from higher income groups, but the Superintendent somehow fails to remind his listeners of this alternative.

Responsible citizens everywhere recognize the need for better support of teachers and for public education, but they will not approve of getting this through adding to the cost of basic necessities. Governor Hunt rightly has said that the food tax ought to be eliminated rather than increased.

Sincerely,
William Winn
Laurinburg, N.C.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, February 7, 1957

Over 100 Hoke County farmers were at the office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office before it opened at 8:00 on Friday to sign acreage reserve agreements under the soil bank plan for cotton and tobacco, and 240 registered during the day and have since signed agreements.

Richard Moore, engineer of Asheboro, told the town commissioners of Raeford at their regular monthly meeting Monday night that there are two ways the town can get the additional water supply it needs.

Coach George Wood's Hoke High School girls basketball team are out of first place for the first time in three years of play in district one of the Southeastern AA Athletic Association.

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners at their regular monthly meeting passed a resolution asking Congress to enact legislation which would allow tobacco farmers placing their allotted acres in the acreage reserve program or Soil Bank to be paid for the tobacco not grown at the rate of 50 percent of parity, rather than at the rate of 18 cents per pound which is now being used in the contracts.

15 years ago

Thursday, February 9, 1967

Raeford town board took under advisement Monday night a petition calling for the establishment of a housing authority to provide low-rent housing for impoverished families in the town and county.

Legal sale of beer, wine and liquor in Hoke County has appreciably decreased bootlegging and moonshining activity in the county, according to Sheriff Dave Barrington.

Six Hoke County young men formerly classified I-y will be inducted into the armed forces February 15, according to the local draft board clerk.

The campaign to raise \$6,000 for band uniforms at Hoke High School has been launched by a group of Raeford mothers.

Hoke County commissioners have asked the State Highway Commission to improve N.C. 211 from the Robeson to Moore County lines, specifically to widen the road to 24 feet between Raeford and the Moore line.

A Raeford college student, Wynona S. Stetler, won first award in painting in the annual Pembroke State Collegiate Competition.

It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

I corrected this thing once, and now I'll have to do it again.

I've been under the delusion that the line "How like a serpent's tooth is a thankless child" is in a play by Eugene O'Neill.

I found out the other day I was wrong. Betsy said she thought it was in somebody else's play: Shakespeare's -- "King Lear," to be exact.

I hunted through Bartlett's "Familiar Quotations" at the Hoke County Public Library and found it.

"Sure enough, it is in "King Lear," Act I Scene IV, line 312.

Also, I found I'd been misquoting it all these years -- over 20, I think.

The line goes: "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child."

These errors also remind me again of this line from Leonard Nason's World War I novel American soldiers in France: "If brains was water, you couldn't give a louse a drink."

The January 27 edition of The Presbyterian Journal has a piece in the column, "Across the Editor's Desk", that makes modern football teams look like collections of delicate people with tired blood and maybe even nagging back aches to boot.

For example, nowadays, and for many years, it has been unthinkable for any football team worthy of its name and institution to play

more than one football game a week. I won't even mention high school playing in rain or snow -- it's rarely, if ever, done anymore.

The Presbyterian Journal's piece, however, describes a season of the old University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn. In November 1899, the team of Sewanee College, as it was known then, played five games in six days, and traveled nearly 3,000 miles to play them.

Furthermore, they won every one of them and held every opponent scoreless.

On November 8 that season, Sewanee beat unbeaten Texas University 12-0. On November 10, Sewanee clobbered Texas A&M 32-0. The Tennesseans didn't play the next day, because it was Sunday. On November 12, it was Sewanee 34 and Louisiana State, described as "strong," 0.

The fifth victory was over Mississippi State the next day 12-0.

The Sewage squad, incidentally, consisted of 12 players. The college's entire enrollment amounted to 97 men.

Of course, that schedule naturally raises the question: when did the Sewanee players go to class?

But to be fair about it, we can't put down the modern athletes of the sport. They couldn't play a schedule like that these days even if they wanted to, in view of the rules and conditions that exist. For one thing, there are the fans to consider: how many can get to a football game, even at night, on a Wednesday, for instance?

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



SHARING FEDERAL JOBS ...

From all that I read in the newspapers about President Reagan's hopes of balancing the Federal budget, a great many Federal office holders will soon be looking for new jobs.

We certainly hope that every man or woman who wants a job to support his family can find one and not be found among the unemployed.

However, if President Reagan is going to cut government forces as needs to be done, there is likely to be long unemployment lines unless some unusual things are resorted to.

Our idea is this: We think that the Federal government could be operated well without a fourth or a third of the number of people who are on the payroll today.

We would suggest that in the many places where three people are doing the job, two could do as well. Let the proper authority designate the one to go, but if he or she could not find a suitable job, then let the three remain a reasonable time, say 12 months. However, let the three work the same total hours that the two would work -- 80 hours, about 26 or 27 hours each, until the one being dismissed or one of the others found a job elsewhere.

This arrangement might work a little hardship on the three, but not as much as on the one being pushed out without much notice.

This would show compassion, and most of us need compassion.

It could also make three people more desirable. No doubt many would be looking for another job, but probably doing a better job for Uncle Sam.

There would be some "drawbacks" to this type of arrangement, but it would bring about better stewardship and devotion than is evident among many of the government workers today.

And it would go a long way towards reducing the national debt without throwing so many people on the unemployment rolls. This is what really counts.

BIG GOVERNMENT ... The Reagan proposal offers the first real chance of lightening the load on Uncle Sam's back since the beginning of Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society" days.

There will hardly be a more opportune time for the burden to be eased from the Federal Government than now.

No sane person can expect the Federal Government to go on and on building up a bigger deficit each year until we default in our Federal obligations. If this happens, I hesitate to contemplate the future.

HEMAN CLARK ... Governor Hunt is to be commended for his appointment of former Judge Heman Clark of Fayetteville as State Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety. It's one of the most important jobs in state government.

It's a great challenge for Judge Clark. The field is wide open for a man of Judge Clark's ability.

Heman Clark is 66 years old, in the very prime of life. He has a fine family background, the late Con-

gressman Bayard Clark was his father.

As Governor Hunt said at Clark's oath-taking ceremony: "He is a man with ideas, a man of integrity and a man who cares, not only about victims of crime, but about the young people who commit crimes."

RE-DISTRICTING ... For more than a year the North Carolina General Assembly has been studying re-districting. If they don't do something pretty quick our opinion is that the Federal Court will do it for them. The delay is costing the people of North Carolina when you figure the cost of the General Assembly when it's in session, and the cost per diem when only the committees are in session.

HOOVER ADAMS ... We quote Hoover Adams in his *Dunn Daily Record*: "As former U.S. Senator Robert Morgan pointed out, 'The Constitution of North Carolina does not permit the splitting of counties and the Justice Department ought not to have the authority to over-ride the Constitution of North Carolina or any other State.' Amen to that," says Editor Adams.

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear editor:

I have been thinking about President Reagan's proposal to turn a lot of Washington's activities over to the states.

I have no idea whether it'll work or not but I can see some drawbacks in it that the President may have overlooked.

The main one is that it's going to reduce the amount of fun everybody has cussing Washington.

Like it is, when something doesn't go to suit you, your natural instinct is to rear back and blame it on Washington but now the President comes along with a plan to make us blame it on Raleigh.

How can anybody get a unanimous nation-wide complaint on anything when aim has to be taken at 50 different Governors? Or 50 different State Legislatures?

It's been so long since anybody thought of blaming his State Legislature for anything important, that it may take us years to get used to the idea. Like it is, if you have a complaint you write your Congressman. You wouldn't any more think of writing the State Legislature than you would the P.T.A. Unless he's a lobbyist, the average person can't name more than two or three members of his State Legislature, and one of those is known probably because of some shenanigan he pulled.

If the plan to shift the burden to the states takes effect and thereupon the heat gets too great for Raleigh and it turns things over to the counties, you know what'll happen next. The county will turn the blame over to you and me.

I have never yet seen anybody who got any fun out of blaming himself.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.