

The News - Journal

NNA
NATIONAL NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION

North Carolina PRESS ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Raeford, N.C. 28376
119 W. Elwood Avenue

Subscription Rates In Advance
Per Year—\$8.00 6 Months—\$4.25 3 Months—\$2.25

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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.
(USPS 388-260)

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1982

Cause to cheer

Hoke County schools' activities kept *The News-Journal* photographer travelling considerably last week, and as it turned out he couldn't get to all of them, which was regrettable.

The variety shows in the pictures that were published last week, and the subjects together make a cause for the people of the county to cheer about. There were the plays about Mother's Day at South Hoke, the students who would participate in the county's Special Olympics, from the early grades through senior high school, the West Hoke kindergarten youngsters watching infant turkeys grow inside the eggs to hatching and beyond, and taking care of them, the May Day courts, kings and queens, and the new Upchurch Betas, the academic honors students.

Then for the people who help the students there was the Tribute to Hoke County (school) Secretaries dinner at Southern Pines, with the administrators joining in giving the secretaries the recognition they earn daily, and the announcement of the selection of the Secretary of the Year 1981-82, Mrs. Mary (Jimmy) James of Hoke High.

We wish that everyone, especially everyone with a child in school, could travel around the county with the photographer on his school-picture-taking.

There are things in the school system that need fixing, of course, things in every school system.

But there is much more, far more, we believe, to cheer about.

--BL

Reagan; arms cutter

From *The Christian Science Monitor*

We will negotiate seriously, in good faith, and carefully consider all proposals made by the Soviet Union. If they approach these negotiations in the same spirit, I am confident that together we can achieve an agreement of enduring value that reduces the number of nuclear weapons, halts the growth in strategic forces, and opens the way to even more far-reaching steps in the future.

These words by President Reagan in his address at Eureka College will hearten the American people, longing for a vigorous superpower effort to curb the nuclear arms race and avert a cataclysmic showdown. In tone and substance the President has moved significantly from his postelection positions. To what extent he is responding to the anti-nuclear movement in Western Europe and at home and seeking to cover his flanks politically may be a question. But he is moving in the right direction.

The call for starting strategic arms talks as soon as possible is encouraging on two broad counts.

First of all, Mr. Reagan has not made such talks contingent on favorable developments in Poland. His secretary of state had earlier indicated that the imposition of martial law in Poland would affect the timetable for superpower talks. That concept of "linkage" now appears to have been set aside even though the Polish situation has not greatly changed. Sensibly so. There is no denying that East-West political tensions can cloud an arms negotiation. But it is also clear that if the superpowers were to wait until all such tensions were eased, they might wait a long time indeed. Bringing the arms competition under control is an overriding imperative. It brooks no delay.

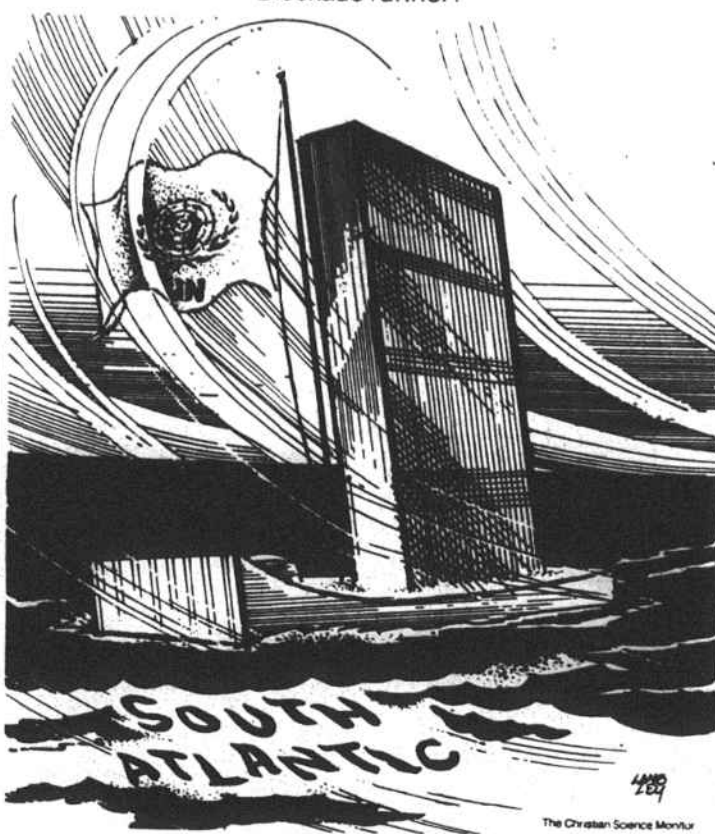
Secondly, the President has put on the table a two-part plan that is not unreasonable as an opening bid. It rightly aims at achieving nuclear stability through controlling the most destabilizing systems - the land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles which have such high accuracy and are therefore so threatening. It is doubtful the Russians would agree in the short term to the kinds of reductions in missiles Mr. Reagan is talking about (down from 2,400 to 850), but there is no doubt such reductions will have to be made in the long run.

Moreover, stressing warheads (bombs) over throw weight (the weight a missile can carry to a target) should interest the Russians. By reducing first the overall numbers of warheads of both land and sea-based ICBMs, the two sides would achieve equality in warheads (down to 5,000 for each side) and be assured of verifiability. The problem with focusing on throw weight, as the Pentagon favors, is that the Russians have such an advantage they would be reluctant to cut back so severely (an advantage, it might be added, that the US chose not to take when designing its own nuclear forces). Thus Mr. Reagan's inclusion of throw weight reductions takes account of the most hawkish voices around him without entirely scaring off Moscow.

To be sure, the presidential proposals have gaps. They do not include bombers and intermediate-range cruise missiles in which the US has a lead. However, the conciliatory tone of the President's speech and comments by administration officials suggest the US is prepared to have the Russians bring up these weapons and to negotiate over them.

Democratic leaders, not surprisingly, are jumping on the President's plan. Indeed they are coming up with a plethora of proposals of their own as the nuclear freeze movement gathers force. Enthusiasm is even building for ratification of the SALT II treaty - a pact which the public presciently thought more of than the politicians. Unfortunately, Ronald Reagan early on dubbed the treaty "fatally flawed," so it would be politically difficult for him to ask Senate approval of it now. Yet it would be an act of supreme statesmanship to do so. The fact is, both the US and the Soviet Union are abiding by the terms of SALT II - proving that it is not the white elephant it was made out to be.

Blockade runner?



The need now is to keep up the arms control momentum. Some may wonder whether Mr. Reagan has moved out front on arms primarily as a political tactic to take the heat off the November election race. The President can help dispel such doubts by appointing solid negotiators, putting START in motion, and energetically nudging the talks forward. Past experience indicates the process might well be a long one. The important thing is that there be one.

It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

Gene Causby, chief fulltime executive of the State School Boards Association, told the audience at the Hoke County Tribute to Secretaries' dinner the other night about the snowbound mountaineer and the Red Cross rescue party.

After the heavy snowstorm left many families throughout the North Carolina mountains trapped with no way to get to the grocery stores or anywhere else, the Army dropped food for people and livestock from helicopters.

A rescue party of Red Cross workers made their way through deep snow to a mountain cabin.

"We're from the Red Cross," one of them informed the mountain man who opened his door in answering the rescuer's knocking. "I'm sorry," the man said, "but we can't give anything. It's been a bad year."

The story got widely circulated. Billy Graham, back home from a Crusade in Africa. Said he read it in a newspaper in Africa.

The manager of a liquor store locked up the business and went home at the end of the night's business as usual.

About an hour later, he got a

telephone call. "What time do you open?"

"Nine o'clock in the morning," the manager replied, and the caller hung up.

A few hours later, the ringing of the telephone woke him from his sound sleep.

On answering it he found the caller was the same one who had telephoned the first time, but this time the caller sounded somewhat inebriated.

"What time you open up?" he asked.

The manager, controlling his irritation, sighed and replied, "Nine o'clock in the morning, like I told you the first time."

"Thank you," the caller said and hung up.

Two hours later, the manager again was awakened by a telephone call. When he picked up his phone he heard the same familiar voice, this time sounding even more inebriated than it had the last time.

"What time's y'ope...op'n up?" the caller asked.

"Nine o'clock," the manager snarled this time. "Now just be patient, and I'll be down in a few hours and let you in."

"Lemm IN?" the caller cried. "I do wanna get IN," he sobbed. "I wanna get OUT."

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor,

On the principle I guess that it might as well be doing something, Congress has been wrestling with the Federal budget all spring long.

There are some things about which the more you hear the less you know. At the top of the list is the U.S. budget.

As I understand it, a budget is something you're supposed to live within, like the 55-mile-an-hour speed limit many people and most truck drivers pay no attention to.

The budget sets the limit on how much money Washington can spend in 12 months. It works fine the first few months, just as some people have a balanced budget for that short period between the time they get their pay check and 30 minutes after they cash it.

Washington has the edge in that situation, however. Faced with it, Congress raises the debt ceiling, borrows a wad, and keeps going, something it's done 17 times in the last few years. Banks and loan

companies don't have the apparatuses to raise people's debt ceilings that often.

The U.S. budget, I'm told, is based on what the anticipated expenses and revenues will be the next 12 months. The expenses are a wild guess. The revenues are based on an estimate of what the public's taxable income will be for the next 12 months.

You can see that basing a budget on what you and I will make this year is a shaky proposition. It's betting that I'll get all the rain I need, none of the insects and my tractor won't blow a gasket, and your press won't break down. Also, it's betting that big tax payers won't find smarter lawyers to find bigger loopholes.

Maybe Congress can work it out, but so far budgeting Washington has been as successful as trying to budget the weather.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

This Is The Law

Few areas of the law generate more interest than the question, "What happens to my property if I die without a will?"

Contrary to what some people think, the state does not take your property -- unless you leave no relatives. Rather, the state in effect makes a will for you.

If a person dies without a will (intestate, as it is called), leaving a spouse and one child, the surviving spouse would take everything if the estate is \$15,000 or less. If the estate is worth more than \$15,000,

the spouse would take the first \$15,000 and one half of the rest, and the child would take the other half.

If there are two or more children, the spouse would take the first \$15,000, and one third of the remainder. The children would divide the other two thirds.

There are other rules governing possible shares of parents, brothers and sisters and other relatives. Your local public library has free pamphlets on wills, prepared by The Lawyers of North Carolina.

Letters To The Editor

Editor, *The News-Journal*

I've just figured it out. It came to me the other night as if in a dream, and I had to write it down so I could share it with my readers. I have figured out how to teach school and receive a salary commensurate with the knowledge, preparation, responsibilities and work involved.

Unfortunately, it's too late for me, but perhaps the following will help other teachers who, like me, are finding it difficult to make ends meet on a teacher's salary. My plan will take several years, but it has worked for others who patiently did their jobs and worked their way "up."

Salaries for teachers in N.C., as most are aware, are far below the national average, 33rd in the nation with a mean of about \$14,000. With a master's degree and 10, 20, even 30 years experience the maximum salary is a little over \$18,000. Administrators, on the other hand, have a maximum state salary of \$39,756 (superintendent) added to this are local supplements of as much as \$20,628, totalling for some over \$60,000. (No one in Hoke County is receiving that much.)

There is very little incentive for a teacher to work towards a master's degree in his field, because the financial remuneration for having a M's degree and not having one is relatively insignificant. However, if one works towards a M's degree in administration or even guidance, worlds begins to open up.

Many of us became educators so that we could teach others. We feel that our place is in the classroom, not behind a fancy desk in some office making policies and shuffling paper.

Here's the catch. Do it. Take more of those psychology, sociology and education courses. Get that administrative degree. Work up the ladder towards a directorship or principalship. Play the game. THEN get busted. No, don't do anything wrong. Just do something objectionable to the administration. They might shift you to another (but lesser) administrative position, or, if you are lucky they will demote you to the classroom.

The catch is that you will be receiving that administrative salary and doing the job you were trained for and want to be doing, teaching young people. You will more than likely also have some fancy title to boot.

Another means of "demoting" so-called undesirable individuals by administrators, is what I call the educational "divide and conquer" technique. In this, the person in question is sent to "Siberia" (i.e. another school or put in an uncertified subject area against his will). In some cases, he has never worked with students of that age, ability level, or taught in the subject area, yet he and the public are told the change is for the good of the students.

According to the NCAE's (North Carolina Association of Educator's) current resolution B-12E concerning punitive actions, the NCAE condemns those boards of education, administrators, and public officials who attempt to fire, demote, transfer or give punitive assignment to school staff members for their leadership in school employee organizations because of their forthrightness in questioning apparent violations of policy or terms of employment.

There are several people in Hoke County in just such positions, teachers, principals, and administrators who lost favor with their "superiors" and found themselves back in the classroom or somewhere other than where they were.

I'm sorry that I was so slow in realizing that I, too, had a chance to teach, make a far better salary than I am at present, and still stand up for my beliefs.

Being as impulsive as I am, I'm afraid that the old pen-and-mouth would take over and there I'd be with an administrative degree still trying to stretch my meager teacher's paycheck from month to month. But then again I don't think I could manage to stay awake through all those dull methods and education courses, plus I'm not very good at role playing.

Sincerely,
Naomi Johnson

Editor, *The News-Journal*

The 1981 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly enacted a law that will require North Carolina children riding with their parents in family vehicles to be safely restrained. By passing this legislation, North Carolina has made a strong commitment to protect young children from the biggest threat to their lives.

The law states that all children prior to their second birthday who are traveling with their own parent in a family purpose vehicle will be required to be in an approved child passenger restraint system. This applies to children of parents who are required to have North Carolina driver's licenses. The age two cutoff does not mean that child passenger safety should stop there. The law starts a safe riding habit that parents and children should want to continue after legal responsibility has passed.

Each year hundreds of North Carolina children are seriously injured or killed in auto crashes. Only crash-tested child safety seats can put an end to these senseless tragedies.

Small children cannot make safety choices for themselves, only parents can make sure their children are protected every time they ride in cars.

Many parents will be hard put to purchase infant or child safety seats. Even if the decision to buy a seat has been made, local stores will not be able to supply enough seats to go around.

There are 56 infant seat loaner programs in the state operated by civic, church, service and fraternal groups in addition to several operated by hospitals. These programs represent only 5743 seats. Many more are needed if we will be able to provide the public with means of complying with the law. Of the counties in District 6, only 152 seats are available for loan. District 6 includes Stanly, Moore, Richmond, Cumberland, Anson, Scotland and Robeson Counties.

This is an appeal to all hospitals, civic and service clubs to look at the infant seat programs for their service projects in the next year.

For more information: contact TOT LINE - 1-800-672-4527 (toll free in NC).

The UNC Highway Safety Research Center
CTP Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

Editor, *The News-Journal*
Regardless of whether war is fought in an old-fashioned, or nuclear, manner it is abhorrent to thoughtful people. However, there may be one fate worse than war: existence under the brutal heel of tyranny.

As George Orwell expressed it in his classic "1984", depicting the lives and love of Winston Smith and Julia as they struggle for survival with the Thought Police of Big Brother: "If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face - forever." Page 220 is explicit. According to Big Brother "IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH. SLAVERY IS FREEDOM. WAR IS PEACE. 2 plus 2 = 5; and economic INEQUALITY is guaranteed."

"Ground Zero" demonstrators, and sympathizers would do well to study 1984 and the numerous available authentic volumes of real life experiences of refugees from totalitarianism in order to arrive at a sane and balanced decision.

Yes, we and our children are threatened. Threatened with moral, economic and political annihilation, but we have a choice. Either we face this threat manfully, and defeat it, or we shamefully accept the Big Lie, "better red than dead," and enter a lifelong painfully penitent period of slavery under a tyranny that may endure a thousand years! Orwell knew Totalitarianism. Pacifists had better inform themselves.

This nation must stop supplying its enemies and must display leadership and integrity to the free world. So, please write your Congressmen, and Senators Helms and East, today, if you agree.

William C. Erwin
Wilmington, N.C.
791-3201

P.S. Get US out! of the United Nations

Only the Newspaper

... can be sent out of an area as a pleasant reminder of home and a convenient way to follow events of familiar names. A newspaper mailed while on vacation to a businessman away for several weeks... to a serviceman out of the country... to relatives in another state... is a good way to let people know home will still be there when they're ready to return.

