

# Opinions

## Wilson was a president who knew North Carolina

By Cliff Blue  
WOODROW WILSON... For 50-years or more following the end of the Civil War, the South failed to get much consideration, and most people could understand why. It lost out in the War Between the States!

Woodrow Wilson was the first president to be elected from the South, and when elected he was serving as governor of New Jersey, although born in Virginia, the son of a Presbyterian minister who moved to Augusta, Georgia, where he served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church.

Wilson's dad, the Rev. Joseph Ruggles Wilson, a Presbyterian minister who answered a call to Virginia, which made Woodrow Wilson, a native born southerner. His dad got a call to Augusta and later to Columbia, South Carolina. Thomas Woodrow Wilson was born December 28, 1856. His dad and mother, moved to Columbia where his dad became Professor of the Southern Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

In 1873, at the age of 17, Tommy matriculated at Davidson College in North Carolina. His father was a trustee, and it was the favored Presbyterian College of the Carolinas. At Davidson his professor asked:

"What is calves' meat when served at the table?"

"Mutton," he answered amid laughter, and he was called "Monsieur Mouton" as long as he remained at Davidson.

"Thomas" Wilson soon dropped the name of "Thomas" and

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took his middle name, "Woodrow," and was soon called Woodrow Wilson.

At the White House he was glad to talk over old times with Davidson students. "He was extremely handsome, too, in those days, and many were the girls who cast admiring glances at him. They used to cheer him on the baseball field. He was a good batter and could hit the ball a hefty clout."

He is remembered in Wilmington by characteristic activities -- as he walked into the church with his mother, as he strolled the streets with his father, as he talked to sailors on the water front, as he played short-stop on the neighborhood baseball team and as he swam in the Cape Fear at the foot of Dock Street.

The River and the ships fascinated the youth... His father saw that he was meant for letters and teaching and politics and set his foot down upon a naval career.

When the Navy lost Tommy Wilson as a future Admiral, it gained in 1913 a commander-in-chief whose marvelous grasp of naval matters made him a real leader of the men who go down to the sea in ships.

But Tommy is chiefly remembered in Wilmington as the first person who owned and rode a bicycle in North Carolina, and rode it with calm indifference to the astonishment caused by the then unique method of locomotion.

Many still remember mother and son, during the vacation of the latter, as they walked slowly along the street late in the afternoons, the mother leaning heavily upon the arm of her son. The mother was not to live long, and the son, soon to go to Princeton resolved to bear no other given name than that of his mother. He shortly dropped "Tommy."

Woodrow Wilson was one of 20 young men from the South to matriculate at Princeton in September, 1875. Woodrow Wilson studied law at the University of Virginia, took his degree at Johns Hopkins, was President of Princeton University, Governor of New Jersey before becoming President of the United States.

Woodrow Wilson had a great background to serve as President of the United States, and I think he was right in attempting to follow through with the League of Nations.

OTHER SOUTHERNERS ... Lyndon B. Johnson was the next president to occupy the White House. While Johnson tried to be a westerner to win reelection, he was somewhat between a Southerner and a Westerner, and Jimmy Carter was the first real President from the South following the Civil War.

WORLD WAR II... While Wilson hoped that World War I would end all wars, it didn't! World War II was the biggest and most disastrous of all wars in history!



## Swearing has hit a low point

By Lucien Coleman  
Maybe you've noticed what happens right after a pro football player drops an easy pass, misses a sure kick, or fumbles the ball six yards short of the goal line. With vehement gestures, the frustrated player utters a few choice syllables ("shucks," "aw, shoot," "heck fire") with body-shaking force.

We know, of course, that those aren't really the exact words used by players on such occasions. But, even if I knew them, they probably couldn't be printed.

Though swearing seems to be as popular as ever, promoted even by presidents (remember Truman's colorful vocabulary and Nixon's "expletives deleted"?), it does seem to have become sadly corrupted in our day.

Today's swearing is so...well, so biological. It won't hold a candle to the great theological swearing of our English ancestors. "By the Splendor of God," William the Conqueror used to say, when the situation called for a strong oath. His son swore by "St. Luke's face." Henry II swore by God's eyes, and Richard III by St. Paul.

In Elizabethan England, swearing was by no means confined to

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the more disreputable elements of society.

Queen Bess herself, it was said, could make "cuss-words sizzle like apples in an oven." And, reflecting the fashion of this day, William Shakespeare had Hotspur, in *King Henry IV*, rebuke his wife for using pale language. "Swear me, Kate," Hotspur exhorted, "like a lady as thou art, a good mouth-filling oath, and leave 'in-sooth'... To velvet' guards and Sunday-citizens."

Contemporary swearing shows no imagination. Compare today's vulgar monosyllables with a swashbuckling oath like this one: "By the bones of St. Michael! I will spit thee to thy cringing gizzard!"

That kind of swearing went out of style with the old-fashioned cutlass. Modern firearms don't leave a fellow enough time to say that many words.

The Puritan prohibition of the use of the names of deity in oaths has produced a whole vocabulary

of insipid substitutes in the American swearing vocabulary: "gee," "gee whillikins," "gee whiz," "jeez," "Jiminy Christmas," "cripes," "criminy," "lawdy," "law stakes," and that hangover from an era gone by, "jeepers creepers." (Can you imagine Franco Harris using one of those?)

In spite of the fact that the impulse to swear is held in check by religious prohibition and social custom, the habit still flourishes, albeit, as pointed out earlier, in a degenerate state. (Some believe the practice has been perpetuated more by the game of golf than by any other modern activity).

What is needed today, some observers contend, is a whole new vocabulary which will be neither irreverent nor obscene.

One newspaper columnist proposed just this when he wrote, "Am going to think me up some innocent new cuss words to yell out during double feature movies." Then he proposed, as examples, "Abradembazoolum! Dantiphonabelum! Vrum! Zibrokripides!"

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## Deficit makes government one of 'wolves over sheep'

By Richard A. Viguerie  
More than 962 federal social programs, costing more than \$400 billion a year. A federal budget of \$848 billion, plus nearly a trillion dollars a year in spending that does not appear on the budget. A deficit of \$450 billion, more than twice as large as we have been told.

Those are some of the outrages discovered by President Reagan's commission on waste in the federal government. Unless something is done to reverse the growth of government, the prospect is one of a national debt growing until the economy collapses.

The report of the Grace Commission details the twilight world of Congress and the bureaucracy, in which the only question asked is **Who benefits?** Names were deleted from the final draft, but the identity of some offenders is obvious -- It was Senator Robert Byrd (D-West Virginia) who forced Amtrak to retain the Cardinal train that runs through his state, even though it loses \$10 million a year.

It was Senator Robert Dole (R-Kansas) who "angrily" blocked a plan to transfer employees of the

Department of Housing and Urban Development from Topeka to Kansas City, Missouri.

It was Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) who stopped the Defense Department from seeking competitive bids on shipments of its employees' household goods in Alaska and Hawaii.

In all, some 100 Congressmen, including the Speaker of the House and the Republican leader of the Senate, were named in the original draft of the report.

How did the federal government become the bloated, extravagant, inefficient monster it is today? The answer lies in the altered relationship between the people and their government.

It took the government 175 years for its annual budget to reach \$100 billion, in 1962. It then took only nine years for the budget to top \$200 billion.

Four years later, in 1975, it hit \$300 billion and two years later \$400 billion. In 1980, it went over \$600 billion, and spending for fiscal 1984 will be close to \$900 billion.

The government now consumes about one-quarter of the Gross National Product (which itself includes government spending). With state and local taxation figured in, the government's share approaches 40%.

Many of us hoped and believed

that under the Reagan Administration, federal social spending would decrease, but in fact it has increased.

Housing aid is up 75% under Reagan, food stamps up 32%, Medicare up 63%, Social Security up 44%.

One type of social spending, direct payments to individuals, now consumes 42% of the budget, compared to only 29% for defense. Those who would balance the budget by cutting defense overlook the fact that defense spending as a portion of the budget has been cut in half in the last 20 years.

During the first three years of the Reagan Administration, state and local spending increased 27%, but federal spending ballooned an incredible 41%. Why is even a Ronald Reagan, who complained about Big Government for nearly 30 years before his election, unable to do anything about the size of government?

Because the special interests that feed off the taxpayer have had years to build a well-oiled public relations machine, to install like-minded individuals in important positions in the news media, on Congressional staffs, and deep inside the bureaucracy. Attempts to restrain government are reported by the media as attacks on poor people, or minorities, or some other group of "victims."

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