

# Viewpoints

## Raeford tax increase not helping industry

There was a certain amount of irony in the discussion by members of the Raeford City Council last week on the need to recruit industry.

A large portion of the council's monthly meeting was devoted to voicing the need for seeking new firms and for developing an industrial park; however, when the city officials had an opportunity to make Raeford a more attractive location for businesses by rescinding a one-cent tax rate hike, the councilmen failed to act.

The penny rate increase, which raises only about \$12,000 in municipal revenue, was passed by the council last month. At the time, administrators and councilmen were unaware that state revenue rebates from the one-half cent sales tax had been under-budgeted. The difference meant a windfall to the city of between \$32,000 and \$40,000.

Just when things were looking brighter for Raeford taxpayers, and there seemed to be no good excuse for raising municipal ad

### Editorial

valorem taxes, the state legislature started talking about eliminating the Intangibles Tax. The move would have cut the city income by \$20,000 each year.

Although the revenue would have probably been replaced by another state source, the talk of the elimination of the intangibles tax gave council members the apparent excuse needed for not rescinding the ad valorem rate hike.

The excuse was weak, especially since the intangibles tax was not eliminated by the legislature. Even if the state solons had taken action on intangibles, the justification for a city ad valorem tax rate increase was at best questionable.

Without funds from the intangibles tax, the city would still have at least \$12,000 more income than has been expected when the budget was originally passed. By raising the taxes, the council members did little more than fatten the city's surplus savings account.

Granted, there may be some fiscal wisdom in adding to a large municipal savings fund, but we believe using an ad valorem tax in-

crease to build such an account in Raeford, does more harm than good, and it does nothing for industrial recruitment.

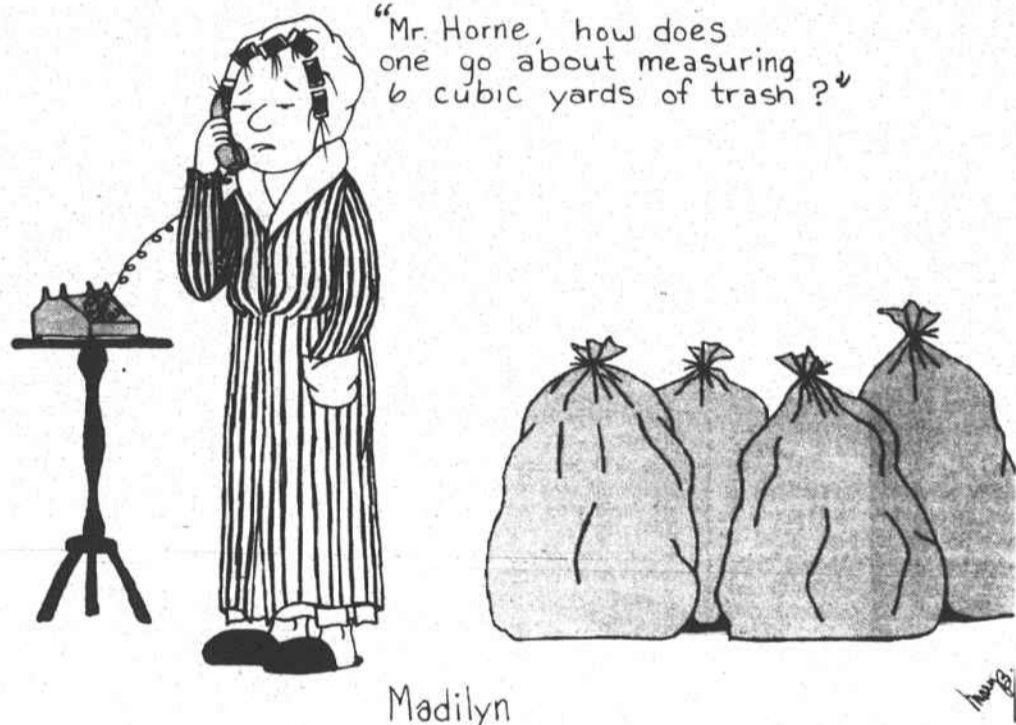
Perhaps a more efficient method of building the city's capital reserve account, would be to streamline the municipal government or to pare down duplicated services.

With the tax increase, over \$12,000 will be added to Raeford's coffers, but nothing will be done to make this city more attractive for the existing industries, which will be carrying the brunt of the hike, or for the prospective firms, which might consider locating here.

As a result of Raeford's action, which will be coupled with a tax rate hike proposed by the county, ad valorem taxes for major industries inside municipal limits will increase by almost \$75,000. The penny from the city will mean another: \$3,000 for Burlington Industries, \$3,100 for Faberge, \$330 for JRA Industries and \$880 for the House of Raeford.

As much as some city council members might like to think differently, the increase in Raeford taxes this year will be noticed by existing industries and will be considered by future prospects.

If members of the city council and administration are serious about landing new industries in Raeford and Hoke County, then we suggest that the officials turn their attention to cutting municipal government costs rather than raising taxes.



"Mr. Horne, how does one go about measuring 6 cubic yards of trash?"

Madilyn

## Congress completing tasks

By Bill Hefner

Congress is now in its seventh inning stretch for this session. Here are some of the highlights of what we've done so far.

Of course, the big news is the work to reduce the deficit. Congress has passed a \$63 billion deficit reduction package. 50 billion of that total will come from changes in the tax laws.

These changes are intended to come out of the pockets of the rich, who already have too many tax loopholes. The remaining \$13 billion will come from cuts in domestic spending. This \$63 billion deficit cutting plan is only part of what we hope to slice before the session ends. When it's all over we should have cut somewhere from \$140 billion to \$182 billion over the next three years. I favor the larger cut.

Both houses of Congress...the House and Senate have voted to prevent the White House from taking people with a real need off the Social Security disability rolls. They've also voted to help Viet Nam vets exposed to Agent Orange. For the youth, Congress has passed programs for better math and science instruction. On the other hand, it has voted to raise

the drinking age to 21. Along that line, Congress has passed and sent to the President a bill aimed at curbing drunk driving.

An overhaul of the federal farm programs is slowly working its way through Congress. In fact, I'll be bringing the U.S. House Agriculture Committee to Stanley County later this month so Washington, D.C. will get some input from North Carolina's

Eighth Congressional District on how to write the new farm bill.

Of course, the House has passed a military construction bill which has \$152 million for North Carolina military bases.

There is a lot yet to do before Congress adjourns this fall, but I think our biggest challenge is to get the deficit cut as much as possible before we go home.



## Letters To The Editor

### Veterans keep freedom alive

To The Editor:

Independence Day is more than a holiday, as it is the day that symbolically is the birthday of the great event that occurred 208 years ago, that gives us the right to celebrate all our other holidays. It is more than a day of celebration, but rather a day of remembrance.

Unlike Canada, whom celebrates Remembrance Day, Nov. 11, the date of cessation of fighting in World War I, our Independence Day, July 4th, celebrates the cessation of our battle from despotic oppression, monarchical or otherwise.

Yes! America still remembers why we have evolved historically as a free republic.

"Let Freedom Ring From Every Mountain Side" are more than just words.

It seems that many are content to rely upon an obscure name in history as the Savior, but as an agnostic, I must say my Saviors, millions of them, are those whose bodies lie beneath the ground of every major battlefield in the world, and to them, I owe my servitude, for they died so that "Freedom can still ring from every mountain side."

Yes! Let precious freedom ring.

but as a reminder, that liberty is a precious commodity purchased through blood. We owe our Veterans more than we can ever give.

Thank you sincerely  
Daniel Edwards  
Pine Ridge, Box 301  
Bladenboro, NC 28320

### Teacher should be kept teaching

To The Editor:

Last year, I was a student of Mrs. Naomi Johnsons'. She was recently fired from teaching seventh graders at Upchurch Junior High School.

I feel that she was treated unfairly at teaching seventh graders at the Junior High School. I think she should be kept on teaching seventh graders in the future. She was a respectable and honest person, as well as a teacher.

It is my understanding that Mrs. Johnson was fired for past activities, as well as future activities, for students.

Sincerely,  
Shirley Ivey

### Woman eyed for VP

Dear editor:

A hot topic under discussion today -- I guess to get everybody's

mind of the Iran-Iraq war, which has gotten everybody's mind off El Salvador, which has gotten everybody's mind off the Middle East -- is: should the Democrats nominate a woman as their candidate for Vice President?

A man asked me what I thought about this and I came out flat-footedly with my shoulders squared and said I don't know. I wasn't born yesterday.

The Republicans don't have to face this problem this year because they already have a Vice President, finishing one term and his sleeves rolled up for a run at a second.

The Democratic candidates are saying they'll certainly consider a woman for the job, without going so far as to name one. They weren't born yesterday.

When a candidate gets his party's nomination for President, he always says he'll pick a running mate who is best qualified to take over if something happens to him, provided he comes from a section of the country needed to carry the election.

The question some raise is: How many women are qualified to be President?

The next question is: How many men are?

The best qualified man for the office seldom seeks it and if he does he's rarely elected.

And the next question is: What's qualification got to do with it?

How many Presidents have been qualified to be President? Don't answer that.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

## Farm exports important to entire US economy

By John Sledge

N.C. Farm Bureau Federation  
The farm economy of America has become geared to the export market for agricultural commodities. At the same time, these exports have played a major role in reducing the annual balance of trade deficit.

Studies indicate that each \$1 billion worth of farm products exported generates 30,000 jobs in the U.S. economy. If that be the case, last year's agricultural exports, worth \$35 billion, provided over one million jobs in this country. So, farm exports are not only important to agriculture, but also to the total economy.

Farm product exports reached a high level of \$43.8 billion in 1981, but unfortunately have fallen for the past two years.

Agricultural trade is influenced by a variety of economic, political and social factors. Among these are government actions to protect its domestic agriculture and to improve its balance of payments situation.

Government restrictions fall into the categories of tariff and non-tariff measures. Tariff measures are established as a specific monetary charge per unit of product, as a percentage of the import value or a combination of the two.

A non-tariff measure is any requirement other than a tariff which would influence the quantity, cost or origin of an import entering a country. This could take the form of limitations such as import quotas, import licensing regulations and labeling requirements.

## Star viewing through ceiling can dampen spirits

By Warren Johnston

I have always been a big fan of rain. I like to see it falling, particularly in the summer. I enjoy hearing the torrents gush over clogged gutters and slap the ground underneath.

Rain makes me feel cleansed, especially when I'm standing in a downpour, although, as a rule, I try to take my showers indoors.

When we took the roof off our house a couple of years ago, my attitude about precipitation changed. I developed some well entrenched phobias about rain. Many of those fears came flooding back recently when we removed the shingles from our present home.

Roofs are nice things, and should not be taken off casually. I would never recommend ripping one down to the rafters just to give a house a spring airing, for example. In fact, I had told my wife exactly that, the first time we remodeled a house.

"A good roof is important to peace and tranquility," I said, as we lay in bed looking at the stars through the gaps in our wooden ceiling.

"You know there are not many houses where you can see the stars through your bedroom ceiling," I had said, as she quietly mused questions like: "What if it rains?"

We had removed the roof the day before to add a second floor to the house. All of our belongings were exposed to the elements, but

### The Puppy Papers

we had watched the weather carefully for several weeks. I wasn't worried. There had been a 0% chance of rain.

I was optimistic and enthusiastic about getting on with the remodeling.

"Well, there's a 0% chance of rain," I had told the contractor, who immediately ripped our roof off and down to the ceiling joist. "Hey, it won't rain. We have nothing to worry about," I told my wife as we looked at the stars.

That was before the clap of thunder and before the wind picked up to near hurricane force. The water poured in through the gaps in the ceiling, much like it does over a clogged gutter and slapped down on our bed, which we rapidly vacated.

Over the wind which was blowing the large sheets of polyethylene that we were trying to stretch over the top of the house, and over the lightning bolts which were cracking nearby, I could hear my wife swearing.

"If you ever talk me into remodeling another house, it's going to be divorce city," I remember her yelling.

However, that was just the excitement of the moment and several years ago and another house. She didn't really mean it.

This time when we took the roof off our present house a couple of weeks ago, she wasn't even nervous, but I was a wreck.

"There's a drought going on. Don't worry," she said.

When I came home from work, the rafters were exposed. Our pink insulation that I had installed in the 120° attic the summer before was showing.

I stayed up the first night, sat in the yard and watched the sky. There was no rain. The drought continued.

The second night, when only some of the new decking was down and the interior of the house was still vulnerable, I spied a cloud about 4 a.m. It looked suspicious. I woke my wife, who was sleeping comfortably inside.

"There's a cloud. It looks suspicious," I said, rousing her from a sound sleep.

"Well, if he looks suspicious, call a policeman, and then go to bed," she said, dropping off again.

On the evening of the third day, just as the roofers hit the last nail to secure the first covering, and just as I was considering sedatives, it started to rain. There were no leaks.

"See, there was nothing to it. I don't know why you were so nervous," my wife said.

It has rained almost daily since our new roof went on. It is nice to hear it falling and splashing on the ground, instead of our bed.

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