

Opinions

Martin pushing tax reform

Governor-elect James G. Martin has moved without delay to get his platform before the General Assembly which does not meet until early February, 1985.

Martin has said that he will push for repeal of the sales tax on food and non-prescription drugs and the intangible tax.

These items will be first with the people if he can get them through the legislature, and chances are that he can.

WONDERING...People are wondering what Jim Hunt Jr., will do in the way of politics in the next 18 months. He will probably stay in the political shades during the coming 18 months, but he will probably think about running against U.S. Senator East. However, former Senator Robert Morgan has indicated that he will be running for his senate seat again. Hunt would probably not want to run against Morgan.

However, lots of political grass can sprout in less than two years from now. Martin without a doubt would like to see East run again.

ENCOURAGING SIGNS...Two signs are encouraging optimists about the economy, for the next twelve months.

The first is the collapse of artificially high oil prices. Britain and Nigeria led the parade of price-cutting in mid-October. (OPEC countries are meeting on the 29th and are expected to follow suit.)

Last year Britain dropped its price from \$34 to \$29 and the latest

Cliff
Blue



People and Issues

price-cutting may bring the price per barrel down to \$26 or even less in coming months. That would be a boost to transportation industry stocks (like airlines) and would lessen home heating costs, gasoline prices, etc.

That trend now seems certain. The other trend is lower interest rates, not as certain, but indicated by several trends which became evident in the last forty days.

As a result, major banks have dropped their prime interest rates. The Federal Reserve Board is widely rumored to have decided to let the money supply expand, feeling the recovery's momentum has slowed sufficiently so inflation is no longer a major threat.

That-if-true is likely to mean lower interest rates in the coming months.

AUTO SEAT BELTS...New York recently became the first state to enact the law requiring the use of seat belts in automobiles. Other states are considering enactment of similar laws.

It's too early to know the result of New York's effort. But it isn't

too early to know that, for the first time in a decade, highway fatalities are up. In the first six months of this year they increased, per mile driven, and in total numbers.

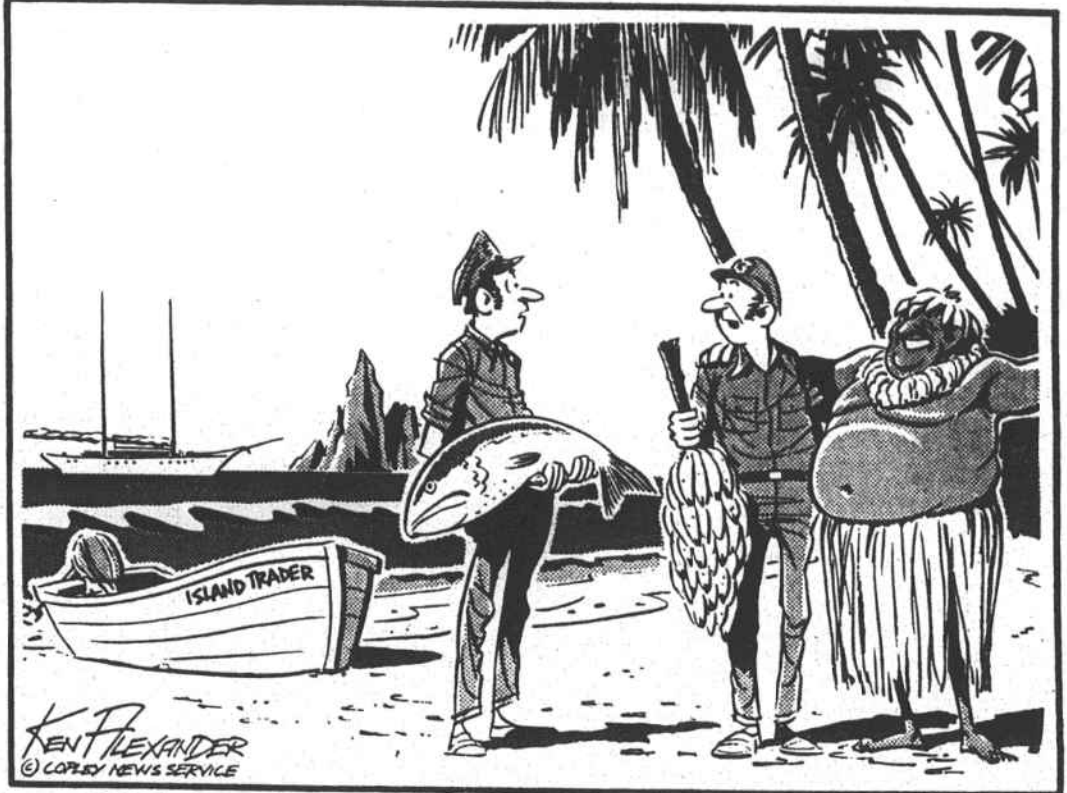
This is disturbing, when it's realized that between 1973 and 1983 highway fatalities were reduced from about 53,000 a year to 43,000 a year.

That's one reason why many states are cracking down on alcoholic drivers and increasing the legal drinking age. It's also a good argument for the use of airbags, only slowly being introduced by the U.S. Automobile Industry.

All statistics prove that drivers and passengers using seat belts are much safer, often escape serious or fatal injury, when involved in accidents. That's why the seat-belt habit should be adopted by all drivers and passengers, as a routine as mandatory as closing car doors.

COBEY WINS...William W. Cobey, Jr., of Chapel Hill was elected as a member of Congress, unseating Rep. Ike F. Andrews of Cary in Wake County. Cobey ran a close race against Andrews in 1982.

U.S. SENATE SEATS...Democrats picked up two U.S. Senate seats, trimming the GOP margin to 53-47. Although 10 women ran for U.S. Senate seats, only one to win was the incumbent, Mrs. Nancy Rassebaum of Kansas.



"AMAZING...WE'VE DISCOVERED A PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT ANY F-15S"

Football players want cut

What with the college football season at its peak, perhaps you will permit me another thought or two on that weighty issue facing our institutions of higher learning. Should college athletes be paid for their services?

In the first place, we might as well face up to the fact that it's already happening. Nobody talks about it much, at least not in public, but colleges and universities do have ways of compensating those brave young men who give their all on the fields of honor.

My son tells me about this friend of his who plays ball for a big-name university. The guy receives six tickets to every home game. This is reasonable, of course, since any young man in a similar position would want to have his Mom, Dad, girl-friend, and other loved

Lucien
Coleman



Things That Matter

ones sitting on the 50-yard line at all the games.

But the story doesn't stop there. This young stalwart also has a--well, let's call him a "sponsor"--a rich alumnus who is willing to take the tickets off his hands at a cost of \$200 per ticket. Not a bad income for an unpaid gridiron hero. In fact, it enables this particular lad to drive to the stadium in a brand new sports car.

Other players have to work for their expense money. For example, consider those athletes who have the grueling task of turning the lights off in the gymnasium every evening. That nightly duty takes all of 15 minutes; but the jocks who have that job collect pay for an

8-hour shift each and every day.

Another job, watching the grass grow in the stadium, is an even more demanding job, because it calls for such a high level of technical skill. No, it's not a joke. You see, someone has to keep an eye on all that natural turf, to make sure it doesn't get too long. And who is a more logical choice for the job than the guys who have to play on the grass all the time?

But some college athletes are now insisting they ought to be paid for playing the game, not turning off lights or watching the grass grow. "The universities make plenty of money off of what we do," they reason, "why shouldn't we get our share?"

There is some logic to this position. But it doesn't take one major consideration into account. What they are getting, in return for their bruises, is four years of free training for highly lucrative careers in professional sports. And, the best of the breed become national media heroes before they finish college.

Textile bill would help state

A Library of Congress study requested by me is now released.

The study determines how many North Carolina textile jobs would be created if there were a total embargo on foreign textile and apparel imports.

The study comes at a time when 600 people are being laid off at Cannon Mills plants in the Concord, NC area due to foreign imports.

The Library of Congress points out that its study does not take in

Congressman
Bill Hefner



vestigation of a hypothetical complete ban on textile and apparel imports--there would be 15,000 more textile jobs; 17,000 more apparel jobs and 11,000 additional indirect jobs in apparels.

These 43,000 new textile and apparel jobs would be in North Carolina alone.

A total embargo is not likely, but this study points out the need for some type of action against the huge problem of foreign textile imports.

to consideration such things as what effects trade wars would have on North Carolina textile industry if there were a total embargo.

Summarizing what the Library of Congress found from its in-

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