

The NEW BERN

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Times have certainly changed since The Mirror, several years ago, went out on a limb to pioneer in condemnation of the way the antipoverty program was being mishandled.

A very small voice, crying in the wilderness, this little weekly drew attack from various large dailies in Greensboro, Charlotte, Washington, D. C., and way points. The Raleigh News and Observer contented itself with sending a staff writer to New Bern to do a story on "the program." Her published report contained undeniable untruths in the very first paragraph.

Incidentally, some of the supposedly unbiased stories and photographs that appeared in the press under the guise of objective newspaper reporting was planted propaganda. Could you expect anything but distorted praise from a news gatherer who received a check from antipoverty funds for his services?

The Mirror's complaint, as Craven Operation Progress well knew, wasn't that something was being done to help the poor and underprivileged. Our contention, then and now, is that most of the huge amount of money appropriated for poverty in Craven County, (even one of the directors admitted 80 percent in a television interview) has been gobbled up by administration.

And if you don't know what that word administration means in this case, it applies for the most part to those big salary checks that a selected few draw as top level employees of the program. Although you have a right to such information as a citizen, who gets what remains a carefully guarded secret at 310 George street.

Anyhow, the nation's large newspapers, even the liberal ones, have finally arrived at the conclusion that the way antipoverty has been handled is a disgrace, and the cruelest sort of injustice to the needy.

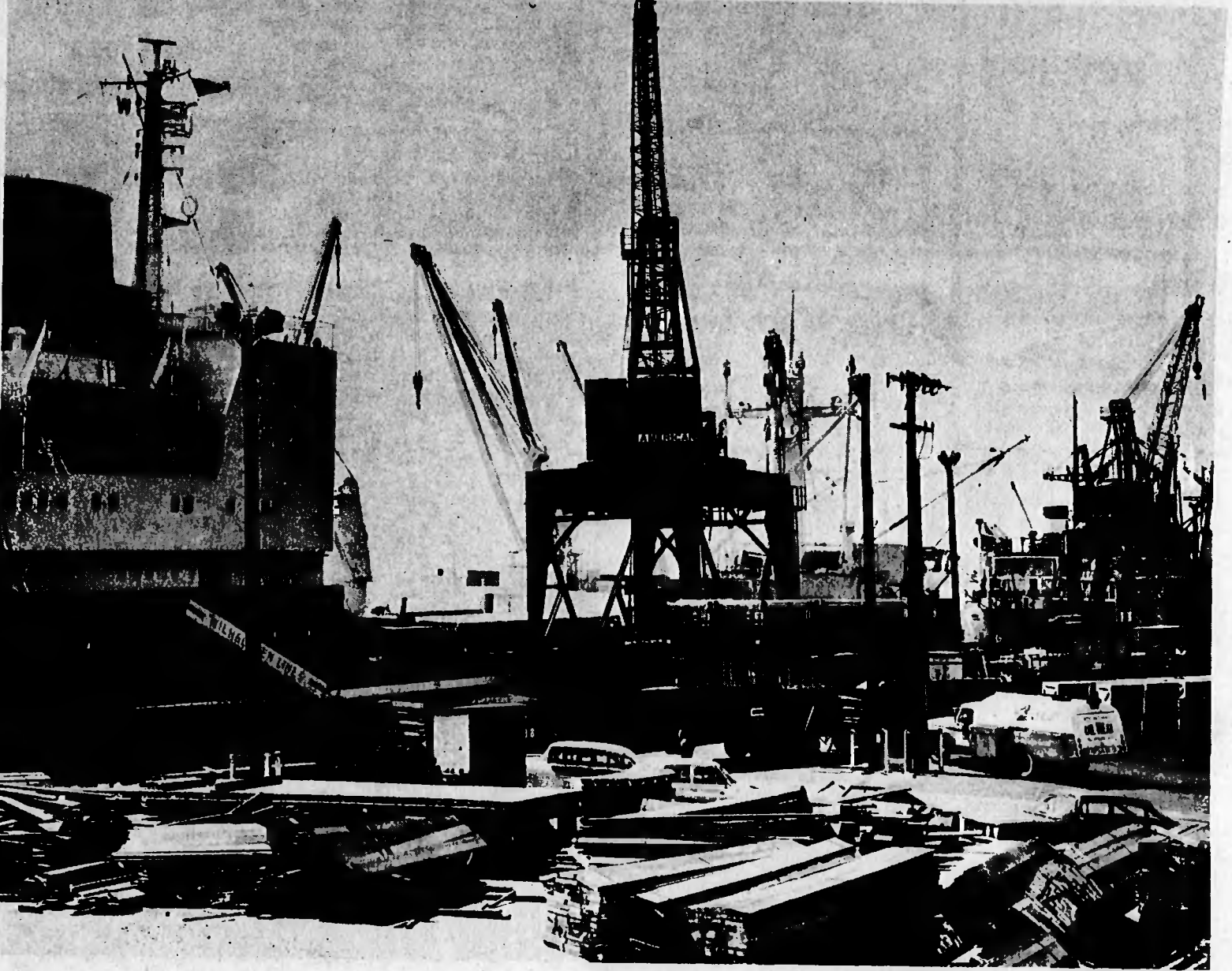
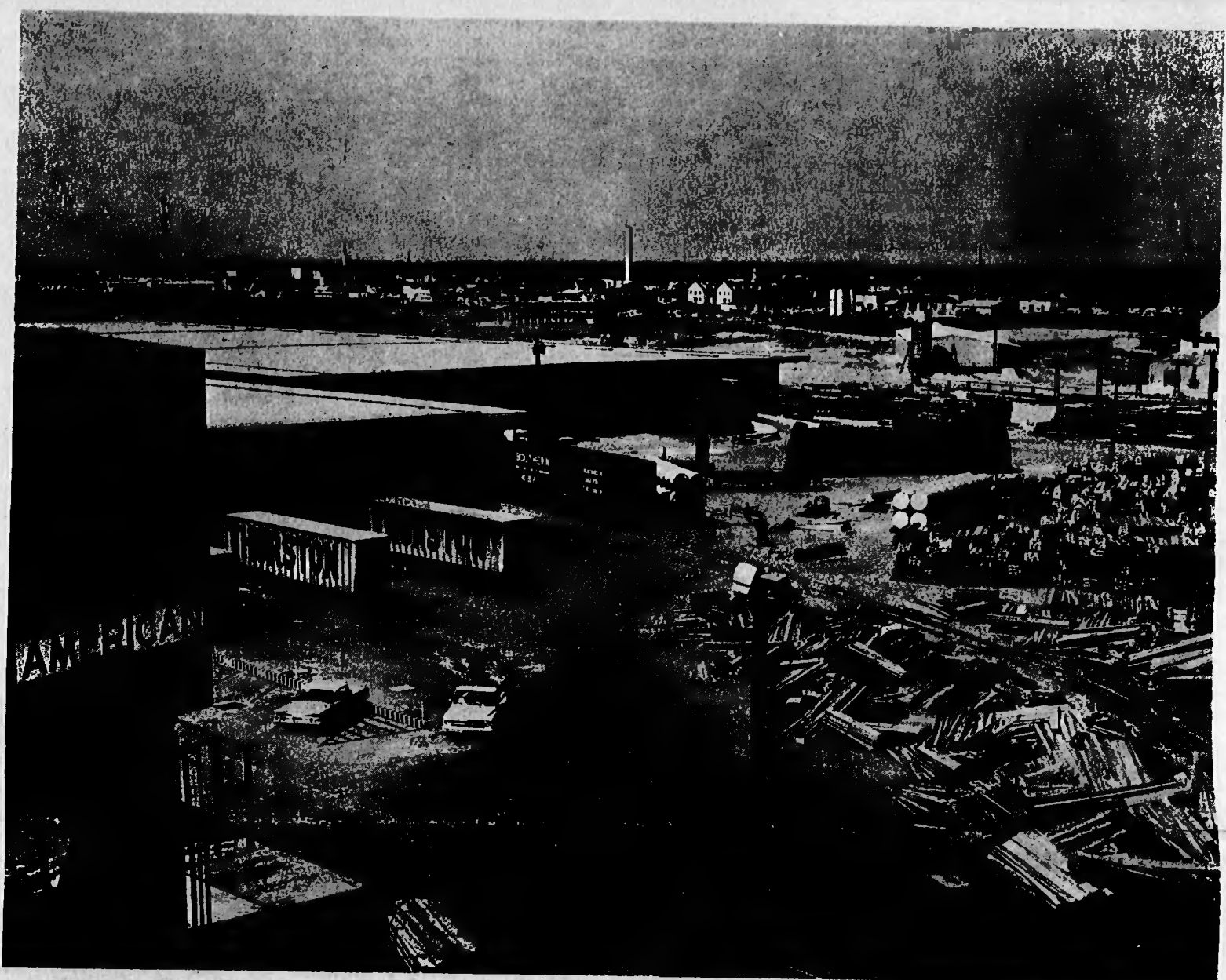
"Aid to America's poor," writes Staff Correspondent Peter C. Stuart in the Christian Science Monitor, "is a multi-billion dollar business, but in too many localities it functions, as one administrator admits, like a corner candy store."

"This hip-pocket style of management is beginning to tell. The legacy is revealed most vividly in the major cities, where the programs are most unwieldy."

"In New York, federal, state and local investigators are probing charges that the city's antipoverty program has cheated the poor of millions of dollars."

"Investigators from Washington also are checking into charges of irregularities in the wars on poverty in Los Angeles and Detroit, among other cities. The welfare program in the urban state of Massachusetts is wracked with accusations of corruption. Local antipoverty management troubles have surfaced even in Washington, in the very shadow of the parent Office of Economic Opportunity."

"The significance of such charges is sharpened by the fact that American taxpayers today are channeling more money than ever before to the



TYPICAL SCENES AT MOREHEAD CITY'S PORT TERMINAL

—Photos by Billy Benners

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