


Senator
Joseph E. Thomas
Legislative Report



May 18, 1979

A terrible double-murder and suicide in Raleigh last week underscored the historical presence of domestic violence in our society.

Governor Jim Hunt, in his "crime control" message to the General Assembly, said that the one problem brought up more than any other at the crime control hearings of last year was "family violence." Those hearings were chaired by former Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, Phil Carlton.

It was Secretary Carlton who put together the Crime Control Agenda which was the basis for much of the Governor's crime package introduced during this Session of the General Assembly.

One of the major segments of that package was the Domestic Violence Act which was ratified by both houses of the General Assembly last week.

Such legislation is long over-due. According to the Governor in his address, one of every four murders in our State in 1976 occurred between members of the same family.

The Governor went on to say that even more serious correlations exist within the realm of domestic violence. "Violence begets violence. Abused children become child abusers. Studies of prostitutes, homicidal adolescents and convicted murderers find that the majority were themselves victims of family violence, "according to the Governor.

The new legislation, designated Senate Bill 171, is a substantial effort by the legislators to provide needed remedies for domestic violence.

By carefully defining domestic violence, setting up judicial procedures, and means of enforcement, the bill will at least provide easier access to law enforcement for those in need.

One of the most valuable points of the bill, I believe, is that it provides for emergency assistance for victims of domestic violence by the local law enforcement officer responding to the call.

The law reads clearly that the officer responding to the request for assistance is "authorized to take whatever steps are reasonably necessary to protect the complainant from harm and is authorized to advise the complainant of sources of shelter, medical care, counseling and other services."

The officer on the scene even has authority to transport the victim or potential victim away from the "troublespot" to the appropriate facilities (hospitals, magistrates' offices, public or private facilities for shelter, etc.).

The law also sets up procedures for bail and pretrial release, criminal trespass, and emergency relief.

Hopefully, Senate Bill 171 can help in eliminating the unfortunate tragedies of violence within the family.

Open house of Town Hall and new Library planned

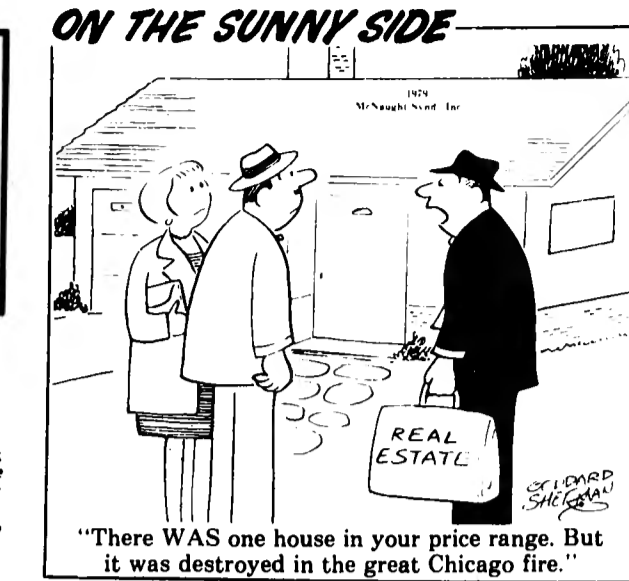
Plans are being made by the Cove City Board of Aldermen and the Cove City Library Board for a joint open house of the new Town Hall and Library on Sunday afternoon, May 27th from 3:00 p.m. til 5:00 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Volunteer firemen and other interested persons of Cove City attended a Heart Saver class offered at the Cove City Volun-

Cove City Chatter

by Mrs. Merlyn McCoy
633-1071

teer Fire Department Monday night, May 14th. The twenty-five persons present learned what actually happens to a heart during a heart attack and discussed factors that increase an



The Washington Report

by
Rep. Walter B. Jones

for week beginning May 21, 1979

During the past week the final consideration by the House on the 1980 Budget was concluded. After taking up parts of three weeks, it now appears that the House is determined to reduce federal spending, for as the bill goes to Conference between the House and Senate, the total deficit is slightly more than \$20 billion. This is still alot of tax dollars as well as excessive interest, but compared to the last year of the Ford Administration when the total figure was in excess of \$66 billion, it does seem that we are making some progress. This reduction was due in part of an amendment which was offered and approved overwhelmingly to cut \$2-1/2 billion, said reductions to be equally divided among all the agencies.

Those of you who have followed the Panama Canal treaty and negotiations are aware that the House must pass implementing legislation to provide some \$4 billion in funds as well as approving other aspects of the treaty prior to October 1. By way of emphasis, let me state again that the treaty has already been signed and approved by the Senate and the proposed action by the House is to implement certain parts of the treaty; and on Thursday last the Rules Committee brought the bill to the House Floor. This is a procedure where the House has to approve or reject the rule under which the bill will be considered; and in an extremely close vote, 200 yeas to 198 nays, the



By M.A. PETTI, M.D.

If you get gas and cramps when you drink milk, it usually means your body can't digest the milk sugar which causes the trouble. However, most natural cheeses are okay because the milk sugar is removed in the cheese-making process.

Youth Council Formed

Rev. Steve Hickle, chairman of the Vanceboro Area Ministerial Fellowship, announced this week that a Youth Council was being formed for the new Youth Center. He explained that membership on this council was open to any youth representative from any youth organization made up of youth or that serves youth, but that the representative must be a youth. This decision was reached at a meeting Sunday. Rev. Hickle added that he was pleased that over 30 people were present and that most of them were youths.

The group also discussed plans for refurbishing the old Civitan building of Farm Life Avenue as the site for the new youth center.

If anyone is interested in being a member or having a representative on the Youth Council, they should contact Rev. Hickle at 244-1782.

Send a Card to

BIRTHDAYS

May 26-Johnny Pate, Brenda K. Morris, Vera Smith, May 27-Nelson Lee, Beulah Mills, Mary Bette Wall, Erelene Wiggins, May 28-Wesley Morris May 29-Kevin Nobles, Hattie Mae Gladson, John F. Williams, Irene Townsend, Jonathan Ipock, May 30-Hazel Carawon, April Lynn James, Kirby Norman, May 31-Patricia Robinson, L. P. Lane, Nora Dixon, Alton Wilson, Connie Mounce.

ANNIVERSARIES

May 27-Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hart, May 29-Mr. and Mrs.

Dannie Hoell, May 30-Mr. and Mrs. George Fillingame, May 31-Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Gladson.

Would You Believe...

It has been calculated that in the last 3,500 years there have been only 230 years of peace throughout the civilized world.

* * *

The blue whale is the largest and most powerful animal on earth.

rule was approved by the margin of only two votes. This, of course, signals trouble for the bill when it is considered next week, for many Members who historically will vote for the rule, will not necessarily vote for the bill itself.

In other House action, approval was given to the Alaskan Wilderness Bill, by a surprising margin of 268 to 157. The bill, which faces a tough fight in the Senate, is the most extensive land "take over" legislation in the history of the United States. It would set aside 128 million acres - an area larger than California - in 13 national parks, 21 wildlife refuges, 12 wild and scenic rivers and two national forest wildernesses. It would also forbid oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Range, the northeast Alaska calving grounds of America's largest Caribou herd. However 95 percent of lands favorable for oil and gas development would be open for exploration.

On final passage I voted no; for the substitute bill which would have been considered at a later time, would in my opinion, struck a more equitable balance between industry and the environmentalists.

Members of Congress are becoming more and more impatient with the Department of Energy for doing nothing in attempting to find a greater supply of fuel as well as controlling the spiraling prices. Many of us feel that with 15,000 employees, it appears that some solutions should have been offered by this time. After all, this was the purpose for the creation of the Department of Energy.

At least, Secretary of Agriculture, Bob Bergland, announced several days ago that this Administration would assure the agricultural sector of sufficient fuel to produce and house the various crops.

DINNER A BIG SUCCESS—The benefit barbecue pork and chicken dinner of sponsored by the West Vanceboro Church of God was a big success with sales totaling over \$1500. They express their appreciation for the community participation in the project. They also wish to thank Charles Weiss for the use of his building, the old Pat's Red and White Grocery Store. They congratulate the Men's Fellowship with Don Mills as president and the Ladies Auxillary with Carrie Foy as president on a job well done.

The West Craven
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