

WASHINGTON COMMENT

Says Nixon '68 Choice Of Most Republicans

Washington, D. C. — Former Vice President Richard Nixon has hit hard at the Johnson Administration in recent speeches, leading political observers to conclude that Nixon had launched his campaign for the GOP nomination two years hence.

Among other things, Nixon charged that President Johnson's role in the recent New York City transit strike was that of a "two-bit politician with a billion-dollar strike." He lashed out at the poverty program as a political one, in which the anti-poverty director in some states received a larger salary than the Governor of the state. And he said that seventy per cent of the anti-poverty budget was not going to poverty-stricken but to administration and into salaries.

Nixon criticized the budget as a political one, in which the coming year's receipts had been over-estimated while expenditures had been under-estimated.

Already leading in nationwide public opinion polls as the choice of a vast majority of Republicans for the 1968 GOP nomination, Nixon's free-swinging attack on the President does nothing to lessen his chances. It is in keeping with his reputation and record as a tireless campaigner for Republicans everywhere, in every election year.

In his current speeches, Nixon is predicting GOP gains in this fall's congressional elections. Although it would be impossible for the GOP to gain a majority in the Senate, and highly unlikely in the House, Nixon feels substantial gains can be registered in the lower house in November.

If this happens, and he has played a leading role in attacking the Administration and campaigning for individual Republi-

can candidates, he will have strengthened his hand as a likely nominee in 1968.

The Johnson Administration budget is a peacetime whopper but it has been carefully constructed so as to be deflationary so far as is possible, spending 112.8 billions.

While spending is up, the government is taking some three or four billions out of consumers' pockets with higher social security taxes and re-imposed taxes. Some tax collections are being speeded up. Some spending programs have been designed to create their greatest impact in 1967.

This may soften the effect of the government's borrowing of some three billions during the fiscal year. It may hold back inflationary pressures to a degree. Yet only a reduction in defense spending could apparently halt the pressure altogether.

Meanwhile, it has been revealed that the gold reserves of the United States dropped 1.6 billion dollars in 1965, the third largest loss in the past eight years of consecutive losses. The official forecast is for a loss of half that amount in 1966. France, which charged over half a billion dollars to gold during the year, was the primary harmful influence. The gold reserves of the country have now fallen from almost 23 billions in 1957 to 13.8 billions today.

"People... We Meet"



For five and a half years, Mrs. Cecil Aldridge, the former Lois Dancy, has been a bookkeeper at Southern Agricultural Insecticides in Boone. She and her husband, an employee of Rivers Printing Company, were married in 1961. They have a son, Barry Dean, who is two and a half years old, and reside at Foscoe on Highway 105. Mrs. Aldridge, who makes most of her clothes, enjoys sewing, and is now working on a duster for spring. Originally from Silverstone, she is pianist at the Watauga Baptist Church, of which she is a member. (Staff photo)

Carolina Vacation Points To Be Described In Ohio

State and regional exhibits will describe North Carolina's Variety Vacationland attractions at the Sports, Vacation and Travel Show in Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 12-20.

The State Department of Conservation and Development, through its Travel and Promotion Division, has sent its colorful 40-foot "Variety Vacationland Showcase" to Columbus. The exhibit features lighted transparencies of scenic, recreational and historical features in every section of North Carolina. Personnel of the Division will staff the exhibit to answer inquiries and distribute vacation literature.

The Chambers of Commerce of Wilmington and Winston-Salem, the Dare County Tourist

Bureau, and Fontana Village Resort are sponsoring and staffing adjacent exhibits in the travel section of the Columbus show.

"The combination of our State display and the area exhibits has a fine potential for attracting the attention of the show patrons and giving them first-hand information about what North Carolina has to offer travelers," points out Bill L. Hensley, director of the Travel and Promotion Division. "From past experience at shows of this type, we know that they produce increased travel business for our State."

This will be the first time that North Carolina displays have been sent to Columbus. For several years, the State and

a number of Chambers of Commerce and resorts have successfully participated in travel and sports shows in Cincinnati and Cleveland.

The Columbus show is being held in the Ohio State Exposition Center and is sponsored by the Columbus Dispatch through its Dispatch Charities, Inc. Columbus, Ohio's capital and second largest city in population, is within the center of a market area of 3,500,000 people.

On Beautification The White House has announced its first Federal grants under the urban beautification program. A total of \$1.3 million will go to Pittsburgh, New Haven and Washington.

Pigeon Roost News

Many Mitchell Residents Out Of Water During Blizzard

BY HARVEY J. MILLER Rt. 1, Relief, N. C.

I have received several letters from my readers wanting to know about R. L. James of Mountain Home, Tenn., from whom I printed several of his letters last year in my column telling about his trips to the local mountains.

I have received two letters from him lately and in one of these letters he said that he made his last all-day trip in 1965 on November 27, and that he didn't expect to make any more trips before March 19 or maybe later depending on the weather and how he felt. He said that he made 37 all-day trips in 1965 which was usually more than he made in a year. He said that he knows that the mountains are lovely in the winter season but for several reasons he just can't very well get to them now. But he said that if it is so that he can make trips to them again this coming spring, summer and fall that he would try to send some accounts of them to us.

I received another interesting letter from Mr. James written on February 7, and he said that he didn't think that the groundhog could have seen his shadow around Mountain Home on the 2nd day of February. He said that they certainly have had bad weather and lots of snow since January 15. But one good thing he said we have not had much cold wind. If we had, it would have been far more disagreeable.

He said that he knows that it sounds unbelievable, but according to his home paper the temperature at his home town, Russellville, Ala., registered 24 degrees below zero there on Sunday morning, January 30th! The paper said there were no human tragedies, but pets out doors froze and birds were found hard frozen to limbs. I

just can't understand why such an extreme cold spell could have occurred in Alabama.

In regard to birds at Mountain Home, he said that they have had robins ever since Christmas. But last Thursday, February 3rd, there appeared to be hundreds of them and on the same day there was a sizeable flock of cedar waxwings. Both the robins and the waxwing were eating holly berries. We have a good many holly trees at Mountain Home and the female trees produced a good crop of berries in 1965. But Mr. James went on to relate in his letter that the robins and waxwings, with a few other birds, had already stripped these trees of their pretty red berries. He said that he doubts that a single berry can now be found on any of the holly trees.

He also said that he saw quite a lot of pine siskins feeding from Canada hemlock cones. I didn't see a one of these little birds of the North here last winter, but there were multitudes of them there two

years ago. Here we quote the last lines of his letter that said: The redheaded woodpecker is also spending the winter at Mountain Home. He was not here last winter but remained with us winter before last.

As I write this snow is still on the ground, but there appears much relief in sight and all roads in this area is in very good shape and schools in Mitchell County opened again on February 8th, after being closed due to bad weather ever since January 15th.

Even the old-timers will agree that it was the worst winter spell that there had been in a long, long time. But the biggest news at this time is of so many frozen and bursted water pipes and some have not yet got their water pipes repaired and they have been without water in the house for several days.

The Toe River was completely frozen over in several places in this lower end of Mitchell County section for the first time within many years. One old-timer said that he had seen

more ice in the river this winter than he had seen before within about 48 years.

Ed Bennett, Sr. reported that he observed three foxes fighting Sunday in the deep snow far up a mountainside. He said one was a grey fox and the other two was red foxes. He said there was the most sign of foxes in the mountains during this snowy weather than he had seen in many years. It is thought that the foxes kill a lot of cotton tail rabbits. But despite this report there is getting to be a lot of rabbits every where in this hilly country. One outdoor sportsman said you never know what kind of wild animals inhabit the mountain county until there comes a tracking snow and you can discover all kinds of the wild animals in the snow.

It also seems that you can see more different kinds of birds when there is a snow on the ground than of any other time. Also there certainly is seen a lot of snow birds this winter, especially just before it went to snowing.

Residents Of This Area May Enter Night School

Residents of the Boone area can still enroll in the night course on basic economics which will open Monday, Feb. 21, on the campus of Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem.

The course is being sponsored by the Management Institute of the School of Business Administration of Wake Forest College in conjunction with the Industrial Relations Center of the University of Chicago.

Dr. Ralph C. Heath, institute director, said openings still remain for the economics course

which will meet at 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays through April 6. It will be taught by J. Van Wagstaff and Hugh K. Heman, both assistant professors of economics at Wake Forest.

The class will be limited to 30 students and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Tuition is \$70. Enrollment can be completed through the institute at Wake Forest at Box 7285, Winston-Salem.

Hershey issues guidance on student deferments.



Saturday and Sunday Feb. 19 & 20

WINTER A GO GO

James Stacy

Billy Henson Makes Honor Roll At State

Billy Henson, a sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Raleigh, has made the honor roll for the first semester. Billy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Henson of Sherwood.

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