



Newspeak and Red Ink

At this time 200 years ago, the big question before the people was the ratification by the states of the new constitution. The Federalist Papers were being issued, the framers of the new constitution were busily engaged in trying to sell it on its merits while playing down its shortcomings.

As the issues came to a vote across the 13 states, the outcome was by no means certain. The ratification majority was often very narrow. But there is little doubt what the outcome would have been had those ardent advocates realized that, under the document they were supporting, it would be possible down the road for one president to run a trillion-dollar deficit in eight peacetime years.

But they failed to realize it, and the big questions during this bicentennial year is whether the government they gave us can save itself from drowning in a sea of red ink. To date the evidence is not all that convincing.

First, there is Gramm-Rudman. If left to operate as devised, it would trim only \$23 billion from deficit's rate of growth, leaving a tidy \$170 billion or so to be added to the national debt during the current fiscal year.

But it won't be left to work its way. It will eventually be nullified by a compromise "package" wrapped up by White House and congressional leaders, spurred on by a spectacular drop in the stock market. The package is being touted as a \$30 billion reduction in the flow of red ink during this fiscal year.

The President likes it because it goes easy on the defense funding, the biggest single item in the budget. Congress likes it -- well some of the leaders, anyway -- because it goes easy on the white elephants and sacred cows, collectively described as special interests.

Gramm-Rudman, for example, would cut the military by \$11.5 billion. The compromise barely touches the military, \$5 billion after an inflation adjustment. Score one for the President.

Gramm-Rudman would cut farm supports by \$2.3 billion, while the compromise would take only \$900 million. Score one for Congress.

When you deduct the \$11 billion in new taxes and user fees in the compromise package, the net cut in spending is almost \$3 billion less than would be imposed under Gramm-Rudman, which levies no new taxes. But it is even worse than that. In the compromise \$30-billion package, \$5 billion would come from the sale of gov-

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State Survey Conducted Among Students

By JACK GROVE

Concern is steadily growing on the state and local levels about the increasing use of alcohol and drugs by young people.

A survey was conducted by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction of public school students statewide last spring. The results of the survey were released two weeks

ago and showed that alcohol was the most used drug.

Of the students surveyed, 60 per cent reported using alcohol at some point in their lives and almost one in three re-

ported use of alcohol in the last month. Over one in four 11th-12th graders reported drinking until drunk in the month preceding the survey.

Tobacco was the second most used drug, with 49 per cent of all students reporting they had smoked at some point in their lives and another 32 per cent reporting they had tried smokeless tobacco.

More than 30 per cent reported they had used marijuana at some point, with almost two in 10 11th-12th graders reporting marijuana use in the previous month.

Other drugs students reported using at some point in their lives were: inhalants, 23 per cent; uppers, 16 per cent; downers, 11 per cent; hashish, eight per cent; cocaine, six per cent; and crack (a cocaine derivative), two per cent.

Jill Jordan, Health Education Coordinator for the Edenton-Chowan Schools said that county students were not included in the survey which was a randomly selected sample of school systems over the state. Washington and Gates Counties were included.

A local, independent, survey was conducted in Perquimans that showed that more than 50 per cent of 7th and 8th grade students there have used alcohol and more than 25 per cent have been offered other drugs and six per cent indicated they were using drugs other than alcohol.

Mrs. Jordan said that no Chowan survey is presently planned. However, she said

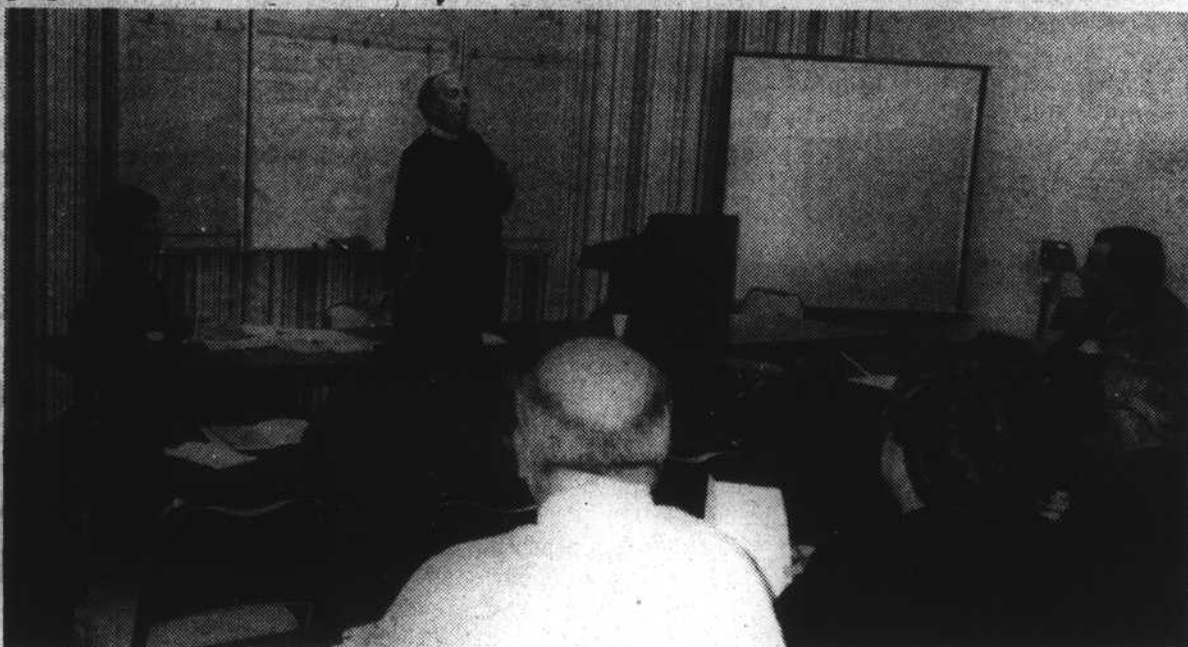
that Wendell Hall, Alcohol and Drug Defense Regional Consultant of the Dept. of Instruction will join her in attendance at the next regular Board of Education meeting Monday night. They will discuss the state survey results and a local program being used in the schools to combat the problem.

The program has two components: Quest, a national Lions Club program, is funded locally by the Edenton Lions Club with financial assistance from the Edenton Women's Club; and "Here's Looking at You 2000," funded by federal grant money (\$3,500 for the school system) through the Drug-Free Schools and Community Act of 1986 which provides instructional materials.

Quest provides instructional materials and training for teachers. Students are being taught "a positive approach to prevention of alcohol and drug use," Mrs. Jordan said. The program has seven units that include: installing self-confidence, including peer family relationships; information on the "gateway drugs" of alcohol, marijuana and tobacco; and refusal skills.

Quest is a part of the Skills for Adolescents national program. Within North Carolina it is sponsored by the state Parent Teachers Association, the North Carolina Lions and various foundations.

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ALCOHOL DISCUSSED- The Rev. Bob Cooke, Pastor of St. James Episcopal Church in Wilmington discusses "The role of the church with local councils and citizens on alcohol and drug use. He was a speaker at the regional exumenical conference on alcohol and drug abuse at Chowan Hospital.

Hospital Closes Care Unit

Chowan Hospital is facing a shortage of nurses, forcing closure of a unit there, the Board of Trustees were told last week. The nursing shortage is nationwide.

Hospital Administrator Marvin A. (Johnny) Bryan said the shortage forced closing of the progressive care unit. Bryan explained in an interview Tuesday that the unit in the hospital received patients from intensive care for post-operative and post-acute cardiac care before they were further transferred to the medical-surgical floor.

He said that the progressive

care unit should not be confused with the skilled nursing provided by the hospital's Units B and C for elderly and infirm patients.

The full complement of nurses at the hospital is set at 48. Officials are currently seeking to fill five full-time and one part-time slot.

Bryan told the board that he was looking at an increase in hospital staff salaries, including that of nurses. As part of the budget process, he said that \$100,000 in salary increases would be included beginning early next year. Starting pay for registered

nurses is \$9.40 per hour and Bryan is recommending an increase to \$10 per hour.

Chowan Hospital has re-

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DAV Nov. Meet Held

Representatives from Plymouth, Edenton and Elizabeth City chapters of the Disabled American Veterans met in November for a meeting of District One with District Commander Elnora Walker presiding. Special guests were Dept. First Jr. Vice-Commander Earl Shannonbrook, Second Jr. Vice-Commander W.T. (Bill) Story and Cianbro Corp. representative A.J. Holts.

Holts, whose company is building the new Albemarle Sound bridge, asked the DAV to support naming the bridge the Veterans Memorial Bridge. He said that no other bridge is constructed like it in the nation and there are only two others in the world with the same design.

Shannonbrook told members that the headquarters will begin publishing a state newspaper in March and it will be circulated every two months. He also spoke of donations by the DAV of TV sets and other items to patients in VA hospitals and explained the DAV service officer program working at those hospitals to assist veterans with their benefits and problems.

Story told members that a committee has been formed at the state level to support the POW-MIA issue. He said that "It was felt that not enough is being done by the federal government to get an accounting of POW-MIA's. He also warned that Congress was considering cutting veterans benefits programs to lower the national deficit.

Story said that veterans organizations "are fighting to retain these benefits and asking Congress to look elsewhere for cuts and not to take it out of the pockets of those who can afford cutbacks the least." He ended his talk with a promise that the state DAV would back the naming of the bridge.

In a corollary meeting, Doris Barnes, resident of Cape Colony, was installed by JoAnn McClenney as District One Commander of the DAV Auxiliary.

Farm Study Initiated

RALEIGH - Economic problems facing farmers in North Carolina will be studied by a legislative committee

that includes Representatives Ray Fletcher of Burke County, Charles Beall of Haywood, Sidney Locks of Robeson, Wendell Murphy of Duplin, John Tart of Wayne and R.M. (Pete) Thompson, Sr. or Chowan.

They have been appointed by House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey to the study to be conducted by the Legislative Research Commission. The group will consider the need for giving farmers additional legal protection in land foreclosure proceedings. Also studied will be ways to preserve farmland from encroachment by commercial development and expansion of urban areas.

Thompson, an Edenton businessman, represents the First House District. He has served in the field of agricul-

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Area Sale Underway

Thanksgiving is past and Christmas is not too many days away. With that in mind, town and county businesses have planned another countywide sale.

The sale, called "Winter Wonderland of Savings Sale," begins today and runs through Saturday. For those who believe in shopping early and saving at the same time, now is the time to shop at home.

A special sales supplement is included in this week's edition to guide shoppers to values locally.



FARM-CITY AWARDS- Farmers and city folk gathered last week to promote widespread working understanding of the interdependence of the two groups. Some 250 attendees at the Farm-City Banquet heard speaker, Dr. Robert E. Cook, Asst. Dean of the School of Agriculture at NCSU, relate "What's Right with Rural America. Awards were presented to (l. to r.) Les Fagan, Ag-Industry; Robin Lichtenwalner, Outstanding 4-H Youth; Wilbur Byrum, Farm City Week Chairman; William Hill, Outstanding 4-H Youth; Joe Ward, Peanut Award (and also top producer in state); Mary Copeland, Outstanding 4-H Youth; Joe Parrish, Outstanding Young Farmer; Alice Perry, Woman in Agriculture; and Mack Byrum, Outstanding 4-H Youth.

Belts Save Motorists

Seat belts are credited by the N.C. Highway Patrol with saving lives Saturday when two cars met head on on U.S. 17, 4.2 miles south of Hertford.

According to a highway patrol spokesman, the accident occurred at 8:10 p.m. when a 1987 Ford passenger car, driven by Lester Perry of Hertford, crossed the center line and struck a southbound 1983 Volvo driven by Kenneth Layfield, 32, of Nashville, Tenn.

Estimated speed of both vehicles was 55 mph on the rain-slick highway.

Layfield, his wife, Phyllis, 28 and another passenger, Bessie Campbell, 80, of 100-A

Church Street, Edenton, were injured. Phyllis Layfield was reported in good condition at Chowan Hospital Wednesday. Kenneth Layfield was admitted to Chowan Hospital and released Monday. Mrs. Campbell was treated and released Saturday.

Perry was also treated and released while an unidentified female passenger in his car was uninjured.

The occupants of both vehicles, with the exception of Mrs. Layfield, were wearing shoulder and lap belts according to investigating Trooper D.C. Garriss.

Perry was charged with driving left of center.



GATHER RAW MATERIALS- Committee members gathered holly (shown here), rose hips, magnolia and an assortment of other greenery to decorate Iredell House for the Groaning Board on Sunday from 2-5 p.m. The Cupola House will be decorated and feature Wassail during the same hours. Shown here are Bill Webster, Walter Garman, Ruth Rose, Linda Eure, Howard Measell, Bert Staggard, Sid Stickle and Don Fenner, chairman of the committee for Iredell House.