

Tuesday, November 23, 1965

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Least We Can Do

This very moment, an American serviceman is dying in Vietnam. For him and his family Thanksgiving, Christmas and all the tomorrows are over.

Whether this sacrifice can ever be directly associated with those of us living secure right here in this area or not is a question none of us want answered. We are grateful to acknowledge that his sacrifice does indeed affect us. And even though his name is unknown to us personally, the sacrifice is nonetheless appreciated.

Students at Lousburg College, in association with their teachers and cooperation of the local National Guard, have launched a drive to give local citizens the privilege of expressing their feelings to the men in South Vietnam.

The National Operation is known as "Operation Christmas Star" and the name is appropriate.

Perhaps the local drive should be called "Opportunity," for truly it is just that. It gives

every man, woman and child in this area the opportunity to show these gallant men that somebody back here loves them, appreciates what they are doing and remembers.

These students at Lousburg College are doing this community a great service in spearheading this campaign. The Lousburg Business Association has endorsed the drive and pledged an all-out effort by its members.

Everyone should certainly be able to afford a small gift to be sent to a serviceman in Vietnam. Surely, the gift as such will hold very little value. How can you repay their sacrifices in lost time, injuries and suffering with a bar of soap or a tube of toothpaste? No, it is not the value of the gift that counts. It is the act itself—the act of showing them that we care. And we do care, we the people of Franklin County, and we'll show that we do.

If we are going to sleep tonight, could we possibly do less?

NATIONAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Our Modern World

Our modern world is something to think about. We live in an age which is notable for the number of ways we might suddenly make a hasty exit from this life.

If we go out onto the narrow strip of concrete which is called a highway, and drive on it long enough, we are likely to meet someone head-on, or at least have to take to the grass to avoid such a finale. And, if we seek to escape it all, and take a cruise, the luxury liner may collide with another ship. Also, there are the fast jet planes, which can afford

the fastest exit in case of a mid-air crash or explosion.

In short, it is a fast, dangerous world in which we live, and when we realize that a thousand or more Americans die in accidents each week, it is a sobering testimonial to our hectic pace of life.

For those who can afford it, it might be a good idea to buy a small island in the Caribbean, or elsewhere. An island and an ample supply of food might be the difference between being snuffed out in our modern-day society, and living to say, "I told you so."

Highway Slaughter

One of the unbelievable things about our great country is that we continue to allow the slaughter of a hundred citizens a day on our highways and city streets. There is nothing that can be written about this cancer in our American way of life that will change the situation overnight.

There is little to be written which has not already been covered more eloquently before—by someone else.

No one answer can be offered as a solution to the great American oddity. The only solution lies in a thoroughly aroused public opinion,

which, in its wrath, will finally demand that adequate steps be taken to curb the slaughter. When this day comes patience with drunken driving, with unsafe vehicles, with repeated offences, and with flagrant violations of speed and safety laws will end.

Then, the American people will grow up and take driving seriously, and reduce the number of tragic deaths, of children and adults alike—many of whom die through no fault of their own, only to have society do comparatively nothing to punish their killer.

On Conformity

Many Americans seem to be losing sight of the fact each individual in a free society must—to a large extent—be responsible for his own general welfare.

In a recent nationwide opinion poll, the majority of this country's middle class felt enrollment in federally-run job-training camps should be required for habitually unemployed people.

And a public airing was held recently in the District of Columbia to consider a proposal to make it unlawful for a driver or passenger in a car, not to wear seat belts.

(Seat belts are advisable for most

people and can be recommended, generally. But there are cases in which persons suffered ruptures in using them. And belts often don't fit stout people, pregnant women or small children. It would present problems for such people as operators of milk-delivery trucks who make many stops in a single block.)

We must be careful not to build a government which forces absolute conformity on all citizens. There are exceptions and individual cases where injustices inevitably occur when we seek to legislate behavior and personal decisions, which reach into every detail of a citizen's life.

A PRAYER for Thanksgiving



VIEWPOINT — By Jesse Helms

Youth Appreciation Week

For the past several days, the Optimist Club of Raleigh has joined with its counterparts around the country in drawing a line that really ought to be drawn substantially more often. It's a process involving at least as much realism as optimism and, besides, there's a good deal of encouragement to be found in it.

The Optimist Clubs of America have been observing what they call "Youth Appreciation Week." This is the ninth straight year that the Optimists have formally tipped their hats to the young people of the nation. It's a worthy project, and one that ought to receive more attention than it has received. Moreover, it ought to be mentioned that the launching of the project nearly a decade ago was achieved, in part, through the good works of the then Governor of North Carolina, Luther Hodges.

The Optimists are realistic to suggest that a good deal of the criticism of young people today is the result of the natural dyspepsia that afflicts adults who have forgotten the stresses and impulses of being young. Furthermore, however valid the criticism of the conduct and the tastes of today's young people may be, there is the very real and legitimate question as to who is setting the standards. The ear-splitting torment of today's popular music may well invite the scoffs of those who are now fat and forty, but who was it a quarter of a century ago who shrieked the lyrics to a ditty about an "itty bitty fitty" that swam and swam right over a dam?

The Optimists recently were busily citing statistics showing that only five per cent of today's teen-age population commit 100 per cent of the juvenile crimes. The Optimists may go a little far when they attest to the virtue of the other 95 per cent. The statistical breakdown doesn't take into account a great many youthful practices not involving recorded violations of the law. It doesn't include the increase in the number of teenage consumers of alcohol, or smoking, or car racing. It does not relate to a great many things to which today's adults properly take exception.

But whose fault are these things, really? Are kids from upstanding well-disciplined homes likely to cause trouble away from home? We think not. The fat-and-forty generation, which has been so interested in making the fast buck, had better examine its own blemishes before it passes judgment on the teen-age set.

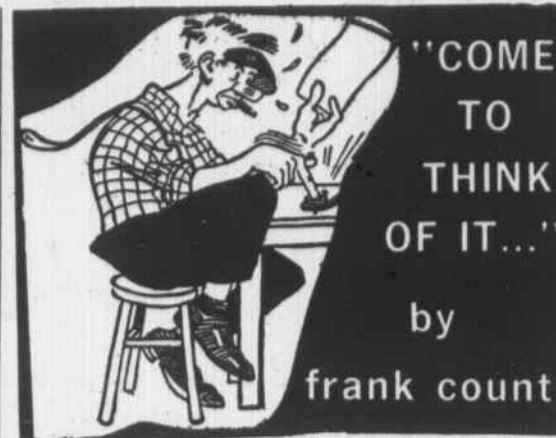
Youth Appreciation Week is not a bad idea at all. It is, indeed, a dandy one. It can be improved upon if all of us, and particularly parents, make very clear what we appreciate in our youth, and certainly what we expect of those close to us. We can begin by setting a somewhat better example of what we mean by personal responsibility. Then maybe the Optimists might one day consider an observance of Adult Appreciation Week.

And speaking of the Optimists we have thought to comment earlier on a visit to Raleigh recently by the president of

Optimist International. In his appearances here, Mr. John R. Olvey emphasized another program undertaken by Optimist Clubs throughout the country— one calculated to encourage respect for the law, and for law enforcement.

This is a program that really should not be necessary in a civilized society which, more than any other in history, ought to have a full appreciation of the importance of respect for the law. But in recent years there has been a calculated effort across the land to provoke lawlessness, and to glamorize those who claim they have a right to disobey laws which they happen not to like.

Mr. Olvey and his fellow mem-



Even though they are six months away, the primaries next May are beginning to draw some attention....Already, we got more suspected candidates for Sheriff than we had all toll last time.... Birdie says...It's likely to look like a Franklinton School Board race before it gets over....(Everybody runs for the school board at Franklinton or something)....

'Course, there'll be some other openings on the county payroll come May...but the early talkers are mentioning only the sheriff's office....So, when an otherwise total stranger meets you on the street...smiles...and tries to get hold to your hand... grab it....He may be running for something...and if he offers to buy you a cup of coffee or gives you a cigar...consider yourself as being ahead of the game. Politicians come early in Franklin County....First thing you know...they'll be pushing Christmas out of the way...as Christmas is doing Thanksgiving right now.

Speaking of Thanksgiving...you all remember that Thursday is the day of the Bird...the Blubber...and the Burp. Be ye prepared. It is also the day of Bird...the Band...and the Bounty. Be careful in the woods (and bushes)...No telling who might be doing the shooting.

And...all you football fans...you be careful...don't fall asleep and fall out of the chair. We lose more good boys that way. But, whatever you do...old Frank hopes you'll have a fine day.

The students at the college have come up with a good idea... sending gifts to the men in Vietnam. This is a project everybody can get into. Anybody who can't afford a bar of soap or a tube of shaving cream to show these men how we feel is in sad shape...and better get onto one of the Poverty wagons at once. Let's everybody join in....

Come to think of it...let's send them our razors...been wanting to stop shaving for a long time anyway.

bers of Optimist International are not engaged in a routine, or casual, project. What they are talking about is the survival of America.

We think highly of both the aforementioned activities of Optimist International. We are happy to note the participation of the Raleigh Optimist Club in

them, and commend the members of the club for their efforts. It is an indication that a very civil-minded civic club is at work.

The art of intelligent writing is to make the words so simple that no one can misunderstand you.

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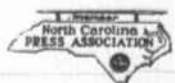
Established 1870 — Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by

The Franklin Times, Inc.

Bickett Blvd. Dial GY 6-3283 LOUISBURG, N. C.

CLINT FULLER, Managing Editor

ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Business Manager



Advertising Rates Upon Request



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In North Carolina: One Year, \$4.64; Six Months, \$2.83 Single Copy 10¢ Out of State: One Year, \$6.50; Six Months, \$4.00 Three Months, \$2.06 Three Months, \$3.50

Entered as second class mail matter and postage paid at the Post Office at Louisburg, N. C. 27549.