

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

"That Was Our Promise"

A release from the State Highway Commission last week, attempts to explain, without saying why, the misinterpretations associated with the remarks made by Commission Chairman Joe Hunt in a Channel 4 broadcast recently.

Mr. Hunt referred to some counties being "out of tune, politically" and implied that he agreed that such counties were not sharing in the highway funds allocations on a basis equal to other counties more in line politically. Mr. Hunt has gone on Channel 5 television to clarify his remarks.

Anyone five years old or older knows full well what Mr. Hunt said on WUNC-TV was true. Counties "out of tune" have suffered in the past and unless the world tips over, they will continue to suffer. There is no argument with Mr. Hunt's disclosure of this fact.

It is the repeated "need" reference he and his associates make that irritates the Christmas spirit out of us. In the aforementioned release, for example, Mr. Hunt is quoted as saying, "When we

were out asking for support of the bond issue, we told the people that roads will be paved and improved where they are most needed. That was our promise, and that is what we are living by and will continue to live by."

Mr. Hunt continues, "So long as I am Chairman of the Highway Commission, there will be no distinction among the counties except as to their needs."

Franklin County people will more than likely be contented to take Mr. Hunt at his word, if he would simply show us more need in Durham and Wake Counties than NC 56 here in Franklin County. We would be most contented if Franklin were to be allotted its proper share of the bond money. Mr. Hunt could spend the balance any place he might care to.

If Mr. Hunt is living by his promise, and if he plans to continue to live by it, it seems to us the old song comes to mind which says, "You gotta change your way of living—Cross over the bridge."

Maybe So, Maybe Not

Take one SBI agent. Take one first-without-reason-given SBI Director. Take a known convicted gambler. Take one Parole Board and one parole. Mix thoroughly with one color TV set and what have you got?

If you haven't the answer don't despair. Nobody else seems to have it either.

The agent, John Boyd, admits having intervened with the State Parole Board Chairman in behalf of convicted basketball fixer Dave Goldberg's parole. He admits receiving a color TV set from the same Mr. Goldberg. You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.

Mr. Boyd says he returned the set to Mr. Goldberg, but before doing so, he purchased an exact duplicate so he could get the shipping case in which to return the original. Certainly as far fetched as this sounds, we have no reason to doubt it. However, Mr. Boyd says he interceded in behalf of Mr. Goldberg with the knowledge and consent of ousted SBI Director Walter Anderson. Mr. Anderson says not.

Since Attorney General Wade Bruton has chosen not to disclose his reasons

for firing Mr. Anderson, a prerogative of any boss, many questions are left unanswered.

If Mr. Boyd was acting in compliance with SBI regulations, well, and good, but he leaves much to be desired inside the highest law enforcement agency in the state. We had rather believe that intervention in behalf of convicted criminals is not a part of the duties of an SBI agent.

We'd like to hear this from Mr. Bruton. Mr. Anderson says he would have discharged Mr. Boyd for such action, and yet it is Mr. Anderson who is looking a job and Mr. Boyd, who cannot be all clean in this matter, is still enjoying full SBI status, with what apparently is Mr. Bruton's blessings.

Mr. Boyd has, admittedly been open about his actions and has readily revealed to the public his records. It seems Mr. Bruton should clarify the question of whether he condones such actions by the SBI agents. We do not believe it is in the public interest for SBI personnel to aid in granting paroles even if they do return the gifts.

" - - And A Happy New Year, Too."

by Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

New Year's Day was a busy time when we were boys. Neighbors would extract promises days ahead that we would visit their homes early on New Year's Day . . . the earlier, the better. Back then it was considered good luck if a man . . . or boy was first to enter a home on that day. Wee be the home which suffered the misfortune of having a girl darken the door first on New Year's.

Blackeyed peas and hog jowls were a must. No self-respecting family would go to bed on New Year's Eve without a good stock of these two essentials on hand. Most women cooked the delicacies the day before just to be safe.

It was also believed that what happened on New Year's Day would happen throughout the year. If you needed a doctor on that day, you'd be sick all year long. On the other hand if you had good fortune on the first day of the year, you were likely to have it throughout the year. If you worked, you'd work all year. Folks lived very carefully on New Year's Day back then.

And then there were always the inevitable resolutions. We cannot remember seeing anyone working over a list of New Year resolutions in the past many years. It use to be a big thing. Folks stopped smoking on that day, stopped biting their nails, stopped whipping their wives or nagging their husbands. Of course, most resolutions were broken by mid-January, but it was always a good time to take stock and attempt self-improvement. At least the intentions were usually good and it made for some mighty nice folks for a few days each year.

But, as with so many customs, these New Year resolutions have given way to the gala New Year Eve celebration. Ask anyone about New Year's today and the conversation will go immediately to what they plan to do New Year's Eve. No mention will be made of any resolutions, kept or broken and chances are, even though you might be a man, you'll go away without a special invitation to visit your neighbor around 6 A.M. New Year's Day.

Americans celebrate the coming of the New Year at plush nightclubs, if one lives in a big city or private club and homes, if one does not. Galty generally accompanies the event, with some marked degree of nostalgia as the clock strikes midnight.

Customs vary in different parts of the world and, indeed, in different parts of our own country. Russians celebrate by firing a hundred roll salute with cannons; Italians mark the event by continuing Christmas for Twelve Days and the French give gifts at New Year's instead of Christmas.

The First Day has been celebrated as early as autumnal equinox, about September 21, and as late as the summer solstice, about June 21. In the Middle Ages, most European countries celebrated New Year's on March 25. The Jewish people mark the date late in September or early October. In China, the people clean house, pay debts, close their businesses and shoot firecrackers.

Times Square has become a synonym for New Year's with thousands flocking to the New York center at midnight to yell and sing as the huge clock strikes twelve. Through the

medium of television, millions at home witness the scene each year. But, with all the hoopla, there are still some who just quietly go to bed

on December 31 and sleep through the whole thing. They may have trouble writing 1967 on their correspondence for several days, but they are perhaps the safest and sometimes, we believe, the sanest of all.

Whether you travel to Times Square, a night club, a private club or home, or just slip off to bed, 1967 is just a few hours away and there is just enough time left for all of us to wish for all of you a very safe and Happy New Year.

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WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

Louisburg Has Pilot Plant For Low Cost Housing

Goldsboro News-Argus

Louisburg, Franklin County, is installing a plastics factory for the production of pre-fabricated houses.

If it proves satisfactory it may be a great step forward toward solution of the housing problem.

Moulds for the making of plastic panels and beams have been made and should be in operating in casting units for housing early in the year 1967.

Louisburg's pilot plant, one of the first if not the first in its field, will be a four-room affair with 830 square-foot capacity. The backers of the new plant have been quoted as saying that the cost of a plastic home would be half, or less, than a home of equal size built of conventional materials.

But there remain some questions to be solved. For instance, there are no inner and outer walls between which such fixtures as medicine chests, some types of closets, and such can be hung . . .

Insulation of plastic materials is much superior to insulation with usual materials, the experimenters say. And the pre-fab panels and beams can greatly reduce the time and labor for setting up the building.

The type home which will be made at the Louisburg plant is described as being of great attraction for a beach cottage or mountain summer home.

The developers expect that research and experience will rapidly advance the development of the plastic home. Already this material has met the tests for many uses such as bodies of motor vehicles, certain types of posts and a growing list of uses.

Governor Sanford in a statement summing up his administration said that he had hoped during the time he was in office a break-through in development of low-cost housing would come. He had asked researchers for the state to seek to produce a small family home of good quality for about \$3,000. Work on such a structure is continuing in many parts of the nation.

Slums such as Watts in Los Angeles and Harlem in New York City, in part, develop from condi-

tions which follow where people are crowded into apartments like sardines, where bath and sewage facilities are so inadequate that elevators become urinals and toilets.

If the plastic house can be developed to such a degree that it can be bought at a rate the lowest wage earner can afford the na-

tion will have gone a long step forward in erasing a sordid festering sore which breeds riots and crime.

Louisburg has what may be called a pilot plant. It may be breaking new trails in the construction industry and at the same time doing a significant service for all people.

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