

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday Serving All Of Franklin County
Your Award Winning County Newspaper

Tuesday, July 25, 1967

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Inspection Program Should Be Reinstated

The County Commissioners killed the county electrical inspection program on a split vote here last week. Chairman E. M. Sykes broke the tie when he joined Commissioners Norwood Faulkner and George Harris in issuing the death blow.

Commissioners Richard Cash and Brooks Young not only opposed the elimination of the program but sought to strengthen it. Indeed, there was some talk of expanding the program to include plumbing.

However, the majority voted to do away with the program. They ordered it done immediately without a study and without giving the people an opportunity to oppose the move.

Preliminary investigation reveals that several citizens within the past few days experienced difficulty in getting homes and buildings inspected in order to have current delivered to the structures. The county inspector has been ill recently and service in this area has been practically non-existent.

In one case, it was reported that a Vance County inspector was called in and at least one citizen visited the courthouse where he expected to obtain a permit. But, most of those having trouble called the commissioner in their district seeking help.

These people were justifiably upset. They were not receiving the service they deserved and expected.

It is a regrettable fact of political life that a few disgruntled constituents, regardless of how just their cause might be, can speak with a loud voice and a sincere plea and cause elected officials

to forget the masses in favor of the few.

And surely, the hasty action on the part of the majority of the board last week was designed to serve the few at the expense of the many. It is much like doing away with the police departments because a few crimes go unsolved.

It would be unfair to say that all fires in this county, where a definite cause was not established, could be placed on faulty wiring. Indeed, this would be incorrect. However, there have been enough fires with evidence pointing to wiring as a cause to merit a careful study before the electrical inspection program was killed.

Killing the program because of the lack of service was not in the best interest of the people. It should be reinstated at once and enough inspectors be employed to insure the proper service citizens deserve and have a right to expect.

Fires, from any cause, can endanger an entire community and proper inspection can surely prevent many. It might even be wise to study the possibility of including plumbing and maybe heating in the program.

But, the need for electrical inspection did not die last week, only the program was killed. The sooner it is revived, the more relieved most citizens are going to be. The commissioners should move at once to correct this mistake. Otherwise, some irresponsible person could build a firetrap—possibly a deathtrap—next door to any of us. It is too large a chance to take.

The electrical inspection program should be reinstated at once.

Frustration: The Meaning Has Changed

Looking through an old dictionary the other day, we discovered that the word "frustration" meant "disappointment." Looking in a new, modern dictionary soon after, we found "frustration" now means "a deep chronic state of insecurity and dissatisfaction arising from unresolved problems." It seems the writers of our dictionaries, like our society, changes word meanings to their own liking.

Richard Speck, convicted murderer of eight young student nurses in Chicago, according to the doctors, was frustrated. The young man who climbed the tower in Texas to kill thirty-some people for no apparent reason was, at the time, frustrated.

And now the mobs of hoodlums who murder and burn, who make a foxhole in Vietnam safer than a street corner in Newark, are said to be frustrated.

We are convinced that under the old meaning of the word, every human being on earth has at one time or another been frustrated. How many disappointments have we all had at some time in our lives. As long as frustrated was defined to mean disappointment, the word was seldom used.

Now, however, with its new meaning, it is used to excuse every conceivable crime.

There have always been unresolved problems. There will always be. The practice of rioting as an expression of disappointment is hard to believe. It is also impossible for us to become convinced that riots are spontaneous events.

One man might make another angry enough to strike back, by his words or actions. This might be spontaneous. But for hundreds to rise up at once to destroy their own neighborhoods and cause their own people and others to be slaughtered on the streets has to be planned.

No one carries a Molotov cocktail around in their pockets. These things have to be made. Some one has to obtain the material. Guns, rifles, and the like don't just happen to be handy at any given time and any given place. They, too, have to be obtained. And to do so, someone has to make plans.

The leaders of our cities and of this country can continue to excuse these riots as being caused by frustrated people. They can continue to take the position that riots are caused, not by those rioting, but by the ordinary citizen in the community for not having done more for the frustrated among them.

Indeed, they can continue to reward those bent on destroying this nation by building for them new houses, swimming pools and bowling to blackmail and hiring them for jobs when they are not qualified for them. They can expand on the governmental handouts and rest on the promise that all this is due these people because of their frustration.

Yes, these things can be continued. The price, however, they will soon find, is far greater than this country can afford and still remain the bulwark of freedom it has been in the past.

When our values become so warped that a policeman, a servant of his community, can be stomped to death on a public street and sympathy goes, not to his widow, but to the poor frustrated murderers, we have moved beyond the point of return.

Unless we restore the old meaning to the word frustration, and unless we return to the true values in our lives and stand firm in our attitudes toward those people with criminal intent, this nation cannot survive.

If millions can live in peace with their own disappointments, so too can the few.

"An Interesting Account Has Come Our Way, Jones---"



Guest Editorial

Reprinted from the Chicago Tribune.

If the truth is repeated often enough and forcefully enough, people may stop believing that national defense is the principal cause of rising federal expenditures. And if people stop believing it, administration officials will stop trying to use it as an excuse every time they want to pry more money out of Congress.

Just the other day, Secretary of the Treasury Fowler explained his request for a 29-billion-dollar increase in the national debt limit by saying that we have to finance a war.

It is quite true that the costs of defense have gone up. But the most forceful indictment of the real culprit in federal spending that we've seen in a long time was given recently by Maurice H. Stans, who was director of the budget in the Eisenhower administration.

Consider this, for example:

"The 1968 budget contains 22 billion dollars for Viet Nam;
"Since 1960, including that 22 billion, expenditures for national defense are up 68 per cent;
"Since 1960, nondefense expenditures of the government are up 97 per cent;
"Since 1960, expenditures for national welfare and health programs are up 210 per cent."

Here is another of Mr. Stans' comparisons:

"Since 1960 the population of the United States has grown by 10 per cent;
"Since 1960 the personnel comprising the civilian bureaucracy of the federal government has grown by 25 per cent;
"Since 1960 the cost of government payrolls, including military, has grown by 75 per cent;
"Since 1960 the total of all government spending has grown by more than 83 per cent."

From these and other figures, Mr. Stans draws the following conclusions:

"1. The major thrust of the higher outgo since 1960 is not due to Viet Nam, but is in the civilian nondefense activities of the government.
"2. Government spending will more than double during the decade of the 1960s, regardless of the outcome of the Viet Nam conflict.
"3. There is little likelihood of a balanced budget at any time in the foreseeable future.
"4. There is a strong probability that government spending will double again in the 1970s, unless a major change in attitude takes place."

It would be a good idea to hang Mr. Stans' figures and warnings on the wall of congressional committee rooms every time anybody from the administration is pleading for more money to fight the war.

Noted And Passed

Anniversary: This week marks an anniversary which requires mention. It was seventeen years ago, on June 27, that President Truman ordered General Douglas MacArthur to protect South Korea from the North Koreans who had swarmed across the border. The Korean "police action" was officially under way.

At this very moment, Washington is more concerned about a possible resumption of the Korean war than at any time in the intervening seventeen years.

Question: Why is it that the Peace Corps has not operated in Vietnam? Wouldn't that be a logical place for the teachers, medics, social workers, experts in agriculture and reconstruction to do their good works?

Traditionally, the Peace Corps sends its people only to countries where the Government extends an invitation. Can it be that official Washington has unofficially told the Government of South Vietnam not to make such a request?

Or, does Washington distrust the Peace Corps since the Peace Corps demonstrations against the Vietnam war?

Boom! The economic boom isn't the only boom you'll be reading and hearing about in the days ahead. The sonic boom is going to get a lot of headline space. And a sonic boom is a pretty fearful thing to the unprepared Nor is it the most gentle alarm clock for the sleeping citizen.

Oklahoma City was boom-tested in 1964. Coming up are more boom tests, over land and sea. How soon, no one quite knows, but a great deal of testing must be done before the supersonic transports are made operational.

Petition: Forty-nine of the leading economists in the United States have signed a petition to the Congress urging it not to remove the 25 percent gold backing from our currency.



SENATOR TOWER AND THURGOOD MARSHALL

JOHN J. SYNON

The editor of one of my favorite newspapers, J. C. Phillips of the Borger (Tex.) *News-Herald*, recently wrote an open letter to one of my favorite United States senators, John G. Tower.

Editor Phillips wanted to know, in effect, why John Tower wasn't screaming his objections to the nomination of the NAACP lawyer, Thurgood Marshall, to a seat on the Supreme Court.

Now, John Tower is very well qualified to speak for himself and, along with Editor Phillips, I shall await with great interest Senator Tower's words and deeds as they pertain to this particular nomination.

Having said that, permit an observation or two that might contain the answer to Editor Phillip's question.

First off, John Tower is one of the five best senators in the congress. He is absolutely without fear, is extraordinarily intelligent, loves Texas with a sentiment that approaches the maudlin, and, in the main, votes right.

He has a fault: He has locked himself into the Republican party. He is a "ball player", is the way politicians put it, meaning that he may be expected to go along with party policy. Moreover, one begins to suspect, John Tower is lying in the weeds so far as the Republican vice-presidential nomination is concerned. And, so far as the party is concerned, he is a very valuable asset in that respect. Tower is the only gold-braided Republican in the land whom Southern people would listen to vis-a-vis George Wallace.

It isn't likely the party will overlook that fact, once Wallace announces and the Republicans begin looking for some meaningful person to fill the second slot.

And if John Tower were to accept that nomination and if he were to take to the stump in opposition to George Wallace, probabilities are it would destroy Tower, not Wallace.

Unlike Tower, Wallace is not locked in to party; he is locked in to the proposition that White and Negroes live more amicably, equally, but apart. Wallace doesn't believe you can rub White and Black noses and achieve anything like social tranquility. He says so, right out. And so far as I can tell, that is the only material difference in the public posture of the two, Wallace speaks out for social segregation of the races.

—O—

Now, John Tower was not elected by Republicans, whatever the myth. He was elected by dis-

sident Democrats. Those same dissident people, with rare exception, are Wallace all the way. So, if John Tower has his sights on the Republican vice-presidential nomination, you may look for no loud noises from him re Thurgood Marshall. Sure as shooting, the Republican party will not oppose the confirmation and, being a ball player with hope of being put on the first team, Tower in all likelihood will issue some equivocal statement, nothing more, and hope to let it go at that.

And if that day comes, it will be one of the saddest I will have known in politics. For, in doing so, John Tower will have cut his umbilical cord; he will have chosen the national scene rather than Texas as his base. He will have made the classic political mistake: He will have forgotten where he came from, from whence springs his strength. He will learn, thereafter, that Texas conservatism is as unforgiving as it is strong. It will choke out Tower's political life. The only thing that could save him would be election as vice president, a most unlikely occurrence since, as a winning force in presidential elections, the Republican party is dead.

—O—

It is not conceivable that John Tower does not realize this. As I imply, he is brilliant — and I don't use that word in connection with politicians, not very often. That being so, and the choice being his, what John Tower does as it pertains to Thurgood Marshall will be done after careful consideration. He will either remain a Texan, that is, clobber the NAACP mouthpiece, or he will become a calculating gambler, risking everything on a single throw of the dice, the Republican vice-presidential nomination.

If I were to hazard a guess as to Tower's ultimate decision — this presupposes of course that he is considering the situation as outlined — I would guess he will remain what he has been all the days of his life, a Texan. A person who has Tower's well being at heart would suggest that decision. John Tower is young, still very young and, if he gives himself a chance, he will — to return to the original metaphor — go to bat many times in the years to come and against pitching more to his liking than this. Being a political "ball player" is, in most instances, the way to get along. The trick lies in not striking out.

From The Office Of

Congressman Fountain

Washington, D. C. — As this report is written, I cannot predict the final outcome on a bill to prohibit interstate travel for the purpose of inciting riots and other disorder. The legislation was to have been before the House last week but a vote was put off until this week.

However, I have been intensely interested in this subject and you have, too, from the conversations I have had with many persons in the Second District and the letters I have received from others.

I thought you might be interested in the remarks I prepared for debate on the anti-riot bill when it reached the House floor. Here they are:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce that my distinguished colleague from North Carolina, Mr. Whitener, is absent on official business today, but I want the Members to know that if he were here he would be actively supporting H. R. 421; because as a member of the Judiciary Committee, he recognized the need for this legislation and worked vigorously to get it to the House floor for consideration.

I rise in support of H.R. 421, which is long overdue legislation. I myself had introduced substantially the same legislation and also introduced House Resolution 523 on June 14 in a further effort to get legislation on this crucial problem. It must be enacted, if we are to maintain any semblance of civility in this country.

The left wing has been saying recently that the question is not whether riots are to be stopped but whether the basic causes are to be attacked. I have never heard anything as patently naive as that.

For some reason, everything nowadays is blamed automatically and uncritically on the "ghetto." No one, including myself, would argue that life is pleasant in poor, crowded housing. We would all agree that satisfying employment is a tonic to anyone's well-being.

But to say that to be poor is a stimulant to riots and disorder is ignoring the simplest and most basic precepts of human relationship.

We have made a big thing in recent years about finding and identifying the poverty-stricken. They number, we are told, in the millions if we accept an arbitrary yardstick of numbers of dollars in income.

I think the fallacy in that sort of thinking should be obvious, but unfortunately, it isn't to a good many people.

But by any standards, the number of persons actually and honestly poor today is far, far less than in previous years. Yet, riots and disregard for law and order flourish as never before. So how can the sheer fact of poverty be blamed wholly and incessantly for every act of civil violence that takes place in this country?

No, Mr. Speaker, that simply cannot be done. Riots across our land have persistently and consistently followed itinerant rabble-rousers espousing violence pure and simple. Mesmerizing the unthinking—just as Hitler did only three short decades ago in his Nazi rallies—these peddlers of hate and disorder have only one goal. That is the complete destruction of American society which has been so carefully and delicately nurtured for almost 200 years.

It is time that something is done to halt those who could destroy our lives, our institutions and our country. I urge passage of H. R. 421.

The Franklin Times

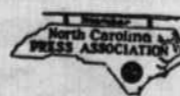
Established 1870 — Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by

The Franklin Times, Inc.

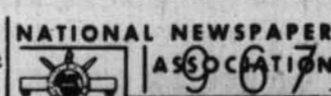
Bickett Blvd. Dial GY 6-3283 LOUISBURG, N. C.

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¢

Three Months, \$2.06

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

Out of State:

One Year, \$5.50; Six Months, \$4.00

Three Months, \$3.50