

# The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday Serving All Of Franklin County

Your Award Winning County Newspaper

Thursday, February 22, 1968

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### "A Crook, A Crook"

It has grown more and more difficult in recent months to gather news of crimes, criminals and what, if anything, is being done by investigative agencies. Most any reporter will verify this statement. Those in the know on such matters shun news reporters as though each carried some type of plague and replies, in most instances, are vague and often even misleading.

There has always been an inherent tendency among many officials to keep secret, save to their closest friends, all matters of their official actions. Only when the goodwill of a newspaper is needed for election or promotion of a cause or recognition are most reporters treated as equals.

With this every day fact in mind, comes now the startling news that the American Bar Association has taken it upon itself to attempt to further censor news reporting of crimes.

It has always been left to the publisher and editor to determine what should and what should not be printed about all matters in which the public holds interest. If lawyers are allowed to take over this duty today, then it may well be that the medical profession will do so tomorrow and the clergy, labor, management and heaven only knows who else in the days ahead.

The Bar Association underestimates people. They are not about to let this happen.

This newspaper subscribes to a statement made some time ago by Clifton Daniels, son-in-law of former President Harry Truman, managing editor of The New York Times and a native of neighboring Zebulon. Mr. Daniels said in a talk reported in "Trial", official house organ of the American Trial Lawyers Association: "The press will not submit to censorship. It will not be told by peace officers, lawyers or judges what it may print."

"We do not believe that a law de-

gree necessarily makes a man nobler and wiser than a degree in journalism, or that elevation to the bench is equivalent to canonization," Mr. Daniels continued.

It is understandable that any attorney worth his salt wishes to protect his client. To this degree, the attorney would like for the public to be unaware of his client's prior criminal record. He would undoubtedly wish that the newspaper would report that his man is a home-loving type of guy who never did anything wrong in his life. Under the recent actions of the Bar Association, it is hoped by the voting members, that henceforth they will be able to see that this is done.

For 98 years this newspaper has called a crook, a crook when he was proven to be one. This practice is not going to change at this late date, regardless of who his attorney might be.

The courts already have powers to fully protect the accused from what the courts might suspect to be unfair news coverage. Trials can be moved to other locations, juries can be brought in who have never heard of the case and any matters can be discussed in closed quarters when the court feels this is necessary. News-men can be removed from the court, but they cannot be told what to print.

It will far better serve the public interest for law officials to give reporters the full and straight story than to hedge. The facts are going to be reported sooner or later, the Bar Association's actions notwithstanding.

Public trials public hearings and information on activities of law enforcement agencies paid by public funds are vital parts of the people's right to know.

It is highly unlikely that any newspaper is going to be caught short of its obligation to the people. Certainly, this one does not intend to be.

### Curtain Going Up

Friday marks the filing deadline for all but local office seekers in North Carolina. The line has been long and often tiresome. The parade of candidates and the deluge of statements emerging from the State Board of Elections headquarters has become extremely boring, to say the least.

More oratory, however, is promised. The fight has just begun. Each candidate will seek to make clear his stand on the issues and most will end up sounding exactly alike.

All will speak of the need for leadership and without coming right out and saying so, each will imply that only he can offer such.

Incumbents will defend their actions by going to the constitution and rules and regulations. They will make it clear that their opponents cannot possibly do anything good for the people that they are not already doing. Newcomers will promise the moon and will speak of new brooms and action.

Youngsters and pretty girls, none old enough to vote, will wear crazy hats, fancy buttons, sashes and broad smiles as they attempt to per-

suade their elders to vote for the man that's paying them. Already tons of press releases have poured into news offices all over the state.

It shapes up as an old, old story about to be told again. There are, however, some minor changes that might - with some luck - make the newest telling a bit more interesting. One innovation is a Republican primary, as scarce as item as could be found in the Old North State. Another is the young Turks seeking to uproot the firm fixtures on the Council of State, including one young Turk seeking to uproot the whole kit and kaboodle and grab the Governor's chair.

This year's production comes in several parts, but mainly it will be taken in three - local, state and national. The main show comes in November but before the snow falls, it's likely to get extremely hot in May and possibly June.

Programs for this gala production are going like hotcakes. For surely, this is one year and one play where you can't tell the players without a program.

Curtain going up.

A diplomat is a person who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you actually look forward to the trip. --Caskie Stinnett.

The woman who'd dress to please her husband wears last year's clothes. --Joseph F. Morris

There are two things in this life for which we are never fully prepared, and that is twins. --Josh Billings.



## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

### Freedom Of Choice On Way Out

The Nashville Graphic

It now seems likely that the freedom of choice plan under which schools in this and other areas are trying to operate eventually will be ruled invalid by the courts.

The plan simply is not bringing about integration of the public schools as rapidly as some of the Washington bureaucrats would like, and it appears that school boards are going to be required to substitute forced integration for the freedom of choice plan.

It has been charged that freedom of choice is not working in some areas because of coercion and intimidation. Even if this is the case in some individual instances, however, it does not follow that forced integration is a better answer to the problem.

Giving school students an honest freedom of choice as to the school they wish to attend is as much as school boards should be required to do. Going beyond this, and forcing any child

to attend a school he does not wish to attend, is both unfair and undemocratic, and it certainly will not improve the quality of education in the public school system.

Another facet of the problem is that many young people who might be interested in teaching careers or other education-related jobs are turning elsewhere because of the turmoil over school integration.

This applies also to potential candidates for school boards who are discouraged from running for office because of the continuing problems and headaches brought about by dictation from Washington on the integration problem.

Candidates brave enough to run may have a sincere desire to make a contribution to the cause of education, but they are likely to find that what they have been elected to is a board of integration instead of a board of education.

## So Long, Old Sawtongue

The Chapel Weekly

State Senator Tom White's decision not to seek re-election this season, after fifteen years in the Legislature, is a cruel loss to newspapers in North Carolina.

Doubtless his taking the veil also is a loss to our august law-making body which bent to Tom White's iron will more than once or twice. But most of all his absence will be felt by newspapermen who suffered his scorn, wrath and abuse, who squirmed under his merciless needling, guffawed at his dry wit, and who, incidentally, were transfixed by his peerless legislation.

Some of Tom White's frontal attacks on the press were classics in grandiloquence, and whatever they might have lacked in reason, fairness and logic was more than compensated for by his soaring rhetoric.

Only rarely was there any real malice involved in the thrusts between Tom White and the press. White might characterize editorial writers, his favorite whipping-boys as cretims or some such, they would in turn describe White as a braying ass, and the whole exchange would be accomplished in a spirit of thinly disguised good-will.



"You'll have days when customers will be nasty, mean, rude and troublesome... of course you'll have some bad days too."



One thing about writing a column... you get letters. Some are worth reporting... and some, bless 'em... are not. Funny thing about most of them is that they are unsigned. Folks write telling us all kinds of things we ought to do... with everybody knowing who it is that's doing it... but these brave souls who want it done... are afraid to even sign their names to the suggestion.

Now we don't take much stock in this kind of writer... if he's ashamed of who he is... then why should we take up his fight for him?

Sometimes, however... there are exceptions and one received this week is that kind of letter. We can't for the world understand why the writer declined to identify him... or herself... but if that's the way they want it... it's ok by us.



"A Reader" writes, that the Franklin Junior Varsity Basketball team has had a "very successful year this season". We say bully for them... we are glad for them. "Quite a number of people in Franklin are very interested in this team"... "A Reader" writes. We can believe this. Every parent and a number of friends are interested... we are sure. But... how interested? This is the first we've heard of the team. Where are the coaches and parents who might have reported the games... without signing their names of course?

"...and think they deserve a write up in 'The Franklin Times'... the letter concludes.

We're not sure that a write up in this column is worth the phrase "deserving"... but we are certain these kids deserve our support and they have it. We congratulate them on their successful season... and we appreciate "A Reader" letting us know about it.

We counted the basketball players in the county a few years back... there were 290 of them. Now almost singlehandedly the sports department of this paper reports regularly results of 22 high school basketball teams plus Louisburg College. Occasionally, we even report a jayvee game or two and we shutter to think where all this will end... Louisburg, and we don't know how many more schools... now have fifth grader squads...

Any day now we expect to get jumped on for not reporting the results of the kindergarden set. Scoff if you must... but we saw a two-year-old crying his little heart out the other day. And the reason? He had just missed a shot at the basket... and would you believe it... this was not at Youngsville.

But... are overlooked by all... save their parents and coaches... They play at the most unusual times of the day and with no schedules ever disclosed... and the earth would shake and probably shatter if ever a game was reported... and we don't know who makes it this way... certainly we don't... and apparently it is just one of those little facts of life.

There is some consolation... these youngsters will some day grow up and become members of the varsity... and then... they'll get their names in the paper... for what this might ever be worth...

But this column is 100% for them and are happy to hear of successful seasons... and would even like to hear from those not so successful... Cause... come to think of it... it takes both kinds...

## From The Office Of

### Congressman Fountain

#### Private Case Can Help Many

Washington, D.C. -- Sometimes a private problem can lead to unexpected help for thousands or even millions of other individuals.

This is the type situation a Congressman often runs across in trying to help constituents solve their particular problems. It seldom gets in print because even before we act on one problem, another presents itself.

A recent example of this unexpected "bonanza" situation started with a letter I received from a constituent, a minister who lives in the Second District. I'm sure he wouldn't mind if I released his name, but for the purpose of this report, that isn't necessary.

He questioned the sale of a substance labeled as a sugar substitute when in fact the product actually contained a high degree of milk sugar or lactose. As you know, persons with diabetes must be extremely careful about any sugar intake.

Through the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, of which I serve as Chairman, the Food and Drug Administration confirmed that the particular product in question did indeed contain milk sugar, a fact not discernible

from the label advertising the substance as a substitute for sugar.

The FDA, after appropriate investigation, contacted the manufacturer who agreed to alter the label. This was done and the new label states the substitute's contents and the fact that "this should be taken into account by diabetics." It is well known that lack of information about circumstances under which some drugs should or should not be taken often results in a patient's death.

We later found another situation similar to the first one, and FDA is now taking action to correct the labeling of all sugar substitutes in order to adequately protect diabetics.

This case, in my opinion, produced safeguards for thousands or millions of diabetics who might purchase this particular substance in restaurants or at the market for home use.

Another incident in which a constituent's letter presented one specific problem affecting many persons dealt with flu vaccine.

A county health director wrote that he was unable to find a source of supply for a particular type of Asian flu

vaccine believed by medical authorities to be needed this winter in certain areas.

Hundreds of persons in two large industries and an undisclosed number of others were waiting for immunization.

Calls to the National Institutes of Health produced a list of manufacturers of the particular vaccine needed. Follow-up calls to the factories located a supply of vaccine which was delivered in time for shots to be given before actual outbreaks of flu began.

In addition, we called this problem to the attention of another Congressional Committee which was already conducting an investigation of distribution practices in the drug industry, to determine why the problem occurred and to prevent its recurrence in the future.

Both of these cases first came to my attention as single, separate letters from concerned constituents. Fortunately, in both cases, I was in a position to help.

Most fortunately of all, many, many persons were-- and will be-- the ultimate beneficiaries of what once were two individual problems.

**The Franklin Times**  
 Published Every Tuesday & Thursday by  
 The Franklin Times, Inc.  
 1000 N. W. 10th St., Winston-Salem, N. C.  
 ELBERT PILLER, Managing Editor  
 ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Business Manager  
 Advertising Rates Upon Request  
 NATIONAL NEWSPAPER  
 SUBSCRIPTIONS SALES  
 One Year, \$4.00; Six Months, \$2.50; Three Months, \$1.50  
 Single Copies 10c  
 Second-class postage paid at Winston-Salem, N. C., and at additional mailing offices.  
 POST OFFICE AT WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. PERMIT NO. 100