

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### A State Of Shock

Many Franklin citizens are in somewhat of a state of shock following the ruling by the U. S. Eastern District Court this week calling for total desegregation of the county schools this fall.

There have been reports of some youngsters breaking down in tears at the prospects that they would be transferred to schools other than the ones they have been attending. Parents across the county are disturbed and all are seeking some answer to the problems created by the court order.

Meanwhile the Board of Education, facing an almost impossible task in complying with the order in the short period of three weeks before schools are due to open, has filed an appeal. The Board is also seeking a stay of the order.

At this point no one knows what will happen. County school officials have been swamped with phone calls and visits from parents seeking information. Local school advisory councils have reported the same.

The ruling in the case here in Franklin County, while more far-reaching and certainly much harsher than those issued in similar court cases, is another example of the courts taking over the powers of local school boards. The courts take into consi-

deration only the law as they interpret it to be. Local school officials are far more aware of the needs of the community and more importantly, far more aware of what the community will support or be able to live with.

In this recent ruling, it is apparent that parents of Franklin County children are finding it extremely difficult to accept the fact that their children are to be transferred to achieve racial balance while children in the northern section of the county continue to attend segregated schools because it is unlawful to bus them in order to gain racial balance.

It is also difficult for most parents to understand how neighboring systems are being allowed to continue free choice plans or ordered to transfer only one or a few grades while Franklin is being ordered to accomplish all in a three-week period.

There has been no consistency in the execution of the 1964 Civil Rights Act by HEW and the courts. While some systems right here in North Carolina will open schools with as little as 0.4 percent integration this fall, Franklin must operate on a total integrated basis.

It is the shame of our society that in an all-out effort at social reform, it is our children who must suffer.

### Must Be A Better Way

There has to be a better way to select nominees for the high office of President of the United States than in the juvenile, carnival manner in which Richard Nixon was selected to represent the Republican party early this morning.

The long drawn out oratory expounding the merits of the Governor of Alaska, who is still an unknown to most of us and the childish marching around in circles wearing silly hats and blowing on assorted horns and whistles does absolutely nothing to instill confidence in the American people.

The sight of state governors, large city mayors, Congressmen and U. S. Senators acting like five-year-olds while selecting a man who could lead this country for the next four years gives most of us the shudders.

While the world seems to be falling down around us, this is hardly the image we would wish to implant in the minds of our people.

To us, nominating a person for president is a most serious matter. There is nothing funny about it and the wildness of party conventions leave a great deal to be desired.

Truely, there must be a better way.

From The Office Of

## Congressman Fountain

### Howe Under Investigation

Washington, D. C. . . . Another investigation by the House Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee, which I have the privilege to serve as Chairman, has turned up new evidence concerning the performance of U. S. Commissioner of Education Harold Howe II and some of his top assistants.

The latest report, which was approved unanimously by the parent House Government Operations Committee, deals with possible conflict of interest on the part of one of Commissioner Howe's associate commissioners.

Commissioner Howe, instead of being concerned about the conduct of his subordinate, defended and encouraged it.

Briefly, the background of the case was this:

In August 1966, a school board in Wisconsin asked the office of Education for a 2.9 million grant to finance a proposed 15-student "computerized" classroom system. Of the total, \$2.6 million would have gone to the Westinghouse Electric Corporation for writing course materials, training teachers and providing the electronic equipment expected to be used.

The proposal ran into heavy criticism from Office of Education Personnel and outside reviewers but nevertheless it was, in effect, endorsed by the associate com-

missioner in charge of research.

Fortunately, the proposition eventually was disapproved after the subcommittee investigated the matter.

The subcommittee found that the associate commissioner in question, before joining the Office of Education in January 1966, had been director of instructional technology for the Westinghouse Corporation.

He had helped prepare an earlier proposal for a \$2 million grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity which had been turned down. The subcommittee also discovered that some of his earlier efforts were included in the proposal made to the Office of Education.

The most serious question, however, subsequently arose when the investigation revealed that this official had exercised options to acquire some 1,300 shares of Westinghouse stock valued at more than \$75,000 when he took the government job.

What is more, he held this stock during the time when discussion and decisions took place involving the proposed grant. He did sell all but 50 shares in May 1957, long after the Wisconsin school board sent in its request.

Although these circumstances raised an obvious question as to whether Fed-

eral conflict of interest laws had been violated and should have been expeditiously called to the attention of the Justice Department, the Office of Education did not do so.

Months later, in March of this year, the Justice Department began an inquiry into the matter on its own initiative. That investigation is still going on.

The subcommittee took no position in its report as to whether or not a criminal violation had occurred. It did conclude, however, that the Office of Education "totally disregarded its responsibility to take appropriate action to protect the public interest."

The subcommittee also found that instead of the associate commissioner's conduct being questioned, it was encouraged and defended. It is exactly this sort of thing that makes it difficult sometimes for individual citizens to have confidence in their government. Let me hasten to add, however, that, notwithstanding the waste and extravagance our committee discovers from time to time, and highly questionable conduct such as this investigation revealed, the vast majority - in fact, probably 98 percent, of all Federal employees are hard-working, conscientious, and faithful public servants.



'Nice talking to you Mr. Fortas. We'll look forward to seeing you again next session!'

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

### We Think Of Frank Merriwell

THE WARREN RECORD

We may have a perverted sense of humor that causes us to look forward to the position papers issued weekly from the office of Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Jim Gardner, but the reason for this state of affairs is that the papers remind us of Frank Merriwell, fictional character of our boyhood and remembered by many older citizens of the town and county. Maybe we are being unfair to Mr. Gardner, but the more position papers he issues, and the more he talks, the more often we think of Frank Merriwell and his brother, Dick. We simply cannot help it.

Frank Merriwell was a student at Yale and the hero of thousands of young readers of the days of our boyhood, as well he might be. For Frank did not smoke, he did not drink, he did not use profanity, and he explained his reasons for this lack of evil habits in almost every one of the many volumes about his adventures. In addition Frank was the best pitcher at Yale, captain of the boxing team, and naturally the best boxer; and he was also captain of the fencing team, and naturally the best swordsman at Yale. In addition, he was well travelled, and in Europe he proved to be the best mountain climber; and in Japan he not only learned Jujitsu, but the more advanced Judo. We almost for-

got to mention that he was also the best wrestler at Yale.

We were first reminded of Frank Merriwell in a statement released on Friday, July 19, reading as follows:

"As part of my Crusade for progress in our state, my Administration as Governor will immediately come to grips with one of the major problems confronting North Carolina—highway safety. . . . "As governor, I will seek to bring this problem under control as quickly as possible; but I will need the support of every citizen in this endeavor."

In a release from his Congressional office in Washington on Friday, July 26, Candidate Gardner says in part:

"Appointments to the Supreme Court are political and will remain so until some changes are made.

"To correct this situation, I am introducing a House Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution to provide a method for nominating and electing Justices of the Supreme Court."

We are looking forward to Gardner's release of Friday, Aug. 2, with some anticipation. Maybe he isn't climbing mountains and learning Judo, but he is certainly in there pitching.

## VIETNAM WAR

### Longest in American History

The Vietnam war has become the longest war in American history.

On Dec. 22, 1961, the first American soldier was killed in Vietnam, according to records in Saigon reported June 22 by the Associated Press.

On June 22, 1968, the war, as measured from the time of death of Spec. 4 James Thomas Davis, Livingston, Tenn., was 6 years, 6 months and 1 day old.

Thus, the present war became the longest in our history; previously, the longest war involving American fighting men was the War of Independence. It is measured from the skirmish at Lexington, Mass., April 19, 1775, to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, Va., Oct. 19, 1781.

On June 20, the American command in Saigon reported the combat death toll of United States forces had passed the 25,000 mark. More than 155,000 Americans have been wounded. The war in Vietnam is:

- Longer than the 3 years, 1 month of the Korean war.
- Longer than the 3 years, 9 months of World War II.
- Longer than the 1 year, 7 months of World War I.
- Longer than the 4 years of the Civil War.

Longer than the 2 years, 6 months of the War of 1812.

Other facts:

It was estimated in the Senate June 21 the Vietnam war was costing the United States more than \$10,000 per second and rising.

From the time President Johnson took office in November 1963, to the present time, it has cost the United States about \$110 billion, the Senate was told June 21.

Total of American casualties in Vietnam now exceeds the total of French casualties, killed and wounded in combat, in the 7½ years of the Indochinese War.

In addition to the 533,000 U.S. troops in South Vietnam, there are about 2,866 foreign aid and other U.S. civilian personnel in South Vietnam.

The United States also pays the entire cost, exclusive of salaries, of 45,000 South Korean troops in South Vietnam. (And the United States also maintains about 50,000 American troops in South Korea and spends about one-third of a billion dollars per year in civilian and military aid to South Korea.)

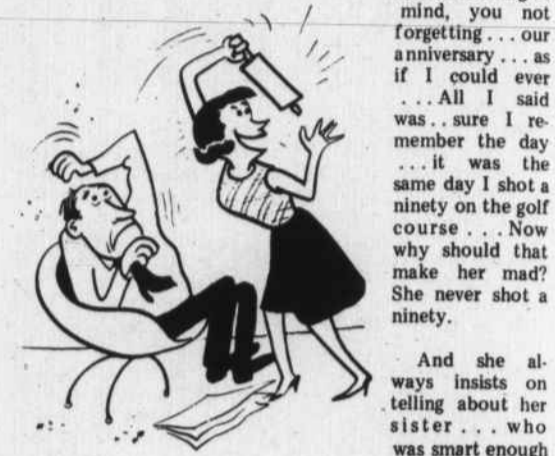
The United Nations has 27 persons in South Vietnam to operate its humanitarian programs.



Husbands . . . according to Dagwood Bumstead . . . are a sorry lot. Wives seldom agree on anything . . . but on this subject . . . they get over anxious to vote "aye" . . .

We naturally don't buy this theory. We think husbands are the finest . . . without any doubt . . . thing that ever happened to wivess . . . We find instead that the wives are the ones so difficult to understand . . . Ask any husband . . .

Take our little woman . . . and we wish somebody would . . . just the other day made a cardinal case out of our remembering . . . mind, you not forgetting . . . our anniversary . . . as if I could ever . . . All I said was . . . sure I remember the day . . . it was the same day I shot a ninety on the golf course . . . Now why should that make her mad? She never shot a ninety.



And she always insists on telling about her sister . . . who was smart enough never to marry . . . to hear her tell it . . . Sister always says . . . the little woman repeats over and over . . . that she's got a dog that growls . . . a parrot that swears . . . a fireplace that smokes . . . and a cat that stays out all night . . . Why should she want a husband? Ain't sisters grand? She ain't never got around to telling me how she keeps her feet warm, though . . .

Then the other day we just casually said . . . "Your mother's been living with us for forty years . . . and you know what she said? "My mother . . . She yelled . . . I thought she was your mother" . . . Ain't that just like a wife . . . don't even keep up with her own mother . . .

And they're always finding fault with other women's husbands . . . it ain't enough that they find fault with their own . . . As I walked in the door just the other day . . . the little woman said . . . all out of breath . . . she gets out of breath when she gets excited . . . and she gets excited anytime she has any kind of bad news . . . and she's been breathless for weeks now . . . "George, she said . . . has been taken to the hospital . . ." she screamed. "George . . . we said . . . good old George . . . why we saw him just a little while ago talking to a beautiful blonde . . . It just can't be that old George is laid up" . . .

"So did Myrtle" . . . she beamed . . . she always beams at times like that . . . Myrtle is George's wife . . . poor George . . . Everybody ought to have a wife like Myrtle . . . and a gravel drive . . .

But before we were married things were different . . . She and her sister talked . . . and sometimes I listened. Her sister always said . . . "Men are all alike" . . . And what did the little woman always say to this? . . . In her adorable southern drawl . . . she always said . . . "Men are all Ah like, too" . . .

But mostly . . . it is the comeback they always seem to have . . . When you least expect it . . . bam . . . they slap you with one . . . Take last Monday for example . . . just as I got home for lunch . . . bam . . . she hit me with . . . "One of the ducks you were hunting last weekend just called and left her number" . . . Now . . . I ask you . . . How in con-son-nation are you gonna answer a question like that?

Come to think k of it . . . we didn't . . . The doctors say we might get out by Christmas . . . Husbands are a sorry lot, indeed . . .



Hesse—St. Louis Globe Democrat  
'Why don't we start a sick-and-tired people's march?'

**The Franklin Times**  
 Established 1870 — Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by  
 The Franklin Times, Inc.  
 100 N. Main St. — One of 6,000 — LENOIR, N. C.  
 CLYDE FULLER, Managing Editor ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Business Manager  
 Advertising Rates Upon Request  
 SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
 In North Carolina: One Year, \$4.00; Six Months, \$2.50; Single Copy 10¢  
 Out of State: One Year, \$5.00; Six Months, \$3.00  
 Three Months, \$1.50  
 Entered as second class mail matter and postage paid at the Post Office at LENOIR, N. C. 28645.