

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Disappointing

The disclosure that an additional two miles of highway improvements is to be cut from the long-awaited NC-39, US-401 project comes as no surprise but it is, nonetheless, disappointing. When the bid received by the Highway Commission in December was rejected, it became apparent that something in the project would have to go. The only alternative would have been to have allotted additional funds for the project. This, of course, is not likely.

A project which began with a "hope" of eleven miles of improved road, reaching and connecting with a similar improvement at the Vance-Franklin line, has now dwindled to less than five miles.

While Franklin citizens have long since learned to be thankful for all highway favors, this project and the anticipated finish of it shows vividly one of the major drawbacks to North Carolina's present system of building roads. Far too often, what is started is never finished. And the result is a hodge-podge of acceptable and unacceptable highways.

A great deal has been heard in recent years about a "missing link" on Interstate 85 between Henderson and Durham. Truly, this stretch has been a safety hazard and a mar on the state's record of reasonably good roads. This project is now being accomplished, thankfully and someday, it is expected that the stretch will be a complete one.

It is common knowledge that in many places where Franklin roads enter neighboring counties there exists a distinct difference in highway conditions. Roads should be completed between two points regardless of county boundaries.

It is regrettable that NC-39 between Ingleside and a point two miles into Vance County will now become a seven-mile missing link. It is hoped that the new incoming Highway Commission will take a long hard look at it and take whatever measures are necessary to complete the project as soon as possible.

It's been a long time coming and it should be done right.

Some Irrefutable Evidence Of The Robert Scott Style

CHAPEL HILL WEEKLY
Chapel Hill, N. C.

A lot of people have been wondering off and on about the possible style and political chic of the new Robert Scott administration.

There haven't been many clues in his appointments so far, ranging as they do from the homespun Ben Roney to the sleek Roy Sowers. The new Governor himself hasn't given away much more than a broad hint that he is a vigorous and eager young man.

Well, sir, there is no need to wonder any longer. The evidence is at hand, unmistakable, obvious, irrefutable, and competent, as the lawyers say.

If Old Bob is any indication at all, the style of the Scott administration will be hip (if you're over 45 and have yet to read Norman Mailer, that means swinging).

We cite as evidence Governor Scott's sideburns.

On the eve of his inauguration the Governor presented himself to the public wearing sideburns that

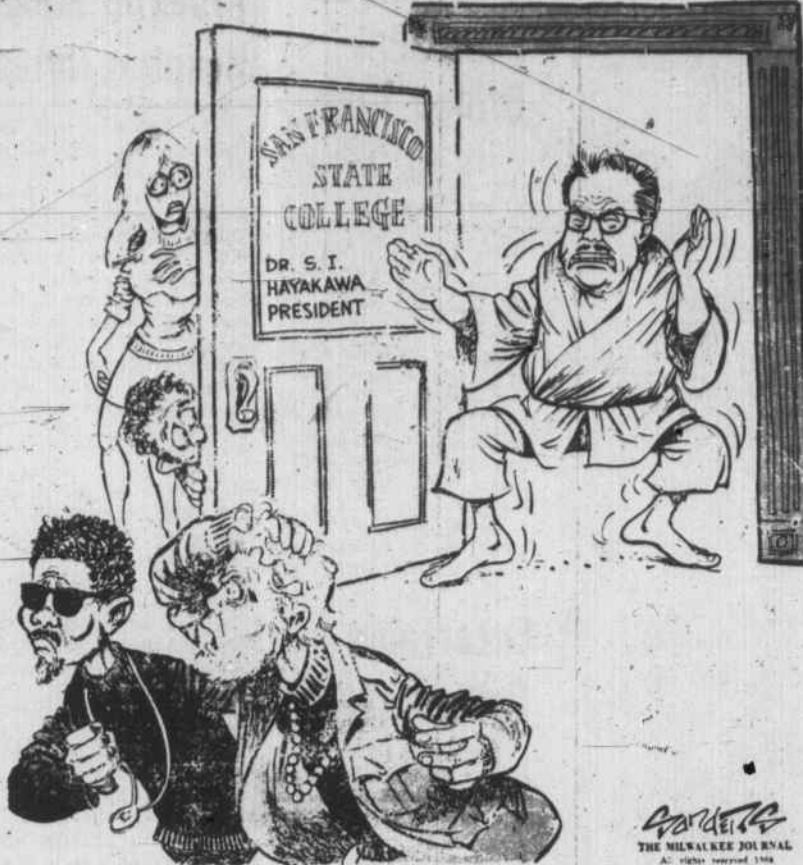
plunged to below mid-carlobe. Besides the length, the gubernatorial sideburns had a forward thrust faintly suggestive of the old-fashioned mutton-chops now in favor with today's swingers.

For sharp contrast, you can compare Old Bob's new look with an official photo made a year or so ago. Back then, when he was Lieutenant Governor, he didn't have any sideburns at all, affecting instead the "Bowl Trim" or "Farmer's Delight" in which the sideburns are shaved off even with the top of the ear.

What this radical tonsorial transformation means in political ideology is open to all sorts of interpretation.

It could mean that Old Bob is fast becoming a North Carolina version of Canada's hip Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, or that he has suddenly been converted to the "New Politics."

Of course, it can also mean that he just didn't have time to get a haircut.



"It's a sad state of affairs when a militant minority can forcibly take over a campus!"

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

A Way Out Of Vietnam

COURIER-TRIBUNE
Asheboro, N. C.

SHOULD South Vietnam choose to snub the Paris truce talks, the U. S. and Hanoi may still have the determination to negotiate a face-saving exit for the U. S. out of this unhappy land.

It is politically impossible for the president succeeding Lyndon Johnson to perpetuate the conflict merely because the most recent Saigon government chooses to light on. Domestic opinion deems otherwise, whatever the cost.

Already a behind-the-scenes maneuver to fill the gap should Saigon take a walk has raised the possibility that mutual troop withdrawal and re-establishment of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) could still be explored by the two powers.

Just as the South Korean government preferred that Dwight Eisenhower continue the war sixteen years ago, so the Thieu-Ky Vietnam regime hopes for a continued

American presence — perhaps in perpetuity, so insoluble does the war seem.

It is dawning on our Asian allies that we've lost the stomach for battle.

This alone wouldn't assure their downfall. Even now the South Korean government is so firmly entrenched with U. S. armament that it could probably go it alone should the north invade. The same heavy military expenditure is irrevocably earmarked for South Vietnam for some years to come, with or without American soldiers to fire the weaponry.

The crucial moment for Saigon will come in winning the minds of its people. This alone can insure its survival when its western ally withdraws a half-million fighting men.

The difficulty of sustaining some form of control over most of the south is made even worse by the Viet

Cong's "Peoples Revolutionary Councils", one of which it has established to rule an entire province — south of the DMZ.

UPI wire reports recently warned that the Cong would organize such a puppet structure to implement policy under the noses of Saigon's military rulers. That it has done so successfully in a major province (80 miles south of Da Nang) suggests the road ahead for South Vietnam is rocky, that the struggle won't be military other than in a limited sense, but political.

The Cong is winning men's minds with violence but can't weave a power structure at the grassroots with which to govern once intimidation is no longer necessary.

The folly of the Vietnam war is becoming more and more apparent as we talk of peace while the Cong prepares purposefully for the non-military aspect of their revolution.

The Whisker Rebellion

In The Columbia (S. C.) State

In The Old days cartoonist Herbert Block of the Washington Post used to depict the Old Nixon, with at least a four-day stubble on his jowls peering from underneath a tipped-up manhole cover to make sure no good guys were looking around. The depiction lasted, in fact, until last November 5, when Herbert's anti-hero was elected President.

Somehow it no longer seemed in keeping with the honor due the office. Dipping his

pen into an untapped well of kindness, Herblock produced one of his more memorable cartoons. His studio had become a barbershop, and in it hung a sign: "This shop gives to every new President of the United States a free shave. H. Block, proprietor."

Last week Herblock showed he was as good as his word. There was the New Nixon; and instead of emerging from a sewer drain, he was hopping out of a fireplace with a sackful of cabinet appointments on his back. New Nixon

was jolly old Santa Claus, false beard and all, but presumably clean-shave underneath.

In the weeks since the election, Herblock has managed the impossible. He has yet to exhibit New Nixon's new-shaven face. The question is not whether he will keep his promise; of that there is no doubt. The question is whether a cartoonist in the nation's capital can go four years, excepting Christmas, without looking the President in the face.

Questions On Pueblo Release

Viewpoint by Jesse Helms

We may never, of course, know the whole truth concerning the seizure of The Pueblo and her crew. But enough is already known for thoughtful Americans to realize that this entire episode is a shameful blot—a disgrace—upon the pages of American history.

The release of the 82 living crew members, and the return of the body of the 83rd, brought relief to the country and joy to the loved ones of the 82 who returned to

freedom after eleven months of captivity and torture in the communist dungeons of North Korea. But there remains the humiliation that the United States lacked the courage to do what it should have done to preserve our national honor.

There is no excuse for our not doing so. An American vessel, seized illegally, still lies captive in the hands of arrogant communists. The North Koreans should not be

permitted to assume that their guilt has been expunged by the belated release of American men. For it is still a fact—if our leaders have been truthful with us—that one of our ships and its crew were seized without cause or justification.

But there is more to it than that. Historians will have to search, without much prospect of success, for a single redeeming feature in this entire event. In the first place, there needs to be an explanation as to why a virtually unarmed, multi-million dollar, top-secret vessel was sent on such a dangerous mission without adequate protection. And when it was seized, why was there such timidity, fearfulness and indecision about getting the ship back?

There is discussion, behind the scenes in Washington, that the captain of The Pueblo may be called to account for his perhaps hasty surrender of the ship. His explanation has already been given: that the ship lacked effective defense, and that he did not wish to subject his men to slaughter.

In other days, that explanation would not have been acceptable, but one finds it difficult in today's frame of reference to find fault with Commander Bucher's reasoning. He has lived in an era when his country has constantly compromised with communism; he has seen the world overrun with brutality of a totalitarian force which has seldom been challenged by nations which declare themselves to be defenders of freedom.

So why, Commander Bucher undoubtedly reasoned, should he sacrifice his life, and those of his men, in a fight against communism when his country—and her allies—lack a shilling commitment? In Vietnam, American men are dying in a stalemate, no-win war that has become a protracted drain on the resources of America. For the first time in history, the United States is engaged in what it has not even yet declared to be a war with communism. We have declared only that we do not intend to win.

In any case, the North Koreans have taught us—in the most humiliating way—the meaning of "peaceful co-existence" with communism. In the process we have learned that the price of no resistance is surrender, and that the penalty for surrender is imprisonment, torture and death.

We reiterate that the release of the men of The Pueblo, should not be regarded as an end to the episode. There is still our ship, owned by the citizens of the United States and seized illegally by the communists, in the hands of the North Koreans. This vessel should either be returned to us, or be destroyed by our military forces. It should not, under any circumstance of timid reasoning, be allowed to remain in communist hands—and as a symbol of further disgrace and dishonor to the United States.



It ain't so much that I mind cold weather. It's the thought of it. Just take a look outside. The trees are bare. The ground is half frozen. The sky looks funny and . . . hang it . . . I'm about to freeze to death.

Cousin Clearly Count . . . she's my cold cousin . . . has come up with a idea. Now, Cousin Clearly ain't the brightest of Uncle Noah's youngins . . . but she is the thinnest and ever now and then she comes up with some whinging ideas.

She says that if somebody would hook up some heaters at every electric power pole in the county . . . there'd be enough heat to make the temperatures like them deep south states. Cousin Clearly points to the fact that this would bring out the girls in bikinis which would bring out the boys who would spend their money and make everybody rich.

She also says that things would grow in the winter like they do in the summer and that there'd be no need for overcoats . . . nose drops and overshoes. She says it couldn't snow and the rain would be so warm, everybody would enjoy being out in it.

It's a wonder somebody hadn't thought of this before. Uncle Noah says he's going to Washington to sign up this idea just as soon as the boys in the white coats bring Cousin Clearly back.

They're still looking for the fellow who got lost in he courthouse Monday. Somebody said he was last seen upstairs in one of the back rooms . . . but this ain't been confirmed. They're working on putting signs on the doors and this might be a help but we like the suggestion that a rope be placed along the wall leading back out. This way . . . when you get it lost . . . just follow the rope to the end . . . Sure hope they find him before he starves to death.

If you've been thinking about catching the Hong Kong . . . forget it. Everybody's had it or got it and there ain't no status in getting it anymore. If everybody is gonna have it . . . who wants it?

We ain't sure everybody that says they got it . . . really got it. Some folks just like to act like big shots and they think they ought to have everthing anybody else has. The slightest sneeze . . . and right off . . . they're saying they got the Hong Kong. Ain't folks funny?

From The Office Of Congressman Fountain South Not In Control

Washington, D. C. . . . Both Houses of Congress had their moments of excitement and signs of change during the opening hours.

No doubt you've read about the contests for various leadership posts, internal organizational changes and the seating of Rep. Adam Clayton Powell of New York.

What I'd like to discuss today, however, is a gross misconception apparently shared by many columnists and commentators. I've been aware of this misconception for some time but it was revived so frequently over the last few weeks that I feel it should be exposed.

What I'm speaking of is the statement, repeated over and over by those who should know better, that the House is controlled by Southern Democrats who hold most of the Committee Chairmanships.

This simply is not so and a glance at the committee lists would make that apparent to anyone who cares to look. The Congressional Directory lists 21 standing committees of the House. Of these, only four have as chairmen members who can be truly considered as from the South.

These chairmen are Reps. Rivers of South Carolina, Army & Services; McMillan of South Carolina, District of Columbia; Colmer of Mississippi, Rules; and Mills of Arkansas, Ways and Means.

Texas, which rightly considers itself part of the South-west despite a Southern outlook and flavor along its eastern fringe, has four committee chairmen. These are Reps. Poage, Agriculture; Mahon, Appropriations; Patman, Banking and Currency; and Teague, Veterans Affairs.

Even if Texas were considered a Southern state, only eight of 21 committees could be considered to have Southerners as Chairmen. The state providing the next highest number of chairmen is Maryland, hardly considered a Southern State these days despite its location just below the Mason-Dixon line of loth ago.

Chairmen from Maryland are Reps. Friedel, House Administration; Garnatz, Merchant Marine and Fisheries; and Fallon, Public Works.

Actually, Maryland and three other Border States control six chairmanships, the largest single bloc in the House. From Kentucky, Rep. Perkins chairs the Education and Labor Committee, Rep. Staggers of West Virginia is chairman of Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and Rep. Ichord of Missouri is head of Un-American Activities.

The North can claim three chairmanships: Reps. Celler of New York, Judiciary; Dulski of New York, Post Office and Civil Service; and Morgan of Pennsylvania, Foreign Affairs.

That leaves two in the Midwest and two from the Far West. These chairmen are Reps. Dawson of Illinois, Government Operations; Price of Illinois, Standards of Conduct; Aspinall of Colorado, Interior and Insular Affairs; and Miller of California, Science and Astronautics.

As you can see, the South does not control a majority of House committees or the House itself. I wish it did.

But as long as the "pundits" go on saying we do, a lot of persons unfortunately are going to believe it and, just as the pundits do, lay the blame for all of the nation's ills at the feet of the South.

The Franklin Times
Established 1870 — Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by
The Franklin Times, Inc.
Bickett Blvd. Dial GY6-3283 Louisburg, N. C.

CLINT FULLER, Managing Editor ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Business Manager

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1969

Advertising Rates Upon Request

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
In North Carolina: One Year, \$4.64; Six Months, \$2.83; Three Months, \$2.06
Out of State: One Year, \$5.50; Six Months, \$4.00; Three Months, \$3.50

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