

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Navy Remembers Pearl Harbor

At 7:55 A. M. Hawaiian time on December 7, 1941 over 100 Japanese planes and a number of midget submarines attacked the 86 ships of the United States Pacific Fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor. The Battleship Arizona was totally lost. Severely damaged were the Battleships Oklahoma, Nevada, California and West Virginia. Three destroyers, one target ship and a minelayer were also lost. Three other battleships were damaged along with three cruisers. The United States lost 177 airplanes.

The greatest loss, however, was the 2,343 Americans killed, the 960 missing and the 1,172 wounded.

The sneak Japanese attack banded the American people together unlike any incident since the American Revolution. To the man, Americans were ready and willing to strike back-to fight for their country. "Remember Pearl Harbor" became the rallying cry.

Things have changed. Disgracefully, too many people who now live in this country are not Americans. Certainly not of the breed who stood up on December 7, 1941 and the days that followed and cried for all the world to hear: "This is my country. I love it. I am willing to die for it."

A report by the Associated Press out of Annapolis, Md. this week should shake every American to the soles of his feet. This country has stooped to unbelievable lows in recent years, but this latest has to be the bottom.

The United States Naval Institute, described as a professional society for Navy personnel, has invited General Minoru Genda to the United States Naval Academy March 3. AP says "He will be honored as a distinguished

visitor." Who is General Genda? He is the man who planned the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The Institute is also sponsoring the General-paying him, that is-for eight lectures which will take 21 days in the United States.

This has to be a new low for the United States Navy and for this entire country. To "honor as a distinguished visitor" a man who contrived the act which cost over 2,000 American lives and started a war which cost endless suffering, is contrary to every principle of decency. This man should have been tried and punished years ago. The fact that he is still alive and apparently prospering is ridiculous. To invite him here to be honored is treasonable.

The Bay of Pigs has replaced Nathan Hale ("I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country"). The Pueblo seizure has overshadowed Admiral Perry ("We have met the enemy and they are ours"). The Genda invitation puts shame on Ensign Donald Mason ("Sighted sub. Sank same") and General Anthony McAuliffe ("Nuts").

On June 28, 1878, when the Continental Congress stood in great confusion, an 83-year old statesman "arose in his place" and addressed President George Washington. Among other things, Ben Franklin said that day, "Now we must see to it that this sun that has shone upon us with such favor, that has seen America grow from a weak little group of colonies into the greatest of all nations, see to it that this sun does not set."

In view of the actions by the group of professional navy personnel, one can only point to the darkness and say: We're truly sorry about that, Ben.



THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER
How Politicians Change!

Henderson Daily Dispatch

Circumstances may alter cases, as the saying goes, and it may be that a wise man shifts his views while a fool does not, but certainly it is not unusual for a politician to take one stand while a candidate seeking votes and then move in the opposite direction after he is elected and entrenched in office.

Take President Nixon, for example. Prior to the election last fall, he boldly stated that he thought the ten percent surtax should be allowed to lapse this June 30, as provided in the act. But since he assumed duties of the office he now lets it be known that he wants it to remain in effect for one more year. Unfortunately, if it sticks until June 30, 1970, it might easily become permanent, as so many other tax levies do.

Also during the campaign, Mr. Nixon said he thought the freedom of choice plan for integrating the schools was fair and reasonable and he favored it. Now, he is all the way over on the other side of the question, and thinks the extremes to which the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has moved ought to remain. One of HEW's favorite threats as to with-

hold all educational funds in instances where its own theories are not accepted and put into practice by local school boards. Actually, the civil rights act specifically forbids such a plan. But HEW and now even the President endorse the idea.

During his campaign last fall, Governor Scott said he opposed a tax on tobacco, only to go before the Legislature last Wednesday and ask for a five cents excise on products of the State's largest cash crop. He told the lawmakers that he was man enough to stand before them and say frankly that he had changed his mind, and that the money was needed for programs he advocated. Well, he can be admired for having courage to do that, but at the same time he was backtracking on campaign pledges.

In the instance where the President reversed himself on the surtax he had the opportunity to do the taxpayer a good turn and didn't.

Politicians, like others, have the right to change their minds, but if this is to be habit, what can the voter expect and depend upon when gentlemen are bidding for his support?



You ain't going to believe who I run up on the other day. Old "Bird-Brain" Bailey. You all know "Bird-Brain". He's that famous baseball player. I found out about him from him. Me'n "Bird-Brain" were boys together. He's some younger than me. Funny things but all them that I was boys with are younger than me now.

"Bird-Brain" was passing through on his way to Spring training. I hadn't seen him since we were youngins. We lost communications somewhere. He moved to town and we didn't have no lines to town back then.

"Bird-Brain". I said. "It's some kinda good to see you. How in the world have you been. Whatcha been doing and how much money you made." I always ask questions. It shows I got a real interest in them I'm talking to. Makes 'em feel real good. Me asking questions, that is.

"Frank", he said. He always did call me Frank for some reason. "Frank, I done good. I been nearabout everywhere, done nearabout everything but I ain't got no money." I almost cried.

"But, Bird-Brain". I said. "You gotta be kidding. Ball players make a whole lot of money. I read that somewhere."

"Frank", he answered. "You wouldn't believe the bad luck I've had since I seen you last. I played ball and I got to the major leagues. And what happened? They struck."

"Well, let's face it, "Bird-Brain". You used to strike out right regular. I seen you go 0 for 170 one time. You remember?"

"It ain't the same, Frank. I ain't struck out no more'n usual. Its the players that are striking. They ain't working... I mean they ain't playing. They want more money and benefits, Frank."

Well, "Bird-Brain" ain't never been nobodys intellectual. He just didn't take to the learning processes when we was boys. He wasn't never late for recess though and he could really whip a baseball. He could make it sing. But I could tell my old friend wasn't happy. He'd had experience with strikes before and he wasn't happy over the whole bunch striking.

"Birdie", I said, "You ought'n to take it so hard. Things will work out. You'll see. There'll be baseball again this summer. You remember how dark it looked when you thought you was going off to college..."

"Yeah", he said, brightening up. "Yeah, I remember when they told me I had that scholarship from a big college... and it turned out to be Carolina... a big college remember that. You and me cried all night about that. Carolina... a big college... ain't that a laugh, Frank? You and me... we can laugh about that now, Frank. We knows better, don't we? I mean... well, you know how it is Frank."

"Yeah, Bird-Brain. I often wondered how you'd a turned out if'n you'd a gone to Bill Friday's place. You'd a probably been broke today, Birdie. Yeah... you'd a-really been in a fix. Ain't that a laugh, Birdie?"

"I don't know, Frank. You might be right. I am broke. You didn't know I got that scholarship, did you Frank? You didn't know I went to Carolina, did you? Can't you tell I got some learning, Frank? Don't it show?"

I just walked away. I hate to see a friend suffer so.

Legislative Report

By Rep. James D. Speed

Raleigh - A few days ago Governor Scott issued a 13 point memorandum stating a policy and procedures to be followed relative to the seizure of buildings and dealing with disturbances on state-supported campuses.

I believe the governor should be commended for taking a firm and forthright position in this matter and for stating flatly that all persons on these campuses are subject to the laws of the state.

It is in keeping with the governor's earlier statements on the importance of upholding and respecting law and order and I feel that a majority of our citizens agree wholeheartedly with his stand. I am sure that most members of the General Assembly agree that violence and lawlessness must not be tolerated and that those who break the law and disrupt the educational process should be punished.

In my opinion we have worked diligently over the years to create a good climate of racial relations and to provide more and better educational and economic opportunities for all citizens in North Carolina.

Many millions of dollars in public tax funds have been appropriated to build our campuses and improve the quality of education which is afforded. It is a matter of primary interest that this system be sustained and protected.

Your legislators are very much aware of the sacrifices made by our taxpayers and also by the parents of a great majority of students in order to provide a fine and good educational opportunity.

It is difficult at times for

them to understand the disruptive, disorderly demonstrations and protests on the part of a few when other avenues of redress of their grievances is available to them. Thus they were glad to see the governor take a firm and strong stand in presenting a statewide policy on dealing with such situations.

Meanwhile, those members of the General Assembly opposed to additional taxation upon tobacco felt their cause was bolstered by reports that confirm that tobacco already is the "most heavily taxed commodity in history."

One state, Arkansas, appears ready to levy a tax of 11 cents per pack upon cigarettes. Georgia, Maryland and South Carolina want to increase their tobacco levies, and unfortunately North Carolina now is being listed among these revenue-hungry states who want to get it from tobacco. I believe this confirms the warnings that if North Carolina imposes additional tobacco taxes all other states will do likewise.

Money bills continue to be the biggest item of concern in the legislature. These include new tax measures, bills calling for additional appropriations to various departments and agencies and a higher mini-

mum wage. I have this week introduced legislation intended to upgrade the standards of quality, grades and weight classes of eggs sold in North Carolina and also regulation of the bottling of soft drinks.

For eggs, the Board of Agriculture would be authorized to set standards of quality which would also promulgate honesty and fair dealings in the poultry industry.

Soft drink bottlers in North Carolina produce this popular commodity in cans, cups and even paper bags in addition to bottles. My bill would authorize the Board of Agriculture to make rules and regulations delegating to the state chemist responsibility for determining the amount

of and nature of ingredients which may be used in the manufacture of soft drinks in order to comply with the North Carolina Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and insofar as practicable with federal laws and regulations. No ingredient would be used without prior approval of the state chemist or such other person designated by appeals from any ruling of the state chemist.

Capital Crime

President Nixon's top advisers on crime in the capital have drafted proposals which include the hiring of about 1,000 policemen to crack down on criminals in the capital. The President's aim is to make the streets safe to walk after dark.

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