

Thursday, March 20, 1969

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Natural Gas Will Help

The question of natural gas for the Louisburg area is not a glamorous subject and except for those directly involved in satisfying industrial prospects or agents for firms handling competitive products, the subject fails to create a great flow of interest.

Some thirty persons attended a public hearing here last night which was extremely brief as only three rose to be heard on the subject. The others expressed themselves only when called on to stand in favor of a franchise being granted for the area. All, except one bottle gas supplier, stood in the affirmative.

It was obvious from what was told the group by Industrial Development Director Ken Schubart and Commission Chairman Harold Talton, that such a franchise would be a real asset to their agency in its bid for new industry.

This was the only point made at the meeting. However, two things were noticeably missing. One was the advantage—if there be one—to the private citizen and homeowner. The other point not brought out was why the delay of over a year without any definitive action by the town government.

It has been an open secret for some

time that town officials are fearful that natural gas will cut into the current electric fund. The fear is somewhat justified with money always being a subject of concern for those entrusted with operating the town. The Council, appreciatively, does not want to be placed in a position of having to increase taxes to offset any such loss. None of this, however, was discussed at the public meeting.

There is no certainty just what actions the officials will take on the matter but several of them have indicated that they favor granting the franchise. The law required that such a franchise be approved at two consecutive regular monthly meetings. This would place the final decision in May. However, a commitment by the group in its April meeting could indicate the final outcome.

Even faced with the problem of a loss of electric revenue—real or imaginary—indications are that town officials will take the progressive step and grant a franchise for natural gas. If they do, it will be in the best tradition of a worthy government body. They will have given the people a choice.

From The Office Of

### Congressman Fountain

## Comments On Obscene Mail

Washington . . . Some of us may not be aware of it, but we have a problem in this country which has just about gotten out of control. By that I mean the vast amounts of pornography, the absolutely filthy materials that are sent through the U. S. mails daily—especially to our children.

A growing number of people have written to me in recent months about this problem and its effect on our young people.

Some of the examples of this kind of thing sent—unasked for—to youngsters in the Second District are simply shocking and frightening. Any decent-minded person would find it hard to understand how any individual or organization could attempt to victimize our youngsters in this matter.

This filth is mailed by name to people all over the country. I don't know how the names and addresses are gotten but the fact is that they are.

We are all aware that the Federal Courts, including especially the Supreme Court, have made it increasingly difficult to prosecute these purveyors of obscenity. Time after time, those charged with such offenses have been set free by the courts.

Last year, however, the Supreme Court upheld a New York State law which was aimed at keeping such filth out of the hands of children. In fact, the Supreme Court suggested that Congress might

want to enact some legislation protecting minors from such unsolicited assaults on their emotions, their senses and their judgment.

In line with that decision, I am planning to join in efforts to try again to help stop the unrestricted mailing of such pornography to children by introducing appropriate legislation.

This bill would provide a penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine for those convicted of using the mails for the interstate shipment of pornography to any one under 18. The penalty would double for a second conviction. I'd like to prevent such filth from being sent even to adults, but the Courts, for the moment, have tried our hands. Nonetheless, we must keep on trying to prevent its availability to anyone.

The types of harmful materials to be prohibited from such traffic are carefully defined so that no one would have any doubt about whether or not he could legally mail them.

This bill would not cure all the ills of obscenity in our society today but it would be a start. It especially is aimed at protecting those most in need of protection by stating clearly and carefully what our adult society thinks is obscene in regard to our children. They already see and read more than they need to right off the news and magazine stands, but it shouldn't

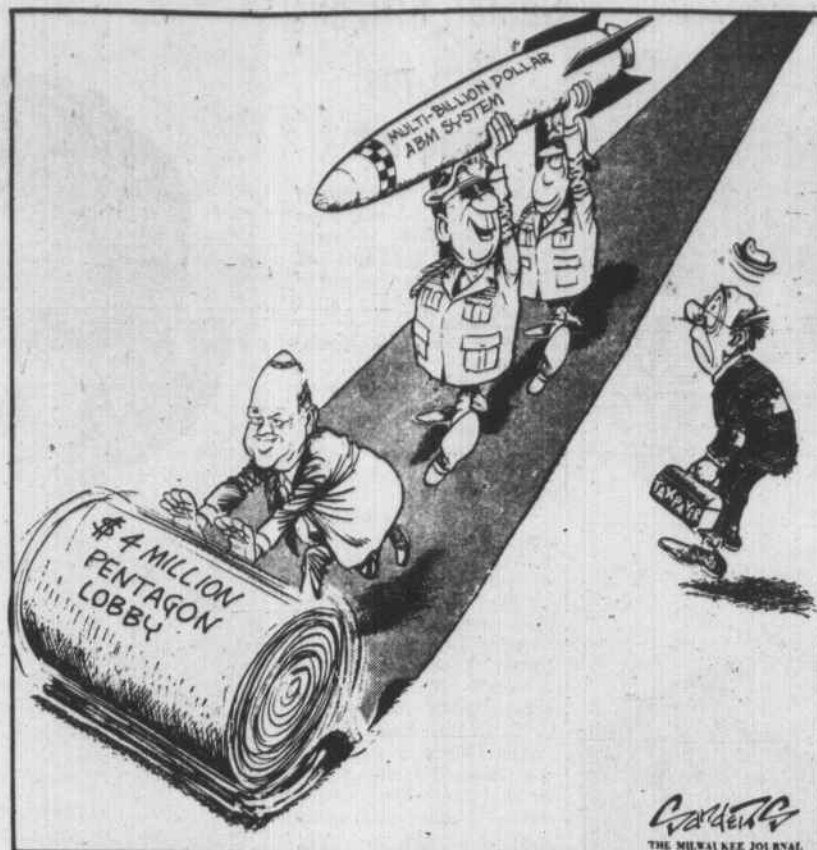
be forced upon them through the mails.

On the adult level, this is a much more complicated problem because there are a variety of opinions as to what is dirty and what is not, and what is legal or illegal. There is plenty of room for agreement, however, when it comes to the children.

Another feature of this bill is a provision prohibiting the Supreme Court or Federal Appeals Courts from reviewing any decision made by a lower court. The District Courts as a rule are in a position to know what the community standards are in their respective areas much better than a court here in Washington or hundreds of miles across the country.

As I've said, this legislation, if passed, will not solve the entire problem of pornography, which is now over a billion dollars a year business. But some of the material I have seen which was sent through the mail to our people convinces me that we must use every legitimate and legal means at our disposal to crack down upon those who would corrupt our children—especially for profits.

In my opinion, these people are just as dangerous to the freedom and security of this nation as are the rioters and arsonists and looters. Let's hope we can stop this practice and punish severely those who feel they are above the laws of our country.



*'You'll not only pay for the missile but also for the delivery system'*

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

### Run The Schools Locally

Henderson, (N.C.) Daily Dispatch

It seems that no matter what local school boards—and by local is not meant Henderson and Vance County only but in general—do by way of submitting plans for operation of their schools, they cannot please the bureaucrats of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Some fault is found with nearly every plan that is submitted.

All of which raises anew the question as to why local boards are not allowed to run their own schools. They certainly know more about the problems and benefits involved than swivel chair occupants in a cozy, luxurious office building in Washington. They know little, and couldn't care less, about city and county schools, except that their primary objective, as was admitted by a HEW representative here not long ago, is integration. That takes precedence over the child's education, which we are persuaded is as well known to the colored people as to any others, and equally as much resented.

When Congress appropriates money

for local school units, that money should be apportioned to the many units to be applied as seems best by them.

Congressmen must be aware of sentiment of their constituents, and why they choose to ignore those wishes is a question to which we have seen no answer. Rep. Fountain of this district has done more by way of opposing HEW absurdities than any one on Capitol Hill, so far as our knowledge goes. Others may have a similar attitude, but they do little or nothing about it. They are interested in having their own pay raised.

Local people want the best possible for their schools and could go far in providing it if the heavy hand of bureaucracy were held off. Whatever local boards propose, some fault is found with it. The new Nixon administration seems to be unconcerned. And if the present pattern persists until 1972 there just might be a new shuffling of the cards. Certainly it is needed.

## Legislative Report

By Rep. James D. Speed

Raleigh—Many people across the state and particularly in the three counties of our 16th House District are very much aware of the outstanding service rendered by volunteer emergency rescue organizations.

Members of these organizations such as rescue squads, volunteer fire departments and Civil Air Patrol units donate their time, effort and talent in extensive training as well as in carrying out their missions of mercy and other duties.

It is my feeling that the organizations deserve greater support and that the public is willing to provide this.

As a further inducement to this end, I have introduced legislation which would permit income tax deductions for financial contributions to these organizations.

The bill was co-signed by Reps. John Church, McMillan of Wake, Johnson of Cabarrus and Lilley of Lenoir, and we feel it has strong backing.

Additional impetus has been given the East Carolina University medical school program recently especially by the governor's endorsement of establishing a separate medical school and beginning of planning now. Many legislators including myself who favor this long-range plan met with East Carolina officials for breakfast and a thorough briefing

on Tuesday.

I believe that a start can and should be made by the General Assembly on carrying out this program with definite goals in mind.

Surveys show that the need for more doctors and other medical personnel is more critical in Eastern North Carolina than any other part of the state. The plans include giving special emphasis to training of family-type physicians and personnel who will work in less-populated areas of our state.

I was very much in favor of a bill enacted last week to set a statewide schedule of uniform fees for registers of deeds in the various counties. Under the uniform system the fees are generally lower than those which had been charged in some counties. However, I think this will be accepted and the entire procedure of recording papers and documents in various counties simplified. People who are recording papers in distant counties will know exactly what fee will be charged and will be able to enclose a check for that amount in the first mailing. In the past, it has been necessary to carry on correspondence over a long period of time in order to determine the fee schedule and correct procedure.

A bill which I introduced some time ago providing for regulation of the ingredients and contents of soft drinks was passed by both houses. Regulation of the ingredients used by the bottlers will be under supervision of the Department of Agriculture and I think this is in the interest of the consumer. The bottling interests did not object to the

bill.

Governor Scott continues to receive strong backing from members of the legislature for his efforts to control campus disorders and to prevent further trouble by students and agitators.

The feeling generally is in line with the governor's insistence that disruption of the education of those students who conscientiously seek one must not be permitted.

I believe that the governor's firm stand very probably eliminated the need for legislative action to curb such disruption as has been experienced on several of the cam-



Folks around here hadn't never heard of Junipher Jones until last year. Junipher lived here all his life . . . which is considerable . . . but he hadn't never took no part in nothing until last year. The great "revelation", as Junipher calls it, took place last fall when he seen Agnew on television. Junipher said then that he liked the way Agnew wore his hair. Junipher used to wear his in a pom-pom like Spiro. I say used to . . . 'cause Junipher ain't had none to wear to speak of in years.

But anyway . . . Junipher was so sold on Agnew's hair that he decided to go Republican. He allowed that it was the Democrats that wore the long hair and beards and he favored the Republican style.

As time went on Junipher got the real treatment. He sent in some money and got on the mailing list and you'd a thought it was Christmas when he'd get a letter signed by Mr. Nixon. He never could be made to understand that it didn't mean that Mr. Nixon knew of Junipher personally. Old Junipher . . . who ain't the brightest bald-headed man in the county . . . always thought he was getting something nobody else got.

Well since last November there ain't been a happier soul in the country than Junipher. And talk . . . man, can he talk. When he got bit by that Republican bug, he really got bit.

I seen him the other day and made the mistake of stopping to speak to him.

"Junie", I said, "How's things? Long time no see. What'cha been doing with yore-self?"

"Frank", he said, waving a Nixon-Agnew banner, "I been celebrating. Ever since November I been celebrating. Frank, can you imagine where we'd be if that fellow Johnson was still in the White House?"

"Well, I'll tell you, Frank", he said not giving me time to explain my point of view. "We'd still be at war in that Vietnam, that's where."

"Well, yeah, Junie", I interrupted, "That's true, but . . ."

"But, nothing, Frank", he blasted. "We'd still be paying that surtax, too. And another thing, we'd be getting ready for more taxes. We'd be planning to build more defense things". I entered with another, "Yeah, but" but that's as far as I got.

"Frank, I'm here to tell you. We'd still be having riots on them colleges and killing on them streets. You'd had to call out the national guard and the patrol and everybody else. It might have been trouble right here in North Carolina . . ."

"We'd been having trouble in our schools and the money would be cut off and the mail would still be late and folks would be striking and we would have inflation", he continued.

"Yeah, but . . . listen Junipher . . . listen to me one minute . . . I got something to say . . ."

"You have? What you want to say Frank? Is it important? Don't you agree?"

We didn't say it. We just walked away muttering as how we reckoned old Junipher was right. If we didn't have Nixon . . . this country shure would a gone to the dogs.

puses in recent days.

Many groups—in fact, hundreds—continue to appear before the Appropriations committee to request additional funds for expanding various state-supported programs.

This, I think, clearly indicates that the General Assembly will not be able to

even come close to granting all the requests that have been made, not even with a new tax program.

Individuals who spend most of their time talking about other people seldom amount to anything.

## Memories Of 1948...

THE COURIER-TRIBUNE, ASHEBORO, N. C.

THAT AUCTION of former President Harry Truman's private railroad car (the one that he "gave 'em Hell" from in 1948) probably stirred memories of his GOP opponent that year too.

For Tom Dewey, trains probably held special meaning in the gloomy reconstruction of a losing political campaign. Today, of course, no candidate would consider such an outmoded form of transportation—not when jets can put them down—in a single day in New York City, Des Moines, Portland and Los Angeles.

But twenty years ago, ambitious politicians wouldn't hazard a race without plans to barnstorm the hustings by rail. With wry humor, they recalled the front porch "campaign" of Warren Harding—how quaint it all seemed in those days of whistle-stops at the nation's crossroads! Armed with a single speech to recite repetitiously from one

town to the next, the candidates remained one step ahead of next-day headlines. Without television, candidates needed "exposure" to the voters that radio alone wouldn't provide. It had a hidden blessing which goes unstated: a hopeful politician could pledge himself to one course of action in one region and then reverse himself a hundred miles away.

If he was adroit enough, he "misquoted" him when inevitably the conflicting statements caught up days later.

Truman's '48 theme was "give 'em Hell," so often was it shouted by partisans who flocked to rail stations to hear the incumbent president bawl out a do-nothing Congress.

Dewey's was more unfortunate. He delivered a more sedate, statesmanlike message from the train's last car—usually a very ornate caboose, as was Truman's.

Unfortunately, the New York

governor blew his cool one day. The train suddenly lurched backward into the crowd and Dewey exploded. Among other remarks, he called the engineer "crazy." Working men everywhere raised an eyebrow at the immaculately garbed businessman ("a Wall Street stooge—weren't all Republicans?") abusing one of their own. (People could have been killed because of the engineer—but the morning newspapers didn't mention that.)

His wordsounded and haunted Dewey for the duration of his campaign which ground sluggishly to disaster in November. . . perhaps because of that ill-fated railroad journey.

Old Harry's rail car will be sold at auction Thursday, bringing back memories of the last coast-to-coast whistle-stop campaign. Wonder what was on Tom Dewey's mind if he read the story?

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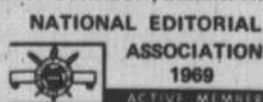
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