

## LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Might Be Our Kind Of Fellow

Among the things for which this newspaper has not been noted in recent years is the love for the Highway Commission in general and Commission Chairmen in particular. Indeed, a source of continuing pride for us has been that this newspaper was chosen number one in the country in Community Service in 1967 for its campaign against the policies of the Commission and its Chairman which discriminated against the small counties.

A change in this attitude must rank in importance with such earth-shaking decisions as Lyndon Johnson's declaration he would not run again and the cancellation of the San Francisco earthquake scheduled for last week. However, with a limited degree of apprehension, we now believe that we could grow to like the new Highway Chairman.

"Lauch" Faircloth came to Franklin County last week and made a speech before a gathering of Democratic Party faithful. We not only liked the things he said, we liked the way he said them. Mr. Faircloth could be a unique and refreshing maverick in the world of North Carolina politics.

He doesn't look like a politician. He doesn't talk like a politician. Politicians would never say the things he said here. And herein lies the reason we think he might be our kind of fellow.

Among the things he said were:

—Wake and Durham have had the Commissioners; the money and the road work. Since 1958, Wake and Durham have had \$70 million in primary road funds; Franklin has had only \$100,000. "Darn if there should be that much difference".

—Counties of equal size and influence should be grouped together with their own Commissioners.

—Traffic counts are no basis for setting road priorities.

—His agreement with this column's call for a Commissioner from among the small counties in the Fifth Division.

—Franklin will fare better in the next four years than it did in the past four.

—These are not all the things the Commissioner said. He took a firm stand against disruptions on college campuses, which we liked. And he made a common sense approach to a long-ignored problem of highway fund allocations. We were impressed by the things he said.

But mostly, we were impressed with the man. Somewhere along the way, he may get brain-washed. Sooner or later, somebody may start to censor his speeches. A political appointee cannot forever swim upstream against the power of the large city newspapers and already Mr. Faircloth has felt the whip.

But, thus far, he has defended his position that small counties are entitled to fair representation very well. His attitude seems to indicate that he plans to continue to do so. He has shown that he has no plans to buckle under to the old policy of making the rich richer while the poor continue to get poorer.

It may be too early to tell, but first impressions give strong indications that "Lauch" Faircloth could make us change our minds about Highway Commissioners. He could easily turn out to be our kind of fellow.

## WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

### Honestly, Ave, Be Quiet

The Courier-Tribune  
Asheboro, N. C.

Averill Harriman if you'll remember, has been lurking in the background of American foreign policy for over two decades, excepting the Eisenhower years which chose to turn elsewhere for counsel during the early years of the Cold War with Russia.

Probably that brief hiatus kept us out of other unfortunate compacts of which Mr. Harriman, a former New York governor, played who can say how large a role?

Yalta and Potsdam agreements haven't been the most permanent in our uncertain relations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

But good old Averill keeps in there pitching, like always.

It was to our good fortune that the change of administrations in November resulted in a change of faces in Paris where U. S. negotiators are haggling for a truce of sorts to allow U. S. forces a graceful exit from South Vietnam.

With the doremost conciliator (back-pedaler) in charge of the American withdrawal (for what else does the Paris scene suggest?), the U. S. would probably find itself defending a perimeter established no further north than Australia — so yielding is Mr. Harriman. (We're only going by the history books.)

Harriman was brought home and a more firm U. S. spokesman Henry Cabot Lodge, was installed in his stead. Mr. Lodge, if a bit dogmatic in dealing with the communists, at least won't rush the U. S. out of Vietnam in such haste the vacuum will be tempting for an immediate Red occupation of Saigon. With Mr. Harriman in the highest councils of the truce talks, we had some worries.

We've still got them, of course.

The ex-rovving ambassador of four Democratic administrations hasn't had his last say on Vietnam, despite his current non-involvement in any official capacity.

Only this week, Harriman was re-

ported during a two-week national security seminar in Palm Beach as saying the U. S. should forget about "winning" the war in Vietnam.

"You've got to get the idea out of your head," Harriman said. "We cannot do everything that someone wants us to do."

Possibly some of the sentiment is universal now, but it behooves us to appear more circumspect about voicing opinions during these perilous days of finding our footing in Paris.

The North Vietnamese are not ignorant of what is said publicly in the U. S.

Harriman isn't alone. The U. S. Senate "doves" are undermining the U. S. position gravely.

But, fresh from the center of power, Harriman is uniquely in a sensitive position to influence the outcome. If he lends weight to the growing evidence that the U. S. faces a domestic revolt unless it extricates itself from Vietnam, our bargaining power declines that much more.

I'm A Brave! I'm A Brave



## School Units In Reverse

Henderson Daily Dispatch

For years now the trend in public school administrative systems has been toward mergers as between cities and towns on the one hand and counties on the other. Now a movement in reverse is setting in, whereby municipal areas are pulling out and preparing to go it alone again. The heavy hand of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare pressed upon helpless school boards and citizens is beginning to reverse the drift.

Scotland Neck managed to get authority from the Legislature to withdraw from the Halifax county system, and a referendum on the proposal last week carried by about three to one. A special fifty cents tax will be imposed to produce the money for support of the new unit.

When the measure was under consideration there was the comment that other towns would follow the example. That is happening. Hardly had the Scotland Neck bill cleared Senate and House to become law until the town of Warrenton presented a similar demand. A bill to that effect has been introduced by Reps. John T. Church and James D. Speed. The legislature cannot in fairness refuse to concur. Who or how many will be next in line is not known, but it will be a major surprise if others do not start in the same direction.

Desire to find a way out of the integration dilemma is the reason for these moves. Mergers that have produced a single countywide school unit are being forgotten in the scramble to return to the former status.

Nothing of the sort has been sought in Henderson, where city and county schools were consolidated only two short years ago after being argued, favored and opposed bitterly for a time until sentiment changed in favor. So far as integration is concerned, there would be little to gain here. There would still be much of it.

Opposition to desegregation in principle has not been so pronounced as is resentment of highhanded methods of the Federal department in attempting to impose its will upon the people. HEW agents have gone to such extremes as to make themselves appear ridiculous and unreasonable.

The freedom of choice idea meets requirements of the law as it is understood. But it does not measure up to the bureaucratic interpretation of the

statute. This is the straw that broke the camel's back and incensed Scotland Neck and Warrenton, and the Legislature has willingly gone along with plans for establishment of separate units, at least in the first instance. If the procedure works to the satisfaction of the local communities, more of the same may be anticipated, and also probably with the blessing of the lawmakers in Raleigh. What the reaction of the Federal dictators may be remains to be seen, and whatever it may be the new independent units must face it on their own responsibility.

## Heinous Crime

Colorado Springs (Colo.)  
Gazette-Telegraph

Apparently the worst crime of all is not to pay one's income tax, from one of the latest rulings by Earl Warren's U. S. Supreme Court.

While police officers must inform murders, robbers and other assorted lawbreakers that they are being investigated on criminal charges, that they need not testify against themselves, and are entitled to have a lawyer's advice — even at the expense of the taxpayers — the same rules do not apply to the agents of the Internal Revenue Service and to taxpayers under investigation.

The Supreme Court rejected the claim of attorneys for Robert M. Muse of Kirkwood, Mo., who contended the IRS agents should be required to warn individuals before questioning them about their returns if the inquiry could lead to criminal prosecutions. Kruse had been convicted of income tax evasion, fined \$1,500 and given a one-year suspended sentence.

The circuit court ruling, which was upheld by the Warren court, said IRS agents do not have to tell a taxpayer he is the subject of a criminal investigation and that he has a right to have a lawyer.

We repeat. The most heinous crime is not murder, rape or robbery. It's failure to pay taxes. . . . That's what the court said!

Editor's Note:

The following appeared recently in the Oxford (N.C.) Public Ledger and, since it's the first letter we've seen, purportedly written by a mule, we reproduce it here for your viewing.

Ider's old black master is dead and Ider is pleading for hay.

A letter came to the Public Ledger Monday bringing Ider's appeal. It read:

"Dear Public. Will you print my letter in Tuesday paper I am a Old White mule 27 year old I don't have eny hay to eat I have work hard toll over hills work my old Black master is Dead and I miss him I need food So Bad the Wellfor Society want help me I am all most Starve I live R. 5, Oxford nc by name is Ider." Ider sent \$1 to pay for the appeal.

There is no charge for publication of the appeal.

If Ider will Bray at the front door, the dollar will be returned, along with some anti-starvation feed provided.



Things are scarcer nowadays than they used to be. You can ask anybody and they'll tell you things are scarce. I afraid that the old ways and the old days are fast fading into the sunset as the poet said. I think one said that.

Take for instance . . . money. If you don't think that's a scarce item you ain't been around my house. But money ain't all that's scarce and neither is what this year's bathing suits covers.

As an example I would like to cite a meeting with my old friend Heppie Titus. Heppie always was a smart one. And I guess Heppie took more fun from raising his youngins than most folks. He always took time to tell them what was right and what was wrong and he believed in youngins behaving themselves.

Well Heppie's oldest boy is gonna finish high school this year and Heppie is glad. And he wants the boy to go on to college. College is something Heppie ain't no expert on. Fact is, he told me he ain't never seen one. He's just heard of them.



Well, Heppie went looking the other day and what do you suppose is scarce now? Colleges . . . that's what. There's plenty of universities, Heppie says . . . and adds . . . whatever they are. But there ain't no colleges. Now Heppie don't understand the differences but he knows he don't want no youngin of his'n off at no university.

Heppie's got some fool notion that universities is bigger than colleges and that his youngin might get lost. He insists that his boy go to a college. He went where there used to be colleges but found that they are all now universities. I tried to tell him I didn't think this made them any bigger.

"Heppie", I said, "them colleges ain't changed none. They just changed the name. That there place has got the same buildings today it had yesterday before it got to be a university. It's got the same teachers. Nothing's changed".

Heppie couldn't understand why they changed the name if it didn't mean nothing. I couldn't very well explain this to him. Heppie, you see, is a little thick-headed. Anybody can understand that.

Heppie said he went to Raleigh and State College is changed. He said he went to Greenville and Essee-Teesee is changed and he went to Pembroke and Greensboro and Charlotte and several other places.

"It just ain't no use, Frank", he said, almost in tears, "They done done away with colleges. A grand old institution done gone-down the drain".

"Well, that's they way it is in a fluent society", I consoled. "Times is good, Heppie and things change. When you git big and got plenty money you don't want to stay a college, Heppie. You want to be a university. That's progress, man and you don't want to stop progress".

"It's the boy I'm thinking of, Frank. It don't matter none to me. It's the youngin. He ain't but 35 and he's got his life before him. He's too young to be turned loose at a university".

"Well, what you gonna do with him, Heppie?" I asked.

"Ain't decided yet, Frank. May keep him home for a few years. Maybe somebody will start a college one day and I can git him in".

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark has blasted the White House withdrawal of LBJ's judge and post office appointments. If Ramsey had been that aggressive against crime, maybe it wouldn't be such a problem today.

They say Teddy Kennedy has some tough tests coming up as majority whip. If so, he'll probably get someone else to take them for him.



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