

The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday Serving All Of Franklin County

Your Award Winning County Newspaper

Tuesday, July 8, 1969

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Now They're Organized

It started many years ago and very few, if any, taxpayers remember when. Perhaps it was in the depth of the depression when thousands of unemployed were put on the public dole and the politicians who put them there continued to get reelected year after year.

It is not so important when it started since it is unlikely the public knew about it even then. It is important that it has grown to such size that today, it threatens to gulp us down in a rash of absurdities.

Like the weather, everybody talks about inflation but nobody does anything about it. While middle-class Americans continue to carry the burden, national leaders talk tax reform. The difficulty lies in their unwillingness to face up to cutting out some things which the nation can ill afford.

It is extremely unlikely, for example, that the Congress will cut out the welfare checks to 7,800,000 recipients. That's how many there are, according to latest figures. Get that group in a polling booth and guess who gets reelected?

Capitalizing on this little bit of American political-fact-of-life is a man named Dr. George Wiley. He is the Director of the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), the union of welfare recipients. The organization receives its dues from the welfare checks of 30,000 members in 100 of the nation's largest cities. In addition—as if this were not enough—the lowly taxpayer is subsidizing Dr. Wiley so that his group might get even more from the taxpayer.

Robert Finch, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare—who is fast

making a name for himself in a host of areas—is contemplating granting Dr. Wiley a \$300,000 federal windfall. He has ample precedent for approving the gift since the Department of Labor has already given the NWRO \$434,930 of the taxpayer's hard-earned money. These are grants, by the way, not loans. The Towns of Bunn and Franklinton, for example, must repay federal loans for water projects. The welfare union gets its support as a free gift.

Dr. Wiley recently demanded that Sears and Montgomery Ward issue credit cards to welfare recipients. The NWRO is also demanding that welfare recipients be given a minimum annual amount of \$5,000 plus free life insurance, clothing, household furnishings and extra money for recreation, according to reports.

Last April Dr. Wiley led his poor people in a march in New York which ended in violence. Wiley said, "When poor people want money they are going to get it by people-power or there will be hell to pay".

In this day when there is an administration in Washington supposedly committed to law and order, how do they get away with it? Congress could cut off the federal money. But, of course, it will not. The taxpayer's cash is buying too many votes. And who wouldn't vote for a Congressman who would give each and every one \$5,000 plus the necessities of life plus recreation money?

As national columnist Paul Harvey recently pointed out, in the nation's beginning, only taxpayers were allowed to vote. And now we are beginning to see why.

What Is Welfare?

Washington-Exclusive U. S. Press Association

Throughout the years since the very beginning of the exploration of the New World, this has been the land of opportunity. Early history is filled with early explorers' tales of streets paved with gold and the wealth that would reward any daring adventurer-willing to migrate to the virgin land.

Over the decades since, millions of people have followed the ocean paths in search of the fulfillment of the promised dream. Some have made it, more in fact than ever before in the history of man. Others have not.

The American is, despite many shortcomings, a generous individual. He has learned that he has an unwritten obligation to his neighbor to help when needed. If another man is unable to care for himself why shouldn't he share in the abundance? If a man is unable temporarily to provide for his family's needs others will help him with the necessities until he is able to return to the work force. This is as it should be. We are a capitalist society. Each of us profits by the labor of others. What one produces another consumes. What is consumed is paid for with earnings received for productivity. The more men employed, the larger the market. Aid to the incapacitated is welfare. It is not demeaning.

It is our way of proving to the world that we take care of our own. Aid to the temporarily unemployed is welfare. It, too, is not of itself degrading but a way of showing confidence in our system. It is an investment in the recipient's future, and should provide enough to prevent hunger or misery, without encouraging permanent unemployment.

When welfare provides a means of remaining unemployed, the time has come for Americans to have a careful look at exactly how much welfare can be dispensed with threatening their future.

Well, What Do You Know?

Has the office of County Accountant always been appointive? No. It was elective until 1953 when the State Senator Hamilton Hobgood "at the request of the Board of County Commissioners and with approval of the then County Accountant (Melvin Holmes)" introduced a bill in the Senate making the position appointive. Hobgood introduced the bill on April 3 and it was ratified on April 11, 1953.

'Think He Likes 100,000 Of Us Leavin'?'



What Is An American?

He is the fellow who yells for the government to balance the budget, then takes the last dime he has to make the down payment on a car.

He whips the enemy, then gives him the shirt off his back. He yells for speed laws that will stop fast driving, then won't buy a car if it can't make 100 miles per hour.

He knows the line-up of every baseball team in the American and National Leagues — and doesn't know half the words of the "Star Spangled Banner."

He'll spend half a day looking for vitamin pills to make him live longer, then drive 90 miles an hour on slick pavement to make up for the lost time.

He ties up his dog, but lets his 16-year-old son do whatever he wants.

He will work hard on a farm so he can move into town where he can make more money so he can move back to the farm. He couldn't fight his way out of a paper bag, but spends 20 bucks for ringside seats, and tells the professionals how to fight. We're the country that has more food to eat than any other country in the world and more diets to keep us from eating. We're the most ambitious people on earth, and we run from morning until night trying to keep our earning power up with our yearning power.

We're supposed to be the most civilized Nation on earth, but still can't deliver payrolls without an armored car.

But we're still pretty nice folks. Calling a person "A Real American" is the best compliment you can pay him. Most of the world is itching for what we have, but they'll never have it until they start scratching for it as an individual. (By LCDR. N. D. Anderson)

Editor's Note: We're also the people whose eyes moisten when the Flag goes by in a parade—but find a man around who will admit it.

The Tar Heel Guardsman

The Wiretap Scandal

Washington-Exclusive U. S. Press Association

It is our opinion that the scandal concerning the tapping of the phone, or phones, of the late Martin Luther King has taken an unfortunate turn. The current tempest is not in the public interest and we are surprised on one point and one point alone.

Columnist Carl Rowan is ranting about whether or not FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the surveillance with the permission of the late Robert Kennedy.

Former Attorneys General Ramsey Clark and Nicholas Katzenbach have denied every step of the way that they were involved with the electronic eavesdropping.

The FBI maintains that the listening was approved. And the issue becomes more clouded with each successive statement by either side.

We would like to see some light shed on the real issue and we think that the man in the street is probably thinking about the same thing: Why did the FBI feel that it was important to listen in on the conversations in the first place? We do not accept the smokescreen answer of "prejudice". The FBI could do nothing with the materia obtained unless such information proved illegal or subversive activities, and even at that point it would have been up to the reigning attorney general to take appropriate action.

We cannot see any of the attorneys general who were in office at the time doing any harm to Martin Luther King. We suggest that current Attorney General Mitchell make public all of the conversations that were

monitored and let the public judge whether or not Mr. Hoover was acting in the public's best interest.

If Dr. King was been harassed, these tapes would show it. If he engaged in activity that was destructive or illegal, the public has the right to know about it. Why not end the foolish debate and get down to facts?

PORTLAND, ORE., OREGONIAN: "Whether they like it or not, the country's college and university administrators are in the position of setting an example of law enforcement with justice. Their failure on any considerable scale would almost certainly subject other institutions to non-negotiable demands and physical intimidation. Under such circumstances, it would be suicidal to consider the issue on the campuses to be apart from the concern of all of us off campus or to bar from the campuses the lawful operations of state and community law enforcement agencies, when needed."

PROVIDENCE, KY., JOURNAL-ENTERPRISE: "The certainty of taxes for the middle income group has become such a real thing that... The harder a man works and the more he works, the more taxes he must pay to support the 8,400,000 Americans who are on relief rolls of one kind or another. All this while jobs go begging. Welfare in the United States is increasing twice as fast as the population and there are statistics to bear this out."



"Hello, Operator. Give me Washington, D. C. I want to talk to somebody in HEW—that's the Welfare Department. Yes, mam. I'll pay for the charges. No, mam, I don't care who I talk to. I'd rather get the top man. Yes, mam, I'll wait... Dum, dee, dum dum..."

"Hello, am I talking to the HEW? You know... HEW... them folks who just turned loose them guidelines. No, sir, I ain't interested in buying no bird dog... Hello, Operator... you gimme the wrong number. Yes, mam, I got somebody selling bird dogs. I want to talk to Washington, D. C. ... HEW... them folks that just give out them new guidelines. Yes, mam, I'll wait... dum... dee dum dum..."

"Hello, this HEW? Well, it's about time. What's y'all doing up there, selling bird dogs? No, sir. That's a joke. You see I got the wrong number... oh, never mind. I want to talk to somebody that can tell me about the guidelines. What? Yes, sir. I read the papers. No, sir I didn't quite understand them. Yes, sir. I got a question. Fact is I got a whole

heap of questions.

"I'm a newspaper columnist you see and my folks want me to explain them things. No, sir. I can't help the way I talk. What? Well, young fellow, I don't care if you don't believe it. I am a newspaper columnist and I got the blisters to prove it. Who'm I talking to? Are you the top man? How near the top? I see.

"Well, them guidelines. Do they mean we got until next fall to act or do they mean we got to do it now or what do they mean?

"Yes, sir. That's the part I don't understand either. You mean you ain't sure? Didn't they say some folks could wait another couple years? They didn't? I thought I read where they said that. You didn't read that part, huh?

"How about cutting off the money. Didn't they say that there won't be no more of that for awhile? They didn't? I thought somebody told me that's what they said. You didn't read that part neither?

"Ain't it true that the President said he was going to slack up on that forced stuff. You didn't hear him, huh? I'm almost sure he said that one day down here in North Carolina. Everybody thought that's what them guidelines was gonna say. They didn't, huh?

"Well, can you tell me this? Do the guidelines say them that ain't done it yet got to do it now? They didn't? You sure? Didn't I read somewhere that the new guidelines ain't gonna change nothing? You didn't say that, huh? Didn't somebody from HEW say that? You don't know? Yes, sir. I understand you can't be responsible for everything anybody in HEW says.

"I was just wondering if you could tell me if Strom Thurmond is happy about the guidelines? He ain't? Know why? You don't, huh? You just know he ain't happy?

"How about Roy Wilkins? I hear he ain't happy neither. You know anything about that? He ain't, huh?

"How come both Strom and Roy ain't happy? Don't the new rules satisfy anybody. You? They satisfy you, huh?

"Well, tell me this, if you can. Do they apply alike everywhere? Is everybody got to do what they say, when they find out what that is? Yes, sir. North Carolina is in the South. Or I think it is. Yes, sir I see. You're sorry about that? I see. We got to do a little different, huh? Is that what you're trying to tell me? North Carolina got to do a little different. Yes, sir. I understand. I ain't to put that in the paper. You're right. Folks wouldn't understand that.

"Well, I sure do appreciate you giving me this interview. Yes, sir, I know you got a busy schedule. You got to write some more guidelines. You got to write some now for the Supreme Court? That's good. I wish you luck.

"You got any catchy little phrase you want to pass on from HEW to my readers? You have, huh? What's that? Yeah, that's real good. I'll be sure to pass it along. The more things change, the more they stay the same. You sure that's what you said? Yes, sir, you're welcome.

"The more they change, the more things stay the same. That is a catchy little phrase. Now, I wonder what he meant by that?"



"Driving or walking, Merten always has to be the first one away from a stop light."

The Franklin Times

Established 1870 — Published Tuesdays & Thursdays by

The Franklin Times, Inc.

Bickett Blvd. Dial GY6-3283 Louisburg, N. C.

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ELIZABETH JOHNSON, Business Manager



Advertising Rates Upon Request



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