

We Agree

We heartily agree with the action of the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners in their recent resolution asking that the funds appropriated for the Mills River Dam be used to construct a headwaters dam on the North Fork of the French Broad. We think this proposal should be very seriously considered.

First off, we remember that the original plan was to begin dam construction on the headwaters streams as the best way to prevent flooding. This was everybody's understanding of the way things were to go until, suddenly, the first dam was to be at Mills River. We don't know just what brought the change about, we say tongue-in-cheek, considering the much heavier political clout in Buncombe county. But now that funds are held up there, we agree that every effort should be made to

get them released to do the job they were originally supposed to do.

Secondly, we suppose we're just a little parochial. Building the highly controversial dam at Mills River wouldn't help Transylvania's flood problem a bit. But building a dam on the North Fork would make a big difference in the high water levels at Rosman and Brevard; and this would not be nearly so controversial as the Mills River project unless we were committed to the whole plan by so doing.

We're not fully committed to all the Upper French Broad Economic Development Commission's and the Tennessee Valley Authority's plan for dams on the Upper French Broad, but we're of the opinion that a start in the right place such as this, just might serve to settle some of our own controversy on the subject.

"Anyway You Plow It"

Agriculture is still the nation's largest industry. Three out of every 10 jobs are connected to farming. Nowhere in the world, at anytime in history, has a nation had a more abundant, low-cost, high-quality supply of foodstuffs.

"The average American", comments a leading business executive, "spends only 16.7 per cent of his take-home pay (for food). This compares with 37-39 per cent for his

counterpart in western Europe and Japan, the East Indian who pays 60 per cent of his paycheck for food and the Russian who must pay 65 per cent. . . ." In a period when productivity has been steadily falling for the country as a whole, output per man-hour of farm labor has increased 6.6 per cent per year since 1950.

As the business executive puts it, "Anyway you plow it, this is real productivity improvement. . . ."

Unseen Paycheck

Twenty years ago the average firm's employee was \$450. Today, according to a recent survey of 8,000 firms, the annual fringe benefit to the average employee total \$2,052. This survey found an increase of two to four per cent over the past two years in the cost of fringe benefits. Firms with 50 or fewer employees pay 13 to 15 per cent of their payroll toward the annual unseen paycheck of over \$2,000 which has been dubbed a "fringe" of a person's total income. Larger firms, the survey reveals, pay up to 30 per cent of payroll for these fringes which include

expanding forms of medical and hospital insurance, life insurance, disability and pension coverage. Other fringes include the cost of company clinic, physical, dental and eye care; cafeteria and coffee services; employee tuition refunds; scholarship and matching gift programs, etc.

Many employers as well as employees are oblivious to the monetary value of today's fringes. Nevertheless, they are part of the total cost of doing business. No employer, no employee or consumer should be deluded with the notion that fringes are free.

Censorship By Starvation

Censorship of the press can be accomplished in many ways. One of them is ever-tighter government control of advertising. By dictating to advertisers, government indirectly can control the press. An official of the Magazine Publishers Association warns that in some cases government requirements would convert an ad for a certain product into an ad against that product. He says, ". . . Under such government strictures, what advertiser would con-

tinue to pay for advertising? If the government establishes the legal right to destroy the effectiveness of advertising by regulation, the government could move from one category of advertising to another as the predilections of officials dictate. The result could be to dry up most of the 10 or 11 billion dollars of annual advertising revenue that now makes possible the wide dissemination of publications at popular prices. The press would not cease to

The Transylvania Times

100 Broad St.

Brevard, N. C. 28712

The Transylvania Pioneer, established 1887; The French Broad Voice, established 1888; The Brevard Hustler, established 1891; The Sylvan Valley News (later Brevard News), established 1896; The Times, established 1931; Consolidated 1932.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR

Inside the County—\$5.00 year

Outside the County—\$5.50

MEMBER OF
National Editorial Association
North Carolina Press Association

New York—Chicago—Detroit—Atlanta
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
American Newspaper Representatives



EDITORIAL PAGE

THE TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

PAGE TWO Thursday, January 20, 1972

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

January 12, 1972

Rosman Volunteer Fire Department
Rosman, North Carolina
Gentlemen:

We at Cherryfield Baptist Church would like to thank you for your prompt and efficient service when our furnace caught fire.

May the Lord bless and strengthen

the fine work you do in our community. We are all grateful that we can depend on your department.

Members of Cherryfield Church

Sincerely,

Cherryfield Baptist Church
Route 2, Box 575
Brevard, North Carolina
28712

Guest Column

Least We Think Too Highly Of Ourselves

By - Pete Ivey

Chapel Hill Weekly

Hoosier Hoot sends this verse to indicate that people should not take themselves too seriously.

He quotes:

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to the wrist
Pull it out, and the hole that is remaining
Is the measure of how you will

be missed.

You may splash all you please when you enter,
You can stir up the water galore.
But stop and you'll find in a minute,
That it looks quite the same as before.

The moral of this quaint example
Is do the best that you can.
Be proud of yourself but remember,
There is no indispensable man.

Pick Of The Press

That Haunting Calley Case

(Smithfield Herald)

The Calley case still haunts some of us. As 1971 drew to a close, Colonel Oran K. Henderson was freed of the charge that he covered up investigation of the massacre at My Lai in Vietnam. He was the officer in charge of an Army brigade that killed more than 100 Vietnamese men, women, and children in the hamlet of My Lai in March 1968.

He was the last officer to be tried as a suspected war criminal in the most sensational of war-crime cases growing out of the war in Indochina.

Last September, Captain Ernest Medina was acquitted of murder and manslaughter. He was the company commander who led the attack on the civilians of My Lai.

Twenty-five officers and soldiers became involved in the case. Some were freed of charges outright. Others were reprimanded or subjected to "disciplinary action."

Only Lieutenant William Calley, Jr., was convicted of a war crime. Subjected to the longest trial in military history, he was found guilty of murdering "not less than 22 civilians" and assaulting a small child "with intent to commit murder."

Lieutenant Calley was sentenced to life imprisonment. Since the trial, the Third Army commander commuted his sentence to 20 years.

The evidence strongly showed Calley's guilt. He was surely no national hero. Nevertheless, the conviction of Calley reflects

a gross injustice.

The injustice does not lie in the conviction per se. Many Americans think that it does. Some Harvard University researchers interviewed persons across the country and found that 75 per cent of the persons expressing opinion thought that the Calley trial was too harsh. And 67 per cent said they themselves would shoot old men, women, and children under military orders. What a commentary on what we like to call "the moral fiber" of America!

Injustice lies in the Army's singling out Lieutenant Calley for punishment without making any strong effort to bring or press charges against many military men, including higher-ranking officers, who should have shared accountability for what happened at My Lai.

"One in 25" is a conviction rate that remains suspect.

Not to be forgotten is the Army's public investigation of the My Lai massacre only after the massacre was exposed to public opinion by civilian media of communication.

Moreover, all too few Americans see any wrong in the U. S. policy of fighting a war in which our political and military leadership sanctions wholesale destruction of civilian populations, both aerial and ground weapons, as a means of subduing a crafty enemy.

It is, indeed, hard to erase the Calley case from conscience.

The Expensive Lush

(The Mount Airy News)

Most of the country has a lackadaisical attitude toward the drunk. It's a sort of "live and let live" attitude, even if he is driving his weaving, wobbly way down the street in an automobile.

He's costing you money, friend — around EIGHT BILLION dollars in 1971, according to some pretty reasonable statistics coming from the nation's insurance industry.

Last year, your friendly drunken driver KILLED more than 28,000 Americans, chalked up a total of over 800,000 accidents and sent auto insurance rates upward again and again.

A growing number of citizens are exist, but its editorial activities would be pinched back and its prices to readers would go so high that its circulation and its influence would dwindle to a fraction of their size. . . ."

People have a way of forgetting that oppression is always clothed in a zealot's concern for the public good. As the Magazine Publishers Association official concludes, ". . . No one, including government, should dictate what must be said or must not be said in the advertising pages of a free press. Under the First Amendment (to the U. S. Constitution) that decision must be left to the conscience and judgment of publishers, just as are editorial decisions."

ing increasingly militant about "soft" laws, which permit the drunken driver to return to the highways to continue his errand and very expensive ways.

Perhaps that's why some have been reading up on the way other nations treat their drunken drivers. In San Salvador, for instance, the penalty for drunken driving may be as severe as an appearance before a firing squad — with pretty final results to the offender.

Virginia is considered by many to have one of the more effective laws in the nation. A driver with more than two convictions for a major traffic offense, or more than 11 for subject to judicial certification as a habitual offender within a 10-year period, is a habitual offender and could have his license revoked for life. Should such a person then be caught driving without a license, he could receive a mandatory one-to-five year prison sentence — a sentence, by the way, which cannot be suspended.

That may sound severe, but hardly as harsh as the 10-year jail term and a \$2,800 fine awaiting the habitual offender in South Africa. Or the firing squad in San Salvador.

The habitual offender on the highways usually is a drunk, on drugs, or has a serious psychological problem. Almost invariably, he is a repeat offender. In many cases, the drunken driver has lost his or her driver's license — but not the urge to get under the wheel and drive.

Last year the drunken driver was responsible for \$4.8 billion in property damages arising out of auto accidents. Another \$3.5 billion disappeared in lost wages.

Then there's the little matter of 28,000 lives . . .

SENATOR
SAM ERVIN

* SAYS *

WASHINGTON — In spite of the fact that the first session of the 92nd Congress was one of the more lengthy ones, it did reverse to some extent the long delays in completing final action on appropriations.

Congress adjourned December 17th after approving 13 out of 14 regular money bills, leaving only the foreign aid appropriation for fiscal 1972 yet to be acted upon. In lieu of the passage of this bill, it enacted a continuing resolution to allow that program to be funded at last year's level pending the outcome of a decision as to whether the foreign aid program should be continued and, if so, at what level of funding. Congress also enacted an omnibus supplemental money bill to fund a number of programs apart from the regular appropriation process, and provided money for several special programs such as unemployment assistance and the feeding of hungry children.

Statistics taken from the Congressional Record reveal that Congress thus far has appropriated \$153.7 billion for fiscal 1972, and that this is approximately \$630 million less than requested by the President for these programs. It also appears that if Congress finally approves the foreign aid appropriation for fiscal 1972 it will cut the President's request by approximately \$1.34 billion. This would represent an overall budget cut of about \$2 billion, barring any new supplemental appropriations which could wipe out that budget reduction prior to June 30th, the end of fiscal 1972.

It also appears likely that Congress will attempt to take speedy action on appropriation bills when it reconvenes next week. Senate and House leaders have urged that fiscal 1973 authorization bills, which set money bill ceilings, be acted on prior to June 1st, so that appropriations can be voted on prior to July 1st, the date when fiscal 1973 begins.

This is a laudable goal, because in those years when a

logjam of money bills came to the Senate floor in October, November, and December that process permitted only hasty judgments on hundreds of departmental and agency requests. This was so because usually there are multitudes of non-appropriation bills which also must be acted upon in the hectic days just preceding adjournment. I have long advocated consideration of money bills earlier in the session.

Such action on appropriation bills may give greater perspective to lawmakers now considering outlays that aggregate one-fourth of our "gross national product," a nebulous term used to describe the total American output of goods and services for a particular year. We have reached a time when overall Federal outlays have more than doubled in the last ten years, 1962 - 1972. One of the most striking facts about this increase is that while defense spending even during the Vietnam war rose by about \$35 billion and has now decreased by \$10 billion from the peak years, outlays for social welfare and domestic programs have jumped by about \$100 billion and project a continuing increase. This represents a near doubling of Federal outlays for non-defense programs since 1962, and an emergence of a totally new spending pattern in the Federal budget.

Again in the next session, which convenes in a few days, Congress will be confronted with many new programs that will, if approved, require more than \$100 billion in new funds. What is often left unsaid during the advocacy of many of these programs is that they would have to be funded by new taxes or borrowed monies.

Nonetheless, the nature of our political process tells us that with elections of the President, all of the Members of the House and one-third of the Senate, only months away, Congress can expect to consider a multitude of proposals to disperse tax funds that we do not have and are not likely to get.

THE EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

BY

DR. HERBERT SPAUGH



Prayer changes things. Prayer changes you.

Repeatedly over the years I have affirmed this truth in the Everyday Counselor column. Before me now is a letter from a correspondent corroborating this truth.

"Thank you, Dr. Spough, for joining me in prayer for my 18-year-old son. Sometime ago I wrote you asking you to pray with me for his guidance. He was going with a divorcee older than he. He said he was going to marry her. About a week after I wrote this request, my son came home one night and as usual I went in to wish him good night. But this time he said, 'Mom, please sit down. I want to talk with you.' Then he expressed his appreciation to me and his father for 'everything I have ever wanted in life.' Then he commenced to sob that he was sorry for the worry he had caused us and for his sin, saying that he was going to try to live better and be a better Christian. Then we had a long prayer together.

"Now he has changed and almost forgotten the divorcee and is showing interest in a sweet, single girl his own age.

"I feel that my communication with my son is being restored. He says he plans to finish high school and hopes to go to college.

"So I want to thank you for your prayers and also for the Everyday Counselor column which I have read for many years."

This is no isolated incident. I frequently receive letters like this. At first there is a letter asking me to place their problem on the Everyday Counselor prayer list and join in prayer for its solution.

Now a statement we have made in this column many times, "When you can't talk to the man about God, you can talk to God about the man." Over the years my motto has been Prayer, Patience and Persistence.

Sometimes it takes all of these qualities in dealing with a problem. And sometimes it takes years before the answer comes. I recall praying 20 years for one man before he yielded his life to his Lord. Then he did it in a tremendous way and became a great influence for good, witnessing for his Lord.

Many questions and problems are brought to my desk for guidance through prayer. Of course, I don't know the answer to all the problems, but I do know He who does know the answer.

When you have a problem for which you seek a solution, first yield your life to your Lord, establish communion with Him, and lay the problem before Him. Don't make the mistake of asking the Lord to approve your desire, instead ask Him to reveal His plan and His desire. Then when the answer comes, accept it and act upon it.