

A Vote For Fisher Road

The State has agreed to install a red light and a turn lane to ease the traffic situation at the Brevard Middle School.

And there are two possible sites for the light—one at Fisher Road and N. Broad.

The other is at N. Broad and McLean, with the idea being that school traffic could enter on Fisher Rd., discharge their loads of pupils at the school, then circle around on Fisher to its intersection with McLean, then take McLean back into N. Broad at the light.

The city and county in cooperation want to build a sidewalk from N. Broad to the school, and the School Board argues logically, we think, that the Fisher Rd. route is best for the sidewalk. The distance up McLean Rd., then on Fisher to the school would be four times as long. Construction costs for the sidewalk and

walking distance involved make it unattractive.

The Fisher Rd. sidewalk route is far more desirable. But the board argues, if a sidewalk comes to the four-lane highway, it should have the protection of a red light. Otherwise the danger to children would be great.

A big "if" in the talks is the location of an entrance-exit for a shopping center being built across the road. Should it come out opposite Fisher Rd. it would need a right of way over property owned by Brevard College. Otherwise the entrance would be opposite McLean Rd.

It is our hope that the college would agree to a right of way out of the shopping center so that the red light can be placed at Fisher Rd. It will provide safety for the children, and also greatly hasten the ending of the traffic mess which now harrasses children, parents, and teachers at the school twice each day.

A Yawning Chasm

Work on the sidewalk extension for 150 yards or so down Greenville Highway to the new Brevard Elementary School should begin now, says County Commission Chairman Bill Ives.

The work should begin after the highway broadening program at the site has been completed, says Mayor Charles Campbell.

The county and the city agreed three weeks ago to cooperate in the sidewalk construction, with the city providing forms in which to pour county-supplied cement, and the supervision for the project.

Labor will be provided by the Emergency Service personnel paid for by Federal money.

Mr. Ives says the safety of the school children requires the sidewalk immediately. Mr. Campbell says it would be foolhardy to undertake building the sidewalk until the highway earth-moving and other work is complete. Workers would be in

the way of the highway crews, and much of the sidewalk might well have to be reworked, he says. Haste could make waste, so to speak.

We have no plans to get embroiled in this argument. We mentioned this discussion only to illustrate how very far apart the two governmental leaders are in their views.

Mr. Campbell's views in the city-county relationships are generally embraced by the city aldermen. Mr. Ives says that he has approached each of the aldermen by letter or personally in an effort to bury the hatchet, and that only one of the city board, Cornelius Hunt, expressed a willingness to talk to him.

It makes us wonder if any meeting of minds is possible between the two governments.

Like: could work on the sidewalk start when the road work is one half complete?

Insomnia Cure

There is no cure for (yawn) insomnia, like facing a day's work, we've decided.

Many a night, (Yawn) we've desperately tried to at least get a little nap before the next day.

Warm baths and warm milk, nationally advertised sleeping pills, the lull of sea surf by recording, vibrating beds, and the like might work for some

folks, but not for us.

We drag it out of bed, brush the teeth, shave, and grab a bite of breakfast, and dash to the office still wide awake.

Then, (yawn), all of a sudden, we're sleepy, sleepy, sleepy. Someday, we're going to take our work home with us for the night. That'll get the job done, (yawn), we hope.

EDITORIAL PAGE

THE TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Editor's Note: Letters must be brief, signed typed or written legibly on one side of paper. We reserve the right to reject, edit, or condense. Letters should be received by The Times by Monday mornings.)

Mr. C. K. Osborne
Transylvania Times
Brevard, North Carolina 28712

Dear Mr. Osborne:

This is an open letter to Mayor Campbell and the Board of Aldermen. I hope you will print it and perhaps we citizens of Brevard will have some questions answered that everyone seems to be asking.

An open letter to:
Mayor Charles Campbell
The Board of Aldermen

Dear Sirs:

I am a tax paying, voting, concerned citizen of Brevard, who would like a satisfactory explanation for the termination of the employment of Jimmy Rowe as Police Chief.

So far, the extent of explanation to the citizens has been: Mayor Campbell quoted, "I have tried for months to settle this thing down but finally it built into a mountain and the public became involved." Another explanation was "Dissention on the force and the men said it had to be Chief Rowe or them." My questions are: What has Mayor Campbell tried to settle down for months? What kind of mountain built? In what way did the public become involved? Why was there dissention on the force? Did the men have a legitimate complaint or was it a case of "boss making the men do an efficient job"? Did the entire force have complaints about Chief Rowe or was it seven out of seventeen on the force as the paper quoted? Did the men have to back up their complaints with facts or was it their word against Chief Rowe's, indeed, did Chief Rowe have a word at all? Was Chief Rowe given "his day in court", was he asked to deny, explain or defend the complaints? Was this a "hatchet job" on Chief Rowe for ulterior motives or was this man derelict in his duty?

honest opinion.

I can only speak of what I have seen and heard for the last four years, since returning to my hometown after being away for 16 years. I was surprised and pleased, to say the least, to find such an efficient and professional police force in my small hometown. I have never heard a bad word said about Chief Rowe, as police chief, nor about his men, as police officers. The only complaints I have ever heard have been from people who have been arrested or cited and I took that as a biased opinion. So where does the credit lie for the top-notch police force that Brevard has? It must go where it belongs, to the Chief and also to the men. An organization is just as good as the man who runs it. So it goes without saying that Chief Rowe is one of the finest police chiefs in the country and knows his job. On the other hand, he cannot make expert officers out of men unless they first have the qualities within them. With this kind of quality police chief and force, when, and where did "things go sour"? Or did they?

As elected officials, Mr. Mayor and Board of Aldermen, to act in the best interest of the taxpaying, voting citizens, tell us why firing Jimmy Rowe as Police Chief is in our best interest, and justified. Could this be a "political hatchet job" in the best interest of a selected few or is it a legitimate, justified move that the Board of Aldermen had to make?

Why, Mr. Mayor and Board of Aldermen? This is the question that I have spoken to since this unexplained step was taken. Your brief, obscure explanation is not satisfactory to those of us who care about our community and for our fellow man. More details please.

Cordially,

(Mrs.) Martha T. Nolen

Report To Hill Country

BY
CECIL HILL
State Senator

The Big News in the Legislature this week was the presentation of the budget by Governor Holshouser.

On Monday night the Senate convened in its Chamber at 7:00 p.m. and received a message shortly thereafter that the House was ready to receive us in joint session.

The great doors of each Chamber facing each other were opened and the senators marched two by two into the Hall of the House.

Shortly thereafter the Sergeant at Arms of the House announced the arrival of the Governor. He was escorted to the Well of the House by a joint committee from the House and the Senate.

Lt. Governor Hunt called the joint session to order.

Governor Holshouser urged repeal of the 3 per cent sales tax on food — effective July 1, 1976 — just before the next general election in North Carolina.

He stated that the tax cut could be effected without new taxes.

"There will be about \$81,000,000 left unspent in the state treasury at the end of the 1975-76 fiscal year," he stated.

As I see it, the people need it now, if they need it at all — not 18 months away.

Furthermore, in the face of a declining economy, it appears that it would be extremely difficult to project a surplus 18 months from now.

The general feeling of most legislators is that the proposal is politically motivated.

The Governor opposed a job

freeze among state employees.

I disagree on this point. To provide a job simply for a job's sake by government does not conform to my philosophy

that government has responsibility only when private industry fails. Our responsibility first is to get private industry going again.

I am neither defending nor accusing anyone. To date the public has not been given enough information to form an

Food Stamp Cutback: More Sacrifices?

By Bernard E. Nash

There was a story recently in *The Washington Post* about how a middle-class couple in their late 70s are struggling to exist solely on the approximately \$440 they receive each month from Social Security. So, as any retiree with an eye on the family budget might ask, what else is new?



Well, both the husband and wife in this story are in failing health which, of course, adds considerably to their expense burden. Although not as badly off as many other old people, they are in obviously precarious financial straits, yet they are not considered poor enough to qualify for assistance via food stamps, Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income.

"I'm not asking for a hand-out," the husband told reporter Doug Brown. "I've never asked anybody to give me anything. I've stood on my own two feet all my life. I've helped lots of others and I never had to ask for help until now." Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

Unfortunately, help has not been forthcoming, so this middle-class couple, who are not really so very poor, continue to skimp on even the most basic essentials as they struggle just to survive on their limited income during these trying times. And one wonders how much more difficult life must be for those in our land of plenty who have even less.

Difficult as their lives may be now, there will be still more hardships and sacrifices after March 1 if President Ford's announced cutbacks in the food

stamp program take effect.

As you may already know, this is the U.S. Department of Agriculture program under which an individual or family buys stamps which are then used, in place of money, to purchase food worth considerably more than the sum paid for the stamps. There are, of course, income limitations, and the program has had its shortcomings, but it has also represented for some 15 million Americans of all ages the difference between salvation and starvation.

It might be anticipated that, as inflation continues to escalate, more and more people would have turned to this program. Instead, if the price of food stamps themselves is raised, at least half of the two million older Americans currently using them (plus many other younger users) will be forced out of the program.

Under the new schedule, it has been estimated that most people living alone (such as many older people do) would have to pay 35 to 100 percent more for their monthly supply of stamps. For instance, to an older person with a monthly income of \$105, the price of stamps (redeemable for \$46 worth of food) would rise from \$18 to \$31. In his home state of Minnesota, notes Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, an older person living on \$178 monthly would have to pay \$23 for stamps worth \$46!

Of course, his or her income is not expected to increase—but the price of food undoubtedly will, thus further reducing the stamps' value. At the same time, the administration has indicated that, in addition to cutting financial assistance to state Medicaid programs, it will seek to decrease Medicare benefits by requiring older Americans to pay

a still greater share of their medical expenses. (There will be more in this column about these proposed health care cutbacks as they come before Congress.)

Unlike the health care reductions, the food stamp cutbacks can be brought about by an Executive Order from President Ford, and thus do not have to seek Congressional approval. The only way they can be stopped is if the President considers the terrible damage they will do and changes his mind, or if Congress enacts legislation blocking them.

Declaring that "Mr. Ford's proposal hits hardest those least capable of coping with inflation," Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) has promised to introduce legislation freezing food stamp prices at their present level. Such legislation would most likely receive support from those legislators concerned about the elderly and the poor, but it would also be met with strong administration opposition.

It's only fair to point out that these cutbacks are not being proposed to hurt the elderly and the poor, but to reduce government expenditures. I can appreciate the need for economy measures at this time, and am sure that most older Americans are willing to do what must be done within reason. However, as I have noted in this column before, it is unreasonable and callously cruel to demand further sacrifices from those who have the least left to sacrifice.

(Mr. Nash is the executive director of the nonprofit, non-partisan National Retired Teachers Association and American Association of Retired Persons.)

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