

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.)

Editor Osborne, Transylvania Times:

Remember two dates if you do not want a national unisex society under ERA and many years of legal conflict: March 4, at 3 p.m. Legislative Bldg. Auditorium, Raleigh, open hearing, speakers for the misnamed Equal Rights Amendment; March 11 at 3 p.m. same place, speakers against ERA.

Professor Kurland, University of Chicago Law School says primary beneficiaries of ERA are men. Prof. Paul Freund, Harvard Law School, studied ERA for 25 years going back to its shady beginning following the Wall - Street - financed Bolshevik Revolution.

In March '71 Civil Rights, Civil Liberties Law Review, he published: "every wife and mother will lose her right to be supported by husband." Dr. Johnathan H. Pincus, neurology professor, Yale Medical school, predicts: "ERA would bring increasing divorce, desertion leading to alcoholism, suicide, sex deviation, downgrading women to where Russian women were 50 years ago."

Many of the Phyllis Schlafley national STOP ERA reports show states would lose control of homes and children. Never again could state laws be made, for jurisdiction would be entirely under the Federal Daddy. Haven't we given up enough State Rights? Libbers are financed in the hundreds of thousands by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Playboy Foundation, plus improper use of Federal employees and expensive Government pamphlets paid for by your and my tax money. Neither STOP ERA nor North Carolinians Against ERA have anything but the 25 cents to a dollar gifts by people like me, and our own postage writing to legislators. Write to them quickly, men and women alike, to save Christian civilization!

Friends have cut out legislators' names from my letter of Feb. 13. Those who phoned me about mistakes and omissions, I corrected. For other concerned citizens, here is correct list: chrm., A.

Hartwell Campbell; vice chairmen, J.P. Huskins, Robert A. Jones; other members: Samuel D. Bundy; Ruth E. Cook; John Ed Davenport; Judson D. DeRamus, Jr.; Thomas Odell Gilmore, Sr.; W. S. Harris, Jr.; Fred S. Hutchins, Jr.; C. Kitchen Josey; H. M. Michaux, Jr.; Mrs. Mary C. Nesbitt; Hector E. Ray; Bobby Wayne Rogers; Wade Marvin Smith; Carl J. Stewart, Jr.. Besides Mrs. Nesbitt our local representatives are Herbert L. Hyde, Claude DeBruhl, and John S. Stevens.

Mrs. Roy J. DeLong 107 Maple St. Brevard, N. C.

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

Dear Mr. Osborne,

I would like to take this opportunity to reply to the letter from the Transylvania County Board of Education members of Feb. 20, 1975.

First, these people were elected to serve at the will of the people and the choice was made by the people after considering the promises and the pledge of each of the candidates, not from what they thought they would learn or be influenced by other members. If they are doing their job they were elected to do, they would be re-elected. Are the members worried about being re-elected?

Second, why should we not have a complete change of members if we disagree with the policies and programs in our schools? What better way can the voice of the people be heard? Considering some of the programs, policies and personnel being used in our schools today, maybe a complete change is a good idea!!

May I remind these board members that the President of the United States is elected for four years and wouldn't it be a shame if it took him two to four years to learn his job!!!

Sincerely Yours,

John Dills, Jr. Route 1 Box 41 Pisgah, Forest, N.C.

Share Your Ideas on Fighting Inflation

By Bernard E. Nash

You will probably find this as hard to believe as I did, but there are a surprisingly large number of people in this country who are enthusiastic about the prospect of the present recession deepening into a full-fledged depression. These people entertain no hopes of profiting from our economic doldrums, their curiosity is peaked by thought of experiencing first-hand the struggles and austerity-inspired virtues of the 1930s.

Of course, they weren't here during the Great Depression, and their knowledge of that period is restricted to what they have gleaned from nostalgic books, movies and television programs like "The Waltons" which candy-coat the hard reality to make it more palatable.

Most who lived through the Great Depression—and I think that might include many of this column's readers—are hardly anxious to repeat the experience. Instead, they are concentrating on getting through the current crisis—or perhaps crises would be more appropriate—in hopes that this too shall eventually pass, leaving their lives and finances as unscathed as possible under the present difficult circumstances.

As I've traveled across the country, listening to people talking about whatever concerns them most, I can report to you that, for the most part, Americans of all ages are not anticipating any massive disaster, but they are worried about coping with today's various economic fluctuations, and are quite anx-

ious about what the immediate future holds in store.

Older Americans are particularly concerned—and with good reason. They remember the hardships of the Great Depression, and fearfully wonder if they are still as capable of coping with them as they were then. After all, many of their generation's present financial problems have their roots in the fact that their prime working years were disrupted by the economic upheaval of the 1930s, and then by the sacrifices necessitated by World War II.

There are now government programs for helping people during times like these which didn't even exist back then, but there has been talk of reducing their scope—and this worries them. It is doubtful if Congress will go along with President Ford's proposal to limit the Social Security cost-of-living increment to five percent this year when inflation is likely to take its toll at twice this rate.

Social Security is, after all, practically sacred to our nation's legislators and President Ford is likely to be overruled. But the White House has also proposed reducing Medicare benefits, and has already acted to raise the cost of food stamps which have meant the difference between salvation and starvation for some two million older Americans. Perhaps the Congress will not allow this to happen, but there is still considerable reason for concern—and it has led many persons to write a letter of protest to their Congressman and Senators for the first time in their life, it is reported by Congress.

It is still possible, however, that compromises may yet be made in the name of economic necessity that would result in

some of the aforementioned reductions being instituted—although they probably won't be as great as when originally proposed. Fortunately, most people realize that, no matter how great a role government plays in dealing with the economic situation, a great deal is going to depend upon our efforts to cope as individuals.

During previous times of trial, Americans have learned that survival for all frequently depends upon sharing and cooperation. From what I've heard recently, I'm convinced that that spirit is still very much with us, and that we Americans can still depend upon each other during hard times.

Sometimes, the most valuable commodity that can be shared is ideas, so I'd like to suggest a way in which this column can help you share with other readers your ideas for coping with the current situation. If you will share with me the ways in which you've managed to cut costs and stretch your budgets, I will glean from them novel or representative ideas and pass them on in future columns. Thus, your most interesting ideas can be shared with other readers—and they, in turn, will be sharing theirs with you.

Please send your ideas to the care of "Coping," AARP/NRA, 1909 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20049. One small hint: By keeping your ideas brief enough to fit on the back of a postcard, you can save on postage and stationery. It's only a few pennies saved, I know, but it's a start.

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

Old Transylvania Times by Earle Kersh. The stone surveyors' marker on the lawn in front of the County Commissioners' office was once used to establish the official compass setting for land surveys in Transylvania. Surveyors set up their instruments over this stone and sighted on another stone marker that used to be on the Brevard College campus. In those days that was an unobstructed view. The compass was adjusted to this reading so all surveys agreed. In earlier times, surveys were not exact. Later on, this led to endless disputes over property boundaries and kept the county lawyers busy.



Bravo, Congressman

Congressman Roy A. Taylor in a letter mailed to House Speaker Carl Albert has, in effect, accused the lawmaking body of which he is a member of laziness in a critical year when something has to be done about inflation, joblessness, and other ills.

A schedule of nine recesses during the year has been proposed by the House leadership with approval of each recess subject to a prior house vote.

In his protest letter, Rep. Taylor criticized the proposed schedule as "excessive and untimely."

"In my district and area, Congress is being severely and bitterly criticized both by the press and the people because of the recent Lincoln week recess and the thoroughly advertised recess schedule announced for the rest of the year," Mr. Taylor said.

Continuing, Mr. Taylor added: "I have found it difficult to explain to my constituents why Congress plans so many recesses (they call it vacations) this year in the face of the most serious economic problems that the people have faced in three decades." (Incidentally, Mr. Taylor says he remained in his Washington office during the Lincoln recess.)

Taylor said: "The people say we are not trying, not working and refer to the many vacations planned. I believe that the 1975 recess schedule is excessive and untimely."

"The President and the press are hitting us over the head each day for lack of effort and lack of action. They use and will continue to use the recess schedule as the most damaging evidence of a do-nothing attitude by the Congress."

"This is a difficulty year and

the worst may be yet to come. People want congressmen to remain in Washington, attacking the problems here rather than being in their home districts listening to the people and making speeches."

In summary, the congressman said: "Considering the economic and political climate, I recommend that the House abolish the proposed recess schedule, and publicize its action and that a more modest recess schedule, similar to the one followed last year or the year before, be planned. I believe that this would be in the best interest of Congress, and especially us Democratic members to whom the people are looking for positive leadership."

You're right, Congressman Taylor. It has been increasingly evident in the first weeks of the new Congress that all of the campaign oratory and promises made prior to the 1974 elections comprised mostly a lot of hogwash.

Now that the oversized group of newcomers has qualified for the large salaries received by Congressmen they're more interested in living it up than in working.

It is a sad fact that a sadly disillusioned electorate in 1974 sent only 38 per cent of its members to the polls.

Perhaps Congressmen figure if voters can be lazy, why can't they?

Sad thing is, if so many voters hadn't been lazy last fall, we'd probably have a much harder-working Congress right now when so much hard work is needed.

Anyway, thanks for the letter, Congressman Taylor. If enough of you and your colleagues write them, it will do some good.

Step Toward Unity

We've received word from K. Edward Green of Dunn, Chairman of the North State Caucus of the state's Democrat Party that his party has been working diligently in an effort to devise a Fair Campaign Practice Code.

The hope of the caucus is to eliminate the mud-slinging, and knock-down, drag-out battles in the primaries which divided the party for general election time.

The caucus is recommending

that the State Democratic Executive Committee adopt a Code of Fair Campaign Practice; and that every Democratic candidate in the state be requested to execute the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

The code is a step in the right direction. Dirty campaigns have always appalled us. But things are going to be hard to change.

We may have lived too long with the old saw: "Everything goes in love, in war, and in politics."

Report To Hill Country

BY CECIL HILL State Senator

During the week of February 24, many bills affecting many subjects were introduced in both houses, but the principal interest in the legislature centered around two subjects — utilities and appropriations.

Already there have been over 20 bills introduced in the two houses dealing with public utility rates and how the commission should control them. Most of the bills speak to the method of selection of the members of the Commission, the size of the Commission, and the procedures of the Commission.

The bills introduced by Representative Hyde in the House and Senator Webster in the Senate, as amended, seem to receive the most favorable attention.

I know that utility companies would prefer not having the law changed at all. The general public, for the most part, would like to have the law changed almost entirely.

Both the Hyde bill and the Webster bill seem to impose reasonable restrictions on the companies as far as rate-making procedures are concerned.

I believe that the citizens can live with the law which these bills would establish. The right to raise rates without a hearing has been eliminated in both bills.

On the other hand, an opportunity for a quick rate-making hearing before the Commission would be possible. This should protect the utility companies.

We have a real clash bet-

ween the State Budget Office and the Fiscal Research Division. The budget office estimates that the State's economy will drop only two per cent in 1974-75 and one per cent in 1975-76 followed by a two per cent rebound. In spite of the revenue lost, the amount estimated to be collected would support the present recommended budget and the repeal of the sales tax on food in 1976.

However, the Fiscal Research Division estimates a 33 million dollar deficit for 1975-76 and over twice that amount in the next fiscal year.

The Senate Appropriations Committee is talking about a 40 million to 50 million dollar cut in the Advisory Budget Commission's budget. The House leadership is recommending 300 million dollars. None of us will know how deep the recession is or how much revenues will be affected, and the Appropriation Committees are whittling away at every opportunity.

It probably will be about May 1 before we know about what we may expect for the next fiscal year.

I don't know of a single member of the General Assembly who wants annual sessions of the legislature, but it is becoming apparent that we must come back next spring to pass a budget for the following year.

Among the bills receiving

The Old Timer



"Some people pay a compliment as if they expect a receipt."

considerable interest is one to assist the collection of tax on mobile homes.

Another imposes tax on motor vehicles to be paid at the time a license tag is secured. This would be in lieu of the ad valorem tax at present collected by counties.



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