

The Warren Record

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Election Year Promises

The need for reducing the federal debt is generally recognized but is seemingly of less importance than the re-election of the president and members of Congress, many of whom have stated their opposition to any reduction in social legislation or increase in taxes.

In a recent issue of The Christian Science Monitor, Lee Iacocca, chairman of Chrysler Corporation, offers his suggestions for not only reducing the federal debt, but of other governmental reforms.

He suggests that the government levy a one-cent sales tax, to be applied to national defense, and a 25 cent gasoline tax to be applied to reducing the federal debt.

In addition Iacocca would reform the anti-trust laws in order that U. S. firms may compete in world markets. He points out that "if the Justice Department requires each auto manufacturer to conduct research on, for instance, pollution-control devices US industry groups should be able to share research and development costs on projects that are public benefits and don't essentially affect competition."

Iacocca warns that "unless there is more cooperative planning among management, labor and government, US unemployment will soon climb."

Price Of Good Schools

In The News And Observer

One commission after another has analyzed the ills of public education, but now the North Carolina Association of Educators offers a positive and detailed program for making the schools the places of learning that taxpayers say they want them to be. The NCAE's proposal points the debate over schools in precisely the right direction.

Here's why:

—It would make teaching an attractive profession for bright young people by substantially raising salaries.

—It would link career status and higher pay to proven performance in the classroom, something politicians and parents have been clamoring for.

—It calls for solidifying the academic training of teachers in colleges of education.

—It recommends a more flexible curriculum, with students spending more time on basic courses and less on electives. Further, the NCAE proposal would involve principals and teachers in the planning of that curriculum.

—It would reduce class sizes by roughly 40 percent, but with a reduction also in money spent on teacher aides and special teachers.

Such changes could usher in a welcome strengthening of academics. They also would cost a lot of money — about \$600 million over the next three years, according to early estimates. But genuine reform of the schools — from teacher training to students' curriculum — entails large public costs, and politicians and taxpayers must be prepared to finance them.

At the heart of these costs would be higher salaries for teachers. The NCAE, the organization that represents public school teachers, has every reason to argue for higher salaries when North Carolina teachers rank near the bottom in annual salary (average pay: \$17,900, about \$3,000 less than the national average).

Under the NCAE proposal, start-

ing salaries for teachers would rise from \$13,660 annually to about \$22,000. And whereas a North Carolina teacher with a master's degree now makes no more than \$20,600 (not counting local salary supplements that average \$500 statewide), the NCAE plan would pay \$35,000 for skilled teachers who qualify as "mentors" — those able to help others teach better. For most teachers, salary would be about \$27,000, but reaching that level would require three years' internship (the first at half pay of \$11,000), monthly evaluations by a mentor and successful peer review.

It's essential that taxpayers be willing to pay more to get better teachers. But it's equally important, as the NCAE recognizes, for the colleges to train better teachers. The NCAE does not reject the "methodology" courses that have cost colleges of education much intellectual esteem, but it does call for 1) a two-year core curriculum built on English, social science, mathematics and science and 2) two years' concentration in an academic subject.

Were it any other profession, the NCAE's program would seem less ambitious. But because teachers have not been treated or paid like professionals, many legislators and taxpayers may be unprepared for it. And that, it's now clear, is part of the problem. Teaching ought to be a profession as much as law or medicine, demanding, rewarding and attractive to society's best and brightest.

Geographic Briefs

For nearly a thousand years no woman has been permitted to set foot on Mount Athos, an Eastern Orthodox religious community on Greece's Aegean Sea coast, National Geographic says.

Charleston, S. C., pioneered in historic preservation in the United States, in 1931 passing the first historic-district zoning ordinance.

Mostly Personal

Visiting Chapel Hill

By BIGNALL JONES
Friday, January 20, was an unforgettable day for Grace and me. Jeff and Ann Palmer on that day invited us to accompany them to Chapel Hill to visit Albert and Gladys Coates and Bob House, mutual friends, and Kay and Georgia Kyser, long-time friends of Mr. and Mrs. Palmer.

We were in Chapel Hill before we learned that we were to meet at the home of Robert House, former chancellor of the University of North Carolina. Here, we were to learn later, Jeff had arranged with Mrs. Sarah Hanes, Robert's housekeeper, to prepare a luncheon. Mrs. Hanes is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jim Moore of Warrenton. Before her marriage, Mrs. Moore was Miss Lucy Palmer, sister of the late Miss Hattie Palmer who married Robert House.

We arrived at Chapel Hill, and Jeff said as it was a little early to go around to the home of Robert House, he would like to show us the new multi-million-dollar gymnasium now under construction at the university and the Simon Terrell building. Simon is a native of Warrenton and for many years served as director of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. En route we passed the site where President Bill Friday is building a home to which he will move upon his retirement, and the beautiful new home of the new library building. We only got a far-off look at the gym and failed to see the building named in honor of Simon, whose wife works as secretary for Basketball Coach Dean Smith, deciding to return later in the day. We did not as time did not permit.

When we arrived at the home of Robert House we drove into the back yard of the home, as did all the other guests. Ann Palmer drove to Chapel Hill and back home while Jeff and I sat in the back seat and recalled memories of many years ago. Jeff said that the only time he drives is when he is alone; that Ann loves to drive and that he likes to relax on the back seat. She is an excellent driver, as is my wife, who a few years ago drove our car on a family trip to Canada and back.

As we parked in the backyard of the home, Albert Coates drove up alone, and we all went into the house together where we were greeted by Mrs. Hanes and Robert House. Albert is the founder and for many years director of the North Carolina Institute of Government. Gladys Coates came up shortly after Albert arrived. Kay and Georgia Kyser also came in separate cars. Henry Lewis, a former director of the Institute of Government, also came alone. I was sorry to learn that Mrs. Reese Berryhill was unable to attend. Mrs. Berryhill is the former Miss Norma Connell of Warrenton. Her late husband was dean of the University Medical School.

Robert House is largely confined to a walker but handles himself with little assist-

ance. He is nearly 92 years old, and although his voice is weak, his mind is clear. The rest of the guests were ambulatory but appreciative of several stories of loss of memory told during the luncheon. These included going to the refrigerator and not remembering whether one was going to put in food or take it out; sitting on the stairs and not remembering whether one was going up or coming down; and looking at an open letter and not knowing whether one had written or received it.

As stated, Kay Kyser came in alone. I am not certain of his age, but he is one of the most interesting men I have met. He told of incident after incident of his life as we consumed a delicious lunch. Kay is a native of Rocky Mount who was to organize his famous orchestra while a student at Chapel Hill. I think he studied with the Playmakers at Chapel Hill, which may have increased his showmanship, but it is my understanding that he cannot read a note or play any musical instrument. He coached a boys' football team in Rocky Mount which had a marvelous winning record, and yet had never played any football. He told the group that he attended college games on Saturdays and used the plays for his team's game on the following Saturday. At the end of the luncheon, regret was shared that it could not have been taped. In another column I hope that there will be space for some of Kay's stories told us on that Friday afternoon.

As for Georgia Carroll Kyser, I think a former Rockette, who contributed to the conversation, I did not think of her age, only how perfectly charming she is. She and her husband have never visited Warrenton. All the

others have close ties with Warrenton. Robert House, who asked grace for the meal and played his harmonica briefly at its close, attended school at the old Graham Academy and married a Warren County girl. He often visited Warrenton and often spoke and played his harmonica at public meetings. He has in the Warren County Memorial Library a delightful book, "Miss Sue and the Sheriff."

Albert Coates roomed with Thomas Wolfe, Bill Polk and Skinner Kittrell of Henderson at Harvard Law School and was a close friend of Bill and his wife until Bill's death. Gladys Coates before her marriage was Gladys Hall and attended college at Randolph Macon Woman's College, as did her sister, Marge, and Tempe Boyd of Warrenton. Both the Hall girls frequently visited Warrenton and it is quite possible that Gladys met Albert at Warrenton. Both she and her husband became lifelong friends of Fair Polk Mitchell, who writes frequently to Gladys.

Henry Lewis of Chapel Hill is the son of the former Jennie Williams, daughter of Mrs. Lucy Williams of Warrenton who lived diagonally across the street from our home in Warrenton. He spent much time at Warrenton visiting his grandmother. Some of the best stories told at the luncheon were about the late Mrs. Katherine Arrington, her great beauty and charm, and Gladys joined in many stories told about Violet Sommerville, the Polk cook, as told by Fair Mitchell and Bill Polk.

There is a great deal more to tell about this memorable event. Perhaps I will tell it in a later column.

News Of Yesteryear

Looking Back Into The Warren Record

February 4, 1944

When Everett Harris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Harris of Arcola, was handed a package of free cigarettes recently while sailing from Sicily to England, he was elated to notice that the tab bore a message from citizens of Warren County and the Lions Club of Warrenton.

Mr. and Mrs. Creed Satterwhite of Norlina attended the Grand Old Opry show at the Mosque Theatre in Richmond, Va. on Jan. 26.

Miss Margaret Long of Norlina left on Friday for Washington, D. C., where she has accepted a position with the Treasury Department.

January 30, 1959

Machinery is being moved in and last minute plans completed for the opening Monday of Warren Tire Service, Inc., which will offer a complete recapping and vulcanizing service, according to Charlie Bowen, manager.

The Rt. Rev. Edwin A. Penick, retiring bishop of the diocese of North Carolina, will make his last annual visitation to Emmanuel Episcopal Church and the Church of the Good Shepherd at Ridgeway on Sunday.

Macey Jackson Paynter, 13, of Afton was named this year's district 4-H Club winner in the dairy calf project.

January 31, 1974

Warren County's business payroll grew at a rate almost double the national average during a three-year period covered by a government study just released.

Mary Dowell Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Taylor of Norlina, has been elected one of eight Outstanding Sophomores for 1974 at Peace College in Raleigh.

Letters To The Editor

Letter Discussed

To The Editor:

Warrenton is my town also. I love this place. I was born and raised here. As a young man in my twenties, I could not find a job during the great depression of the thirties and had to leave home to find employment. In those days, if you needed assistance, you had to work for it.

About a year ago, Ann and I decided to retire in Warrenton. I must say that this past year has been most enjoyable and most pleasant. Even though I did not live in Warrenton for many years, I always tried to keep up with what was going on through my many friends here and The Warren Record. In this way, I followed closely the activities of the county commissioners.

Now, this brings me to that vicious and verbally violent letter written about one of our best county commissioners, Jack Harris, one of the most highly respected men in our county. This angry letter was written by Mr. Frank Ballance and published in the Jan. 17 issue of The Warren Record.

For what possible reason or purpose should such a raging letter be written to the public about Mr. Harris, I do not know. I certainly hope it wasn't because of Mr. Ballance's apparent hatred for Mr. Harris and he wanted the public to know of his ill feeling. If this be true, then the public found out more about Mr. Ballance than they did about Mr. Harris. Or could it be that certain commissioners want to get rid of Mr. Harris like they did Mr. Glenwood Newsome and Mr. John Henry Palmer.

You know, I'd like to make a request of the other commissioners. Will each of you write a separate letter to the editor of this newspaper and express your opinion of Mr. Harris?

I also suggest to Mr. Ballance that he take the Dale Carnegie course on "How to Win Friends and Influence People." I believe this course is given in Raleigh. Unless, of course, he thinks the heat will be too severe.

You know, if new industry is what we want for the betterment of Warren County, then Mr. Ballance's public tirade against Mr. Harris does not help matters. I hope any industry now considering coming to our county will not be influenced by Mr. Ballance's detrimental behavior.

On July 20, 1983, I wrote a letter to the editor about Warrenton being a class town because its people make it so. But now, I believe I have to change that thought and say that except for a small radical element, Warrenton is truly a class town.

JEFF D. PALMER

Why Make Issue?

To The Editor:

The three merchants, Willoughby Harris, Rite-Aid Pharmacy, and Boyce Drug Store, all accused of allegedly selling and displaying "porno" material, should not feel guilty nor feel that they owe an apology to either Joe Lennon, Health Director, the Town Commissioners, nor any other citizen in Warren County. The magazines are published and intended to be sold and are distributed and sold throughout the entire United States, not just Warren County. Furthermore, neither of these three merchants, I'm sure, forced the sale of the material upon anyone nor asked them to view the material.

If this were the only problem that existed in Warrenton and Warren County, the citizens should consider themselves lucky.

Who is doing anything about those filthy, unsanitary, disgraceful pool rooms that operate in the town? I'm sure, if thoroughly investigated, one could find a lot worse "going on" in them than buying a "porno" magazine. Another disgraceful sight that has gone on for several years in Warrenton and nothing has been done about it, is the area from Super Dollar Store on down to that laundry mat across from the IGA store. This is nothing but an area for public nuisances, more than likely unemployed and on public assistance. There are the same ones hanging on the streets both day and night, raising hell, talking filth, drinking liquor, smoking dope, (with the police watching) prostitution and anything else that can be named. This goes on every day of the week. It's unsafe for shoppers to even walk through the streets of Warrenton.

Let's face it, Warrenton is completely "gone" and has been for some time. So why make an issue over a "porno" magazine?

ROBERT JONES
Norlina

Dateline: Washington

By REP. TIM VALENTINE

Space has often been called "the Last Frontier." Last year the boundaries of that frontier moved out a little bit further and our knowledge of it increased greatly.

In 1983, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) celebrated its Silver Anniversary, marking 25 years of American excellence in space.

Beyond the celebration, 1983 was a year of significant NASA achievement and a year of many space firsts. The first woman and the first black astronaut flew in space, and for the first time in nine years, two American astronauts walked in space.

NASA held a perfect launch record in 1983 with 19 successful launches. Four space shuttle missions were completed, and a major research device called the Infrared Astronomical Satellite, or IRAS, was launched. IRAS is a joint project of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands which has already made hundreds of major discoveries, including the detection of unexplained celestial objects and rings of dust within our solar system.

1983 marked the successful mission of "Spacelab," the largest international cooperative development program ever undertaken. "STS-9/Spacelab" conducted a 10-day mission, its longest to date, and the second shuttle orbiter "Challenger" was added to the U. S. fleet.

All in all, a banner year for NASA and a fitting crown for its first 25 years.