

The Warren Record

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Cause Of Rejoicing

All of us who are concerned with the public schools of North Carolina will rejoice to learn that the North Carolina Legislature has provided a packet that will supply the public schools with \$255 million. This not only provides for an across-the-board raise of 15 percent for all teachers, but a reduction in classroom sizes as well.

Beyond the positive effect this should have on the teachers and their schools the 15 percent boost in teachers salaries should have a beneficial effect upon the economy of all counties in the state. Just how much this will mean for Warren County can not be estimated until the Warren County Board of Education is informed of its share of the increase. Present teachers' salaries in the county range from \$13,660 to \$20,160.

In its lead editorial Monday morning, The News and Observ-

er credited Governor Jim Hunt for "creating the momentum" and the Legislature for "responding admirably."

"Hunt magnanimously gives the credit to the Legislature," The Observer says, and adds "still the package originated with Hunt—his last major initiative in eight years as governor, during which he has made better schools a centerpiece of his administration. The Legislature, divided on other issues, united on the one that most vitally affects North Carolina's future."

"Indeed the Legislature has provided the Governor almost everything his program called for. When a lame-duck governor proposes a many sided package with a price tag of \$299.6 million and the Legislature approves \$255 million worth, it attests to the solidarity of the program, the lawmakers' judgment and Hunt's skill in leadership..."

Free Tuition Said Unwise

In The Durham Morning Herald Governor Jim Hunt has asked the General Assembly to give him the whole nine yards on educational reform — to fill the holes left during his eight-year administration.

Sometimes fairly, sometimes unfairly, Mr. Hunt gets blamed for those holes—particularly low pay for teachers—but the naysayers need to remember that he has done much without much. The N. C. School of Science and Mathematics in Durham, teachers' aides, reduced classroom size and competency testing are some of those measures.

Until the economy began to rally, Mr. Hunt's administration was strapped for money to grant raises and to provide innovations in public education. Now he is asking for essentially what was recommended by the North Carolina Commission on Education and Economic Growth, a 100-member panel that offered some sensible goals.

Two factors make it likely that Mr. Hunt will get most of what he wants: The money is apparently available because of an anticipated \$500 million surplus and Mr. Hunt is appealing to his buddies — an overwhelmingly Democratic General Assembly.

Most of the members of the General Assembly would like to see Mr. Hunt succeed in his race against Republican Sen. Jesse Helms in the fall. Approval of his recommendations would give his campaign a substantial boost and take the sting out of Mr. Helms' question, "What has Jim Hunt done for education?"

But there is also reason not to go overboard. While Mr. Hunt's recommendation of a 15 percent salary increase for teachers is virtually assured, some matters need to be deferred.

Certainly, the General Assembly should not take hasty action on his proposal to provide a free college education for people who are studying for the teaching profession. North Carolina residents are already given a healthy state subsidy in college education, particularly in state-supported institutions but also at private schools.

To single out one public service profession for free tuition would seem unfair. Numerous people prepare for public service careers in college: public health, administration, criminal justice, water resources, engineering and the like. Like teachers, they are studying with the goal of working in a job that would enhance the public welfare.

While people studying for teaching are perhaps more numerous and more evident because of the throbbing issues of public education, they don't necessarily deserve an economic edge through free tuition.

Gambling On Honesty

By WALTER SPEARMAN
In The Smithfield Herald

Reno, Nevada is as famous for its gambling casinos as it is for its quick divorce courts. Desperate males may be found in either place—and quick-witted females may take them for a ride in either game.

For instance, there's the recent story of six men who rented a hotel room for their stay in Reno. Being somewhat gullible, they listened to the hard-luck story of 60-year-old Margaret Ann Barrett, who told them she was a "homeless grandmother" and didn't have any place to stay. They let her use their hotel room—and even paid for her dinner. They would have been wiser to gamble at the casino than to gamble on "grandma's" honesty.

They left Grandma Barrett in their hotel room "to sleep" while they went about their own Reno business, whatever it was.

When they got back to their room, Grandma was gone—and so was more than \$50,000 in cash, travelers checks, and jewelry. When they gambled on Grandma's honesty, they lost.

But so did Grandma. Police picked her up before she could make her usual getaway, the local court found her guilty of grand larceny, and the judge sentenced her to 10 years in prison. And since this was Reno, the judge also "divorced" Grandma from her ill-gotten \$50,000.

Everybody gambled in Reno, but only the guilty really lost — this time.

Worth Quoting

Before going out in slacks, some women should exercise hindsight. —Shelby Friedman.

Early to bed, early to rise, enables you to save enough to do otherwise. —Joseph Salak.

No self-made man ever did such a good job that some woman didn't want to make a few alterations. —Kin Hubbard.

Was The Election Stolen?

By BIGNALL JONES
My father told me that the Republicans stole the election in 1878 when Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner over Samuel J. Tilden, but my father was never very charitable about Republicans. A reference to encyclopedias revealed that Tilden only lacked one vote of being elected President of the United States in 1878, but the charge of fraud was raised in several states, and Black Republicans from Mississippi sent in one slate of delegates and White Democrats sent in another. The results were sent to the Election Committee, which decided that Hayes was the winner.

I had always heard that it was a compromise accepted by the Southern Democrats if Northern troops were removed from the South. But one of the three encyclopedias that I searched during the past few days stated that both Republican and Democratic platforms called for removal of the soldiers. All three agreed that it was a good thing for both the South and the Nation.

Hayes was a high type man, but was replaced by Garfield at the end of one term. According to all three sources he was a good president, interested in the welfare of the country, but lost favor with the professional politicians when he supported the adoption of Civil Service instead of political spoils in selecting government employees.

Tilden was also a man of virtue, who in his will left most of his fortune to support a library in New York, although the will was broken by his family. In the two following Presidential election he was offered the Democratic nomination, but refused in each case.

The reason for the above research was the knowledge that once I had read in an article that the North did not mind removing both soldiers and carpetbaggers as they could control the agricultural South by the Tariff. I found no such statement in my latest research, but for many years under the Republicans the bulk of the money to support the federal government came from tariffs on imports. This was particularly true before the Income Tax Amendment was adopted during the rule of the Democrat Woodrow Wilson.

Prior to the First World War the Federal Government made few gifts to the poor. These consisted largely of bulletins and seed given by the Congressmen to their constituents. The bureaucracies were small and sometime during my early life the Republicans refused to apologize for a billion dollar budget by stating that this was a billion dollar country.

This was a relatively small agricultural country when I was born in 1900. Businesses until the 1890's were small, but booming. The Government did little business, and much of that was taken care of by Big Business Senators looking after the interest of the particular business they represented.

In 1922, as I have mentioned several times, I

worked my way through Journalism School at George Washington University by running a linotype during the day. In preparation for its practice in a large city I had joined the Typographical Union in Raleigh. While working for several months for the Government Printing Office under Civil Service I did not need to belong to a union, but most of my work was done for private firms and membership of a union was necessary. Union printers were then paid \$1.00 an hour. Years later when Franklin Roosevelt was struggling to get the country out of the depression, and beefsteak was selling at 35¢ a pound, he said in a newspaper article that he would be successful in restoring prosperity if the Gross National Product production would only reach \$60 billion dollars a year. He was derided for suggesting such an impossible goal. Now the GNP reaches into the trillions.

During the time I spent in Washington I never had to go to a doctor. But at that time Warrenton and Warren County were well supplied with doctors. An office visit, if I remember correctly, was about \$2.00, and this was

sometimes paid by barter, and sometimes not paid at all. But most of the doctors seemed to make a good living. A few days ago I read that the nation's medical cost is now 10 percent of the Gross National Product.

Most of the nation's industries were located in the North at the time of the Civil War and for many years afterwards. When they did become important in the South many Southern business men of both parties favored tariffs. Tariffs in most cases were used to protect monopolies. Reading a biography of Andrew Carnegie many years ago I learned that the tariff on rails was \$70 a ton, while Carnegie stated that they could be produced by his company at \$40 a ton.

Tariffs were particularly hard on farmers who had little protection on their products. They were to find out that a tractor that could be bought from Germany for a bale of cotton would cost three bales when bought in America. The figures I use may not be correct, but they convey the idea. Tariffs not only hinder world trade, but serve to raise the price of goods to consumers. And now we have a Republican President who is leading the fight for free trade.

News Of Yesteryear

Looking Back Into The Warren Record

June 30, 1944

His heroic action in saving the lives of three fellow airmen, although injured himself, has earned the coveted Navy and Marine Corps medal for Ensign John E. Rowan, USNR, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rowan, reside at Macon.

A War Bond movie, "Ladies Courageous," a story of the WAAF's, will be presented at the Warren Theatre in Warrenton on Thursday night starting at 7:30, W. W. Taylor, Jr., chairman of the War Finance Committee, announced yesterday.

Thomas E. Dewey, New York's handsome 42-year-old governor, flew to Chicago Wednesday to accept personally the 1944 Republican nomination for president and won on a first ballot. Ohio's Governor John W. Bricker was nominated for vice-president.

June 26, 1959

The Rev. Troy L. Barrett, pastor of Zebulon Methodist Church for the past five years, has been assigned to Wesley Memorial Methodist Church at Warrenton by the Methodist Conference in session in Wilmington.

Colonial Motor Lodge was sold at public auction on Thursday morning for a bid of \$34,000. The 36-room hotel was bought by W. P. Gholson, Henderson capitalist.

Warren Plains Baptist Church was the scene of a double ring ceremony of dignity and simplicity on Sunday afternoon, June 21, at 4 o'clock when Miss Leah Peete Stegall, daughter of Mrs. Raymond Stegall and the late Mr. Stegall of Warrenton, became the bride of Bobby Howell Shearin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lee Shearin of Inez.

June 27, 1974

Littleton, a town located in Warren and Halifax counties for more than 150 years, will on Monday become a Halifax County town.

Miss Judy J. Joyner, daughter of John A. Joyner of Elberon and a recent graduate of John Graham High School, was presented the Lily Wood Scholarship at commencement exercises. The scholarship is presented annually by the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 25.

The new Warren Plaza Rest Home will hold Open House on Sunday afternoon where the public will be invited to tour the facility.

from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK

- DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS
- June 28, 1939—Transatlantic passenger service begun by airplane, Dixie Clipper.
 - June 29, 1968—Pope Paul VI rejected all artificial birth control methods for Catholics.
 - June 30, 1906—Pure Food and Drug Act, signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, prohibits sale of adulterated food and drugs and demands honest statements of contents on labels.
 - July 1, 1847—First U.S. adhesive postage stamp issued.
 - July 2, 1900—First flight of a Zeppelin.
 - July 3, 1976—Israeli commandos stage raid on Entebbe.
 - July 4, 1895—Katherine Lee Bates publishes "America the Beautiful."

The Cold War:

Will We Ever Learn From Our History?

By HENRY STEELE COMMAGER
In The Charlotte Observer

AMHERST, MASS. — Alas, no one now — no one in Washington, anyway—pays any attention to history, not even that history with which they should be familiar from experience.

Within the past few weeks, Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger, Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick and now President Reagan himself have assured us that revolution in El Salvador and support to that revolution from Nicaragua constitute a threat to the United States, and that intervention by the United States is dictated by the imperatives of self-defense.

It is a familiar litany, one that has been intoned in every foreign-policy crisis, real or contrived, during the past 30 years.

It was the argument that dictated intervention in the Korean War to stop communist aggression. The North Korean aggression was indeed outrageous, and the United Nations endorsed our own counter-invasion—and then left us holding the bag. In the end the communists were confined to the north, where they still are. But was it worth 150,000 American casualties, to say nothing of the 2 million Korean casualties?

It was the argument that dictated intervention in Guatemala in 1954 and the overthrow of the Jacobo Arbenz Guzman regime suspected of leaning toward communism, though its real offense was leaning against the United Fruit Co. We had our way; now, 30 years later, we are disillusioned with the regime we installed in that hapless country and threaten to undermine it.

It was the argument that rationalized the Bay of Pigs invasion, designed to overthrow the Castro regime. We had stood passively by while that monster Fulgencio Batista destroyed whatever semblance of liberty there was in Cuba, but could not tolerate a Fidel Castro whose ideas were borrowed from the Soviet Union. Cuba, we said, threatens us; and in "self-defense" we waged war on Cuba and still regard her as an "enemy"—still, after more than 30 years, maintaining an embargo against her (an embargo which, to our shame, includes medical supplies.)

Turn again to Asia. All through the revolution in China — the most ancient, most populous nation in the world, we supported the corrupt and incompetent Chiang Kai-shek. Finally, in 1951, he was driven from the mainland and took refuge in Taiwan — whose ghostly independence we are still striving to vindicate.

So we turned our back on the new China, communist to be sure, and for a quarter-century persisted in the folly of pretending that the real China was on the island of Taiwan. It was probably the most egregious blunder in the history of diplomacy. Then, oddly enough during the regime of a president who had denounced the Democratic Party for "20 years of treason" because it had betrayed Chiang, we suddenly discovered that we really had no quarrel with China at all. Now the China that for a quarter-century plunged us into paranoia lulls us into dreams of friendship, security and profits.

Turn then to the most tragic chapter of our history since slavery: the Vietnam War. Twenty years of war, no less; the longest in our history. It was a war that cost us 50,000 lives and the Vietnamese and Cambodians perhaps 2 million. What was this justification? The justification was that if Vietnam went communist, the whole of Southeast Asia would go communist.

Well, the communists won. Vietnam went communist, just as China had gone communist. Has Vietnam threatened us in any way — any more than Cuba has threatened us, or than China has threatened us?

Now we are at it again. Now it is El Salvador and Nicaragua that threaten us. If communism succeeds there, it will inevitably spread. The domino theory has been resurrected. We are massing our forces to protect ourselves against the rebels in El Salvador and to subvert the government of Nicaragua. Once again we stand at Armageddon and we battle for the Lord.

Will we never learn? We lived with Czarist Russia for more than a century, and indeed welcomed her support.

We have managed to live with Communist China, Communist Vietnam, Communist Cuba. Why are we so paranoid about Cuba and Central America?

Almost two centuries ago, President Washington said, in his Farewell Address, that "nothing is more essential than that permanent, inveterate antipathies against particular nations... should be excluded and that in place of them just and amicable feelings towards all should be cultivated. The nation which indulges toward another an habitual hatred or an habitual fondness is in some degree a slave. It is a slave to its animosity or to its affection... Antipathy in one nation against another disposes each more readily to offer insult and injury, to a hold of slight causes of umbrage, and to be haughty and intractable when accidental or trifling occasions of dispute occur."

These are words we would do well to remember today.

Historian Henry Steele Commager is the Simpson Professor at Amherst University.

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