

The Warren Record

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A Change Of View

The Constitution of the United States of the Confederacy provided a line veto for the President. At one time we believed that our own Constitution should be amended to include a line veto, as is favored by President Reagan. More mature reflection has caused us to change our views.

The advantage of a line veto is that it would allow the President to veto objectionable portions of an act without vetoing the entire act. The disadvantage, it seems to us, is that it would enable a President to practically write a bill, which should originate in the House of Representatives. The same good results could

be obtained by the Congress adopting a rule, that while a bill may be amended following discussion, that it would be illegal to add a "rider" to such bill when such rider is not germane to the original bill.

Abortion Amendment

Sponsors of a proposed Amendment to prevent legal abortion have suggested that the bill be amended to permit abortion by a mother who has been raped. The purpose of the proposed Constitutional Amendment is to save the life of an innocent baby and not to save an unfortunate mother. The baby is innocent.

Exempt Status Risked

By J. MARSE GRANT

In The Charlotte Observer

While a healthy dialogue on the dangers of mixing partisan politics and religion continues, an important question could be shunted aside:

How much can a church, as a non-profit, charitable organization, be involved in supporting a candidate for political office and still maintain its tax-exempt status?

It can't, according to Section 501 (c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The wording is specific. Organizations may "not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaigns on behalf of any candidate qualifying for public office."

As this applies to the church or any other organization qualifying for the exemption, it is a sharp, two-edged sword. Loss of this status means taxes must be paid on income. Furthermore, under the code's Section 170 (a), gifts cannot be deducted on donors' tax returns. This double blow could be critical for those accustomed to the exemption advantages.

A Church Lawyer's Advice

At first glance, the restrictions seem unusually tough. Yet, if the wording were vague and meaningless, tax-exempt groups soon would far outnumber businesses which have to pay taxes. For a church or synagogue in this highly emotional election year, an unusually heavy responsibility is put on pastors, priests and rabbis. John W. Baker, veteran attorney for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington and one of the nation's leading authorities on church-state separation, puts it straight to them:

"When you step into your pulpit and endorse or oppose a candidate, there is some difficulty in distinguishing between your personal views and those of your church. The IRS has tended to assume the minister speaks for the church. If, as happened to Billy James Hargis' Christian Echoes National Ministries, the determination is made that the church has been involved in partisan politics, the church will have its 501 (c)3 status removed."

Can issues be discussed? Yes, Baker says, adding that churches "may legally campaign for social change or for rights or liberties of people. They may serve to register voters of all parties...The list could go on, but the emphasis must be made that the endorsement or opposition to candidates is forbidden to churches....Do not get the church involved in partisan politics," he warns.

Remember Billy James Hargis

Stripping away legal verbiage, a church can't have it both ways. As I understand the mission of the church, its main thrust or purpose is

not political; it's spiritual. When a church dips into partisan political waters, it's destined for trouble, not only in maintaining unity in the fellowship, but there's a risk of losing tax-exempt status. Billy James Hargis of Tulsa, Okla., can testify to this reality.

Granted, the IRS can't audit every congregation and obviously doesn't want to anyhow. It depends on the integrity of a church to oversee its own actions in compliance with the law. This places the responsibility where it should be — on that local congregation. If the church doesn't conduct itself in accordance with the demands of the IRS code, it should lose its tax-exempt status.

The church's membership is likely to be a starting point for close scrutiny since there are Democrats and Republicans, plus some independents, in every church. All of them rightly resent an invasion of their autonomy.

Freedom of religion is assured in the First Amendment. Those who tinker with it for political gain are weakening the principle of church-state separation which has served this nation well for over 200 years. The proper role of the church is to teach and inspire, among many other tasks.

The church is not designed to be a partisan political outpost for an individual or party seeking to capitalize on its influence. The Internal Revenue Service will see that this doesn't happen if self-discipline fails.

Compliment Given

From State Magazine

We vacationed in North Carolina, attending my 40th Class Reunion at UNC-G, and as a Tar Heel, it is always great to come back home.

The Tourist Welcome Center at Norlina (exiting from Interstate 85) provides the finest service for tourist information that I have ever experienced.

We enjoy The State more with each issue—Sarah Hopper Harvie, Fishkill, N. Y.

The praying mantis eats nothing but live food, mostly insects. National Geographic says that prey is taken only from flowers, leafage, twigs, bark, or the ground—never while the potential victim is in flight.

The idea of awarding degrees dates from the 1200s when schools in Europe won the right to examine and license their graduates.

The United States Postal Service assures its customers that they will not get fat licking stamps. There is no more than one-tenth of a calorie's worth of glue on every stamp.

By BIGNALL JONES

People are to me the most interesting things in the world. This is why, I suppose, that I like to read biographies and to watch interviews of famous people on TV programs, and to read "The Tar Heel of the Week" in The News and Observer each week, as well as "Letters to the Editor" in a number of newspapers.

In "The Tar Heel of the Week" this past Sunday was Methodist Bishop Carlton P. Minnick of Raleigh, who is leading an interesting life, and whose prime interest is in teaching the Bible. "It takes five years to take a congregation through the entire scripture," said Bishop Minnick, who came to North Carolina this month after serving as bishop in Jackson, Miss. "My style is sharing with the class and enabling them to share back with me." He is booked solidly for each Sunday through Spring.

Bishop Minnick was born in Greensboro on Sept. 8, 1927.

Other personal information include:

Family: wife, Mary Ann Adams Minnick; children, Gregory, Jonathan, Pattie M. Martin, Ann M. Wheeler.

Education: University of Virginia, B.A. (1954); Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va., bachelor of divinity (1957); Master of theology (1958).

Career: pastorates at Ferum, Richmond, Williamsburg and Arlington, Va., district superintendent, Arlington District 1978-80; elected bishop 1980, assigned to Jackson, Miss., area, 1980-84; now bishop, N. C. Conference, United Methodist Church.

Honors: honorary doctor of divinity degrees, Randolph-Macon, Millsaps and Rust colleges.

The article pointed out that: "Family is extremely important to the bishop. Despite the pulls that all pastors feel, he said, he always tries to set aside time for his wife and children. Some of the time that he and his wife most enjoy is spent ballroom dancing. Veterans of the Arthur Murray School of Dancing, the Minnicks enjoy twirling on the dance floor whenever they can. Other favorite activities are bridge, golf and spectator sports. One sidelight of being back in this part of the country, said Bishop Minnick, is the welcome return to Atlantic Coast Conference sports.

"But North Carolina is not Virginia.

"One of the big adjustments," he said, "will be adjusting our ACC allegiance."

Any action should be judged by its time, but as I read about the bishop's fondness for dancing, bridge and sports, I was reminded of the hot Sunday morning as a youth and listened to sermons about the sin of dancing and card playing — and fishing on Sunday, and listened to the sad tale of how Little Bill went fishing on Sunday and drowned. That was when the church dictated our social and business life. Puritanism ended in the Methodist Church here when the liberal Dr. J. T. Gibbs came to Warren-

Mostly Personal

Bishop Is Interviewed

ton to serve as pastor of Warrenton Methodist Episcopal Church. His daughter, Mrs. Virginia Pearsall, and granddaughters, Eunice Adams and Helen Gibbs, entered into the social life of the town, which included both dancing and card playing. That has been more

than 60 years ago, and while change is not always progress, it was in this instance. Maybe, that is one reason, although still a church attendant, that I still feel that it is so important to keep state and church separate. We called it religion; it was a form of tyranny.

News Of Yesteryear

Looking Back Into The Warren Record

September 22, 1944

Establishing a record price of 44 cents average, the Warrenton tobacco market sold 200,000 pounds of tobacco in the three and one-half hours of selling time on the opening day of the season Thursday.

The ability to work out a suitable program will determine the future of cotton in the South, Joe Williams, assistant secretary of the N. C. Farm Bureau, told Warren County members of this organization at their meeting at the courthouse on Monday night.

Miss Sarah Miles left this week for Wake Forest College. Mrs. Miles and Mr. W. A. Miles accompanied her to Wake Forest.

September 18, 1959

Warrenton's governing body is dissatisfied with the unmowed condition of a number of vacant lots here. The board at its Monday meeting ordered that owners of vacant lots again be notified that the law requires that all vacant lots be mowed twice a year.

Alarm over the large number of young people who yearly leave their community and state was expressed by a district governor of the Rotary organization here on Tuesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Thompson of Franklinton visited relatives in Inez on Sunday.

September 19, 1974

An innovative plan to provide home health care in Warren County progressed appreciably this week with the announcement of the hiring of a project director with wide experience in the field of nursing.

Patricia Odom of Warrenton has been selected as a member of the 1974-75 Peace College Choir.

Henrietta Katherine Burwell, of Warrenton, returned to her home from Natal, Brazil after working over two years with Project HOPE as a pediatric nurse.

School Presented Gift From Officials Of Bank

Typically, people have had to go to banks to learn about banking. Recently, however, it has become common practice for banking representatives to assist teachers in our schools with the technical aspects of banking.

This is evidenced in a new filmstrip program, "Banking Is..." which the Branch Banking and Trust Company presented recently as a public service to the students at Warren County High School. Cal White, vice president, and Mrs. Elsie Weldon, business services officer, made

the presentation on September 13. Receiving the multi-media filmstrip unit at a presentation meeting at Warren County High School were Mrs. Susan Dickens, head of the business department, and James Wilkerson, principal.

In making the presentation, White said, "The program 'Banking Is...' gives the students firsthand experience with the basic banking activities they will use throughout their lives.

"Writing a check, applying for a loan, com-

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Dateline Washington

by Congressman

Tim Valentine

2nd District, North Carolina

The Federal government's budget has been in balance only once in the past 24 years and has increased sevenfold in that time, to \$769 billion.

The budget deficit has topped \$100 billion this year and similar record-shattering deficits are forecast for future years.

The national debt, as of July 31, 1984, is exactly one trillion five-hundred-thirty-eight billion, six-hundred and two-million dollars (\$1,538,602,000,000), doubled what it was just ten years ago. The government will pay an estimated \$149.8 billion just in the interest on that debt this year, compared to \$22 billion ten years ago.

It should be no surprise, then, that the product of this financial recklessness by government "big spenders" has been the devastating economic conditions of recent years — high unemployment, interest rates and inflation. Obviously a new course is needed and the Tax Limitation/Balanced Budget Amendment is the course the government needs to take.

There are more than 160 cosponsors to this Constitutional Amendment in the 98th Congress and more than 160 signatures on Discharge Petition No. 10 to bring the Amendment to the House floor. I strongly support the Amendment and the Discharge Petition.

It is clear that the pressures for ever-increasing spending are just too great for Congress to resist. It is time to alter our basic instrument of government spending so that the relentless expansion of government can be curbed. The Balanced Budget/Tax Limitation Amendment provides a reasonable means for doing this.

Letters To The Editor

Hospital Praised

To The Editor:

I am writing to you in hopes that you will publish my letter for all the people in Warren County.

I live in Richmond and have been in lots of hospitals. My mother had a stroke and went to Warren General Hospital this past summer. Her stroke was very bad and she never knew where she was. Her mind was gone, but her body was in heaven from July 5 until she died September 17. Of all the hospitals I have been in, that was the best. It was spotlessly clean. In her room, I never saw any dirt and her bed was snow white at all times.

Her trays of food were beautiful and delicious and the kitchen was spotless. I know because I went in and looked.

Those nurses, around the clock, couldn't have been topped by anyone. They took such good care of my mother and did their best to make her comfortable. She was turned every two hours in her bed with regularity.

The people in the business office helped us understand all the paperwork.

And Dr. Kirit Trivedi, who has a heart of gold, did all he could for mother. In all my life, I have never seen a place like Warren General Hospital.

While there I heard it was about to close and I would like to tell you and all the people in Warren county what a big mistake it would be to lose it. Those who have never been there should go and see for themselves. The ones who have been there should be heard and keep Warren General where it is. It is beautiful and it's like having heaven here on earth when you are sick.

I couldn't go to Richmond without letting my thanks go to each and every one at the hospital. May God bless them, and I thank God they were there.

MRS. EDNA WILLIAMS MUSTIAN
Richmond, Va.

Lacks Compassion

To The Editor:

The Republican Party is devoid of compassion. If you want to set Warren County and the great state of North Carolina back 40 years, support Jesse Helms and President Reagan. A man 73 years of age has no business whatsoever running for a second term.

A. WELDON HALL, JR.
Durham



Mrs. Susan Dickens, head of the business department at Warren County High School, accepts a new filmstrip program on banking from Cal White, vice president of Branch Banking and Trust Company in

Warrenton. Looking on are Principal James Wilkerson of the high school and Mrs. Elsie Weldon, BB&T's business services officer. (Staff Photo)