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SEPTEMBER 22, 1955

Some Questions

A fortnight ago, the number of daily bus runs between Franklin and Asheville was reduced by one-third; the number between Franklin and Atlanta, by one-half.

The Press suggested that Macon County people complain to the State Utilities Commission in Raleigh about this drastic curtailment in service.

How many letters of protest the commission got we do not know; but we have seen the commission's reply to one such complaint. It said:

During the last few years the bus companies have found it absolutely necessary to curtail their service wherever possible in order to stay in business. The reason for this, of course, is the ever increasing number of private automobiles. As a matter of fact, out of ninety-six common carriers of passengers in North Carolina last year, only four of these companies showed a profit at the end of the year and Smoky Mountain Stages, the holder of the franchise through Franklin, was on the verge of bankruptcy and would most certainly have been forced to discontinue all operations had not a merger been effected with Queen City Coach Company.

The purpose of the foregoing is to give you some idea as to what the bus companies are up against. There are very few paying runs left and certainly not enough to support an appreciable number of runs which are highly unprofitable. Nevertheless, we will, of course, make an investigation to determine whether or not Franklin should have additional service and we would also like to point out that you or any other interested citizens have the right to protest any proposed change in bus schedules and to ask for a hearing before the Commission. In the meantime, we will make the aforesaid investigation and will advise you further upon receipt of our investigator's report.

That letter suggests some questions:

- 1. Who pays the salaries of members of the Utilities Commission? The public, of course. Then isn't it up to the commission to see that the public gets service, without its being necessary for a delegation to go to Raleigh to a hearing — without its even being necessary for the public to protest by letter?
2. Isn't it the job of the commission to protect the interests of the thousands of people who have no automobiles and must depend on the public carriers? And in this particular area, do these people have any choice? — is there any other way for them to travel?
3. If the bus companies are losing money today — and we find that a little hard to believe — didn't they make huge profits until recently? Wasn't it true, over a period of many years, that there often were more people standing on a bus than were seated? And aren't the fat years supposed to take care of the lean ones — for public utilities as well as for other businesses?
4. Just how do the bus companies and the Utilities Commission expect the buses to get more business and thus prove profitable, if the service becomes constantly worse?

Keeping Record Straight

This is to keep the record straight.

When a three-judge federal court, on September 10, ordered the University of North Carolina to admit three Negroes to its undergraduate school, the news dispatch indicated the court had ordered them admitted, period.

Commenting on the ruling, in an editorial last week, The Press said the court had held the Negroes "must be admitted, presumably without regard to their personal qualifications of character, personality, and scholarship".

Last Friday's daily papers carried a story indicating that was not entirely correct; it appears that the court did take into account one of those three. The story quoted Attorney General Rodman as advising University officials they should admit the three youths "if educationally qualified", the inference being that the court had specified they should meet the institution's educational requirements. On the two points of character and personality, the court apparently was silent.

Interesting Election

That's an interesting election that's coming up in Highlands township November-8.

For many years, Highlands has had the problem — especially during the winter months — of how to have adequate medical care immediately available.

At last the Highlands Community Hospital opened its doors. But the going still was tough; that institution has been kept open and operating only through the loyal efforts of many unselfish persons.

Now the whole question is being handed to the people of the township. Do they want the hospital? and do they want it badly enough to vote a tax on themselves for its support?

More Wonders

The wonders of tax evaluation on public service corporations, arrived at in Raleigh, never cease.

Why, for example, do the lines of two telephone companies, in the same area, vary so widely? The State Board of Assessment puts a value of \$24 per mile on Southern Bell lines in this county, while it says the lines of the Western Carolina are worth \$43 per mile, nearly double!

Letters

More About Bus Service

Dear Mr. Jones:

After seeing your editorial in the Sept. 8 issue of The Press about the changes in bus schedules, I would like to write a few lines on that subject.

I am a soldier stationed at Camp Stewart, Ga., and have been home twice since I have been here.

I leave after duty hours and make very good connections to Atlanta, arriving there about 11 p. m. As it was before this change, the earliest I could get on into Franklin was 2:55 the next afternoon. If this wasn't sorry service to the public I can't figure out what to call it; and this new change will make it even worse, because if a man gets to Atlanta 5 minutes after the bus leaves, he will have to lay over there 23 hours and 55 minutes.

How would he feel toward the public utilities if some one in the family was expected to die any moment, and he had to wait that long on a bus to get to their bedside?

Sp/3 WILLIAM R. BINGHAM

Camp Stewart, Ga.

Others' Opinions

Same To All

(Park Region, Minn., Echo)

We want Adlai Stevenson again. We want the candidate who says in Georgia what he says in Harlem. Who says to the CIO what he says to the Chamber of Commerce. Who says to the Americans for Democratic Action what he says to the American Legion and the D.A.R.

Carl S. Slagle

(Farmers Federation News)

Western North Carolina has suffered a great loss in the sudden death of Carl S. Slagle of Macon County. Mr. Slagle was a citizen who threw his strength and influence behind every good cause. He was a man of sound judgment and highly respected all over Western North Carolina. He had been a director of the Farmers Federation and chairman of the Ma-

ORDEAL IN THE DESERT

RED-TYPE TORTURE MADE PART OF U. S. AIR FORCE TRAINING

Reprinted from NEWSWEEK

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article, reprinted from Newsweek by special permission, tells how the U. S. Air Force seeks to toughen American soldiers to resist Communist brainwashing. The article, the magazine explains, was cleared with the Pentagon.)

By PETER WIDEN

The lieutenant was young and frail. There had been a time when he had eaten, washed, and slept, but that had been in some other life many night-mares ago. Stripped to his shorts, he stood on the crude wooden floor with his knees slightly bent. It did not look like an uncomfortable position, but the pain in his legs became worse and worse. He began trembling.

It was difficult to estimate the temperature in the windowless wooden shack. It might have been 110 degrees. It might have been 130. The lieutenant couldn't see his surroundings

because three powerful spotlights flooded his grimy face from 3 feet away. He kept staring at his arms. They were stretched forward with a thin, naked wire looped around each forefinger. Whenever somebody behind the lights felt like it, the wires pumped an electric shock through the lieutenant's body.

The unknown somebody often felt like it. Perhaps he enjoyed watching the lieutenant jump toward the ceiling like a jack-in-the-box. Perhaps he was annoyed because the lieutenant wasn't answering questions.

There were many questions: "Where are you from?" "What kind of aircraft do you fly?" "Who's your wing commander?" The questions hit the lieutenant by the dozen, sometimes with the insistence of machine-gun fire, sometimes interrupted by screaming harangues about American Air Force officers who were too stupid to know answers to simple questions, sometimes by promises of food and sleep, al-

ways by more electric shocks. The lieutenant was a navigator in a B-57, but he did not reveal this. He even refused to give his first name. This made the interrogator angrier. There were more shocks. More shouts. More questions. The lieutenant said nothing. He trembled and jumped for nearly two hours, but in the shack something had happened to time. To the lieutenant it seemed as if he had never been anywhere else. So when he was shoved through the door, he collapsed on the ground and cried.

Not Alone

The lieutenant was not alone. A few steps down the dirt road was an upright wooden box 16 inches wide and deep and just too short to let a man stand straight. After hours of confinement in this device, men tumbled out like footballs, muscles temporarily paralyzed.

Notwithstanding the foreign-language signs all around the prison compound, the foreign-looking uniforms of the inter-

rogators and the submachine guns of the guards, the victims of these persuasive techniques were captives not behind the Iron Curtain but American airmen in the sand-and-sagebrush desert of Lemmons Valley outside Reno, Nev. They were guests of Stead Air Force Base, the only U. S. center exclusively dedicated to teaching men how to survive in enemy territory.

The men who run Stead administer a lesson never taught before: How to resist brainwashing. No teachers ever applied more ingenious combinations of physical and mental stresses. But the pressures are turned on under supervision of medical men and five psychologists and some 29,000 men have safely withstood the seventeen-day course. Graduates include the majority of crews who fly the Strategic Air Command's A-bombers, many Air Force jet fighter pilots, and some Army, Navy, and Marine instructors who are setting up (See Back Page, 1st Section)

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

When the United States Supreme Court gave a decision which made segregation illegal, there was much criticism, particularly from people living south of the Mason-Dixon line. A large part of the comment was to the effect that the Supreme Court was trying to legislate rather than just interpret the Constitution. They were called everything from starry-eyed reformers to "politicians."

I was guilty of some of it myself. I remember that I was displeased that the Supreme Court said something was illegal and then set an indefinite waiting period before the offenders had to do something about it. That, to me, seemed a little out of character, but I'll admit that the problem of segregation is a difficult one and perhaps a different solution was in order. However, in recent months, I have been struck by a much more blatant example of the crossing of lines which separate the executive, legislative, and judicial bodies of our government by some of our own state officials, with the government being an offender, but there was no cry raised.



Sloan

Last Spring the North Carolina legislature, which is the law-making body of our state and as such is the body which most nearly reflects the sentiment of our people, adopted a resolution which said that the problem of determining who would attend what schools in our state should be left up to the local boards. No one objected to this proposal when it was passed. The secret feeling among many, I think, was, "That's good, the local boards won't let any 'niggers' into our schools." Also there was the feeling in Raleigh that "That gets the problem off our neck."

The resolution was praised in some quarters because it contained the virtues of home rule. I did not see any criticism of the idea. If Governor Hodges or Attorney General Rodman did not think that it was a good idea to let the people decide the issue; that it would be better for the state as a whole to follow one uniform plan they should have said so then. Any person could see then that there was the possibility that a local board might favor integration in its own locality. The time is to be opposed to letting (See Back Page, 1st Section)

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Miss Maybelle Ashe returned home Wednesday from a protracted visit to South Carolina.

Mr. W. J. Zachary has purchased a fine, new, four-seated hack and put it on the line from here to Dillsboro. It arrived here Saturday evening.

A party stopping at Mr. W. N. Allman's went to Wayah Bald Wednesday to see the beauties of Macon County and enjoy the freshest of air and water.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. Alex. Setser, son of Mr. Frank Setser, left last week for N. C. State College, Raleigh, to take a course in forestry.

Messrs. Fred Guest and Frank McDowell left Tuesday for Pineville, Ky., to accept a position.

Attorney McKinley Edwards, of Bryson City, was in Franklin last Friday on business.

10 YEARS AGO

Major Winton Perry, who has been spending his 30-day furlough here with his mother, Mrs. J. E. Perry, left last week for his new assignment at La Junta, Colo.

Mrs. Craig Cranston, of Augusta, Ga., is here for a stay at her cottage on Satulah Road, which was occupied during the summer by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Fargo, who have returned to their home in Augusta. — Highlands Item.

T/Sgt. Reno Moses, of the U. S. Army, stationed in Santa Fe, N. Mex., is spending a 30-day furlough with his mother, Mrs. Rebecca Moses, of Franklin.