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THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1958

Schools And Taxes

For the second straight year, the Macon County tax rate has been boosted 10 cents, for schools. Most people probably will agree that the schools have made a good case for more money, and will applaud the county commissioners for giving it to them.

Somewhere, though, we're going to reach the end of the tax road — the point, at both the state and the county levels, where people can't, or won't, pay more taxes for schools.

And that is accentuated by twin facts: Our birth rate is bounding upward; and the number of unproductive older people—those retired at 65—is likewise increasing.

It isn't too early to start thinking about cutting the corners that we're going to have to cut, sooner or later. Where can we begin?

Here are two possibilities:

(a) We can "lower our sights" a bit about the purely physical things our school tax dollar buys. In today's world, buildings become obsolete in a remarkably short time. Why build for 50 years when you're going to tear down in 20? Semi-temporary structures, put up at a fraction of the cost of those we build today, would leave a lot of dollars for the one really essential thing — more and better teachers.

(b) A shift in emphasis might help. Education, certainly, should be made available to every child. But are we really obligated to keep those in school who either cannot or will not learn? Is there any virtue in crowding the schools with children who lack the capacity to become educated? And are we accomplishing anything by trying to force an education down a child's throat, against his protests? Once education again became a privilege, instead of a chore, a lot of other problems might disappear.

Gumption Needed, Too

A two-year study has been launched by a group in New York to determine what legislation is needed to control influence peddling in government—to set up standards for government officials.

The study may be needed, and no doubt the legislation is.

What seems needed worse, though, is higher calibre men. Mr. Sherman Adams, first assistant to the President, is only the latest in a long series who appear to have lacked either character or gumption.

The man who can be kept from wrong-doing only by the fear of legal punishment is unfit for public office. Nearly as bad is the man who, while not consciously dishonest, is too dumb to know it isn't proper for a public official to accept favors, especially if they come from someone who is seeking favors from government.

The evidence to date suggests that neither Mr. Lamar Caudle, who's about to go to jail for this

sort of thing, nor Mr. Adams was deliberately dishonest.

President Truman, though, was wise enough to know Mr. Caudle's lack of a sense of what is proper and what is improper unfitted him for public office. Mr. Adams, in a far more influential position, has shown an even greater lack of sense.

Unheard Of Thing

(Kidd Brewer In His 'Raleigh Roundup' Column)

Congressional Candidate Heinz Rollman told the State Board of Elections that he had spent \$42,000 in his efforts to unseat Twelfth District Representative George Shuford.

Rollman has broken with tradition by apparently telling the "truth and nothing but the truth" about his spendings. That's an almost unheard of thing in these parts.

Up to now, the whole shebang about the amount of money spent in North Carolina political races for 20 years has been a joke and nothing but a joke.

The South is the last best hope for many of the noblest aspirations of American culture.—Greensboro Daily News.

Letters

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In an editorial last week, The Press cited three pieces of local legislation, now on the statute books, it said should be repealed: (a) a law exempting this county from the state act authorizing the State Highway Commission to forbid such things as automobile graveyards within 150 yards of a highway pavement; (b) a 1955 act voiding any ballot in the election of a group of local officials, like a town board, if the voter fails to vote for as many candidates as there are offices to be filled; (c) another 1955 act limiting voting in the Democratic primary for state senator from this five-county district to those living in the county whose turn it is to furnish the senator.

The editorial suggested the voters in Saturday's second primary would like to know how the two candidates for representative stand on these local laws. And last Thursday identical letters were mailed by The Press to the two candidates, Mr. G. L. Houk and Mr. J. M. Raby, assuring them of free space on this page to state their positions.

Mr. Raby's reply follows. No reply was received from Mr. Houk.)

Mr. Raby Replies

Editor, The Press:

No. 1 Blocking the views on our main highways. This seems to me to be a very peculiar situation and since I do not know why Macon County is exempt from the State Highway Law on this thing, I promise that, shall I be your representative in the next General Assembly, I shall look into the cause for the exemption with an eye to cleaning up of the highway. But remember, not wholly to the loss of these junk dealers, but that something may be worked out between them and the State Highway Commission. No doubt, something needs to be done soon and as things are worked out of much greater magnitude on our interstate highways. I see no reason why this one cannot be worked out satisfactorily to all parties concerned. This being done, we should have one law governing all leading highways of our state.

No. 2 Local voting law. Well, we live and learn. But that law has really got my goat, and not so much either, since I see the enactment was 1955. I did not and do not know yet how any voter can by law be forced to vote for or against any candidate; if that be so, let us not boast of our very free privilege at the polls. So from the face of this thing or a law (if you wish to call it that) and without a lot of good sensible explanation, I agree with the editor and say, repeal.

No. 3 Rotation of our state senators. I heard that rotation law discussed in and around the Assembly of 1953 until I got terribly tired out. Some said let's do away with it and select a man in the district to serve on and on, and as he would be worth so much more on committees, etc. Others said that never would do, as so many were sent to both the House and the Senate that were not fit to serve one term. So, from listening to all their blarney, and from my own observations, I can see no real need for rotation. But, should our district think it best to keep it, I favor repeal of the one-county selection law of 1955, for I feel each voter should have the right to help select in May the one he or she may help to elect in November. I am only giving you my view of this matter, since the final solution would have to be worked out by the representatives of our five-county senatorial district.

J. M. RABY

'Even Calloused Knees'

Dear Macon Friends:

I have just returned from a trip to Rome, Italy. While there, I saw all the more interesting sights—including Vatican City, where the Pope made an appearance, the fountains, the Coliseum, the catacombs, and the Tiber River, to name only a few.

One thing that did not appear on my travel guide, however, was huge neon signs with the symbol of hammer and sickle and underneath these words "Vote Communist". These signs were hanging from buildings along the streets, and on the corners impressive folders were being handed out, even by children, with all the "benefits" pictured along with the advantages of the Communist Party.

We must never allow this to happen at home; if it takes more education, better government, better civic organizations, yes, and even more calloused knees and home altars, we must acquire them.

Even in the Eternal City these godless people are not standing by. Let us not "do as the Romans do"—let us ever be on guard to accomplish and protect our mission, under God, of peace in the world and freedom for all.

New York, N. Y.

A/2c JOSEPH MOSES

P. S. The Franklin Press is appreciated even more when one is away. Many thanks to the staff from one airman who appreciates you!

Washington Post

GOVERNMENT OF LAWS

FBI Admits To Wiretapping - And Wiretapping Is A Crime

When FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover acknowledged in a filmed television interview that his bureau was operating 90 telephone wiretaps across the country, he in effect pleaded guilty to 90 violations of Federal law. The tapping of telephone wires is a crime. It is a crime whether done by private detectives for purposes of blackmail or by the FBI for purposes, as Mr. Hoover put it, of keeping tabs on "internal security cases." Congress, 1954, adopted the Federal Communications Act with a section, 605, providing that no person not being authorized by the sender shall intercept any communication and divulge or publish the existence, contents, substance, purport, effect, or meaning of such intercepted communication to any person.

And when the Department of Justice argued that this statute applied only to private persons, not to Government officers, the Supreme Court ruled unequivocally in 1937 that . . . the plain

words of 605 forbid anyone, unless authorized by the sender, to intercept a telephone message, and direct in equally clear language that no person shall divulge or publish the message or its substance to any person.

The pretext on which the FBI has violated the Federal Communications Act ever since its adoption is that President Franklin Roosevelt, in 1941, when the country was on the brink of war, advocated legislation which would authorize wiretapping in cases involving espionage or sabotage

against the United States. Such legislation has been advocated in session after session of Congress. But Congress has never adopted it. Unless or until Congress in its wisdom decides to change the clear stipulations of the Federal Communications Act, every wiretap will be a Federal crime; and it will remain a crime whether authorized by the Director of the FBI, by the Attorney General or even by the President of the United States. This is a government of laws; and laws can be made only by legislatures.

"What Has Become Of Our Little Boy Ike?"



Weimar Jones

Strictly . . . PERSONAL

There's nothing quite so fascinating to me as going to the post office for the mail.

Mail is such an uncertain thing, there's an air of mystery about it — of adventure; because it may bring anything.

It may be the check you need so badly; often an eagerly-looked-for letter; occasionally, a letter or picture post card from a friend you haven't seen in years; on rare occasions, some startling news, good or bad. And once in a blue moon, the mail brings that long hoped-for but never-really-expected opportunity.

But, because going for the mail always is an exciting gamble, you must take a chance on suffering that let-down feeling when you look in your box and find it empty — nobody even thought enough of you to send you a bill! And to me, there's no place quite as good to open and read mail as the post office.

Maybe it's because, at the post office, I'm in a mail atmosphere, whereas if I wait till I get back home or to the office, there are other things to distract me. Maybe it's a hold-over from my boyhood.

In those days, the arrival of the mail was an important event in the village of Franklin, and everybody, it seemed to me, gathered in the post office lobby to take out letters and newspapers, as they were put in the boxes, read them, and discuss them with friends.

When the Tallulah Falls Railway, operating between Cornelia, Georgia, and Franklin, was in its heyday, there were two trains daily, each way. I'm not sure whether the late afternoon train carried mail; but I do remember that the early train brought the bulk of the mail from the south.

It seemed to take a long time to put that mail up, and usually the post office lobby was full of people.

In those days, the morning Asheville Citizen didn't reach Franklin until 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening, so everybody subscribed to and read Atlanta newspapers. And the news in the day's Atlanta newspapers provoked animated discussion and sometimes heated arguments. Because, since we read Georgia papers, we knew far more about Georgia events, and particularly Georgia politics, than we did about the North Carolina situation. North Carolina east of Asheville, in fact, was something like a foreign country.

Who was going to win the race for governor of Georgia or for U. S. senator? Or what did the latest development in the current crime mystery mean? Those were the topics of post office lobby conversation in Franklin then.

After a long time, somebody would call through their box (the windows were always closed while the mail was being put up) to know "is everything up but the circulars"? (yes, we had "junk mail" then, too), and if the answer was yes, the crowd would drift out, often stopping on a street corner to tell a friend about the latest news from son John or daughter Mary, who was away in school; or to continue a discussion of the news just read in the Atlanta morning paper.

Maybe it's the nostalgic memory of those days that sends me to the post office long before the mail is up, that keeps me there till the last "call for parcel" card has been put in the boxes, and that makes it far more interesting to read the newspapers there than it is when I get back to the office or home.

This, it seems to me, was the perfect retort:

Just before the May 31 primary election, a voter looked up a long-time county official, who was seeking renomination, to tell him,

"I voted for you every time you ran before, but, because you did so-and-so, I certainly won't vote for you this time."

To which the official replied:

"Well, I don't remember ever asking you to vote for me."

Editor Isaac S. London, of the Rockingham Post-Dispatch, recalls "the story of the personnel manager of a large business firm who, in sorting through forms filled out by job applicants, came across the usual number of Baptists, Methodists, Roman Catholics, and so forth, listed under 'church preference'. But one neatly lettered card had been filled in by a young man who had studied architecture in college. His church preference was 'Gothic'."

That recalls a story told by Macon native Don S. Elias, of Asheville:

The young job applicant filled out all spaces on his application blank except that asking his church preference. He left that blank.

Looking over the application, the personnel manager asked the applicant didn't he have a church preference.

"O, yes," he said, "I'm Presbyterian."

"Then why didn't you say so?" "Well, just to tell you the truth, I wasn't sure how to spell 'Presbyterian'."

"In that case, why didn't you abbreviate it, just put a 'P.'?"

"I started to do that, but I was afraid you might misunderstand; you might think I was 'Piscopalian.'"

TELLS HISTORY, PURPOSES, NEEDS OF SCOUTING

By The Rev. John W. Tucker

The Boy Scout organization, in a way, has a better chance of developing responsible men for our world than has the church, the school, or parents. Of course, all of these human organizations are necessary. But frequently the boy goes to church because of family pressure. There are certainly few boys who would go to school except for the state law which makes it mandatory. And as for our parents, we had no opportunity to choose them, either.

The opportunity in scouting is that the boys flock to it because it is a wonderful adventure, full of play and laughter. A boy becomes a scout because of the sheer joy there is in it.

Scouting is certainly not the panacea for juvenile delinquency. But for every boy who feels the lure of backwoodsmen, explorers, hunters, seamen, airmen, pioneers, and frontiersmen, a community should have a sufficient number of civic-minded men who are willing to go into scouting — men who, as they tramp along the trails with the boys, are moulding responsible men for tomorrow.

The scout learns first aid and help to the injured. Then how to save life in case of accident. And from this, he develops a sense of duty to others and responsibility. He learns by doing.

HISTORY OF SCOUTING

Scouting in this county was begun by Mr. Gilmer A. Jones, who organized a group of boys for activities that were related to scouting as it is today. The group became the first troop in the county. The Rev. Jerome Pipes of St. Agnes Church and Mr. Gilmer L. Crawford continued the organization. Mr. J. D. Franks and Mr. Don Young, a forest ranger, carried the work on. The Rev. Frank Bloxham was a great force in scouting.

MAKING IT EASY TO DIVIDE THINGS

A marriage had gone on the rocks and the couple were in court seeking a divorce. The judge tried a reconciliation, but both were adamant.

"Well," said the jurist, "if you are determined to break up the marriage, everything you possess will have to be divided equally."

"What about our three children?" asked the wife.

This stumped the judge momentarily. "We'll have to work something out," he parried, "but I repeat, everything you have will have to be divided equally."

The wife looked at her husband reflectively—and came to a decision. "C'mon home, Henry," she said. Then, turning to the judge she snapped; "With we'll be back next year, judge—with four children!"

—Don Bennett in Four Quote

CONSIDERATION FOR GOD'S NAP-TIME

The little girls had just returned from a big birthday party, tired out and sleepy. The youngest hopped into bed at once. "Say!" exclaimed her older sister, "aren't you going to say your prayers?" The little one, who had never been up so late, replied, "Oh no, certainly not. I wouldn't think of waking God up at this hour!"

—N. C. Education

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is from a talk by Mr. Tucker, assistant scoutmaster, June 12, on the occasion of the annual presentation of its charter to Boy Scout Troop 202 by the Franklin Rotary Club, which sponsors that troop.

The scouts used to meet in an old building behind the Masonic Hall, until it was torn down, and Troop 1 moved to its present location in this building (the Slagle Memorial), given by Mr. Burt Slagle, whose son, Charles, was an Eagle Scout.

Troop 1 has the distinction of producing 23 Eagle Scouts.

The present status of scouting is that Troop 1 is now known as Troop 202. This number was given by the district to designate troops in the district, rather than just on the county levels. This troop has 40 members.

OTHER TROOPS

The second troop in the county was Troop 201, with 50 members. Union community has a troop with 15 members. Otto's troop numbers about 12. Carson and Liberty communities have about 10 each. The Negro troop has disbanded for lack of leadership.

Under the leadership of Carl Tyng, there is an Explorer Emergency crew. They met separately and are identified by a separate patch on their uniforms. They work under Civil Defense and meet Friday nights at the fire house.

Explorers must pull out from the regular troops by the first of the year. If they want to stay on in a troop, they can stay on as senior scouts, but wearing scout uniforms, not explorer uniforms. If this Explorer group separates from their regular troops, this will mean the necessity for more manpower to give leadership and guidance. Some discipline is needed to help keep many of them, because they have their own leaders.

NEED ADULT HELP

From sponsoring organizations, there is needed an active troop committee that can give time and effort toward troop activities. For

example, there should be men available to take the boys out on 10 overnight camps over the period of the year, if the organization is to be recognized.

There are other jobs that the committee can do, such as arranging transportation for activities. Some of the men could help with the bookkeeping and other financial problems.

Scouting is governed by a district council, made up of Swain, Jackson, and Macon counties, known as the Smoky Mountain Division. Mr. Boyd Sossamon, of Sylva, is the district chairman. The field executive is Mr. Francis Pless, and he is the only paid official. His pay comes from adult contributions. The sponsoring organization should train scoutmasters, because rotation of the jobs is almost a necessity, not only for the scoutmaster but also for the scouts.

Each normal boy in this county, who is drawn to the idea of scouting, should have a chance to experience the give-and-take of group living and doing things that appeal to him . . . the chance to develop himself into a man — fine in character, healthy in body, skillful with his hands, and keen of mind, ready to be a responsible person . . . It's easier to get close to a boy when he's tramping a trail or cooking over a camp fire.

Violence, o' course, is bad. But when a man says there ain't nothin' he'll fight for, then he ain't no man.

Women don't keep lookin' in the mirror to see how good they look. They keep lookin', hopin' they'll find they don't look as bad as they're afraid they will.

When a man goes to the spring, he don't go to wash his dirty face, but to get a drink of water. And when he goes to church, he don't go to be fussed at, but to get refreshment, o' the spirit.

UNCLE ALEX'S SAYIN'S

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1893)

Messrs. Kinsland and Berry, of Millsboro, returning home from the mountains Thursday, where they had been looking after their stock, passed through town with a swarm of bees in a sack.

Franklin seems to have taken on a strange fascination to strangers . . . to the great delight of our liverymen. The Hiwassee Times has yielded up the ghost.

25 YEARS AGO (1883)

A number of relatives and friends of H. D. Dean gathered at his home at Oak Grove Sunday, June 24, to celebrate his 72nd birthday anniversary.

Tomorrow is the last day for registration for the special town election to be held July 11 to decide on the sale of the municipal power plant to the Nantahala Power and Light Company.

10 YEARS AGO (1893)

A test made a few days ago showed that the town will obtain 45 to 50 gallons of water per minute from the deep well being bored on the Dan Bryson property in East Franklin, Mayor T. W. Angel, Jr., has announced.

The Cartoogechay Men's Club observed its June meeting with a picnic supper at Arrowood Glade Saturday.

The Franklin Junior Music Club will meet with Martha Ann and Beverly Stockton at their home Tuesday afternoon.