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THURS., NOVEMBER 13, 1958

Why Not?

With the election over, the 1959 General Assembly is just around the corner. And that means there's talk of money in the offing—how much the state should spend on schools and other services, and where to get it.

There is a widespread belief that new or higher taxes may be necessary; and the suggestion has been made that the 3 per cent sales tax be broadened to cover food and medicines.

That, of course, isn't necessary. There are other tax sources it is more logical to tap. For surely there is no fairer tax than a tax on luxuries.

If we have to have more tax money, why not tax soft drinks, theater admissions, and tobacco?

In the past, it has been considered something approaching treason to even mention a tax on tobacco in North Carolina, for tobacco is a big North Carolina industry; and the theory is, if we tax tobacco, the tobacco plants might go away. It's the old idea, a hold-over from another age, that the man who provides jobs is a public benefactor, and therefore should be handled with tax kid gloves.

North Carolina and Virginia are the only two states in the Southeast that levy no tax on tobacco. The others raise an estimated \$115,000,000 a year from that source.

If and when we have to raise more tax money, let's get it from those who have enough to buy such luxuries as soft drinks, theater admissions, and tobacco.

Hard Job Done Well

A county superintendent of public welfare has a difficult job, at best. And it is doubly difficult because welfare funds, since they come from federal, state, and local taxes, are administered under the strictest of strict rules. Sometimes rules made in Washington don't seem to make sense in Macon County; but the county welfare superintendent has no choice but to abide by them.

It was inevitable, therefore, that often the decisions Mrs. Eloise G. Potts has had to make during her 21 years as head of welfare work in this county should have seemed arbitrary. But because Mrs. Potts always was ready to take time to explain just what could be done under the rules, and what could not, and why, and because her complete fairness was so obvious, it has been rare indeed that any resentment of the disappointed has been directed at her personally.

A woman of remarkable executive ability—the facility for getting the most done in the least time and with the least friction—Mrs. Potts has won state-wide recognition in professional welfare circles as an A-1 county superintendent.

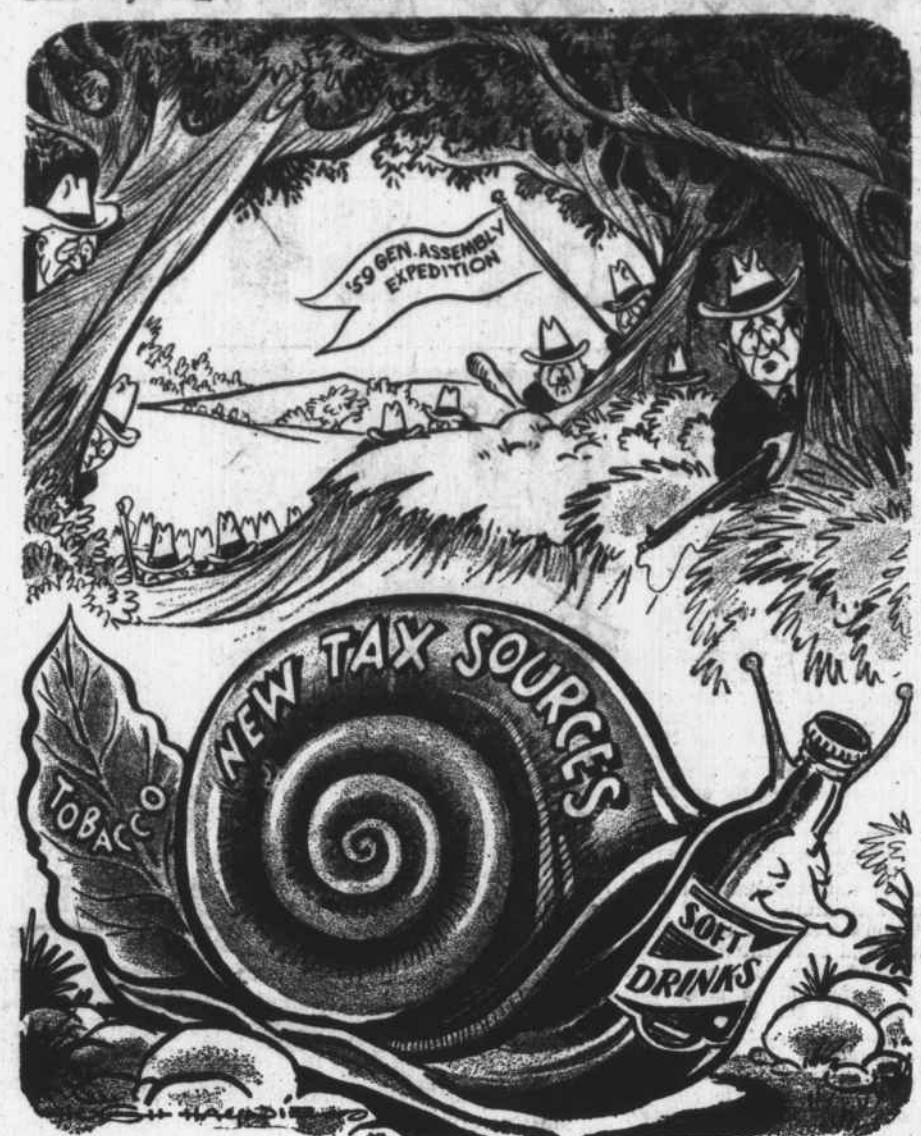
Beyond that, she is a woman of warm sympathies. She likes people. She is interested in their problems. She delights in their triumphs. And she is never happier than when she can help people find a way to help themselves. And that, of course, is the only help that is permanent.

In her job, she has often had to say, "no". For many of us, the longer we held such a job, the fewer friends we would have had. It is a tribute to the character of Mrs. Potts, the individual, that, after 21 years, she is held in greater respect and has more friends than ever before.

In fair weather and foul—and there's been plenty of that was foul!—she has done a hard job, and done it well.

In the late election, most candidates, we suspect, stood for anything they thought the voters would fall for.

"4 And 20 Tailors Went To Hunt A Snail. The Bravest One Among Them Dare Not Touch His Head Or Tail"



Courts Not Supreme

In the American government, is the judiciary the final authority? Here is an interesting argument to the contrary:

The doctrine of judicial supremacy was made in the case of *Marbury v. Madison* by Chief Justice Marshall. The doctrine was shrewdly set forth in an oblique dictum; that is, in an opinion that did not call for an execution of any mandate of the court, for he knew that Thomas Jefferson, then President, would not recognize the validity of the opinion or put it into execution. A few years later, in the matter of the Yazoo claims, when the court, through the same chief justice, held an act unconstitutional and directed the issuance of a writ in accordance with the opinion, Andrew Jackson, then President, pithily said, "John Marshall has made his decision, has he? Now let us see him execute it." It was accordingly never executed, and to this day has remained a blank piece of paper.

This power when assumed by judges in *Marbury v. Madison* was without a precedent in any other country. It had never been dreamed of before in any other country that the judges would assume the lawmaking functions. It had been attempted once in England and then they promptly hung the chief justice (Tresilian) and exiled his associates.

There is not a line in the constitution which authorizes the assumption of this unlimited power by the court. Nor is there a line in any state constitution which so authorizes it.

If I were to quote to you the comments made by Thomas Jefferson, by Andrew Jackson, by Abraham Lincoln upon the exercise of this usurped power, it would make your ears burn.

Special interests assert that we have followed *Marbury v. Madison* and that we will go to ruin if we dispense with it. Of course we shall, unless our people are capable of self-government, as we asserted in 1776.

That, incidentally, is not the argument of some present-day segregationist. The words are those of Walter Clark, late chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court; and they were spoken in an address in New York in 1914.

Southern Accent

(Jackson, Miss., State Times)

When the typical movie player tries to talk with a southern accent, he sounds as if he were speaking with a dentist's suction pump in his mouth.

What! No Auditorium?

(Fayetteville Observer)

Horrible circumstance of a high school without an auditorium has become a reality in Greensboro where the school people have erected a \$1,350,000 educational edifice which, according to the description of the Greensboro Daily News, contains a gymnasium, a band room, a glee club room, and "all sorts of rooms for extracurricular activities"—but no auditorium.

With education people continually screaming about "standing at the crossroads" and the shortage of people who know how to teach scientific subjects, and the poor pay of teachers in general, we see no need for anybody in Greensboro to fall down on the floor in a fit because one high school does not have an assembly room where the pupils can meet together once a week and where the seniors can get their diplomas once a year.

We'll not debate the question of how much school esprit de corps compares with the value of a good math teacher and a good physics teacher, the best of which could be hired, both of them, for more than ten years for the price of a first-rate auditorium.

Nor will we debate the question of how much "leadership potential in a student body" is developed by the existence of an auditorium, although we have a sneaky feeling that if the students can't find leadership potential in their clubs and athletic teams they are not likely to discover it between their yawns underneath the benches in chapel period.

Our general impression is that the basic needs of public schools in North Carolina today are classrooms and teachers, and that until classrooms and teachers are in plentiful and effective supply, any school board is excused for constructing a building minus not only auditoriums but glee club rooms and band rooms, yes even minus gymnasiums.

Let's get plumb realistic about the school auditorium.

In a great many cases, perhaps the majority of the cases, it is more a community asset than a school asset. It is more

of a convenient and desirable public gathering place for the area than a tool of public education.

And if the people of a school district, through their representatives, wish to tax themselves for the construction of a convenient gathering place, after all, it's their money they're spending.

Letters

Disagrees With Editorial

Editor, The Press:

Sound, constructive difference of opinion has helped solve many problems in this country. I hope this letter is taken as just that, and nothing personal.

Your editorial in last week's Press, "That Football Incident", is well taken. However, as so often is the case when all the facts are not on hand, a "whipping dog" has been created by your comments. Right away an "over-emphasized athletic program" is insinuated. Now, I am the first to agree that the aftermath of the game was a most tragic and miserable scene. The fact that most observers did not realize was that the brief skirmish between the players was over the football itself and not the outcome of the game. The fracas between players was very brief and ended in the dressing room with hand-shaking and apologies aplenty with the coach and school officials doing a good job.

What does deserve criticism was the bunch of roughnecks who have been running wild around Franklin for several months. They were in the midst of the brawling. They openly made boasts of other violence and succeeded in their boasts sometime after the "fans" were home in bed.

The faithful followers of the Panthers were, as a whole, well behaved and aghast at the carryings-on of those mistaken for Franklin fans.

So in conclusion I would like to disagree with your editorial and offer as a suggestion a couple of ideas which might prevent future incidents of this nature. First, there should be a more careful and comprehensive police coverage at the games, there should be available better trained officials who are able to keep the game under control and finally more people unwilling to sit on their hands during such incidents, people who should chase these vandals off the scene during such happenings.

No, please don't make it any harder than it is for a high school trying its best to run its inter school athletic program completely without tax money. Schools with a one-game-won and five-games-lost in conference play can't be accused of over-emphasizing sports. They need help . . . manpower, money and plenty of moral support.

BOB CARPENTER,
Ch. Ath. Comm.

RACISM HIS 'POLICY'

Harlem's Rep. Powell Cracks Whip Over N. Y. Leaders

William S. White

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. White, Washington columnist, is the author of "The Citadel" and other books. The column below is reprinted from the Raleigh News and Observer.)

WASHINGTON—Among politicians tolerance is a long rope, but a rope that somewhere has an end. This thought is now in the minds of many, as Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, of New York, continues to flex his muscles before both nervous political parties in that state and its bosses and sub-bosses.

Mr. Powell already had drubbed Tammany Hall by winning re-nomination in Harlem over its opposition. Now to this necessary injury he has added a curious insult. He has agreed to support the general Democratic ticket after requiring Gov. Averell Harriman and Tammany Leader Carmine de Sapio to issue servile guarantees to him.

The Governor has given "specific pledges" that Powell will be granted patronage—political jobs

to hand out. Mr. de Sapio has solemnly promised to "insist and urge" that Powell's seniority be respected by the Democrats in the House of Representatives even though Powell is running as the Republican as well as the Democratic nominee and even though he supported the Republican Presidential ticket in 1956.

Mr. de Sapio's influence on the House Democratic leadership on what is totally its own business—what members shall have what committee assignments—is less than vast. It would be about as welcome and effective as a claim by a union shop steward of the right to pick for General Motors the next man to go on its board of directors.

Mr. de Sapio himself, who is neither arrogant nor foolish, is quite aware of all this. It is plain that he has accepted a public humiliation for the good of the Democratic slate in New York.

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

(NOTE: This is from a talk by the editor at the Citizenship Leaders Training School held here recently.)

Do you get discouraged sometimes, about citizenship?

Do you ask yourself: What difference will my one vote make?

Do you feel frustrated, outraged, almost betrayed, when your representative in the Legislature or in the Congress votes on some issue exactly the opposite of the way you think he should vote? He's your representative, representing you in the law-making body; yet his vote violates your convictions!

And do you get outdone with the people, because they seem to take forever to make up their minds, to act?

Of course you do! All of us do. And we are partially right.

Because, after all, your ballot is just one among many. And your representative will cast a vote, sometimes, that is the opposite of what you think is right. And democracy is slow—exasperatingly slow, at times.

LOBBYING OF THIS KIND IS O. K.

And then there's the young lady who thinks lobbying is all right if you're really staying at the hotel.—Arcanum Bulletin.

TEACHERS' PAY AND MAID SERVICE

Did you know?—Substitute school teachers in North Carolina make three dollars less per day than the average colored maid in Washington, D. C. And they say the progress of the world rests on the effectiveness of our educational system.—Tabor City Tribune.

But let's turn the situation around and look at it. Would you want it the other way?

Would you want your vote to count for more than somebody else's? More to the point, suppose the vote were tied on some important issue, and you had to break the tie—and occasionally that happens. Would you welcome the responsibility of having to decide the issue? Or would you prefer to share the responsibility with all the voters?

Would you want your representative to be a mere automaton, a kind of applause-measuring machine, voting in response to pressure, voting with the side that could write more letters and send more telegrams. Or do you want a representative who will vote his honest convictions—even though, on occasion, you may think those convictions wrong?

And would you want the people to take snap judgment? Or is it better the way it is, with the people—you and me and the other fellow—slowly, and imperfectly, absorbing some of the information about an issue, a problem; laboriously trying to analyze the pros and cons; and then letting most of the problem sink, like an iceberg, below the surface of the mind? Down below the surface, a strange and marvelous chemistry takes place. Down there in the sub-conscious, logic and conscience and horse sense—yes, and intuition—battle with ignorance and prejudice and selfishness. And at last something emerges; out of the thinking of many minds, there crystallizes the thing we call public opinion. The people have come up with a solution.

It may not be my solution or yours. It may not seem to us the best solution, often not the ideal solution. But usually it has one great virtue; it works. Because the average plain citizen is a practical realist; and so, while he demands a solution that is honest and one that is just, he also insists it must be one that will work.

A good illustration of that, it seems to me, is the Pearsall plan. North Carolina's effort to meet the situation created by the Supreme Court's desegregation decisions. I'm sure thousands had the same experience I had on

that. I studied the Pearsall plan carefully; I did considerable soul-searching. But I couldn't go along with it; it just didn't seem right to me. So I opposed it; I opposed it, as strongly as I knew how, in the Franklin Press. But the people of North Carolina approved it, overwhelmingly; and in this county, the margin was something like 12 to 1.

Well, I still have reservations about the Pearsall plan. I still feel it doesn't shoot quite straight from the shoulder.

But I have to admit that, under it, North Carolina, so far, has got along pretty well, with no serious injustice to anybody. And so I find myself conceding that maybe I was wrong, and the people were right.

Give them the facts, and time, and the people usually are right. Sometimes, of course, they are wrong; occasionally, terribly wrong.

And when a mistake is made, how do we correct it? In just one way. We correct a mistake only if there is a courageous minority that will speak out; a group with the courage to say, before the decision is made, "This is wrong!"; the courage to say, after the decision is made, "This is still wrong!"; the courage and perseverance to keep on saying "This is wrong!" And after a while, if it is wrong, the minority grows into a majority, and the wrong is righted.

Surely, we can truthfully phrase: The minds of the people grind slow, but they grind exceedingly well.

STOMACH STATIC SERIOUS SYMPTOM

Medical science's latest achievement is a radio that can be swallowed in pill form. It is supposed to be a valuable aid in the study of gastro-intestinal disorders.

Fine and dandy, but the stomach specialists will really have more business than they can handle if wave lengths get switched to a rock and roll channel.—Macon, Ga., News.

UNCLE ALEX'S SAYIN'S

Tellin' the truth ain't always the best way to win a popularity contest.

Havin' folks compliment you is sorta like smokin'; once you get used to it, you can't hardly git along without it.

Heap o' times, they ain't nobody as plumb, teetotally wrong as the feller that's shorest he's dead right.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
(1893)

We learn from the Asheville Citizen that on the opening day of the United States court that the train from the west, on the Murphy branch, carried five cars jammed full of humanity on its way to court. By actual count, there were 485. Most of these were witnesses and a large number of prisoners bound over for alleged blockading and dealing in illicit whiskey. These are mostly of the poorer classes of people from the rural districts. Their expenses in attending court and lawyer's fees and loss of time represent a loss of hundreds of dollars. It also reveals a wretched state of morals that pervades our section.

25 YEARS AGO
(1933)

Jobs have been found for 225 men out of 1,291 who have enrolled at the Franklin office of the National Reemployment Service.

Jobs for several hundred more men in Macon County are expected to be made available in the immediate future on road maintenance projects, proposed by the federal government in its campaign against unemployment.

10 YEARS AGO

A furnace for the Slagle Memorial Building has been bought by the Franklin Rotary Club. The equipment will represent an investment of approximately \$1,750. The gross receipts of the Otto school Halloween carnival amounted to \$382.45, according to E. G. Crawford, principal.