

The Franklin Press

and
The Highlands Maconian

WEIMAR JONES

Editorial Page Editor

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NEED NO. 1

Never Have So Many . . .

Never have so many sat so long on anything half so hard.

That paraphrase of the famous Churchill expression in most cases would be something of an exaggeration. It was definitely an exaggeration, applied to the program presented here last week by the Concert Choir of North Dakota State College. For that 65-voice choir gave such an excellent program the audience could almost forget how uncomfortable are the backless benches at the high school gymnasium; almost—but never quite!

That concert underlined what is this community's No. 1 civic need, a good auditorium. The very fact that such a program is so rare in Franklin emphasizes the need; few such organizations will attempt to perform in a place as unsuitable as the school gymnasium. Given a good auditorium, we could have such programs often.

Nor would it have to be devoted exclusively to music; it could serve for every type of public gathering.

A good auditorium is Franklin's No. 1 need. It's been our No. 1 need for years. As the town grows, the need becomes more acute.

Here's One!

The state income tax withholding plan, the Associated Press reported the other day, is favored by most North Carolina newspapers.

Well, just for the record, here's one that is not in favor of it.

Under the plan, proposed by Governor Hodges and now pending in the General Assembly, employees would be required to withhold state income tax from pay checks, just as they now withhold federal income tax.

Here are some of the reasons we oppose it.

First of all, the state government has no moral right to force employers to serve, without compensation, as its tax collection agents. That requires something of employers that is required of no other group, and so is clearly discriminatory. And the fact that it is done by the federal government in no way affects the right or wrong of the question.

Second, the argument that only through the withholding plan can the state collect income taxes from all who owe such taxes just doesn't hold water. The state has access to information on the income of those who pay the federal tax; all it has to do is cross-check on that information, and then go after those who should pay but do not. Incidentally, the statement of the State Department of Revenue that 32,000 North Carolinians are dodging the state income tax seems incredible—it suggests incredible dishonesty among North Carolina citizens, as well as incredible laxity in the Revenue Department. If the department knows there are 32,000 tax dodgers, why doesn't it get busy and



collect from them, instead of waiting for their employers to do it?

Then there's the reason for advocating withholding at this particular time. It is proposed now so the state can have a "balanced budget". And how can withholding balance the budget? In a very simple way. It can do it, because it is proposed to collect two years' taxes in one—this year's in a lump sum April 15, 1960, next year's in weekly or monthly withholdings throughout that year. It is exactly as if an individual drew not only this week's pay check, but got next week's in advance—and then congratulated himself that now he could balance his personal budget. That's a sort of fiscal juggling, a kind of intellectual sleight-of-hand, that is as childish as it is dishonest.

But the strongest argument of all against the withholding plan is the very one advanced in its favor—it will make taxpaying easy. If his state income tax is withheld, a little at a time, the taxpayer will not feel the bite, will never know how much his state government is costing him. That's right; he won't. (Every employee knows exactly how much his take-home pay is, but how many could say how much they pay in federal income tax?)

But why shouldn't the citizen know what he is paying for government? Why shouldn't he know what government costs him, just as he knows what rent and food and fuel cost him?

Taxpaying should never be either indirect or easy. It should not, for two reasons: First, it is the citizen's right to know how much tax he pays; and it is only through knowing that he will be able to control the cost of government.

And surely he should have such control. For, after all, it is his government.

A Fighter

When youthful William Friday was elected president of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, it was only natural for people to ask: Is he big enough for the job? Is he seasoned enough?

Only time will answer those questions fully. But in one respect, Mr. Friday is giving emphatic answers: He is a fighter.

When the Advisory Budget Commission, headed by the Governor, cut some 10 million dollars off the requested budget of the three institutions (at Chapel Hill, Greensboro, and Raleigh)—cut 10 mil-

lions off before the request ever got to the Legislature, a timid man would have accepted the cut with such grace as he could—or sought a compromise.

But not Bill Friday! He is insisting on the full amount originally requested.

Every item can be justified, he declares. Then he points out that "we are a university—not a college; a great university in fact and in name, comparable with universities, great universities, of the world; and we must have the funds to maintain that stature, for our own good and for the good of future generations."

And Chancellor Aycock, of Chapel Hill, adds: "We are asking for every nickel we originally requested".

The University is appealing, over the heads of the Budget Commission members, to the legislators. Indirectly, it is appealing, over the heads of the Legislature, to the people. If it gets its story to the people, it will get the money.

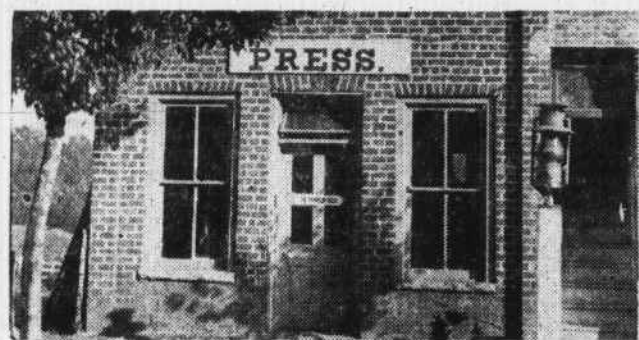
'Spitting Image'

(T&T Monitor)

If you want to know what is meant by a spitting image, try feeding cereal to a baby.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
(1894)

Mr. Alex Howard is painting the roof, window blinds, and doors of the courthouse.

Franklin suffered a great calamity last Friday night. About 12 o'clock flames were discovered by a young man, Tom Porter, issuing from the roof of the old store building belonging to Mr. E. H. Franks on East Main Street. Soon the whole town was aroused and ladders and buckets brought into service, and by almost super-human efforts a more extensive conflagration was prevented. As it was, these buildings were burned: J. M. Williams' store-room, the Franks-Lyle block of three store-rooms and offices above, the old Franks store-room, D. C. Cunningham's livery stables, and R. H. Jarrett and Sons' hotel and store. Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Garland and brother, asleep on the second floor of the old Franks building, were awakened by Porter barely in time to escape in their night clothes.

35 YEARS AGO
(1924)

NOTICE—The examination for teachers' certificates will be given April 8. M. D. Billings, County Superintendent.

The Woman's Club will meet April 4 in Miss Weaver's studio in the school building.

15 YEARS AGO
(1944)

J. J. Mann has been elected chairman of the Macon County Board of Elections to succeed R. S. Jones, resigned.

Sgt. Edwin Stiles, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Stiles, of Prentiss, is stationed at Camp Breckinridge, Ky.

Increased postal rates went into effect this week. Local letters remain at one cent, but letters to rural routes have increased from two to three cents. Post cards and U. S. postals remain at the one-cent rate.

5 YEARS AGO
(1954)

A fund raising campaign for the Franklin High School Band, which lost its instruments in last week's school fire, will be discussed at a special meeting of the Band Boosters Club tonight.

Money and time are the heaviest burdens of life, and the unhappiest of all mortals are those who have more of either than they know how to use.—Samuel Johnson.

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES



We are the inheritors of the civilization of all the world, and our primary aim in North Carolina should be the development of a people who understand the things of the spirit.

We have wonderful assets, if we'll just hold on to them. One of them is the rural character of our state, and the things that go with rural living; we must hold on to the faith of our fathers in simple honesty and in living life at its highest.

We seek and welcome new industry.

But —

We do not want industry at any price.

We do not want industry that will destroy another industry, such as our tourist business.

We do not want industry which is unsuited to the community.

We do not want industry which comes in to exploit our resources and our people.

And we are not in favor of offering gratuities (such as tax exemption) to get industry to come to North Carolina; that would be unfair to the industries that have been here for, maybe, 50 years.

We do not want an industry that seeks a gratuity. It is smarter for North Carolina to hold high its standards and treat everybody alike . . . It is a high honor to come to North Carolina and share in its upbuilding.

Those are not my words — though they say the things I have been trying to say, on this page, for a dozen years.

They are the words of one of the brainiest and most highly respected men in North Carolina. And they were spoken at — of all places! — a chamber of commerce dinner. Yet the ideas were presented so clearly, so logically, that what was said seemed completely appropriate to the occasion.

They are the words of a man often mentioned for governor, State Treasurer Edwin M. Gill. They are from his speech — the highlight of an excellent program — at the recent annual dinner meeting of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. And his words fitted right in with the theme of the meeting, as announced on the printed programs — "a people working together for a better community".

Mr. Gill went on to say that the industry that is most desirable is not looking for gratuities; that it is much more interested in less tangible things.

Industrialists, he said, are impressed by the rural character of North Carolina; enlightened industry is looking for wide open spaces. They are impressed by such things as the fact that North Carolina has an art museum, as evidence that the people of this state value and appreciate the beautiful. They are interested in a balanced state, which puts a premium on such things as morality and religion. They are interested, most of all, in a good place to live.

Many of the things that make North Carolina desirable, a good place to live, he added, grow out of the rural character of the state; and Governor Hodges is seeking to preserve that rural character by encouraging the development of small industries, especially those that process foods, in the rural areas.

If all that sounds familiar to readers of this newspaper, it's because The Press has been saying it — though not so well as Mr. Gill — over a period of years.

Here in North Carolina, in this mountain region, in Macon County, we need some industry, of course; enough small industry that, along with farming, tourists, and other businesses, we will have a balanced economy.

But we do not need industry at any price, and we do not need just any industry.

As far back as 1946, this newspaper suggested that we should select our industries. Then it listed eight basic standards for measuring the desirability of an industry. In the light of those recent remarks of so wise and prominent a man as Mr. Gill, that 1946 list still seems to be a pretty good yardstick:

1. Industry should be home-owned; not necessarily by people who now live here, but by people who will live with and in the industry. Absentee factory ownership is quite as great an evil as absentee land ownership.

2. Industries should be small — so that no one can dominate the community — and diversified — so that a single shut-down cannot paralyze the community's economic life.

3. They should fit into the natural economy of the community, preferably manufacturing raw material already present; that would seem to make sense economically, and socially it would create fewer changes and frictions.

4. They should employ local labor. There certainly would be little advantage in a factory that brought its labor from elsewhere, with our own leaving home in search of employment.

5. The community should select the management of its factories as carefully as management selects its labor. It is not enough that the plant management should be a good citizen — in its labor, as well as in its community, relations; the management should be able to understand and fit into the community.

6. Our industries should be those that will not destroy the God-given, irreplaceable things we have here in Western North Carolina. Our mountains have been marred and our air and water polluted enough already.

7. Each industry should be fitted carefully into the community it is to serve, and we should have just enough to give us a proper balance with farming, the tourist business, etc. Too few would be better than too many.

8. The final test, in every instance, should be the question: Will the industry make this a better place to live?

How To Assure A Life Of Grief

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is reprinted from the Franklin, La., Banner-Tribune, which credited it to a Miss Landers, writing in a religious bulletin.)

1. Beginning with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.

2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he is cute. It will also encourage him to pick up "cuter" phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.

3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait till he is 21 and let him decide for himself.

4. Avoid use of the word "wrong". It may develop a guilty complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.

5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around — books, shoes, and clothing. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility on to others.

6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feast on garbage.

7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way he will not be too shocked when his home is broken up later.

8. Give the child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have the things as tough as you had them.

9. Take his part against neighbors, teachers and policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.

10. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I never could do anything with him."

11. Satisfy all his cravings. Denial may lead to frustration.

12. Prepare for a life of grief. You will be apt to have it.

WHY FOLKS GO IN DEBT

Nothing makes some people go into debt like trying to keep up with people who already are. — Holyoke, Colo., Enterprise.

ABOUT THE THIN WHOMERS

Provocative Pronouns For Precise People; A Little Grammar Is A Dangerous Thing

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The author of this article, reprinted from the Raleigh News and Observer, is head of the Department of English at N. C. State College, Raleigh.)

By LODWICK HARTLEY

A little grammar, like a little learning, is a dangerous thing.

And people who know least about how the language really operates are often those who are most positive about the way in which it should be spoken and written.

Incidentally, in my very first paragraph I have already violated a principle (syntactical, it is true, rather than grammatical) dear to some pretenders to competence in the language. "Never begin a sentence with 'and,' 'but,' or 'for,'" the rule runs. And it may even be extended to "because" and other conjunctions. But is there any reason or authority for such a rule? Not so far as I can tell. Because there is not, then, I think that we can quickly rid our

minds of another taboo.

Clearly, this kind of false notion is in the class of the taboo about ending the sentence with a preposition. Both are classic examples of ideas promulgated by people who think that they know grammar and syntax but who in reality have only a smattering of each.

There is another class of people (or is it merely a sub-class?) who have a strong faith in the "niceties" of grammar and who insist upon demonstrating their familiarity with them on every possible occasion. These include, I am afraid, the same people who think it elegant to hold a tea cup with the small finger of the right hand in a delicate curve outward.

For them the linguistic equivalent of the curved little finger is — among other things — a devotion to constructions involving the auxiliary verb "shall," as well as to an overuse of the pronoun "one."

Now "shall" and "will" have for so long been baffling to speakers of the English language that many people have despaired of making any distinction in their use. (Some valid distinctions do exist, of course.)

Observe the friend of yours who says with what used to be called old-maidish precision, "Yes, I shall be at home when you call," and "I shall do what you have requested," and "I shall see you later."

Naturally, all the handbooks of usage say (but should not I have used "state"?), that "shall" with the pronoun of the first person indicates simple futurity. At the same time, they do not give license for riding a good horse to death. Once in a while, "will" is much better, and even more accurate — as in "I will do what you have requested" and "I will certainly meet you for golf next Wednesday," indicating a willingness or promise to perform an act and not merely the likelihood of its being performed.

But the "shall" addict persists in thinking that there is something inherently fashionable about his consistency. Very few people, of course, confuse "shall" (indicating determination on the part of the speaker) and "will" (indicating simple futurity) when they are used with pronouns of the second and third person: "you" or "he" or "they."

The partisans of "one" are

equally numerous; and because they somehow think that they are fashionable, they are at least equally ridiculous. One has only to listen to one's pseudo-educated and super-precise friends to get one's ear full. However, "one," like "shall," can be perfectly proper when used, like one's dress clothes, with taste and discretion.

Perhaps, after all, the most flagrant offenders among people who have learned a little grammar are the "I" and the "whom" addicts.

For some undetermined reason, the average child doggedly insists on saying "me and Jim" rather than "Jim and I" regardless of the grammatical context of his statement. It seems to make little difference whether the youngster lives in the local Mortgage Hill area or in Shanty Town.

When the child goes to school, however, he is cajoled, admonished, and threatened enough to convince him that he has committed a mortal sin (pride leads the "Seven Deadly Sins") by naming himself before he names his playmate and that he has committed a grammatical sin by using a pronoun in the objective form as the subject of a sentence. So he

learns to say, "Jim and I are going to play together." Unfortunately, however, the experience becomes traumatic, and our young man is afflicted with a fixed idea for the rest of his life.

Listen to your friend who says "Mr. Jones invited my wife and I to his country place for a swim." Nine to one, he glows inwardly because of his altruism in putting his wife first and because of his discrimination in using "I" instead of "me." He thinks, of course, that he has fully demonstrated his worthiness to move in the society of a man fashionable enough to have a private swimming pool. But he has a rude surprise awaiting him. Mr. Jones' wife will assuredly know that he should have said "wife and me," since both words are the objects of "invited"; and she will have her own opinion of whether he is deserving of associating with her set.

Our poor fellow will also be afraid to say, "You're being unfair to us Smiths." After all, we live in as good a part of town as you do. Had he not once been told that he could not say "Us boys are going" and that he should have said "we boys"? So he timidly

says, "You're being unfair to we Smiths"; and he is ever so irretrievably back on the wrong side of the grammatical railroad tracks. After all, a preposition is in all the socially-acceptable parts of town.

The "whom" addicts are not in the same class only because there are not quite so many people who can catch them in their errors. But, like the "I" addicts — since they have learned through dint of considerable effort that "whom" is the right form for certain situations — they insist on getting more than their money's worth out of this hard earned knowledge.

Thus they indulge in such constructions as "Whom do you think will be the next president of the Country Club?" Or "There has been a lively discussion as to whom will marry Mrs. Walsingham Cartwright next," or "She is the one whom we all supposed was slightly inebriated at our last club dance." Of course, the speaker who really knows his grammar — and does not merely think that he does — will see that "who" is the right form in all three sentences — as the subject of "will have said," "will marry," or "was inebri-

Shall (Or Will) One?

ated."

Very well, you may say, but some highly-placed people will be found in the above categories. Indeed, I remember something of the cold chill that ran over me when, in a news reel of fairly recent issue, a very important personality said, "Thank you for all you've done for Esmeralda and I." (I have sufficiently disguised the name so that it should not possibly be attached to the wife of any great contemporary American political figure.)

And there was John Milton (rest to his puritanical bones!) who referred to a hero (that some say he may have admired) as "Satan, than whom none sat higher." Why "whom"? Only Milton could answer. At any rate, one of the greatest English poets said it; and he did so in such a resounding way that "than whom" is the accepted idiom to this moment.

It is better to be president than right, as any sensible man knows. And poets have a special license of their own. But as for us ordinary human beings, we'd better not attempt to display learning that we do not have. Too many people will know just enough to catch us.