

WEIMAR JONES Editorial Page Editor

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1959

WRONG WAY TO GOOD END?

That Salary Bill

This newspaper always has advocated good sal-aries for public officials. That, it seems to us, is one way to attract competent men to public office. Furthermore, if an official is well paid, the public has a right to expect and demand first-rate service.

We favor adequate salaries, and, so far as we know, the higher scale of salaries for Macon County officials, proposed by Rep. James M. Raby in a bill introduced in the General Assembly, is not excessive.

There are some rather pertinent questions, though, about this whole matter, that ought to be answered, it seems to us, before this bill becomes law.

First of all, both federal and state constitutions prohibit reducing an official's salary during a term of office for which he has been elected. If the salary of the office is to be cut, the cut must become effective at the beginning of the next term. Does it make any better sense to raise an official's salary during the term to which he has been elected? After all, the elected officials who would be affected by this bill sought office on a basis of the present salary.

Then, there is the question of whether a new law on this subject is necessary. The present law, enacted two years ago, fixed salary floors and ceilings for the offices, and left it to the discretion of the county commission whether the salaries should be the bottom figures, or the top ones, or somewhere in between. All of the proposed raises already are authorized by law; the board of county commissioners already has the authority to grant such raises, under the law now on the books.

That brings up the question of who should fix, who should raise, the salaries of county officials. Should it be the General Assembly in Raleigh or the local board of county commissioners? If, as this newspaper believes, we need more, not less, county "home rule", the responsibility properly belongs to the commissioners.

'And from a purely practical viewpoint, aren't the folks who have to raise the money the ones who ought to decide how to spend it? It is the commissioners, not the legislators, who must levy the taxes to pay public officials, along with other ex-penses of county government. Under this bill, the legislators in Raleigh would be saying to the commissioners, in effect: "You must either raise more taxes or you must take money from some other source and give it to these officials".

When the people elect commissioners, they elect them to levy taxes and determine how the money shall be spent. This bill would appear to raise salaries, regardless of what the people who pay the taxes want or think is right. If the people want their officials better paid, we suspect they'll tell the commissioners so. If they don't-well, it's the people's tax money.



Father's World", and now it is giving pleasure to others.

This still, thank goodness! is the age of the amateur.

Cheap At Any Price

People who go to the County Health Center on Riverview Street-and most of them are childrenhave no place to get out of a car except to step into the middle of the street. And it's a narrow street, with two-way traffic. Why someone hasn't already been killed there is something of a mystery. The law of averages says somebody will be killed there soon-unless something is done about the situation.

Providing space for parking at the rear of the building would not prove expensive. But this simple way of eliminating a major traffic hazard would be cheap at any price, to save the life of a child.

Walter Gibson

It was perhaps chiefly because of his honesty and his devotion to whatever he believed was in the public interest that Walter Gibson repeatedly was elected to public office by the people of Macon County.

He was a man, though, of many other admirable traits. Quiet but friendly, doggedly determined but usually open-minded, loyal almost to a fault, he had the respect of all who knew him. What was perhaps most extraordinary about him, though, was a quality that is rare-humility.

It's Not Just The Farmer

(Windsor, Colo., Beacon)

Several big operators of farms have made the headlines because they cleaned up around half-a-million apiece from programs planned to relieve the small farmer. In theory sub-sidies may sound all right-actually, the taxpayer is always the loser.

Blending Farming And Industry

(Greensboro Daily News)

A breakdown of North Carolina's industrial growth last year shows that 63 of the new industrial projects started in 1958 process food or kindred products.

These new plants, widely scattered, over the state, represent an investment of \$21,000,000. They are expected to pay 2,346 employes \$6,814,000 annually.

Thus their multiple impact is obvious. They put more money in state and local tax coffers. They provide jobs for persons who are victimized by Tarheelia's changing farm pattern, and they stimulate growth of food and feed crops which will take up at least part of the slack left by shrinking cotton and obacco acreage.

North Carolina is blessed with rich natural resources, including soil, normally adequate rainfall with increased re-course to irrigation serving as insurance against drought, a long growing season, and varied climate, which make possible production of any number of crops. With assured markets close at hand, Tar Heel farmers will feel more confidence in raising foodstuffs and catering to the needs of processing plants from the mountains to the sea.

Too long has North Carolina been dependent on one or two major cash crops. Too long have we grown truck, vegetables, fruit, et cetera, only to have them shipped elsewhe to provide processing jobs and increased payrolls for residents of distant states. The loss has been doubly hard when Tar Heels have been forced to buy processed foods shipped right back to them for distribution and consumption.

North Carolina's revolution is well under way, and its modus operandi is happily a blending of industry and agriculture in a manner meaningful to the state, its citizenry and the future.

Statesman Defined

(Ellaville, Ga., Sun) A statesman is a politician with a high fidelity record.

What About Bottom 40?

(Changing Times)

Every time we hear a disc jockey playing the top 40 tunes, udder to think what the bottom 40 must be like!

The rich man and his daughter are soon parted. -Kin Hubbard.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1894)

An Epworth League was organized at the Methodist Church Sunday night with about 20 members

Messrs. R. L. Porter, M. C. Allen, and H. C. Marshall went over to Aquone yesterday to frighten the fishes in Nantahala River.

Rev. Frank Siler preached to the colored people last night in their church on Harrison Avenue

Our young friend Leon Addington has commenced the study of medicine under Dr. S. H. Lyle

35 YEARS AGO

(1924)

Miss Martha Deal gave the Sunday School an egg hunt at her home Sunday afternoon. There were eighty present.—Holly Springs item.

The Iotla High School is fortunate in having as its com-mencement speaker this year Miss Elizabeth Kelly.

Mr. Henry Cunningham, of Durham, spent a few days here last week, having been called to Franklin by the death of his grandmother, Mrs. D. C. (Aunt Henrietta) Cunningham.

15 YEARS AGO (1944)

Second Lt. Davis L. Dean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman



PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

What is a man supposed to do ing what it is, discussion generally when somebody tells him, flatly: gets nowhere, either. Because each "You are wrong!" What is he is interested, primarily, in prov-supposed to do, especially, when ing he is right, and the other fellow wrong. Again, nobody is likely to be convinced. Incidenthe KNOWS he is right?

Well, there are several ways to try to meet that situation. 'One way is to assume a superior

air and answer the fellow, as you would a child, "Do you think so?" — and then change the subject.

Of course, there's one other That squelches him, all right. way . . . But somehow, I've found, it isn't very satisfactory to the squelcher. But in our determination to be right, are at least to appear right, we almost never think of it — much less try it. First of all, you haven't convinced him, you've only clobbered him. And you haven't proved, even to

decent human being, you're likely yourself, so you'll mean it when being a nasty snob. low on the spot.

Or you can argue with the fellow. That's what most of us are (There are a few people, of inclined to do; it's what I usually course, who'll rush into that do, anyhow. My blood pressure opening you've left, with an "of rises along with my voice, and course you're wrong" or an "any-I try to tell him all the reasons body else would have known bet I up to ten nim an the reasons body the would have known bet-why I know I am right. When I ter" or — and this is the tough think about it afterward, though, one to take — a "so you admit I realize I haven't done a very you're wrong". There are a few good job of reasoning; usually, people like that; but if you and instead, I've just kept on insisting I are smart, we'll be able to keep I am treat the areas the second and th I am right - and trying to prove calm, because people who are like that are people who don't mathe is wrong. ter.) As something to get a man

stirred up, sometimes as a mental I haven't had the sense to try stimulant even, a hard-fought it often, but nine times out of I haven't had the sense to try argument has it points. But my ten, I've found, if you reply, "Well, guess is, it really settles just about maybe I am wrong", the other as many questions as war does, fellow will first look surprised; as many questions as war does. And, in the case of individuals, then he'll come back with "I beeven if no blows are struck, it's lieve you are, but I'm not abso-likely to end with one of the lutely sure" or "I guess I arguers stalking away, slamming the door behind him. Nobody's shouldn't have spoken so positive ly" or even "well, maybe it's me convinced, because both of you that's wrong"

become so preoccupied with prov-ing you are right — and with getting interested in what is thinking what a fool the other right, instead of who is; and are is — you are likely to forget what starting to forget whether you it is you're arguing about. That's look silly in the other fellow's my experience, at least. eyes. Usually, you and the other Or you can try discussing the fellow will go together, wherever

ally, you are lucky if you don't

convince him. If you do, you've

made an enemy for life; it's like

sticking a knife into him, and then twisting it.

question of who's right and who's you have to go to find out, to see wrong. (You can, maybe; usually, what is right. I can't.) Keeping your voice down. And what And what do you find, when you can carefully list all the you get there? As a rule, you reasons why you think you're find either that you misunderright. (You can, maybe: usually, stood each other; or, more often, I can't. I'm so darned upset at that each of you is partly right,

that nincompoop's telling me I partly wrong. am wrong, I can't think of a It's worrying about how we may single reason why I think I am look to the other fellow that gets right) Discussing is better than us in most of the trouble you and arguing; it's more polite, more I (well, I, anyhow) seem to be civilized. But, human nature be-always getting into.

STEVENSON'S CHANCES

Is He A 'Born Loser'?

CHARLOTTE NEWS

Does Adlai E. Stevenson deserve another crack at the Democratic of defeat about him." said our presidential nomination? We have friend. "He's a born loser. The been assured that he does not by public just won't go for a loser a local political thinker who has and, believe me, Adlai's a loser." already pledged his allegiance to one Stuart Symington.

"Oh, Adlai's okay," he allowed, pocket and sharing it with Sym-"but he has a black record." ington's man. "A black record?" we cried, in-credulously.

SEEING

It read

IS BELIEVING

This is what it said: "Failed in business, '31. "Defeated for Legislature, '32. "Failed in business again, '33. "Elected to Legislature, '34. "Sweetheart died, '35. "Suffered nervous breakdown

"Defeated for speaker, '38 An Antrim farmer who com-"Defeated for elector, '40. "Defeated for Congress, '43. plained that his wife did not shoulder her full share of the "Elected to Congress, '46. burden agreed to run the house-"Defeated for Congress, '48, hold for one day. He kept a "Defeated for Senate, '55. minute record of his activities. "Defeated for vice president,

"I mean he has a kind of aura "Uh huh," we said, producing a newspaper clipping from our

The question, in short, is not whether our public officials should be better paid. The question is: Is this the right way to bring about that end? We don't believe it is. We doubt if most Macon-

County people believe it is.

Amateur Age

This is the age of the expert, the professional.

Yet, the fact is that it makes it the age, too, of the amateur. Our very specialization drives us to seek release in a hobby, in something done just for fun, in being an amateur-that is, one who does something for reasons other than money.

How much pleasure the amateur can give others, as well as himself, is illustrated by the amateur production, "My Father's World', that the Rev. and Mrs. Robert E. Early have been showing to groups here.

Mrs. Early is not a professional photographer, Mr. Early is not a professional reader, and, as far as we know, the singer whose voice is heard is not a professional. Yet the amateur work of these three-nature pictures in color, poetry, and songare so skillfully woven together that the viewerlistener catches his breath at the beauty of the whole:

The Earlys must have had fun, over a long period of time, creating and putting together "My

But the farmer isn't the only one with a hand in the pork

barrel. In the interest of "developing new fields", the oil in-dustry does a lot of its operation tax-free. And Uncle Sam pays the difference between the cost of ships built in the U.S., and what their cost would have been had they been built in Japan. The difference is some 48 per cent. Yet ac-cording to recent rumors Bethlehem Steel accepted an order for four freighters, then ordered three of them built in Japan anyway, pocketing the 48 per cent.

KIDS NEED RULES

er.)

Dean, has received an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal **5 YEARS AGO**

(1954)

Work is about to start on the proposed Carson community building, it was announced at a meeting of the Carson Rural Community Development Organization.

C. Jack Ragan is the new commander of the V. F. W. post-here, and Mrs. Elizabeth McCollum is the new president of the Auxillary.

106 times. Shouted, "Stop, Johnnie": 94. Tied their shoes: 16. Stopped quarrels: 19. Answered phone: 11. Provided glasses of water and milk: 26.

BUT IT WASN'T

Ran after children: About 41/2

miles. Lost temper: 45 times

The Hamlet woman who could not unlock her parked car broke a window to get in. Then she discovered it wasn't her car .- Rock ingham Post Dispatch.

CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

. I just mean

stand what I

Denied Joy Of Achieving

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This, 'ever - I'm not talking about rich of the biggest is that a youngster the things I want, earn them with TEEN-AGE TALK kids, but average kids of average must be taught to be self-suffici- my own hands, brains.

though written by a humorist, for. United Press International, is in serious vein. Mr. Levenson is a parent and a former teach-

families - you worked to get the ent. He has to start growing up. That's a beautiful thing. It's in money for it. Sometimes you And going steady—at 15. First the American tradition — the couldn't.

er.) By SAM LEVENSON I don't deny kids pleasure. God bless them. I want them all to have fun. But I also hate to see them getting killed or seduced in them setting killed or seduced in the seting killed or seduced in the setting cars and getting into all kinds that passes his house a block or supporting the kids through the We'd better find out where we of trouble. And the statistics are two away, but he won't take it. first babies, or through college, stand in this world, find out our that they do get into a lot of He must have the car. trouble

What to do about it? The par- agers is they expect everything the arrangements. They met the too. They need a devotion. They know?) ents have got to have the guts to in life free. We've tried to make girl — or the boy. They met the need an example. They need some- Switce be parents. It takes a little courage our kids happy by giving them family. And they investigated — thing that's better and more im-to face up to a kid when you everything that we didn't have practically the FBI. fingerprints, portant than the car. The kids know he is wrong. Our own par- in life. It doesn't work out. You everything ents had rules and regulations do a kid no good by giving to him. The free are confused because the whole The free lcar, the early mar, code of values is upset. A child for us. I don't say they were al-Because the only thing he gets riage, the unsupervised dates, must be raised with a sense of ways right. But there were rules, out of life that way is the habit they're all symbols — symbols of responsibility to himself, to his simple rules, and we knew what of receiving. You've denied him kids' getting things they're not parents, to his country, they were and most of the time the joy of achieving. they were and most of the time the joy of achieving.

The parents of America are we followed them - or else. Does anybody say to a kid any It's spoiling their lives. They're frightened, they're more frightened it-golly, that's mean You either went to school and more, "you're off Saturday. You denied the wonder of anticipation, than the kids, Actually the ruling did a good job or you went to have got nothing to do. How about of being able to say, "Look, when class in America today are the work. If you went to college you working for that extra five bucks I grow up, I'm going to work and teen-agers. They have laid the waited to get married at least till you want?" He never heard of it. I'm going to earn money and I'm rules out. It's time the parents you were out. If you wanted a 'He gets panicky. That's when to going to do this and that and took the rules back in their own car or a raccoon coat or what lay down some of the rules. One the other thing; buy for myself hands.

impossible to	(Pause).
aged gal-child	No.
telephone, we	I mean, really.
ler in a likely	I'm not being mean
night and pre- nscript.	no. You don't under mean.
also unsports-	(Pause).
e seen what	Vor

(Pause) Yes? (Pause). No You don't mean it?

The trouble with you-I don't mean the "trouble" with you, but the-aw, you know what I mean-I just don't mean what you think I do.

What I mean is, I can't believe you mean it, and if you do mean Something went wrong with the current at that point and it's probably just as well.

Serves us right for eaves dropping, really.

Besides, cross our hearts, she lost us somewhere. If you know what we mean.

Record Of A Phone Conservation

Having found it report what a teentalks about on the set up a tape record bedroom the other sent herewith a tra

(This is illegalte must have the car. or both. In the old days, you re-values in this society. The teen-manlike-but you've seen what The trouble with today's teen-member, mother and father made agers need a reason for living, fiends we are. Besides, who's to

(Pause)

(Pause).

(Pause)

NO:

Yes?

Switch to the taped record Hello?

You can't really mean it. Well, I mean, if you really mean it, it's-real mean,

Opened the door for children:

"Defeated for Senate, '58.

'A born loser, all right," mused our friend.

Yes. But he was elected Presi-dent of the United States in '80. His name was Abraham Lincoln

Answered questions: 202 FUNNY TO HER

Next day he bought his wife the washing machine she coveted. - Irish Digest, Dublin.

It's Time For Parents To Have The 'Guts' To Be Parents Again