The Franklin Press

The Highlands Maconian

WEIMAR JONES

Editorial Page Editor

The editor controls and takes full responsibility for this page. He has no control over or responsibility for what appears elsewhere in the paper.

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EVER STOP TO THINK? Whose Freedom

Freedom of the press . . .

Have you ever stopped to think what that phrase, "freedom of the press", means? It means just what it says: That the press is free - except for the restrictions of laws like that against libel - to print whatever it pleases.

Have you ever stopped to ask yourself why it is free? There could be but one reason for granting so great a freedom - so that you, and other citizens, may know.

Have you ever stopped to realize that, without an unobstructed flow of information and ideas, democratic government would be impossible? The press is free, that is, not for its own benefit, but for the citizens'; and this so-called freedom of the press really belongs to the citizens in a democracy - the press merely holds it in trusteeship.

Have you ever stopped to consider who has the greatest stake in keeping the press free? It is those who would lose all their other freedoms without this one - you and all other citizens.

And have you ever stopped to ponder what vast responsibility goes with this great freedom? There is your own responsibility, as a citizen, to be informed; there is the even heavier responsibility of the press to provide you accurate, complete information and intelligent, honest opinion about what that information means.

Conscientious newspapermen have thought long and hard on these things. And four years ago the newspapers of North Carolina tried to put on paper a statement of the principle involved, and to pinpoint the obligations of newspapers and newspapermen.

At least once a year, The Press reprints that Statement of Principle. It does so to remind its readers of the importance to them of this basic freedom; but, even more, to remind all of us who work on this newspaper of our own obligations. The occasion this year is National Newspaper Week, which starty today.

We invite the attention of readers to that statement, appearing at the bottom of this page. We invite them to study it, analyze it, pass judgment on it. And we invite them to help us, through constructive suggestion and criticism, as we strive, during the next 12 months, to meet our obligations as members of a free press.

Mindful of our "own human imperfections", we know we cannot measure up fully. But we pledge our best efforts.



Why The Delay?

An editorial in last week's Press asked why, six weeks after announcement of the proposed Nantahala-Duke power deal, application for its approval still had not been filed with the N. C. Utilities Commission.

Mr. W. B. McGuire, president of Duke Power Company, in his talk to the Franklin Rotary Club last Thursday night, replied. Since we raised the question, of course fairness demands we give equal space and prominence to his answer.

He said there were two reasons. First, the announcement had to be made earlier than planned, because word had got out, and it was feared some reporter might break the story prematurely. Second, preparation of the application involves a lot of work: and, since it is a joint application, it has to be approved by Duke officials, Nantahala officials, and Pittsburgh (headquarters of Alcoa, which owns Nantahala).

Mr. McGuire said he hoped the application could be filed with the Utilities Commission this week.

That Bond Election

What's that special bond election, to be held Tuesday, October 27, all about?

Strictly Personal By WEIMAR JONES

To me, travel is always exciting, sort of thing should be worth humor was at the expense of the Even a bus trip to Asheville can remarking. Yet it is so unusual, in weak — the "nigger", the Jew, prove something of an adventure, many parts of this country, the the half-wit, etc. If I The most amusing remark I

My chief business there was a night meeting, but since there were some errands that had to be taken care of before noon, I caught ary to drive it. People would be that supper would be ready by the early morning bus. And I so impressed by his neighborli- the time he not there and the mean early; it leaves at 6:10!

since I'd got up while it was still dark, and I grumbled plenty when the alarm clock rang that morning. Yet, thanks to that early departure, I saw something that morning I had not seen for months — the wonder of daybreak. Always a miracle, that time it was a stirring miracle - dawn coming over dark mountains, with fog filling the valleys.

the lone passenger, so I fell into conversation with the driver. Why, wondered, does the bus leave Franklin at such an unearthly hour. Is it so it can make connection with another bus? No, came the reply; it's so people who this side of Asheville, but work there, can get to their jobs on time

Soon the bus began to take on a score). And that brought the second interesting experience. I was impressed by the relations of driver and passengers.

Partly, perhaps, because many of them ride with him every day. but chiefly, I'd guess, because of his attitude, they were not just driver and passengers, but neighbors and friends. Each was greeted with a cheery "Good morning!" or a "How's your mother today?" or a "You needn't have run; we have plenty of time". And they chatted and kidded with him: "What you got your lights on for? Can't you see it's daylight?" (We'd just come out of heavy fog.) There's no reason why that

as I learned only the other day. thought occurred to me; owned a bus line, somewhere other heard was quoted. An old fellow than in these mountains, I'd pay with a kindly twinkle commented

Lester McDonald a premium sal- it was time for him to go home so impressed by his neighborli-ness, they'd ride the bus just to "Eisenhower may eat in a finer experience it. It had been quite sometime Then, arrived in Asheville, there was the inconsequential but amus-world." Then he smiled and re-

was the inconsequential but amusing incident of the two cents. Now two cents won't even buy a "penny postal" any more; its value is practically zero. But I don't fike to be robbed, even of two cents; besides, I think it's the duty of each of us to do our bit

When the bus left here, I was added: should have kept my mouth shut, but he'd distorted the truth as well as exaggerated the price, so I re-

plied: "No, sir: I can buy it on the news stand in Franklin for a passengers (when we arrived in the news stand in Frank) Asheville, there must have been nickel — and often do." I wanted the paper, so I paid the seven cents and went about my business. I was a little self-

about."

The nearly 19 million for educational institutions would be divided as follows:

\$1,539,000 State Board of Education These funds are for industrial education centers equipment and an addition to the vocational textile school building.

University of North Carolina, Chapel	
Hill	5,330,000
Of this total, \$1,090,000 is for the School of	Public Health.
State College, Raleigh	4,799,000
Woman's College, Greensboro	520,000
East Carolina College, Greenville	1,490,000
A. & T. (Negro) College, Greensboro	976,000
Western Carolina College, Cullowhee	1,425,000
Appalachian State Tteachers College.	
Boone	1,577,000
Pembroke State College	250,000
Winston-Salem Teachers College	150,000
Elizabeth City State Teachers College	71,000
State School for the Blind and the Deaf	179,000

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LETTERS

'Clean-Cut Appraisal'

until I heard him tell, with many guffaws, how he once had beaten how destiny hangs on small

old fellow boasted of his latest exploit: someone had blocked his full name, I'd have got those two moving, when asked to do so. ladies placed.

as never before that it is not toward holding down inflation by protesting against being robbed. white hair or the lined face or even the failing faculties that So, when I stopped to buy Charlotte Observer and was told the price was seven cents, I mildly the price was graved on the seven cents, I mildly the price was seven cents, I mildly on most surely betray age: posture. The stiffness, the slight limp, the protruding head (as inquired why. (It says plainly on the front of the paper it's a though the body could never quite catch up), the slumped stomach. nickel.) "It's seven cents on news the stooped shoulders. I'd have stands", the man said. Then he added: "On all news stands." I known, when they walked away, that those men were old, even if I hadn't seen the face of one of

for me to retire, too?'

them. Because I had that bit of idle time, I got my first good look in years at really old men. And as the last one slowly moved away, the thought came to me: Old men are nothing but boys who

diningroom, but he won't have any better food than I will - my

called what she had said to him

when he retired: "So you're going

to quit work? Well, isn't it time

walked away, one by one, I realized

As these old men arose

are tired - and don't get rested satisfied, I guess, thinking "I gave that fellow something to think any more. I didn't have to reply on others, Maybe I did, but he got his

though, to provide the climactic incident of that day. It came, as revenge. Later in the day, passing the same place, I dropped in, laid it so often does, from my own a penny on the counter, and asked bungling of a situation. for a box of matches. My difficulty in recognizing "We have no matches."

people usually can be counted on The place is a cigar store, as on even the dullest day, to create well as news stand, so obviously hilarity - and embarrassment he was lying - was telling such And that far-from-dull day was a big lie he knew that I knew no exception. It's a difficulty I've had all my life; and it hasn't it was a lie! What he meant was: "We don't want business helped to become nearsighted and, from cheapskates" rom cheapskates". besides, to have eyes that just By all the rules, I'm sure I don't function in either too much

should have felt as he meant me or too little light. to, very cheap; about like two cents. Strangely, though, I didn't. Facing the sun as I walked up a street, I heard a cordial voice I chuckled the rest of the day at say: how I'd laid myself wide open. "Why hello, Mr. Jones.

By mid-afternoon, I found my

self with time on my hands; and

dreaded rather than welcomed a

1 sat down in the sun, on a bench

the next bench, a group of elder-ly men, all long retired. And as

gotten, till I heard those old men

bit of leisure.

hurrying.

prehensible

Who could those two ladies be? wondered; surely someone I'd was a little ashamed to realize known during my years in Ashe ville. So I said: that I, like most Americans, "Hello; I'm so glad to see y

again." "You know Patty". older of the two.

at Pritchard Park, and watched the automobiles and pedestrians Still in abysmal ignorance of stream by, hurrying, hurrying, who it was, I chirped: "Sure! Hi Patty. Hurrying where? I wondered.

"She's married now, you know, Soon, though, I was absorbed Undoubtedly, I thought, I by the conversation of those on haven't seen Patty since she was a small child, so I exclaimed: "Surely not- I just can't believe

I listened, I wondered how it is it!" possible there could be so wide a gulf between those of 70 and to-Press? "Why, didn't you see it in The day's folks of 30 or even 40. The What I'd have said to that, I youngsters would have found the don't know. Fortunately I didn't

interests, the thinking, even the have to say anything; for the humor — perhaps most of all, the humor — of these oldsters incomolder woman said: "You don't know us, do Mr. Jones? Much of the talking was done

by a peppery man of 79, who in-terrupted himself frequently to There was no escape now; if should say yes, what would I exclaim, audibly, when he spotted say after that? So I told the a shapely young woman in the truth: passing crowds. I had forgotten, "No "No, I'm afraid I don't."

And that incident illustrates a man in a land trade — beaten things. If I hadn't been so all-him out of two feet! — I had for- fired anxious to be pleasant and so hadn't exclaimed that I couldn't talk, what a high premium once believe Patty was married, I mig was put on shrewdness. Then the have got away with my bluff. believe Patty was married, I might

A Statement Of Principle (BY N. C. PRESS ASSOCIATION)

The newspapers of North Caro- good editor often takes sides, but lina, conscious of their obligations, witout arrogance or intolerance. and mindful of their ows human He champions boldly the rights of imperfections, rededicate them the people, sometimes against selves to these principles which government itself. He provides guide a responsible press in a leadership, particularly in his own community. He has a special refree society. sponsibility to defend the weak,

to prod the public conscience, and

IV

The primary function of a

est. To be honest, it must be fair.

Honesty demands objectivity.

V

The final test of every story,

and complete.

every newspaper is:

Is it honest?

Freedom of the press exists in to speak out against the injustices a democracy, not for the power of which a majority can someor profit or pleasure of any in- times be guilty. dividual, but for the common good. The right of the people to know cannot be denied or dimin-ished without endangering de newspaper is to report the news. mocracy itself. It is the obliga-tion of the press to provide ac-stantly to find and write the curate, timely and complete in-formation about the press to provide ac-truth. This task, no matter how formation about all developments sponsibility. which affect the people's political, To be true, a story, together with its headlines, must be honeconomic or social well-being. Given the facts, the people usually will reach wise decisions. To be fair, it must be accurate

The trusteeship of a free press is the final responsibility of the the submergence of prejudice and publisher. He may share it, but personal conviction. Fairness dehe cannot escape it. The good mands regard for the rights of publisher provides the necessary others. Accuracy demands courmoney and space for adequate age, painstaking care, and per-coverage of the essential news and spective to assure a total picture employs personnel of integrity, as true as its individual facts. ability and sound judgment. He exalts accuracy above every other consideration, and insists upon every headline, every editorial, prompt, full and even generous correction when errors occur. III

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Is it fair? Every citizen deserves the stim- Is it accurate? To the end that they can more ulus of a strong editorial page. on which the editor voices his own frequently answer these questions well-informed opinion, clearly and in the affirmative, the newspapers forcefully; yet willingly provides of North Carolina adopt this statespace for contrary opinion. The ment of principle,

In a nutshell, this seems to be the story: The last General Assembly failed to provide funds for capital improvements at the state's colleges, mental institutions, and for other purposes. Instead, the legislators passed the buck to the citizens.

In the election of week after next, voters in Macon and the other 99 counties in North Carolina will approve or disapprove nine proposed bond issues, totalling nearly 35 million dollars.

Of the total, nearly 31 million is for capital improvements (chiefly buildings) at the colleges and mental institutions.

9 ISSUES

Each voter will vote for or against each of the nine proposed issues of state bonds. Here's the list, with the amount for each:

Educational institutions	\$18,891,000
Mental institutions	12,053,000
Community Colleges	1,500,000

These funds are for grants-in-aid, on an equal matching basis, to the community colleges at Charlotte, Asheville, and Wilmington.

500,000

Hospitals

These funds are for state participation, through the Medical Care Commission, in local hospital construction

State Armory	100,000
Training Schools These funds are for the four schools for quents.	466,000 juvenile delin
State Blind Rehabilitation Center	140,000
State Ports	500,000
Historical Sites Construction and Restoration	250,000

Dear Mr. Jones:

We who are accustomed to a high degree of excellence in the editorial section of our local paper are inclined to take this service for granted. Your analysis of the proposed power deal, appearing in the Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 issues of The Press, deserves the acclaim of all who are concerned. I want to thank you for a clear cut objective appraisal of a situation vital to all of us who are Interested in the welfare of our county.

H. BUECK Superintendent. Macon County Schools.

Franklin.

Ready To Help Fight It

Dear Mr. Jones:

I have been away from Franklin for the past ten days, so I was not there to read last week's issue of The Press. However, Mrs. Skipwith mailed the editorial page to me.

You have made another excellent presentation of the power situation. I hope the editorial ("The Known Facts", in the Oct. 1 issue) will be digested by the residents of Macon County and surrounding areas.

Let no one be misled by the soft, sweet words of the Duke Power Company officials as to their intentions on rates. They will raise them just as fast and just as high as the North Carolina Utilities Commission will let them. I have been associated in the Utility industry all my life and know just what comes after any consolidation such as is being proposed.

As you know I am a newcomer in Franklin. I have been there less than a year. My interests and investments are very small. I do not wish to be labeled as an upstart for projecting myself into this situation when there are so many others who should have a much greater stake in the matter than I.

However, I am incensed over the situation, so, if any re-sponsible person is willing to lead this fight and take the proper steps to raise funds for legal and other expenses, I will subscribe to such a fund.

You may put me down for \$100 as my subscription at this time and perhaps more will be given later, based on the extent to which others subscribe and the nature of the campaign organized. LEE SKIPWITH

New York, N. Y., Oct. 5, 1959

"I told him: 'I'l give you five But alas! I had exclaimed. And minutes to move — and two and a my long-time Franklin neighbor half of those five minutes are had called her daughter just already gone!" I had forgotten, "Patty". too, until I heard their stories. If Mrs. Louis Phillips had only how often, in an earlier era, the said "Patty Lou"!

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Pres

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1894)

We learn that Mr. Jesse West, a day or two of last week. of Cowee, has been prospecting for corundum on his place with There was light frost in many places in the county October 5, good success. He has sunk nine the first of the season.

pits and found fine prospects in all of them. Misses Maggie and Virgie Crawford left last Wednesday

The pleasant physiognomy of for Greensboro to enter the John Swan, Jr., temporarily of State Normal and Industrial Aquone, was seen in our town School (now Woman's College).

35 YEARS AGO (1924)

The Western Carolina Tele-phone Company, with authoriz-ed capital stock of \$25,000, and \$6 000 paid in was organized in Stewart, Gus Leach, and Tom \$6,000 paid in, was organized in Johnston. At the meeting, the Franklin October 1. Officers deal to purchase the telephone are: Sam L. Rogers, president; property of W. L. McCoy was E. S. Hunnicutt, secretary; and consummated.

15 YEARS AGO (1944)

A hearing will be held at Falls Railway, to discontinue Gainesville, Ga., Oct. 30, to con- the passenger trains on the line. sider the application of H. L. The No. 2 "A-12" gasoline ra-Brewer, receiver for the Tallulah tion coupon will expire Nov. 8.

5 YEARS AGO (1954)

A Lions Club was organized with Neville Bryson as temporat Highlands Thursday night, ary president.