

THE PILOT

Southern Pines

North Carolina

"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Wherever there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

There Are Other Ways To Fight Insects

In today's Public Speaking column, a correspondent poses an appealing argument for continuing the town-wide "fogging" program: the relief it would give children from a summer insect nuisance that frequently goes beyond the nuisance stage to bring on eye and skin disorders.

The Pilot has opposed this spraying program on the ground that lingering clouds of bad-smelling mist are themselves a nuisance on a pleasant summer night—and also because there is considerable evidence that insecticides and their solvents are physically harmful to human beings, and that, if this physical harm is not immediately and incontrovertibly provable, it is common sense that such a threat exists. Moreover, we have pointed out that human beings have not lived with inhaled insecticides of the newer types long enough for science to know what their physical effects are. When dealing with new and complex chemical substances, in relation to human health, we think that discretion is the better part of valor.

Does this point of view, then, put The Pilot in the position of dooming children to the harassment of insects, with resulting physical ailments? It would appear so on the surface—but we believe there are other avenues of relief than indiscriminate mass spraying.

There are insect repellents which can be

applied to the skin, but which we admit don't always work perfectly and which young children may get into their mouths or eyes by mistake. There are municipal spraying programs which concentrate on sources of insect production—stagnant water, garbage dumps, trash piles, vacant lots—and the like, without shooting the poison at everybody in town night after night. Screened play areas can be provided for very small children who, because of the extreme heat and strength of the sun, must spend a good part of their summer days in shady and limited areas anyway. Or, people who do not find spray-type insecticides objectionable and who have confidence in their harmlessness can spray them around their own property to obtain local relief.

We feel, therefore, that opposing the spraying program may be showing children, more consideration than advocating it. Whether or not the spray is harmless to adults, it would appear that frequent or repeated inhalation of a petroleum mist, poisonous or not, would be harmful to young children and infants. (The "fog" that is manufactured by the spraying machine is composed of ordinary fuel oil, as a vehicle for distributing the chlordane insecticide substance.)

Right or wrong, but in any case with sincerity, we believe that the bugs will harm children less than the spray. There are other ways to fight bugs than mass spraying.

No Foreign Aid? . . . Bankers Know Better

We trust that North Carolina bankers, recently convening at Pinehurst, were not impressed by the extraordinarily blind, isolationist and retrogressive speech made to them by Thurman Sensing, executive secretary of the Southern States Industrial Council of Nashville, Tenn.

Sample of Mr. Sensing's wisdom as reported in The Greensboro Daily News: "It is folly to think that the United States can cure the ills of the world with dollars. . . Foreign aid is the same as taking blood from a person's left arm and putting it into his right arm. . ."

And: If socialism gets any stronger in the U. S. Government, the nation will "betray its heritage from Bunker Hill to Iwo Jima."

We didn't know that anybody could get up before an audience of intelligent people and talk like that these days and not get a horse laugh. Maybe he did, from many of the bankers, whether visible or not.

That kind of talk was beginning to run thin even before World War 2, an event in which the United States was slightly involved in an international way. Anybody who could speak contemptuously of foreign aid after having seen the Marshall Plan save Western Europe in the post-war years is looking and walking backward. And even the Republicans have quit whipping Socialism up and down the street since they discovered that the New

Deal's economic and social reforms were what people needed and wanted.

While some small percentage of foreign aid may have gotten into the wrong hands or been wasted, the vast majority of it was, and will be an investment in American and world security—a concept that bankers should be particularly equipped to understand since they are accustomed to think in terms of investment and returns.

The notion that the United States can live friendless, uninvolved and alone behind its Atlantic and Pacific fortresses was knocked out by Pearl Harbor. So why keep trying to revive it in, of all times, the age of the intercontinental ballistic missile?

Though conservative in many ways, North Carolinians, by and large, are internationally minded. Tar Heel young men were volunteering in droves for all branches of the armed forces, the Royal Canadian Air Force and most anything else they could get into, even before Pearl Harbor, because something was happening overseas (a long way from the Old North State) which they knew had to be stopped somewhere and they preferred to stop it over there.

So it is with foreign aid. Better to use our money overseas today than our lives here or there later. If Mr. Sensing would look ahead, instead of backward, he might comprehend this fact.

Conservation Plan Geared To Future

A few weeks ago, we noted that Sen. Humphrey of Minnesota is sponsoring a bill in Congress that would appropriate 11 billion dollars over the next 10 years to pay for the work of a Youth Conservation Corps of 150,000 young men.

Having read a fairly long article by the senator, explaining the vast needs in soil, water, timber and grazing land conservation work, we think the plan should receive serious consideration from the lawmakers in Washington. This week, which is known as "Soil Stewardship Week" over the nation, is a good time to bring up conservation problems. The national week links the clergy and churches with Soil Conservation Service administrators in drawing attention to the soil as God's earliest creation and to the responsibility of caring for it well.

Farmers and indeed all who have driven through the country with open eyes and a memory of the past two decades understand what vast strides have been made in soil con-

servation work here in Moore County and throughout the State and the South.

Great areas of raw, wasted, gullied land have been reclaimed. Thousands of acres have been contour ploughed and strip planted. Ponds by the thousands (many here in this county) have been constructed for farm irrigation, water conservation and recreation purposes. Yet much work, here and everywhere, remains to be done.

The Youth Conservation Corps proposed by Senator Humphrey would make it possible for the nation to conduct a comprehensive program that would meet the timber, water, grazing and recreation needs of 25 to 50 years from now. From much of the investment there would be an appreciable return—five per cent, it is estimated, on work with timber, stand improvement and reseeded.

During Soil Stewardship Week, we commend this program to our readers who can give it a boost by writing on its behalf to their legislators in Washington.

Household Workers And Social Security

Is there wide-spread evasion or neglect of the responsibility by employers of domestic workers (maids, gardeners, practical nurses and such occupations) to list and pay Social Security taxes? We hear now and then of a case in which the law is not being obeyed—usually because of ignorance of the law, but in at least one instance, because of the downright refusal of the employer to pay the tax, even after so requested by the employee. (Note: the employee, a maid, quit her job and sought employment elsewhere, because of the employer's attitude—which is exactly what she should have done.)

The law says that if a person is employed in or around the home and is paid as much as \$50 cash wages in a calendar quarter (three months), the work is covered by Social Security. This means that the employer is supposed to deduct two and a quarter per cent

from the wages of the employee and, at the end of each quarter add two and a quarter per cent for the employer's contribution and send in to the Internal Revenue Service a tax payment consisting of four and a half per cent of cash wages.

No group of employees will need the benefit of Social Security payments in their old age more than domestic and household workers who often, during a lifetime of labor, are able to save little or nothing from their traditionally low wages. Proper payment of the tax is a social responsibility—a responsibility that, in most cases, the employer must initiate and administer.

Chiseling on a household worker's Social Security tax is a cheap and petty evasion. What little the employer gains now is at the expense of the worker in old age when Social Security payments may stand between that person and his becoming a welfare charge.

"Seventy-Six Candidates Led The Big Parade—With A Hundred And Ten V.P.'s Close At Hand"



The Public Speaking

Humane Slaughter Law: Pro and Con Opinions Expressed

Action Urged To Back Proposed Legislation

To The Editor: I wish to commend most wholeheartedly an editorial which appeared in the Pilot on May 1, entitled: "Humane Slaughter Law Should Pass."

It is incredible to me that a nation such as this, dedicated to high and lofty purposes, could allow this horrible situation to exist. I feel safe in saying that in no other civilized country in the world are such inhumane practices tolerated. This subject was brought to my attention some years ago by a pamphlet which I chanced upon at the State Fair in Raleigh entitled: "An Indictment of the American Slaughterhouse." It was an eye-opener and has haunted me ever since.

I hope that all who read your editorial will take action by writing our Congressman, and that you will continue to keep this issue before the people until the humane slaughter law is passed. JEAN S. BUCHANAN (Mrs. J. R.) Pinehurst

Spokesman of Packing Industry Tells Views

Your May 1 editorial regarding the Humane Slaughter Act makes good reading but does not present a true picture of what really happens in the meat-packing industry, nor does it give the true reason behind this movement.

I believe you will agree that the meat-packing industry is essential to the health and well-being of the American people; also, that when it comes to killing any red-blooded animal, there is just no "nice" way it can be done.

I have been in this business for over 30 years, and have seen animals liquidated by almost every conceivable method. The three methods most commonly used today, all approved by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, are electricity, retractable gunfire, or a quick merciful blow with a five-pound hammer in the hands of an expert.

Now the method advocated by the Humane Slaughter Society is strangulation or asphyxiation by gas of as yet undetermined type. Any one of these methods will accomplish the same end result. However, it takes three to five minutes for the asphyxiation method, while any one of the other three named takes just one or two seconds. Which is the most humane or merciful?

The meat-packing business, like other great American businesses, is based on mass production. We in this industry know that the quickest way to liquidate any animal is the most merciful and also the most economical way.

Your editorial writer only fell into the common error of repeating biased matter without informing himself—as indeed it might be difficult to do—of the very complicated background of this controversy. In the industry it is well known that this movement for so-called more humane slaughter originated with a member of the industry who has de-

signed and patented a so-called "gas tunnel." He hopes to have his tunnel written into law, so as to receive royalties from every packer in the country operating under federal inspection laws.

If this should take place, it is the positive belief of the majority of informed persons in the industry that (1) production will be slowed to a dangerously low point; (2) a dangerous quantity of low quality meat will be produced, and (3) millions of dollars will be added to the meat bill of the American people. Also, the slaughter operation will become no more "humane" but in some ways considerably less so.

Freedom of the press is a heritage this writer would fight for as hard as any American right I know of. This is a controversy which should be fought out, but in the light of full information, for the best interests of the American people.

SILAS O. NICHOLSON Southern Pines.

(Editor's Note: The Pilot is pleased to have both of the foregoing letters which ex-

press opposite points of view on humane slaughter legislation. Our original item on the subject (5-1-58) quoted with approval an editorial from the New York Times urging adoption by the Senate of the bill passed by the House (H. R. 8308). As to the terms of this bill, we know only what the Times said, in summary: it would establish as national policy that livestock should be slaughtered only by the "most humane practicable methods"—these methods to be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture; and it would provide that the federal government purchase meat only from packers using such methods. We do not know the present status of this bill in Congress. The Times editorial pointed out that needless cruelty is not practiced in all slaughterhouses, though it does occur in "most" of them. We accepted these statements on the authority of The Times. If any reader has a copy of H.R. 8308 or subsequent bills, we would like to see them.)

Spraying Valuable In Protecting Children

To The Editor:

Most of the letters written to The Pilot against the town insect spraying in the summer have been written by people who could stay indoors away from the insects, not by mothers with small children.

It is impossible to keep children indoors during the gnats season. So many get pink eye—gnats in their eyes and ears—and the gnats bother them so while they are playing. For the last few years we have had a biting gnats which raises terrible whelps, especially around the head and neck. Small children have gotten sore on their scalps from scratching. Mosquitoes are already bad, so

that it is hard to have a cookout or picnic, which is a child's favorite sport.

Most of the town's citizens are here all summer and those of us who are here definitely know that the spraying has helped.

Those people who are allergic to the spray could close their windows when the spraying is going on or ask the town not to spray on their street, or in front of their house.

As I understand, enough people have to ask for the spraying to have the town do it this summer; if not, there will be no spraying and many insects—so, mothers, get busy!

MRS. R. L. CHANDLER, Jr. Southern Pines.

Growth, Recklessness Defined and Compared

To The Editor:

In the article "What Objectives for Youngsters?" (The Pilot, 5-9-58) it says, "No doubt it is expecting too much to ask parents to encourage a certain recklessness in their sons and daughters."

I take exception to the word "recklessness" and put in its place the word "growth." To distinguish the sort of growth that I mean, I define it as "the fresh expression of a purpose (or of an idea), which keeps such continuity with its past and suffers only such losses by the way as it can bear without losing its identity."

Growth, like time, issues from a past, is surveyed and oriented from a present, and reaches into a future. To be growing, which is what I mean by being ethically right, is to be conscious of the three phases of time included in one's time-experience; it is to live by the reality of the past, of the present, and of the future.

Growth is the combination of a

particular identity with the special novelties which from moment to moment are essential in the realization of a purpose. So growth is in character, not towards character, in learning, not towards learning. We could never discover how to undertake our journey of experience unless we were already on the road. And if we ever could reach an end of it, it would have no meaning for us. Growth has no end and no cause.

Recklessness perverts the elemental in us. It is intentionally hairbrained. It is deliberate barbarism. Recklessness, like all self-deception, is a paradox and a pretense. It is an old friend in daily life, but when we try to think it out it seems impossible. For when the reckless man declares that he doesn't care, he proves that he does care. He knows the restraint that he ignores.

REV. TOM O'NEIL 110 Highland Rd. Southern Pines.

Grains of Sand

Keep Your Distance, Babes! Reasons for giving or not giving to the Moore County Maternal Welfare drive Saturday were varied.

Said a tired, limply-fat lady, on the elderly side: "Guess I'd better give. . . for times past," and dropped a shower of coins into the big glass jar with a profound sigh.

A spry young gal took the opposite view. Flitting up to the table she clunked in a fifty-cent piece, then bugged her bright eyes: "Liable to need it myself one of these days," says she, and went swinging off in a wave of perfume.

An oldish gentleman showed much interest in the tags with the picture of the baby. He asked several questions, looked some more, finally drew out a well-used old wallet.

"Guess I'd better contribute," he said. "Cause I ain't never had to fool with one."

It Took A Ticket

Don't know, as of this printing, what action the town council may take regarding the complaints against the newly changed parking system. Chances are they'll change it some, as would seem to us advisable.

But we can at least report some action taken by three business people. Two of them went to work and fixed up their parking lots at the back of their buildings so they could be used. And are using them. The other one is now dolefully using the parking lot he already had.

After getting a ticket for over parking on the street.

Definition

We recently saw "optimism" defined as the ability to speak of "my" car in the face of a chattel mortgage with 10 payments still to be made.

TEN payments! Why, you're really getting into the home stretch when you've only 10 payments to go! The real optimist is the man who says "my" when he's starting a schedule of 18 or 24 payments—not to mention those 36-month contracts that looked so attractive back a few years ago when they eased credit restrictions.

Speaking of Cars

"Sing While You Drive" is the heading of some lines we found on our typewriter when we came back from dinner on Monday:

At 45 miles per hour, sing—"Highways Are Happy Ways."

At 55 miles, sing—"I'm But A Stranger Here, Heaven Is My Home."

At 65 miles, sing—"Nearer My God To Thee."

At 75 miles, sing—"When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder, I'll Be There."

At 85 miles, sing—"Lord, I'm Coming Home."

Smartest Animals

According to the National Geographic Society, a zoo director ranks the chimpanzee and orangutan ahead of the elephant in mental ability—but the elephant was rated ahead of the horse, beaver, lion, grizzly bear, pack rat, mountain goat and dog.

In the order in which they are named above, says the zoo director, those are the 10 most intelligent animals.

Hate to see poor old Fido bringing up the rear in this intelligence parade. Dogs will just have to take comfort in the fact that, of all the 10, they still have undisputed claim to their ancient title: man's best friend.

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