

Editorial Views

★★★★★

Let's support the Red Cross

Financially, it has been a disastrous year for the American Red Cross.

But, when weighed by accomplishments, it has been a proud year for the humanitarian organization.

Its volunteers and staff have fed, sheltered and cared for disaster victims in every state and in such far-flung locales as Guam and Guatemala. The catastrophes have ranged from earthquakes to typhoons, from tornadoes and floods to fires.

In so doing, the American Red Cross has expended a staggering \$35 million in assistance. It's a whopping figure, the largest relief expenditure in the history of the organization's 95 years of giving this kind of help. Some of the disasters received prominence in the press, and on radio and television. Others received little notice. Typhoon Pamela's rampaging sweep across Guam is an example. The May storm left over 20,000 families with losses. The Red Cross flew in 74 relief specialists from the Mainland and Hawaii to assist Guam Red Cross volunteers. The relief costs for this little known

disaster came to \$11 million.

To help offset this year's drain on Red Cross resources, a nationwide special fund campaign has been launched for \$10 million. This amount will be needed so the organization will be ready when nature's future blows occur. The Red Cross is all too aware that the hurricane season is upon us and it must be ready to pay bills for the help that must be supplied in the immediate aftermath of any disaster, long before federal disaster aid can be brought to bear.

We say "must" because under the Red Cross' 1905 Congressional charter, the Red Cross must help "mitigate the sufferings" caused by natural calamities. It can't — and we all can be thankful for this — turn its back on Americans who fall victim to these calamities.

We believe each of us has a responsibility to help the Red Cross by donating the special fund appeal. Write a check to our local chapter earmarked for Red Cross disaster relief. We depend upon the Red Cross to fulfill its obligations. Let's fulfill ours.

Misery has company

Many people in the property-casualty insurance business in North Carolina have complained all during the nearly 4-year tenure of State Insurance Commissioner John Ingram. When he won nomination to another term over their candidate at the August Democratic primary, their hopes for a commissioner they could better work with were dashed.

In all this extended hassle between insurance agents and their companies and the state commissioner, the public has been mostly perplexed. They have seen things they like and dislike in Ingram. They have experienced mixed feelings over charges by insurance spokesmen that they are going broke or that companies are being forced to withdraw from the state because of low rates.

According to Forbes magazine, there are other states where problems between insurance

commissioners and insurance companies seem as great or greater than in North Carolina. New Jersey is the worst state for "rate adequacy," says Forbes. During a recent year that state's assigned risk plan lost \$34 million, or \$101 per insured car, because of inadequate rates, the report states.

Other states where regulators have been creating problems for insurance people include Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York, California and Michigan.

North Carolina somehow wasn't mentioned directly. But while those in the casualty and property insurance business in North Carolina wait for more court reversals of Ingram's decisions and for the next meeting of the General Assembly to hopefully aid their cause with new legislation, they seem to have plenty of miserable company across the land. — The Laurinburg Exchange

A look at inflation

If there's anyone who thinks that inflation isn't affecting us all, he only has to look at the latest recommendation concerning the nation's coins.

A government-sponsored study was done by the Research Triangle Institute and it was recommended that the penny be eliminated as a coin by 1980. Seems there's not much you can buy for a penny these days so instead of carrying them around, people hold them until there is enough value on hand to cash in for larger money.

And, of course, we all know that there is little that you can buy for a penny anymore. There's no more penny candy. The biggest use a penny has is making change when the total bill comes out to some amount less than a nickel.

But it wasn't clear just what would

be done when a shopper spends a dollar and gets charged the extra four cents tax. In fact it wasn't even certain that the recommendation would be accepted by the government. Mint Director Mary Brooks said she had reservations about the conclusion, but they would be studied.

Seems like the penny is necessary to us, but then again maybe its elimination would graphically illustrate to us all just what inflation is doing.

If it didn't, another part of the recommendations might. It proposed elimination of the half dollar and instituting a smaller dollar coin.

That ought to dramatize inflation. We all know how the dollar has shrunk. — The Daily Reflector (Greenville)

What? no pennies?

Some officials of the U. S. Treasury have hit on the idea that pennies are a nuisance and are thinking of going to something like a two-cent piece and eliminating pennies.

There is also one line of thought which would price items in even five-cent increments and discard the use of

currency — bringing back the two dollar bill.

It has not proven to be of value in that cash drawers are not made for them, the average person is not inclined to want them and, in fact, the idea has not been accepted by the American people.

It is true that a penny will not buy much, but with sales taxes, it does come in handy. Washington should consider before making any major



State school tiff looms

By BILL NOBLITT (From the Way, Mountaineer)

The legislative stage is being set for what could well be a major battle in 1977 — a rewrite of North Carolina Public School Law.

A legislative study commission chaired by state Sen. Edward Renfrow, D-Johnston County, is now meeting in two-day sessions every other week in preparing the sweeping reforms which will be proposed.

The unknown is how seriously those proposals will be taken by members of the General Assembly. It will take legislators a good many weeks to wade through the volumes of material and pinpoint the numerous changes — and mull the impact of each.

Some significant changes are ready-made for conflict.

One such is a proposed constitutional amendment which has been written in draft form by the study commission. It calls for an end to the election of a state superintendent of public instruction, presently on of the constitutional Council of State officers elected statewide along with the commissioners of labor, insurance, agriculture; secretary of state; auditor and treasurer; and attorney general.

Under the Renfrow Commission proposal, the State Board of Education would be made up of people chosen this way: The governor would appoint four members at large upon confirmation by the General Assembly. The other 11 would be appointed by the General Assembly from a list of nominees submitted by local school boards, with one member elected from each of the state's 11 U. S. congressional districts.

The proposal spells out overlapping four-year terms shall be used, with no member serving more than two terms. Vacancies would be filled by the governor.

Editor's Quote Book

You may drive out Nature with a pitchfork, but she will ever hurry back to triumph in stealth over your foolish contempt.

Horace



The News-Record

NON-PARTISAN IN POLITICS

JAMES I. STORY, Editor

Published Weekly

By Madison County Publishing Co. Inc.

BOX 357

MARSHALL, N. C. 28753

Subscription Rates In Madison County

12 Mos. \$4.00 6 Mos. \$2.00 3 Mos. \$1.00

Subscription Rates Outside Madison Co.

12 Mos. \$5.00 6 Mos. \$2.50 3 Mos. \$1.25

Printed at the News-Record Press

Second Class Postage Authorized at Marshall, N. C. 28753

Tar Heels want to learn

By BILL NOBLITT (From the Way, Mountaineer)

The idea of lifelong learning is catching on in North Carolina.

People appear to be moving away from the concept of education as something you do in a formal setting during a prescribed period of time, then end it. For years, educational leaders have envisioned lifelong learning as the trend for the future, and have planned in that direction.

Such an awareness is one of the strong supporting blocks underneath the state's community college system.

Now, an in-depth survey in the state's most populous county has pointed out the strength and direction of the adult-learning trend: over 70 percent of those surveyed in Mecklenburg County (Charlotte) said they wanted to learn more about some subject.

And not necessarily something related to job improvement — more just want to learn for the sake of learning something new.

FUTURE PLANS

Carried out by Central Piedmont Community College, the survey of 1,341 adults broadly representative of the community was modeled after a national survey; the purpose is to help in planning future programs and policies.

Community college officials believe the results can be rather largely applied to all of North Carolina — especially the key finding of such large numbers of people who want to go back to school.

The survey went far beyond that simple finding, however, getting into kinds of subjects wanted, best times for classes, how much people will pay for adult learning opportunities, even some significant differences between the races regarding learning.

While about the same number of either race expressed an interest in continued education, more whites suggested subjects involving recreation or personal interests. More than twice as many blacks as whites consider "desire to reach a personal goal" (a degree or job

skill) as most important reason for wanting more education.

Blacks also (again twice as strongly as whites) gave as a prime reason for more learning the achievement of social goals such as understanding community problems, better citizenship, solving social problems.

Further, blacks displayed a similar pattern with respect to the importance of education in "complying with formal requirements."

All of these factors led researchers to conclude, "It appears that blacks view education clearly as a means for achieving fuller and more meaningful participation in society."

INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Most significant finding in reasons for learning, however, was the conclusion that there are as many reasons as there are people interested and subjects available.

Thus, the schools need to come to grips with the most important problem of tailoring education to individual needs.

Among subjects which adults want to learn, hobbies lead the list: pottery, weaving and woodworking captured the interest of 34 percent; gardening and investments were next highest at 29 percent each; followed closely by business skills such as typing, accounting and bookkeeping; then sewing and cooking next. At the low end were citizenship, medicine, physical science, biological sciences, occult sciences, social sciences, architecture and engineering.

Still, overall, vocational subjects as a group were the most frequently mentioned (38 percent), even though most respondents said they are most interested in learning for the sake of knowledge primarily, and only secondarily in improving job skills.

Most adults choose classes taught a couple of evenings each week as the best time for learning, and most do not mind the prospect of spending up to two years to master a new subject area.

What are the barriers to lifelong learning? Time, cost and pressures of home and job were most often mentioned.

A slot for \$2 Bill

The Treasury Department has agreed to redesign the \$2 bill to mollify the complaints of several congressmen. They were upset when they discovered that in order to reproduce John Trumbull's painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on the back of the \$2 bill, several signers were cropped out of the picture. Six delegates from New Hampshire, Virginia, South Carolina, Delaware and New York just didn't fit the bill.

The new design will reinstate the delegates and, it is hoped, boost the

popularity of the \$2 bill, which so far has failed to gain much circulation.

But a major reason for the limited distribution of the deuce is that most retail-store cash registers don't have a slot to accommodate the bills. Clerks just stuff them under the drawer, where they languish until returned to the bank.

So it would seem a redesign of the cash register drawer, rather than the bill, is in order. What's the point of stuffing six more signers under the drawer? — Chicago Daily News

LOANS FOR ANY PURPOSE

- new car loans
- home improvement loans
- recreational vehicle loans
- educational checkloan
- vacation loans
- personal loans

First Union National "The Advantage Bank"

Marshall, N.C. 28753 845-3111 Greenville, S.C. 845-4231