

# We Could Do Without That Back-Handed Raise Legislators Await Capital Crime Bill

The new pay raise for about 3,000 congressmen, federal judges and other high-level executive branch employees has resulted in criticism of the manner in which it was done. Members of Congress raised their pay without having to vote on the measure or to let their wishes known.

This has brought about what many call "a back-handed pay raise." Coming so early in the new administration has not helped in many areas, although the raises were recommended by President Ford, also President Carter. Under a 1967 law, the Commission on Executive Legislative and

Judicial salaries, makes recommendations on salary increases to the President. The President can then approve or revise the recommendations and send the matter on to Congress. At this point Congress is not required to vote on the recommendations. Both Houses of Congress have 30 days to bring the proposal to a vote. If it is not brought to a vote nor disapproved within that period of time, the recommended increases would go into effect shortly thereafter.

The average taxpayer does not cringe so much from the pay increase, because they realize the higher salaries are needed to attract more qualified persons into federal government. It was the method that irks people. Just simply by keeping quiet, the congressmen got a pay raise of over \$1,000 per month. This seems like putting a lot of authority in the hands of the commission. People elect officials and want to know how they vote on matters which come up in the legislative halls. When a matter is circumvented in such a way that they do not even have to vote on an issue, this gets to be a questionable procedure.

Since ERA, the pace of activity has slowed down, as if everyone was waiting for the next big event—the advent of a capital punishment bill. Public hearings are being held on two competitive bills, one to provide execution for first degree murder, the other to provide life imprisonment for first degree murder and rape. Sentiment at the hearings is about equally divided, but sentiment among legislators indicates that an execution bill will pass. I have been ordered by Speaker Carl Stewart to attend a national conference on Medicaid in Boston on Feb. 24 and 25. Conferences will be held on techniques of detecting fraud and abuse, over utilization of services and providing less expensive alternatives to institutional care. I will be getting information to be used by the Committee on Aging and the Appropriations Committee. Since national investigations have revealed wholesale fraud in the Medicaid program, the speaker believes it is imperative that we give this program careful scrutiny. During the next two years, the total cost of Medicaid in North Carolina will be \$606,000,000, with \$166,000,000 of this sum being paid by the state. According to State Treasurer Harlan Boyles, when the last of the authorized school and water bonds are sold, North Carolina's debt will be \$900,000,000. If the people Bus drivers and mechanics to eliminate standees and provide transportation for students newly eligible due to consolidations or district changes make up a block of 630 new employees. Another Hunt program will take a lot of people: speedy trial legislation will require 94 new court officials—14 judges, 14 clerks, 14 court recorders, and 28 district attorneys. Obviously there will be a major fight in the General Assembly which counties will get those new jobs. And the Department of Corrections rounds out the major job increase area. Hunt's proposal to build modular prison units for quick relief in overcrowding would require 102 new officers and guards; increased security elsewhere would take another 300 new guards. There would be 95 new probation and parole officers, and 44 youthful offender specialists. Children in care of the Department of Human Resources come in for some major attention as well: there would be 161 specialists to look after emotionally disturbed children housed in adult mental hospitals; and 27 people to staff six developmental evaluation centers. Then there are a host of clerks, data processors, guards, boll weevil eradicators, water and air analysts, building maintenance, personnel, park development, orderlies, nurses, psychiatrists, tax experts—all in various areas to take care of growth in state business.

## Heard and seen

By POP

Oh my, the tribulations of a newspaper editor... when articles and pictures are correctly printed seldom does anyone notice them... they are taken for granted... but... when there are errors or mixed up pictures, I really hear about them... for instance, in last week's issue, the 4-H leaders picture got swapped with the assembly line at Blue Ridge Shoe Company... and part of the article about the two suspects being held for armed theft was left out... when people see me and blame me with the "goofs," I calmly smile and tell them such things happen in all newspaper plants... it, at least, proves that people are reading the paper, doesn't it?

Buford Marlor resigned as a town employee last Thursday after serving more than 23 years... he has been one of the most cooperative and helpful fellows I've ever known... certainly, he has been the most faithful employee the town has ever had... always willing to help anyone in need, regardless of the weather... day or night... he was the person who repaired water pipes on Main Street and all other streets... he supervised the garbage pick-up... worked on sewers... helped fix private roads... in fact, he did hundreds of jobs with a pleasant attitude and with a smile... and took pride in everything he did... we're going to miss him, believe me... here's wishing for him happiness and a great deal of deserved "rest" in coming years.

Marshall firemen were kept busy last Saturday fighting four different brush fires... all of WNC experienced brush and forest fires over the weekend... most of the ice has melted out of the French Broad River but there are still large hunks in the river and on the edges... the water situation is partly relieved as workmen are still doing all they can to get water to homes across the river... some 50 homes now have water but many are still without... as thawing continues, many smaller water pipes to homes are burst... it is hoped that warm weather continues until all the homes have water restored...

Last Saturday temperatures got above 80 degrees and youngsters almost went wild... some were seen barefoot enjoying every minute of the hot weather... it was also strange to see many adults basking in the sun in T-shirts... maybe it will not be too long before we can store our sweaters, overcoats and gloves.

Don't forget, the Easter Seal campaign is now under way in Madison County... this year the concept is "Neighbor Teaching Neighbor"... also remember that the Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Marshall Community Center this Friday from 1:30 to 6 p.m. Let's reach 100 pints this time.

## Bombing Trend Eases

During 1976, according to FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley, 1,564 bombing incidents were reported to the FBI as occurring in the United States and Puerto Rico. As a result of these incidents, 45 persons were killed and 206 persons were injured. "The number of bombing incidents are the lowest recorded for any one-year period since the FBI began compiling this data in 1972," Kelley said. He expressed optimism that greater public awareness of these crimes and better law enforcement capability in deterring and detecting them will continue this favorable trend.

Director Kelley announced that, according to preliminary figures, the 1,564 incidents caused in excess of \$10,838,000 property damage.

In comparison, during 1975, 2,074 incidents occurred, resulting in the deaths of 69 persons and injuries to 326 others. Property damage during this prior year was valued at approximately \$27,003,000. This total included one incident causing \$14,000,000 in property damage.

During December, 1976, 115 actual and attempted bombings were reported. Three persons were killed, and 10 were injured. In the same month of 1975, 151 incidents occurred, resulting in 14 deaths and 63 injuries.

In 1976, 1,036 of the 1,564 incidents involved explosive bombs and 528 were incendiary in nature. There were 1,793 devices used. One thousand and one hundred were explosive and 696 incendiary.

The leading targets were residences with 429 attacks. Of the attacks 225 were explosive in nature and 204 incendiary. There were 337 against commercial operations and office buildings, of which 207 were explosive and 130 incendiary. One hundred and ninety-three attacks were made against vehicles, 128 explosive and 65 incendiary. School facilities were targets in 125 attacks. Eighty-eight involved explosive bombs and 37 incendiary. Forty-six attacks were directed at law enforcement, 21 of which were explosive and 25 incendiary. The remaining 434 attacks were widely distributed among a variety of other targets.

Regionally, the Western states reported 501 bombing incidents, the Southern states 413, the North Central states 406, the Northeastern states 236, and Puerto Rico 8.

1976 bomb summary, 1,564 actual and attempted bombing incidents reported throughout nation and Puerto Rico compared to 2,074 in 1975. Two hundred and six persons injured and 45 killed in this year's attacks. Property damage exceeded \$10,838,000.

Of 1,564 attacks, 1,036 were explosive and 528 incendiary. Of 1,793 devices used, 1,100 were explosive and 693 incendiary. Leading targets—residences, 429; commercial operations and office buildings, 337; vehicles, 193; school facilities, 125; and law enforcement, 46. Regionally, Western states, 501; Southern states, 413; North Central states, 406; Northeastern states, 236; and Puerto Rico, 8. During December, 115 attacks reported compared with 151 during December, 1975. Three deaths and 10 persons injured.

By 1985, U.S. industry will use some 24 million tons of iron castings a year, approximately 20 per cent more than the 20 million tons used today, says Thomas R. Wilson, president of the American Foundrymen's Society.

Congress did not vote on the matter before leaving Washington on what has always been known as Washington's birthday recess. Now it has been changed to a "a time to work on the district." No matter the name, it is still a recess. The new salaries are substantial—a \$12,900 hike for congressmen and a \$20,000 raise for federal



## FFA Teams Win Federation Contests

The Madison FFA teams placed first in four events held at North Buncombe High School Feb. 24.

These events included ritual and parliamentary procedure, public speaking, creed speaking and quartet.

Members of the winning quartet were Wendy McGee, Donna Teague, Neteka Scott and Robin Cole.

Advisors are Cole and Woody.

## GOP Sets Precinct Meetings

Madison County precinct meetings will be held at the various polling places this Saturday at 2 p.m., it was announced this week.

The election of precinct officials and delegates to the County Republican Convention to be held in Marshall on Saturday, March 12, will be held. All Republicans are urged to attend.

Members of the winning ritual and parliamentary team were Mark Rector, Ricky Gilbert, Donna Teague, Neteka Scott, Billy Zimmerman and Harvey Franklin.

Mark Rector was the winner in public speaking. Winner in creed speaking was Howard Babbitt.

Mark First "Our files are so crowded," said the chief clerk. "that we'll simply have to destroy all correspondence that's more than six years old." "Go ahead and do it," instructed his bureaucrat-boss. "but first be sure to make copies of everything marked for destruction."

News From  
**Agricultural Extension  
Office**

By WILEY DuVALL

An abundant supply of healthy plants produced at the right time is a necessary requirement for a successful burley crop. The following points will help assure you of a good supply of plants.

Gas the bed when soil is not waterlogged and soil temperature is above 50 degrees.

Apply 50-75 pounds of 12-6-6 per 100 foot bed. Sow 2-3 teaspoons of seed per 100 foot bed.

Spray with Orthene for flea beetles and aphids.

Beds should be checked daily for water needs.

The most critical period is when the seed are sprouting. If the soil surface dries out at this time, or if a crust forms, the seed will die. The soil surface should be kept moist by daily watering until the stand is present.

More plant bed failures occur from lack of water during the sprouting period than from all other causes combined.

**A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS... LOVED ONES**

*Especially for You*

by J. & B. STUDIO

## COLOR PORTRAIT PACKAGE

\$2.00 Deposit  
\$5.95 Balance  
When Pictures Are Delivered

- 2 - 8 x 10's
- 2 - 5 x 7's
- 10 - Billfolds



No Age Limits  
No Limits To A Family  
NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR GROUPS  
FAMILY GROUPS WELCOME

**ONLY \$7.95 Complete**

**MARCH 3-4 THURSDAY-FRIDAY**  
HOURS 11-5 — 11-7

**ARMY STORE**  
MARSHALL SHOPPING CENTER  
MARSHALL, N.C.

**The News-Record**  
NON—PARTISAN IN POLITICS

JAMES I. STORY, Editor  
Published Weekly  
By Madison County Publishing Co. Inc.  
BOX 367  
MARSHALL, N.C. 28753

Subscription Rates in Madison County	Subscription Rates Outside Madison Co.
12 Mos. \$6.00	12 Mos. \$8.00
6 Mos. \$3.00	6 Mos. \$4.00
3 Mos. \$1.50	3 Mos. \$2.00

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