

Editorial

Intimidation Won't Settle Greyhound Strike

Greyhound Bus Lines is preparing to return to the road this week after being shut down for two weeks by a strike of its drivers. Until Monday, the drivers' strike was simply another inconvenience to travelers. Plans announced by the carrier on Monday, however, have raised the question of the strike's implications for public safety.

Company officials have announced that they will begin to hire workers to replace the striking drivers. These newly-hired drivers will take to the road after a two-week training period. In order to induce the paying public to return to riding Greyhound, the company has announced plans for half-fare travel during the profitable holiday season.

Despite the assurances of Greyhound officials, the inexperience of these drivers must be called to the public attention. Drivers with many years of experience will be replaced by new employees unfamiliar with the operation of the equipment or conditions of many of the highways the buses must travel. On-the-job training for the hundreds of drivers that may be hired only increases the risks of holiday tragedy on our highways.

Emboldened perhaps by the Reagan administration's handling of the air traffic con-

trollers' strike, Greyhound management is proposing the wholesale dismissal of its experienced drivers. The union leaders charge that Greyhound is attempting to bust the union. Greyhound's latest action in the strike would appear to support the union leaders' charges.

The wage and benefit concessions which Greyhound demands that the drivers concede were agreed upon during collective bargaining. By threatening to replace the striking drivers, Greyhound management has rejected the collective bargaining process, replacing it with union-busting intimidation.

Greyhound bus drivers are not federal employees. They are conducting a legal strike against their employer. The loss of their jobs should not be the price they pay for exercising their rights as American workers.

Before the hopes of unemployed workers are raised unrealistically, before violence breaks out on the picket lines and the safety of the public is jeopardized by inexperienced drivers, it is time for the federal government to step in and bring both sides back to the negotiating table. No one will be well served by the proposal Greyhound has presented.

Negotiation and accommodation, not intimidation, will resolve the conflict in a satisfactory manner.



WHO GETS THE COKE, TWO BIG MACS AND THE HOSTESS TWINKIE?..

An Analysis

We just can't seem to put the pain of Vietnam behind

By CLIFTON B. METCALF

The war in Vietnam touched us all more deeply than we have cared to show, until now.

For the young men and women who came back, there were no parades, no speeches, no fireworks — none of the usual honors with which we greet our veterans.

Divided over whether we should have sent them and never sure of what we had asked them to do, we let them slip back into the national fabric with hardly a notice. We couldn't even find enough jobs for a constructive, new beginning.

As a country, somehow we could not separate our embarrassment at what we had done from our pride in the men and women we had asked to do it.

A decade had to pass. When it had, those who came back from the war had to summon us to final muster for those who did not. And for that we owe the handful of men who make up the Association of Haywood County Veterans of Vietnam one more debt.

The dedication on the courthouse lawn Friday of the monument to those 21 we lost in Indochina was heavy with emotion. It served also as a reminder that the business is not yet finished. We still do not know the fate of 2,494 men from many small communities who served us in Vietnam, including Capt. Fred Hall, whose name is among those on the courthouse marker.

Bill Hendon, the district's former congressman who spent half of this year trying to find out what happened to those men, jarred every person listening when he said some of them are still alive. He is convinced many are being held captive and that the evidence has been hidden from Congress and presidents through two administrations.

He and Earl Hopper, the retired Army colonel who is chairman of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, chose the occasion to break that news to the American people.

"I'm convinced that if the military were made available, rather than the American

people or to the highest levels of our elected government officials, the president, the Congress...that there would be something done," Hendon said in an interview after the ceremonies.

"There is no president alive who would ever have reclassified Freddie Hall... or anybody else... presumed dead if they had seen what I've seen.

"Jimmy Carter was the great human rights advocate, a fine, decent man...no question. He would never have allowed that to happen if he had known, but it happened in his administration, while this stuff is sitting there way down deep in the stacks."

The "stuff" to which Hendon referred is information collected by the United States

government and by the National League of Families which Hendon and the League feel offer irrefutable evidence American servicemen are still captives of communist governments in Indochina.

This is how Hendon thinks it happened: "(Former President Richard) Nixon, in the Paris Peace Accords Article 21...which (Henry) Kissinger initialed and Bill Rogers signed on behalf of the country...said that the United States of America will participate in the healing of wounds of war and in post-war reconstruction in Vietnam and throughout Indochina.

"The Vietnamese were to give back our prisoners they were holding. That was their part. The Vietnamese asked for clarification of what we would do and Nixon wrote a letter...hand carried by Kissinger to Hanoi. It said, basically, the United States of America will, without any political consideration...the words of the letter...contribute \$3.25 billion in grant assistance over a five-year period to rebuild war damage in Vietnam, will contribute \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion in food assistance, depending upon the food needs, and, third, will discuss other forms of aid as deemed necessary, subject only to the constitutional provisions of both countries.

"The up it comes, and the Congress said, 'No.' Because of the stories about the tortures

and so forth. And if I'd been in Congress, I'd have said, 'No.'

"So the Vietnamese said, 'Here are the prisoners back. Where's our money?'

"Nixon said, 'Sorry, I can't get it through Congress.'

Hendon claims he can "document" all of that.

That Americans are being held hostage "is clear," Hendon said because the Pentagon and the State Department have evidence that communist governments in Southeast Asia and individual communist leaders have told others they are.

Why are the president and Congress being kept in the dark? Hendon has an idea about that, too:

"I'm not sure whether you can say it's a great conspiracy where everybody (in the Pentagon and State Department) got together in 1973 and said they (men reported missing in action) were all dead...although I believe that and I've been told that...but I don't have

By PAUL T. O'CONNOR

RALEIGH — The political editor of The Washington Post must have lost their collective common sense a couple of weeks ago. They ran a story in the premiere edition of their national weekly saying, "For Jesse Helms, it's all over but the counting. There won't be any battle of the titans against Gov. Hunt in 1984 because Helms can't win."

The story was written by Richard Whittle, former Washington correspondent for the Raleigh News & Observer. Whittle brings forth no new information in writing Helms'

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY

Patriots Displayed Courage

Local football fans seem to have mixed emotions about the final games of the 1983 season.

As far as the high school season is concerned, needless to say, most fans are glad to see the season end. It has been a disappointment season for our Madison High Patriots who were winless in their 10-game schedule.

On the other side of the coin, however, the light and inexperienced squad showed courage throughout the season in giving their best efforts every week realizing that they were outmanned by their opponents who, by and large, had larger and more talented players.

Now that the 1983 season is history, players, coaches, and fans must look toward to an improved season in 1984.

Congratulations are due to the players, coaches and fans for their loyalty, despite the win-lost record.

Election Night Orderly Here

Those in charge of conducting the election results here on Nov. 8 did a fine job and maintained a quiet and orderly atmosphere for the 2½ hour session at City Hall.

Congratulations are in order for Billie Jean Haynie, who served as clerk and public-address announcer; Vader Shelton who called out the results, ballot after ballot; Wade Huey and Mrs. Garland Brown, who served as judges; Billie Jean Redmon and Gary Moore, who tallied the results.

It was a tiresome job and well done.



Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN

Dear Saint Peter,

Dear Saint Peter,

Please do not think I am a week-kneed Christian who is always disgruntled about something. I certainly am not!

On the other hand, I do find it necessary to write to you again because I am disorganized, depressed, discouraged, downhearted, and otherwise discommodulated.

My problem is some of your people. Well, not the people themselves, really, but what they say and how they act and some of their attitudes.

To begin with, will you please send me the number of Heaven's WATTS line? I'll appreciate it tremendously. The time was when I would never have thought of asking for such a favor.

However, periodically — and more frequently — I find some fortunate soul who is absolutely sure he has God's word. He is bound to have been on that WATTS line all morning talking to the Man in your Oval Office.

These people are always saying such things to me as "I told God," and "God told me."

Naturally, I would not deprive them of this intimacy; I just like to get in on it myself.

As you know, I have been a minister for 46 years. I have loved being a minister and have enjoyed a happy hard time. Yet, I envy every one of heaven's spit-fire servants who are "sure — absolutely positive — that I am the center of God's will."

So you see, the WATTS line number will help me out a great deal.

I gather a difference of opinion that adds to my confusion. Our brother, John Paul, thinks that he is your successor to be in Christ's place on earth.

Maybe. What bothers me most is the people I know around here who think the same thing about themselves.

Not too long ago, one of these loudly proclaimed, "I hear some of you talking about what God would have you to do — where you should serve in His kingdom. Well, you listen to me! When God wants you to know what you should do, He

will tell me. Then I'll let you know. That's what He placed me here as pastor for!"

St. Peter, if that were true, why did the good people of the church act the way they did? Half of them left, and the other half ran him off.

Sometimes I wish human nature would change, but it doesn't. Today, there are American religionists, like the Jewish religionists of your day, who think they are the only potatoes in the hill. If any one of them were intended to think thoughts for me, why am I having to carry this head around all the time?

These same people will long and loud about freedom and independence — freedom for themselves while they demand conformity on the part of the rest of us. If you ever ran into that, you know how frustrating it can be.

St. Peter, I'm not quite ready to use a passport and visa to your Place yet. Still, I'd like for you to send me one. Some people I know already have theirs and wave them in the faces of the rest of us.

I know all about what it

means to be saved by grace through faith. That part is no problem. My problem comes daily as I try to work out my own salvation through fear and trembling.

It seems to me something terrible to still be working out my salvation through fear and trembling while my friends board the maiden run of the Rapture Express.

One other thing. Exactly what is the official language at your Place, anyway? If there is more than one language permitted, why do some people think we can speak only one language here in preparation for our emigration to your City?

Of course, some good people I know feel sure that only those who can speak the language of King James (and the apostle Paul) will be able to communicate with you and make their needs and wishes known.

Thou knowest, O St. Peter, if this be true, thou shouldest instruct thy servant before it is too late. Wilt thou do so?

Your brother, Joe

Washington Post writes off Jesse Helms' reelection bid

political obituary. He simply restates some historical facts from the careers of Helms and Gov. Jim Hunt, Helms' expected 1984 opponent.

Whittle certainly could have made a good case that Helms has plenty to worry about. He notes that Helms has collected only modest vote totals in wins against two fairly weak Democratic opponents, Nick Gallifianakis in 1972 and John Ingram in 1978. Hunt, on the other hand, has won by big margins in three statewide races, two of which saw him backing the state's tide to Republican presidential and

federal candidates. Whittle doesn't report, however, that Hunt also whipped fairly weak opponents.

The raw numbers theory also arises in Whittle's piece. Helms has never collected more than 755,346 votes while Hunt has collected more than one million votes in his two races for governor. (Around Raleigh, proponents of this theory say these numbers are pertinent because this will be a big turnout year.)

Whittle's piece, however, is devoid of any current assessment of the political situation in North Carolina. And, it makes the foolish assumption that Hunt and Helms will have equal amounts of money to

spend. (It is more likely that Helms will outspend Hunt by more than two to one.) It fails to address the fact that governors make a lot of enemies in eight years and that the battle will be fought over federal issues. That's Helms' home turf.

Whittle's story caused more than a few derisive chuckles in Raleigh. Gary Pearce, Hunt's press aide, praised Whittle for his salesmanship. "There's no way the Post would have bought a story saying it's going to be a close race. So, I commended him on his business sense," Pearce, also a former NBC reporter, went on to say, however, that he couldn't believe the Post ran such a

speculative story. "This shows Rich has been in Washington too long."

Claude Allen, Helms' press aide, said, "The Post is often called the Pravda of the Potomac," a reference to the Soviet newspaper. "There was a recent article in Pravda to the same effect so I think this just lends credence to that belief about the Post."

Whittle's piece was clearly marked as "opinion," and should not be taken as the editorial policy of the Post. But, in publishing the piece first on a Sunday section front and then in the national edition, the Post clearly placed its credibility behind the story.