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ON SPENDING ABROAD

President Lays Down Law

President Johnson's get-tough policy on spending abroad has been greeted with mixed emotion, but largely with great favor among lawmakers. International economics is beyond the grasp of we average citizens, however, and most of us aren't going abroad, anyway, so we aren't much concerned.

What the president is up to, as we understand it, is to protect the American dollar in the international market and at home. In England, the pound sterling recently was devalued from \$2.80 to \$2.40, which has the equivalent of taxing every Britisher 7 per cent on all the cash he held. It was the second time the pound had been devalued (right after World War II, it was cut from \$4 to \$2.80), and most Englishmen were up in arms.

We're on the short end in our balance of payments, the president says. That means that we are spending something like \$3.5 or \$4 billion more abroad than is being returned to this country in foreign spending. Since the American dollar is backed by gold (theoretically, a \$1 banknote can be redeemed at the U. S. Treasury for a dollar's worth of gold), we get into trouble when the deficit in the balance of payments gets high enough to threaten to overtake our stockpile of bullion.

Naturally, if we got so far behind that there was not enough gold at Fort Knox to cover dollars held by foreign markets, we would be in serious trouble if the foreigners sought to cash in all their dollars. That's what brings devaluation, for, obviously, if a large sum, say \$20 billion, was presented for redemption and we had only \$10 billion in gold, the currency would be worth only 50 cents on the dollar.

Gold is the international pacifier. It's good anywhere in the world at \$36 an ounce. It also is in great demand. With inflation a worldwide problem, and gold in short supply, many investors and nations would gladly pay more than \$36 per ounce for gold, but its price is carefully controlled in

the international market.

To battle the problem, President Johnson has promised to reduce the deficit in our balance of payments by some \$3 to \$3.5 billion this year. To do so, he has called for restrictions on American investments abroad, American travel abroad, and has promised to reduce federal spending abroad (largely in military operations).

Most of us are fond of feeling that we are free to go where we wish to go, spend our money as we wish to spend it, and still feel secure that the printing presses in Washington will keep turning out money faster than we can spend it. This country has not practiced austerity in our generation (not as the British did during and after the war), so any pinch on the American pocketbook will bring howls of protest from some quarters.

As we say, we don't know the intricacies of our own monetary and economic systems, and nothing of the international market. We have a certain faith in the president's economic advisers, though, and we presume there is something to this balance of payments deal, because as far back as the 1950s, President Eisenhower was worrying about it.

It seems likely that a tax will be placed against American travel abroad, with restrictions on how much money the tourist may spend, and where he may spend it. It also seems likely that the president's gambit will win the 10 per cent surtax on income, which is nothing more than a slight devaluation of the dollar. Obviously, when the American citizen ends up with only 60 cents, after taxes, on each dollar he earns, it doesn't make much difference to him whether the 40 cents is a paper loss, or if there is only 60 cents worth of gold to cover that dollar he scratches for.

We can expect tight fiscal policy here and abroad only when it appears that we are fighting a losing battle on the international money market. We may be closer to just that than any of us think.

Shaping Up

Rep. James Gardner, Fourth District Congressman, was expected to announce Wednesday that he will seek the Republican nomination for governor of North Carolina. His candidacy will make next year's gubernatorial election interesting, if not beneficial to the state.

In the first place, Gardner must beat out Jack Stickley, Charlotte business executive, in a Republican primary. If he wins that one, he still must face Lt. Gov. Bob Scott, or J. Melville Broughton Jr., of whoever wins the Democratic nomination.

Many observers give Gardner better than an outside chance to become governor. They point to his decisive victory over veteran Rep. Harold Cooley, a legend in North Carolina politics, in the

Fourth District battle a year ago. Gardner is young, has tremendous appeal among young people, and plays every political advantage for all it is worth.

That, in our opinion, will be his downfall. He is too quick to beckon to the press (particularly to several North Carolina television stations which happen to carry commercial advertisements about the hamburger chain in which Gardner is an executive, or was, before going to Washington). And all Gardner has to do is to beckon, and the cameras and notetakers go running.

We get a little weary of seeing his likeness, or hearing others describe his political activity of almost every day. Four years off Gardner as governor would be too much.

"Okay, Once More: 'Every Day in Every Way I Am Getting Better and Better!'"



By Jim Taylor

Punk 2, Police 0; But Not Over Yet



Somewhere in or near Raeford, there's a young 12 or 13-year-old who runs like a deer and rides a bike like the wind. He's also smart. Very smart. But not smart enough. He might grow up to be a football player, a diamond hero, an Olympic star. He might, mind you, if a miracle occurs. This gangling kid is heading in the wrong direction to make anything of himself. Rather than hearing the cheers of an adoring crowd, this lad will someday soon hear the clanging of steel bars as the door on his prison cell is opened and shut.

This boy probably could become a man. At the rate he's going, he'll be a hardened criminal before he's old enough to register for the draft.

Punk. That's about all he can ever hope to be.

He's a purse snatcher. Just before Christmas, he entered a parked car at the Raeford post office parking lot. Inside a woman's purse, laden with \$60 in small bills and a quantity of change.

The punk got caught by the woman as he came out of the car. He handed her the purse and fled. Thinking she had recovered her money, the woman didn't pursue him.

When she opened the pocketbook, she found the \$60 in bills missing. The punk had removed them and stuck them in his pocket before leaving the car. Crafty.

That way, if he was pursued, he could merely drop the pocketbook, and whoever was trailing him would probably give up, thinking their job was accomplished.

It was easy as falling off a log. He'd really scored. A 12-year-old kid with \$60 for Christmas, and he hadn't worked a minute for it.

Easy come, easy go, is a shopworn phrase among criminals.

Before the holidays were over, the punk was operating again. He didn't find the going easy, though, because Police Chief L.W. Stanton had warned motorists after the kid's first haul to lock their cars and leave no valuables in them.

Nonetheless, he was flushed by Officer Sam Motley among some parked cars after a citizen had alerted police that the punk was looking for another score.

Motley gave chase on foot. He didn't stand a chance. The kid would make a fool out of any grown man in a footrace. He merely dashed to his bike and took a well-planned route out of town, or got lost among the downtown crowd, and Officer Sam Motley marked up the score: one for the kid, none for Sam Motley.

Tuesday, the punk struck again. As before, he pounced upon a car which had been parked by a woman. (His modus operandus: women can't grab you and hold you, and they can't run as fast as men.) He was frantically going through the billfold on the front seat when Mrs. Harry Greene passed, saw what he was up to, and sounded the alarm.

Mrs. Greene grabbed the punk, but he jerked away and fled down an alley. He was observed as he ran on foot around the post office, north of Magnolia to where his bike was stashed. Once on the bike, nobody had a chance to overtake him. He made good his getaway, although Officer Sam Motley scoured the town looking for him.

Score: Punk 2, Motley 0. What the punk doesn't know is that he cannot win. If he gets away with it a dozen times,

sooner or later Motley is going to score. When he does, the kid will have to pay deary for his foolishness.

One mistake is all he has to make. At his age, he'll end up in what used to be called reform school. There, kids like the punk only grow tougher. They become bigger punks, worthy of a diploma in petty crime.

In a few years—just two or three, to be exact—the punk will be too old for the juvenile courts to shelter him. He'll be a man at 16—man enough to stand trial in open court. And his day in court will surely come.

The kid has it figured all wrong. Easy money is the hardest of all debts to pay.

Restitution in cash would be merciful, compared to the days, weeks, years the criminal spends behind bars for his deeds. Even the professional crook plays a losing game. A \$2,000 stickup nets him 20 years. That's \$100 a year he turns by his talents when in honest endeavor, most crooks have brains enough to make a decent living.

A decent living he don't want. Because they aren't decent.

When the punk gets a little older, he'll get a little bolder. Pursesnatching is a kid's game. He'll move on to other things. Burglary, perhaps, or not wanting to run (it's a sign of cowardice), he'll get himself a gun.

Do the world a favor, kid. When you get the gun, stick the muzzle against your temple and blow your brains out.

You'll save the state a lot of trouble.

Philosopher Up In Arms Over Feeding Newspapers

Dear editor: At first I thought I was facing the new year completely out of luck. Here was this newspaper which had been used as packing around a Christmas present to keep it from breaking with an article in it that almost threw me. On top of that it didn't work, the present was broken anyway.

According to the article, some agricultural scientists have discovered that you can grind up old newspapers, add molasses, and feed it to cattle and they thrive on it as well as they do on grain.

If this gets out, I thought, it'll ruin my source of reading matter. Who's going to throw a newspaper away if he can pour molasses on it and feed it to his cow?

Like it is, most people with

cattle spend more time working for their cows than their cows do working for them, it's sort of like the government, but, I said to myself, if the cows are going to get my newspapers to boot, 1968 looks mighty dismal. Television and radio are all right, but for solid news give me a newspaper.

Then I got to thinking, I'm not in this by myself. If paper and molasses will fatten a cow, sooner or later some smart scientist is bound to figure out that it's unscientific to run a piece of paper through a press first, what does a cow care whether it has printing on it or not, just stir blank paper and molasses together and save the printing costs. You can't beat scientists for thinking things

through, given enough time and appropriations.

But, and you're bound to see that immediately, there does that leave you?

You going to shut down your printing press and go into the feed business?

You going to change your firm's name to The News-Journal And Molasses Depot? We'd both better get to work and change the direction of this movement. Get the scientists to develop a cow that'll thrive on weeds and vines and leave the newspaper business alone.

Let's start a rumor that the hoof-and-mouth outbreak in England was started by a cow's eating a copy of the Fayetteville Observer.

Yours faithfully,
J. A.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



WINNING ON PAPER--Often times you can sit down and on paper figure out how to win an election, but when the votes are counted, open your eyes to realize that the people are pretty independent when it comes to ballot marking.

In 1964 at one time it looked like Rich Preyer couldn't lose with the support of Terry Sanford and his administration, with the support of the education leaders, with the support of the Negroes, REA, and the party machinery all working for him. Preyer's defeat and Dan Moore's victory goes to prove that while the leadership of various organizations representing a great percentage of the voters may be for one candidate, the rank and file of the members may resent the efforts of the leaders to "deliver" their votes. 1964 was about the best evidence of this that we can think of.

There was a day when many, many people wanted to get on the "bandwagon" -- wanted to line up for the winner. With the people becoming better educated they are getting away from this philosophy and don't hesitate for a minute to vote for the "underdog." In fact it now seems that sometimes "underdog" is the best vantage point from which to run for public office.

Harry Truman was the "underdog" in his successful 1948 campaign. Dan Moore was for many weeks the "underdog" in his successful campaign for governor in 1964.

Many of the politicians still try hard to "pick the winner" before supporting a candidate but most of the voters mark the man or woman they really want--and this is good.

RANDOLPH DEMOCRATS--The Randolph County Democratic Executive Committee got out an unusual "Season's Greetings" brochure for Christmas.

Letters from all the officials of the County Executive Committee were enclosed in the brochure along with a message from State Party Chairman Tim Valentine and from National Chairman John M. Bailey.

In letters to J.H. Freulich, Jr., Guilford County Democratic Executive Committee Chairman and John Kern, Montgomery chairman, Randolph Chairman

Lucas let it be known in no uncertain terms that Randolph Democrats are expecting to have candidates to fill slots on the Democratic ticket for the State Senate and the State House.

In the 1966 election Randolph's nominee for the State Senate lost out to John L. Ostlen of Greensboro, whereas Gullford's two Democratic nominees, Ed Kemp and L.P. McLendon Jr., won.

WALLACE -- The George Wallace candidate for president received a couple of shows in the arm last week, first when it became known that he had succeeded in securing enough voters to sign up in his American Independent Party to get his name on the California State ballot; and second, when the Wallace forces won control of the Louisiana State Democratic Executive Committee, which means that Wallace's name will head the Democratic ticket in Louisiana and that Johnson will have to get up a petition to get his name on the Louisiana ballot.

Johnson lost Louisiana to Goldwater in 1964 and indications are that he may lose it to Wallace in 1968, even if he gets his name on the ballot.

CALDWELL COUNTY--Many people, including this writer, have been critical of the accelerated trend toward turning to the government to perform services which many feel that private enterprise could do better and with less cost to the consuming public.

But, sometimes, and maybe oftentimes, the government steps in because private initiative and private enterprise either cannot or will not provide the services an enlightened society deserves and should have.

The abandonment of private ambulance service in county after county is a real good illustration.

Last week it was announced that Caldwell County had gone into the ambulance business with three ambulances and a 14-man staff with a set \$20 fee for trips to hospitals in Caldwell, Catawba, Burke, Alexander, Wilkes and Watauga counties.

There is but little room to criticize growing government when private enterprise finds itself unable to meet the dire needs of people in matters like ambulance service.

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



MORGANTON -- Congress reconvenes on January 15 to deal with the problems left over from the long session which adjourned only days ago.

Two holdover measures scheduled to receive early consideration are the Administration's proposed "civil rights" bill, which may come up shortly after the Senate reconvenes, and the Administration's proposed surtax on corporate and personal incomes, which Chairman Wilbur D. Mills of the House Ways and Means Committee has said will get further hearings beginning January 22.

The "civil rights" bill which the Senate will consider is the measure which won Senate Judiciary Committee approval at the last session by an 8-7 vote. The intent of the bill is commendable -- to protect persons exercising constitutional rights from violence or threats of violence. I abhor violence, and shall continue to fight for legislation to curb crime.

However, I oppose the committee reported bill because it is founded upon the dubious proposition that the Congress should protect the rights of one group of Americans in the exercise of their constitutional rights while ignoring the rights of millions of other Americans to be protected against the same crimes. The Committee approved bill is said to be based upon the "equal protection of the laws" clause of the 14th Amendment. The bill is a paradox. Upon its face it would exclude a majority of Americans from its protection because they are not members of a minority race or group.

In my judgment, the committee reported bill should be rejected because it is unconstitutional, and it threatens to expand the federal police power in unlimited fashion.

When this measure was under consideration in the subcommittee on constitutional rights, I offered a substitute measure which the subcommittee adopted but which the full Senate Judiciary Committee later rejected. Unlike the administration's bill, the substitute measure protects all Americans who are exercising Federally protected rights. The subcommittee substitute would also protect the working man and would vindicate

his long-established Federal statutory rights. It would prohibit unions from levying crushing fines on union members for exercising their own wills and refusing to take part in a strike they oppose.

The subcommittee substitute is preferable if Congress determines it should enact further civil rights legislation. The premise of the Constitution is "equal justice under law" for all, and this should be the premise of any new legislation on this subject.

The surtax proposed must first be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee which has original jurisdiction over revenue measures. In the face of serious fiscal problems, Congress and the administration must find ways and means of curtailing non-essential and non-priority federal spending. Much effort has been devoted to the advocacy of a tax increase. Much more effort should be devoted to pruning budget requests at a time when there are far too many demands for the tax dollar. The budgetary battle, again next session, will likely be a major domestic problem.

Rice grows on one of every two cultivated acres in Japan, the National Geographic says.

The electric scoreboard in Houston's Astrodome stretches farther than a football field and requires five operators, the National Geographic says.

Light travels only a few hundred feet through ocean water yet sound waves can be transmitted and received undersea for many thousands miles.

The Nile Valley was lower in Cleopatra's time, the National Geographic says. Since she died in 30 B.C., annual silt-laden floods have gradually raised the valley's level about seven feet.

Wall Street, financial hub of America, got its name from a mud wall which Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant built in 1653 to keep the cows in and the British out.

Driving for pleasure is the Nation's most popular outdoor recreational activity, the Commerce Department says.