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THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1971

Opinion and commentary

by Paul Dickson

It is hard for me to understand how the national administration can really be serious in claiming that some headway against inflation is being made when every large scale wage settlement is on the basis of 30 and 40 per cent increases over the next year or two. The President seems to think these are satisfactory and non-inflationary. A presidential emergency board is right now recommending that the rail strike be settled on the basis of a 42 per cent increase over the next three and a half years. With these taking place in one industry after another, there is no way for prices to go but up.

The situation in the steel industry seems to have some aspects which make its impending strike situation rather different. The steel business is slow right now, and there is much foreign steel available, so, instead of displeasing the management and disrupting the country as steel strikes usually do, the shutdowns look now as if they will almost be welcomed. I don't see how this makes the position of the unions in this industry very strong, although after a while this may change, and also there is much that I obviously do not know about the situation.

The General Assembly in its waning days made a pretty good flap about repealing the pension plan for themselves which the 1969 legislature had passed, but after the noise subsided and the smoke cleared, the pension plan was still there. They also managed not to get around to anything satisfactory in the way of a solution to the automobile liability insurance situation, although there was much discussion and better promise of something workable next time.

A bill they did pass, and one which illustrates my assertion about the ability of special interests to get legislation through, is one to allow lenders in North Carolina to charge interest rates as high as 10 per cent on certain loans, first mortgage loans of \$7,500 or less to be repaid in 10 years or less. This is bad legislation, in my opinion. Banks and lending companies are all making more money than they ever have, and this law will hit those who can least afford it, buyers of shell and prefabricated homes, with higher payments of course resulting from the higher interest and shorter term.

There seems to be quite a similarity between the situation in the Democratic party and its potential candidates for president and the Democratic party in North Carolina and its candidates for lieutenant governor. The similarity lies in the fact that about every politician able to walk out of the Senate is planning to run for president, and here at home many members of the last General Assembly are planning to run for lieutenant governor.

One writer has likened the national Democratic party to the unstable government of an undeveloped country, saying that, as presidential candidates proliferate, it is as if every Democratic politician, like every Arab colonel, feels he might as well fly his jet plane through the primaries and see if he is lucky enough to carry off the presidency. At this moment the same statement could certainly be applied to the many who plan to take a try at the nomination for lieutenant governor here in North Carolina.

This writer, William V. Shannon, goes on to say, though, that more than personal adventurism is involved.

"The Democrats," he says, "are in disarray because they are struggling to sort out the moral, intellectual and political issues in liberalism's crisis."

Well, Mr. Shannon left me right there, as I am not at all certain I could define liberalism's crisis, although I am inclined to go along with him and agree that it does have one.

What it appears to me that all the boys in this state who want to run for the State's second ranking job want to sort out is their chance of getting on the payroll for four years at \$30,000 a year for four years. You hadn't forgotten that the next lieutenant governor will be on a full time basis at that adequate salary, had you?

If you had, you don't have to look far these days to see that there are a right good many who have not forgotten it. This makes what had been just an honor, a real privilege and a pleasure as well, doesn't it? There is no telling just who might manage to make himself available to serve the people as lieutenant governor. I have even heard the guess seriously advanced that Bob Scott himself was giving it consideration. He is sure to run over some of his henchmen if he does, it would appear from here.

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, August 1, 1946

50 agronomists from experiment stations and extension services from eleven southern states and Pennsylvania, along with representatives of several interested fertilizer companies, inspected corn demonstrations in Hoke County yesterday on the farms of John Parker, W.T. Covington, Ryan McBryde and Mrs. J.S. Johnson.

Mrs. Katie McBryde McPhaul has purchased the Bluemont Beauty Shop from Mrs. Harry Greene and will take over Saturday, August 3.

The Red Springs entry in the American Legion junior baseball competition won the championship of eastern North Carolina this week when

Wilmington bowed out of the fight after losing 4-2 on Monday afternoon and 9-0 on Tuesday afternoon. Raeford boys on the Red Springs team are Malcolm McKeithan, third baseman and pitcher, Jimmie Conoly, second baseman and John Scott Poole, right fielder.

From Poole's Medley:
Robeson Democrat: "I was a grown man and married before I saw a Republican."
His mother-in-law: "Well, you didn't miss much."

15 years ago

Thursday, July 26, 1956

Norman McLeod McDiarmid, former businessman and retired funeral director died Saturday morning in Highsmith Hospital in Fayetteville, after having been a patient there since July 6 with heart trouble.



LeFell

The Christian Science Monitor

By LAURIE TELFAIR

Another World Above Richmond



I understand now why most news stories about the South sound as if the writer is visiting in some strange new land.

It is another world north of Richmond.

I don't consider myself exactly provincial, and have traveled in Mexico, most of Europe and a good bit of the Mid-west. But, until last year, I had never been as far northeast as Washington, D.C. and I took my first trip to New York last week.

It was a revelation. To begin with, I went by bus. This is a fast and cheap way to travel -- fast, that is, when you compare it to either driving yourself or taking the train -- but it isn't a very comfortable method.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

For a while I was worried about some of the environmentalists, that is, the newcomers who got in late on the act, not the genuine ones who are on firm ground when they attack the pollution of rivers, lakes, oceans, parks, roadsides and the air we breathe.

But it's pretty hard to establish a permanent organization with a president and all against swordfish and corn flakes, so I was pleased when I read in a newspaper last night that a scientist has come up with a brand new one. It's automobile tires. Not the tires themselves, it's what goes with the rubber when it wears out.

According to him, 340,000 tons of rubber a year disappear into the air or somewhere as tires go from new to threadbare on the streets and highways of America, not counting, I presume, that left by teenagers who dig out because I've seen their skid marks still on the highway.

Now 340,000 tons of minute particles of rubber dumped into the atmosphere every year is something I hadn't thought about, but it sure opens up new horizons for environmentalists running out of something to point their finger at, some of whom were reduced to denouncing paper cups.

For example, take pigeon feathers. You ever figure up how many pounds of pigeon feathers float down through the air and clutter up the ground every year?

Or squirrel fur, that's bound to be a hazard to the lungs of fellow squirrels and other forest creatures as the tiny hairs float through the air, not to mention campers out in the woods hunting for a clear spot to dump their trash.

Or shoe leather, or the skin from barefooted people.

I could go on, but you can see the possibilities are unlimited for environmentalists hunting something to point their finger at.

In fact, they don't even have to look beyond their fingers. You ever figured up how many tons of nail pairings human beings clip and clutter up the earth with every year? That's just the fingers. Throw in the toenails and you've really got a crisis on your hands. Congress has got to wake up and do something about rubber tires and toenails.

The more you think about all these frightful conditions the more you conclude life is not possible on this planet, yet people tell me the population is increasing all the time.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

But the large Port Authority terminal at which you arrive seems to be one of the cleanest and most efficient operations in the city. The Port Authority made up of three states, New York, New Jersey and one other which I forget, has the power to float bonds and so forth and is a government unto itself of about the same size as a medium city. It controls transportation into and out of the city.

I first caught another bus at the terminal and went north of the city to Newburgh to meet my husband who is at Stewart Field for a time supporting a training operation at West Point. It is beautiful there, slightly mountainous but not so much as to be upsetting to mountain-haters. One of the towns we passed through boasted of settlement in 1668. Many of the houses had signs proclaiming them to have been built in the 1700's.

West Point itself is lovely, solid, substantial and grey, with grey stone buildings overlooking the Hudson River. The new construction blends with the older buildings, using the same kind of stone but incorporating modern features in the elongated windows and such.

We went back to New York City the next day, in time to see a play on Friday night and one on Saturday night.

Saturday morning we spent sightseeing and discovered that the place is too big to sightsee in. We picked out a couple of art museums near Central Park and spent a good many hours there and just wandering around in the area.

My native - New York neighbors asked when I returned how it was -- as I had expected or worse. It was worse.

On a really grungy day, downtown Raeford can be about the dirtiest town for its size in the world. Magnify that by a million and you get an idea of New York. The very expensive areas were fairly clean but the ordinary and poorer than ordinary areas were terrible. I shudder to think what the slums might be like.

And the place was packed. Every sidewalk was full, the streets were crammed with cars, the subways were jammed, even before the rush hour. I can't imagine coping with that much difficulty in getting from place to place day after day. A sign in the subway said "If you're getting to like this ride, boy do you need a vacation."

We saw a lot of kids and dogs while we were there but there really isn't any place for either of them. The dogs are never off-leash and the kids aren't either for that matter.

My respect and sympathy for the people who pick up and move from the South to New York is greatly increased after the trip. I wonder if they know what they are getting into.

Don't get me wrong. It wasn't all bad. In fact, we enjoyed it immensely and if I had stayed there longer I would have probably learned to cope with the unfamiliar situations there.

Of course, the same might be said of New Yorkers who come South.

SENATOR

SAM ERVIN

WASHINGTON - Recently, I introduced a bill to reform military administrative discharge procedures because such procedures are almost completely lacking in the elements of due process which we think of as fundamental in this country.

Under the system now followed for the issuance of administrative discharges for unfitness or misconduct, the serviceman has no right to confront the witnesses against him, has no right to

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goersch

For a long time we were under the impression that Mt. Mitchell is the highest mountain peak in North Carolina and that Clingman's Dome is in second place.

Mt. Mitchell is the highest but the high top of Black Brothers in Yancey County is three feet higher than Clingman's Dome in Swain County. Mt. Mitchell, 6,684 feet; Black Brothers, 6,645 feet; Clingman's Dome, 6,642 feet.

We don't wish to embarrass the young lady, so we'll not mention her name nor that of her lawyer - employer. Anyway, he dictated a letter to her and, when he looked over her copy of it, was somewhat startled to read: "I imagine that the matter will be left to the digression of the court."

Sam Martin of Greensboro submits this little trick question which you might enjoy working on your friends:

"How many times does the numeral, NINE, occur between one and one hundred?"

In order that your friends won't take up too much time counting up on their fingers, you might tell them that you'll give them \$64 if they come within four of the correct answer.

The big majority of them invariably will say that the numeral NINE appears nine, ten or eleven times between one and one hundred.

They'll be wrong. A much better answer would be twenty. Figure it out for yourself.

A story came my way the other day, not a new one, the teller of it said, but a significant one.

Several years ago the heads of 200 families in the vicinity of New York -- and perhaps in the city itself -- received a letter which, the teller says, "threw most of them into hysterics." It was written on good stationery, well typed, and read as follows:

"We recently received an inquiry from a party with a name similar to yours, but without any address, requesting that we send them one of our educated and domestically trained apes for a thirty -

day trial.

"You ask if our apes can really be used with satisfaction in housework, table - waiting, etc. Definitely, yes. Our apes are in service now in many homes. Their initial cost is low, they require little food and practically no clothes. They make ideal servants.

"Unless we hear from you to the contrary, we will send your ape, accompanied by an instructor, as quickly as possible. The instructor will live with you for a week or two, in order that the ape may be properly oriented in his new environment."

Immediately police stations, sheriff's offices and other law enforcement officers were deluged by terrified husbands and wives who had received the letter. Apparently no one wanted an ape as a housemaid or handy man.

In time the letter was traced to a man in New Jersey, who politely explained that he was merely conducting a little survey of his own "to test the gullibility of the American people." Apparently he found his test satisfactory!

Letter To The Editor

District Court

Your editorial in last week's paper about the assistant solicitor's throwing a case out of court in the interest of medical science was well received. Your reading public would like to know the answer to three further questions: first, who was the presiding judge; second, why did he allow such a thing to happen; and third, does it happen often?

I hope you see fit to publish this letter and to comment on it editorially.

Sincerely yours,
Tommy Smith

People & Issues

CLIFF BLUE ...

PRESS MEETING ... While several old timers were missing for one reason or another, the 98th annual meeting of the North Carolina Press Association, held at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville Thursday and Friday was a very enjoyable rendezvous.

The N.C. Press Association was organized in 1873 with Major Joseph A. Englehard the first president. At last week's convention Steed Rollins of the Durham Herald & Sun was elected president to succeed L.T. (Nudy) James of the Montgomery Herald, Troy. Sam Reagan of the Southern Pines Pilot was elected vice president and Mrs. Margaret Harper of Southport was reelected secretary - treasurer.

Highlight of the meeting to my way of thinking was an address Friday night by Eugene Patterson, managing editor of the Washington Post. Patterson, a native of Georgia, discussed the Post's handling and publishing of the "classified" Pentagon papers. Patterson said that while he felt the Pentagon documents were "news" and were interesting and in some ways enlightening, "I think what we learned (from them) was minimal."

He said that if editors failed to print material that is "inconvenient" to local state and national governments, then they might as well be working for Pravda.

Speaking of the government in Washington, Patterson said: "The old answers won't work anymore. I don't know what the new answers are ... but out here in the heartland I feel more hopeful (that they will be found) than I do in Washington."

I think Patterson is right. When the answers to today's problems and turmoil are found, they will not be minted by Washington bureaucrats but the answers will come from the "heartland" of America and from states like North Carolina.

Two would be gubernatorial candidates were on hand for the press convention, Hugh Morton, photographer; and Senator Skipper Bowles who was presented by the N.C. Travel Council the Charlie Parker Award.

Oldtimers missed at the meeting included Henry and Mrs. Belk, Brodie Griffith, Harvey Laffoon, Galt Braxton, Holt McPherson, Grover Britt, and Bill Horne of Sanford and others.

NUMBER TWO SPOT ... The

prognosticators have been busy in recent months speculating on what Bob Scott will do when he ends up his term as governor in January 1973.

Scott, himself has been toying with the idea about what he will be doing two years from now. It has been suggested that he would like a place on the council of state but there is no opening at present, although rumor has it that Frank Crane will not be a candidate to succeed himself as commissioner of labor. Some people feel that Ed Lanier may not be a candidate to succeed himself as commissioner of insurance.

One place that we had not heard discussed for Bob prior to the Asheville newspaper meeting was that of lieutenant governor, a position he held before moving on up to the governor's chair.

With a salary of \$30,000 a year plus \$4,000 additional allowances, this is one of the most attractive jobs in state government. Down in Georgia where a governor can't succeed himself, Lester Mattox ran for lieutenant governor and won without much difficulty. It's not too late for Bob Scott to hit the lieutenant governor trail again, although it would probably be embarrassing for him to do so with his close associate -- C&D Director Roy Sowers, also definitely planning to go after the number two job.

You may not remember it but Bob Scott's dad, the late Kerr Scott, toyed with the idea of running for lieutenant governor while serving as governor 20 years ago. He, reportedly, gave up the idea after his enemies began whispering that the Senators could change the rules and take away from the lieutenant governor the privilege of appointing the senate committees and committee chairmen.

After Luther H. Hodges was nominated and elected lieutenant governor in 1952 several senators discussed the idea of stripping him of the power to name the committees, and the talk continued right up to the day of the senate caucus. But the move was not made and Hodges named the committees and succeeded to the governorship upon the death of W.B. Umstead in 1954.

Talk now among the senators is again to take from the lieutenant governor the power to name the committees and the committee chairmen.

SAYS

than fully honorable.

I think that we owe our military personnel a system of justice which is in every way the best and the fairest that we can devise. Despite recent criticism of the courts - marital system, I believe we are close to that goal insofar as military justice is concerned. The 1968 Military Justice Act represented a major step toward giving the American soldier a first - class system of justice.

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