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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1971

Opinion and commentary

by Paul Dickson

"The New Deal was a bloodless economic and social revolution, based on the premise that the economic balance could no longer be maintained by the functioning of economic law alone," wrote Margaret Coit in her biography, "Mr. Baruch."

How far we have come since the day of the New Deal of which this was written, almost 40 years ago! How far toward a completely managed economy! How far toward national bankruptcy! How far toward the chaos of inflation!

To hear many people tell it, we have come too far, past the point of no return, and chaos and anarchy are inevitable. I am not one of these.

To me the people who think economics should operate strictly on the natural laws of supply and demand and the like are putting property values ahead of human values. They are the ones who said 38 years ago when Franklin Roosevelt was getting the New Deal going that he was going to ruin the country, and they are the ones who will tell you today that national ruin is just around the corner. Well, FDR fed people who in a free economy had been starving, and we may be deep in debt today, but there are fewer of us hungry than there have ever been. More of us have more things than any people on this earth ever had before.

People all over the good old U.S.A. are today worrying about their rights. For example, when 38 years ago their counterparts were worrying about their next meal, and not confusing themselves even slightly with thoughts of rights.

Well, today most of us get enough to eat, and if we don't get it, it's nobody's fault but ours, and we spend our time worrying about the way things are changing, and they aren't like they used to be. You know, Man, folks these days are talking about things that are for real, you know what I mean, and sex and long hair and that sort of stuff, had those of us who never had it so good want to figure a way to hold back the passage of time. Well, it'll never happen. We had the raccoon coat and the flask on the hip and these days sex is discussed and for all I know practiced pretty much as anyone is inclined. It's different, that's for sure, but who's to say it's worse, really?

As we come to another day of Thanksgiving, it seems to me we have very much for which we can be thankful.

We have the biggest national debt anyone could ever dream of, a good many thousand dollars for each person in the country, but we have the money to pay it, or to pay the interest on it, and we are still producing more of everything than any people on the face of the earth ever have.

We have school problems all over the country, but more of our children are getting better educated than anyone's children ever did. They are growing up honest, and caring about things, and asking their elders embarrassing questions about why things are like they are, but isn't that a blessing rather than a curse?

Isn't one of the big roots of our discomfort about the young of this day and age the fact that they seem to want to deal with the raw truth in most situations and let the chips fall where they may?

In addition to lacking the hunger that many used to know and having honest, better informed youth, is it not a fact, also, that any American today has a better chance of a fair deal from his government than ever before?

If we happen to be Jewish or Hindu, is it not a freedom that our children will not have to be exposed to Christian prayers in their schools?

Is it not great and inspiring that Senator Sam Ervin finds a new way every week or so to point out a personal freedom which our great constitution has in it?

With all the regulation that we love to gripe about, it's really terrific to be able to gripe, loudly and long when we feel like it, isn't it? And, distasteful though it may be, there is something about a country where a labor leader can snub and be discourteous to the President and get away with it.

Yes, if we find ourselves having a hard time getting into a feeling of Thanksgiving, all we really have to do is give a thought or two to East Pakistan, or Biafra, or Northern Ireland, and any of a hundred other places in this world, and some in this country, for that matter ... just a thought or two should be enough to make us thankful.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, November 28, 1946
 Final rites were held at the Sanatorium Tuesday afternoon for Dr. Paul Pressly McCain, superintendent of all of the State's tubercular hospitals, who was killed in an auto accident about 11 miles south of Raleigh Monday morning.

The death knell of tobacco acreage control and a 10-year era of farm prosperity in North Carolina may have been sounded with the recent election of a Republican Congress.

Most of the day in Hoke County recorder's court Tuesday before Judge

Henry McDiarmid was spent in the hearing of evidence and argument on the charge against seven defendants charged with breaking the hunting laws in a variety of ways.

Friday, November 29th, the local high school football team will meet Booneville for the Class "B" championship.

Troy Whitehead of Charlotte has purchased the Edinburgh Cotton Mills and the mill is now operating under the name of White-Tex Mills, Inc.

The Terpsichorean Club of Raeford has announced that it will sponsor a dance in the Armory here on the night of Friday, December 20.

'Permission to come aboard, sir'



By LAURIE TELFAIR

Another View On Plea Bargaining

About a week or so ago, after the editorial about "plea bargaining" in the courts was published, I talked to a Fayetteville policeman about the practice of reducing driving under the influence charges to careless and reckless driving.

While this is not illegal, there is some criticism of the practice and, since the air is thick with charges about our court system, I thought I'd pass along his ideas on the subject.

He has no qualms about agreeing to a reduction to the lesser charge, he said, and does so frequently.

"I am here to prosecute, not persecute," he said, "and if a man learns a lesson from being arrested and taken into court, then I really don't care if he loses his license for a year and has to drive on a limited driving privilege."

Since it costs about \$500, including fines and attorney's fees, to get a DUI reduced, he said he figured a driver had learned a big lesson.

The usual fine for careless and reckless driving is about \$50 but if a DUI charge is reduced, most judges will give about the same fine that they would have given in a drunken driving case - anywhere from \$100 to \$200.

A reduction is also a matter of convenience for the police officer, he said, because the driver pleads guilty to the charge and there is no chance that he will appeal a conviction to superior court, as he might if he is convicted of driving under the influence. With the volume of drunk driving cases in Fayetteville, this is a real consideration as a police officer could be tied up in superior court on appeals for a major portion of his time if even a small percentage of drivers appealed.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

When I read in a newspaper last night that 87 tons of cornbread mix had been recalled by the Food and Drug Administration because it contained too much of something called aflatoxin, I began turning over in my mind the things I can think of that have been recalled in recent months.

These included soup, tuna, detergents, swordfish, cereals, lipstick, toys, airplanes, automobiles and a few diplomats. There may have been others that escaped me but this gives you an idea of how the recall business is booming.

If it keeps up the President may have to establish a new cabinet position to be known as Secretary of Recall.

Several columnists have suggested that it would be simpler to check foods before they leave the plant, rather than waiting till they get on the grocery store shelves, but this takes all the drama out of it. There's no news value in cornbread suppressed, but cornbread recalled, that's a headliner.

If the President does establish a Secretary of Recall I can foresee many opportunities for the office other than those involving foods, cars, and such like.

For example, there are some votes I cast for certain people over the past few years I'd sure like to recall. At the time they seemed like good, sound votes, passing any standards set by the Food and Drug Administration, but after the candidates got into office or on the grocery store shelf as you might say, I could tell right off they contained botulism if not worse.

You can say sure, but you can recall them at the next election.

That's right, but that's a mighty long time to have to put up with contaminated cornbread or politicians.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

People & Issues

CLIFF BLUE ...

MORGAN -- Bob Morgan's statement taking himself out of the Governor's race on the grounds that his first duty is to the office of Attorney General can be taken at face value.

Back in the summer when he was being pushed hard to get into the campaign for Governor, Morgan confided to friends that his personal preference was to remain as Attorney General for at least one more term. He felt that he needed more time to get the consumer protection role of his office solidified, and he was really concerned that a less active man might succeed him as Attorney General if he bowed out.

Morgan, however, was faced with a dilemma. Friends who wanted him to run for Governor might well flock to another man four years from now, and close him out of higher office. The decision a few days ago to take that chance was a difficult one to make, but a genuine concern to keep the Attorney General's office on the path he had set it upon was the factor which prevailed. Morgan, however, may well be back in the Governor's race in 1976.

ELECTIONS -- Candidates for public office, both state and local, will have to make up their minds about running at an earlier date than heretofore.

Alex Brock, executive secretary of the State Board of Elections, has sent out a 1972 Primary Election timetable, and February 21 is the last day on which candidates for Congress, State offices, General Assembly, county and township offices can file their candidacies.

The Primary Date is now May 6, having been switched back to Saturday at the special session of the General Assembly, after Tuesday, May 2, had been agreed upon at the regular session.

TURNER -- When Bob Scott, even before he was sworn in as Governor, went out to N. C. State University and picked Dr. William L. Turner as director of his Department of Administration some eyebrows were raised because Bill Turner had not been involved in state government before. But it was one of the smartest moves the Governor made, because Bill Turner, Rocky Mount native with a doctorate from Harvard, has not only proved to be an astute administrator but also a man with a broad view of government.

A few days ago Dr. Turner was in Florida to address the Southern Regional Conference on Public Administration, and his subject was on what he called a "major new phenomena in public administration." He was referring to the multi-county regions plan. It was, he said, "an idea whose time has come."

North Carolina now has 17 official State Regions, established by executive order in May 1970, and already benefits through better coordinated services and a big increase in federal funding can be seen.

As Bill Turner sees it, the multi-county regional plan carries forward Governor Scott's program of "Partnership in Leadership" in which local government has a far greater voice in the administration of public affairs. Dr. Turner says, "By far the most important and far-reaching aspect of this entire process is the tremendous increase of community participation in the

governmental decision making process." It is decentralization of government in a practical way, as he sees it, as he thinks local communities will be able to play a far more effective role in the future through the regional program.

INGRAM -- It's beginning to look more and more like young John Ingram of Asheboro will be contesting veteran Edwin Lanier for the Democratic nomination for Insurance Commissioner, and he will be making a big pitch for the young voters.

The 42-year-old lawyer who is serving his first term in the General Assembly was in Chapel Hill recently and talked to a student group on the subject of discrimination against the young driver in automobile insurance.

"Less than 10 percent of our under 25 drivers are even involved in accidents and it is not the American way to penalize 90 percent of our young people for the error of 10 percent," Ingram declared.

Rep. Ingram knows that the high cost of auto insurance is a good issue for a campaign, but Ed Lanier's record for holding down insurance costs under existing laws is well known too.

ERVIN -- Senator Sam Ervin, the foremost champion of Freedom of the Press in the U. S. Senate, is getting a lot of invitations to speak before press groups around the country.

He was in New Orleans recently to address the National Newspaper Association's fall meeting and trade show, and he was introduced by Mrs. Margaret Harper of Southport, the secretary-treasurer of the North Carolina Press Association. Another Tar Heel on the program was Orville Campbell, publisher of the Chapel Hill Weekly.

ODOMETERS -- There is now a law in North Carolina against changing the odometer of used cars and trucks to show less mileage than actually exists. The Attorney General, however, has ruled that changing the odometer is an unfair method of competition and a deceptive practice which violates the General Statutes.

Now, however, the N. C. Auto Dealers Association has passed a resolution calling on Congress to pass a law prohibiting the altering or resetting of motor vehicle odometers.

In the past the used car buyer has had no guarantee that the mileage shown on the odometer was correct, and he usually went under the assumption that it was not.

JENKINS -- Now that Bob Morgan is out of the Governor's race, Dr. Leo W. Jenkins, the president of East Carolina University, says he will reappraise the situation in regard to his own candidacy.

It's no secret that Dr. Jenkins has been bitten by the political bug. Some two years ago he had evengone so far as to try and line up county managers in several parts of the state. But when Morgan started making moves toward the gubernatorial race, Dr. Jenkins, a close Morgan friend, backed off.

The best bet at this point is that Dr. Jenkins will make another survey and then decide that alignments with the other four candidates for Governor have been so strongly drawn that he will decide against the race.

Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

Did you know that private funerals were once prohibited by law in North Carolina?

An act of the 1715 Assembly required that every plantation fence a burial place and that four or five neighbors attend the funeral and view the corpse before burial. If one refused, he was fined five shillings. Any sign of violence to the corpse had to be reported to officers by those asked to attend the funeral.

The best road in North Carolina in 1790 was made of plank and connected Fayetteville and Salisbury.

Football in the state today "ain't what it used to be" back in the early '80s when it was played at the University of North Carolina with one hundred men to each side.

And what games! Arguments concerning the games weren't settled by a referee but by a free-for-all fight. Comparatively speaking, football as played today is a gentle game.

Though the original price at which Charlotte was bought was a bargain price - 90 pounds - that city once had streets of gold.

The first few blocks from the square on Tryon and Trade streets were at one time paved with gold-bearing minerals mined at the old Rudisill Gold Mine in Mecklenburg County.

Two hundred and seventy-five of the

300 kinds of crude drugs grown in the United States are grown in North Carolina.

The United States had two presidents in office at one time - Grant and Hayes.

North Carolina also once had two governors in office at one time, Holden and Worth. Worth was sworn in on December 15, 1865 while Holden, appointed as provisional governor by the President of the United States, served from December 16 to December 28. On the latter date the President asked Holden to vacate his office.

The first constitution adopted in America was by the Watauga settlement of 16 families which James Robertson of Wake County established west of the Blue Ridge in 1770. This was the first free and independent government in America.

Though North Carolina claims James Knox Polk as one of her THREE presidents, the state gave Henry Clay, a Whig, a majority of 3,390 over Polk.

If you'll dig into history, you'll find that very few of our towns carry their original names, many of them having been changed several times.

When established in 1783, Wadesboro was named New Town. Later it became Newton, the present Newton in Catawba County at that time bearing another name. Later it became Wadesborough, finally modernizing its spelling and becoming Wadesboro.

Let Us Be Thankful

