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THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1972

Opinion and commentary

by Paul Dickson

The papers are saying that the reaction to President Nixon's Monday night speech and the actions accompanying it in the Southeast Asia war is along party lines; that is, the Democrats are generally critical of the speech and blockade moves, while members of the President's own party are generally approving.

This analysis of the reaction would certainly be true as far as I am concerned, for I don't really find myself able to be open-minded enough to see how he can be right in taking actions which will escalate the war and increase greatly the chances of big power confrontation while offering little or no more chance of winning it than already existed.

He spoke of "leaving the seventeen million South Vietnamese allies to their fate" as being an apparently unspeakably horrible result of our getting out of the place, and of the necessity also to protect our 60,000 American troops.

Well, it may be a Democratic point of view, but I am forced to recall the Czechs, East Germans and others we backed away from and abandoned to the communists 27 years ago this spring, and the Hungarians we watched the Russians shoot down like dogs when they revolted for freedom about 1956, or the fate we have sat around in sight of while it happened to the Cubans. It would appear to me that the people of South Vietnam would certainly be no worse off than many of these and far from as bad off as most of them if we brought our 60,000 Americans to this side of the Pacific where we can really protect them and not have to be so offensive to the Russians and Chinese while we are doing it.

Now don't misunderstand me. I'm not one to run around worrying about being offensive to the Russians and Chinese when there is any point in it, but there doesn't seem to be any discernible consistency in the President's over-dramatized overtures to these gangsters, with world-wide trips, toasts, ping pong sponsoring and a lot of high-sounding, hope-filled speeches on world television and his insistence on continuing a war which it becomes more obvious every day we will never win. It seems apparent enough for a young child, I believe, to see that if the stakes are not high enough for us to go all out for, we cannot straighten out that part of the world.

Now this shouldn't be too hard for the President to do and keep face, as I see it. After all, he didn't start the war, although he may have agreed with most of us eight or ten years ago that it was something we ought to do.

Sure, I used to be a hawk, but I was wrong. The President doesn't have to go nearly that far to get us out, though for that's what he told the American people he was going to do when they elected him, and it would appear to me right now that most of the American people are fast arriving at the view that out means simply pack up and leave. We just have to admit to ourselves that the imposition of American democracy on the people of Southeast Asia is not as easy as we thought it was. We might as well recognize at the same time that any crowd over there whom we train and equip well enough to keep the communists out is going to use the training and equipment to dominate its neighbors first and that never, never will they run a clean enough operation to hold the communists off very long.

Seems to me that the experience of waiting around while 800 million Chinese were being victimized for almost 30 years by the likes of Mao and Chou and then deciding to play ping pong with them should teach us to forget the almost 30 years and play a little ping pong with Hanoi now, get our prisoners back and look around for someone else we can save a little easier.

Maybe that is thinking along party lines, as the papers say, but I am guessing it's getting to be a bigger and bigger party every day. What do you think?

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, May 8, 1947
Henry L. Myrover, 67, former resident of Raeford, died in Fayetteville Tuesday morning after an illness of 10 days.

A new General Motors Diesel locomotive made its appearance yesterday on the Aberdeen and Rockfish railroad.

From Poole's Medley:
Horse traders used to come in singles and droves both to Carthage and Troy, and they usually stayed a week.

From Rockfish News:
A short time ago the A & R Depot was repaired and painted, the roads into Rockfish were built up and widened and now A. W. Wood has put a new coat of paint on his dwelling house and store so Rockfish looks as shiny as a new pin.

In a rather curious town election here Monday in which the ballot box was opened before the polls closed and in which write-in votes were not counted on the first count all names on the ticket were declared elected by the town registrar and judges of election in a

certificate amended yesterday

15 years ago

Thursday, May 9, 1957
At the regular monthly meeting of the Raeford board of commissioners Monday night action was taken to get car owners of Raeford to display their city tags or pay fines.

The "Clean-up, Paint-up, Fix-up" week being sponsored here this week by the Raeford Chamber of Commerce has resulted in much improvement in the first half of the week and promises much more before it is over, leaders reported today.

The Hoke County board of commissioners at their regular monthly meeting Monday employed an assistant farm agent for the county to replace H. C. Gilliam, and took action on other matters of county business.

Grades from through seven of the McLaughlin Elementary School will present a May Day program at the regular monthly meeting of the Hoke-Raeford Parent-Teachers Association at the school next Tuesday night.

'Man, ah can't understand why you have such a tough time'



Passing Thoughts

By Elaine Symanski

Mom's Day Of Glory

Mom... Apple pie... and the American flag. How many times do we hear that expression during the course of the year? Although the words are often used jokingly, we can't deny that the meaning behind them is very much a part of our way of life. And no matter in what context that expression is used, "Mom" always leads the list.

Although the second Sunday in May wasn't set aside for the official honoring of Mothers until 1914, the tradition of honoring motherhood is certainly not new; as a matter of fact it goes back to antiquity. According to ancient mythology, a yearly spring festival was dedicated to Rhea, mother of several of the gods.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
According to an item I read in a newspaper the other day, there is such a big backlog of un-tried criminal cases stacked up in New York City that if the police made no arrests at all it'd take a year for the courts to catch up, and other big cities and some not so big are reporting similar situations.

Even the Supreme Court is having trouble, the Chief Justice having reported that there were 4,000 cases filed with the high court last year compared with only 1,100 in 1940.

I have been thinking about this, trying to find a solution. Take the Supreme Court. If it's getting four times as many cases now, you'd assume maybe we ought to have four times as many Justices, or 36, but judging by the way Congress turns down appointees, there may not be 30 men in the country qualified to serve.

Or take the big cities. Maybe they should have four times as many courts, but that'd require four times as many judges, four times as many courtrooms, four times as many prosecutors, four times as many grand juries, petit juries, bailiffs, etc. Half the city would be tied up in court most of the time and half the criminals would have to start robbing each other.

The only solution I can think of is to develop no-fault crimes, like the town I know that cut down on speeding violations on its streets by raising the speed limit.

Why not? We've got no-fault insurance in some places, haven't we? I never had understood what no-fault insurance meant until just the other day when a friend explained it to me.

"No-fault insurance," he said, "is the kind of insurance the insurance companies never have to pay off on. They say 'We find no fault with that type insurance.'"

This doesn't sound right to me, but in a political year a man is naturally confused. Why just last night I read that some consumer organization has claimed that there are 88,900 bridges in this country in - safe to use. This leaves a politician not only unwilling to cross a bridge before he comes to it, but unwilling after he gets to it, although I guess it's only fair to say a lot of them have been following that practice for years anyway.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.



Just One Thing After Another

By Carl Goerch

At the time of this writing it is very, very cool for the month of May. The windows are down, the doors are closed, and a fire, blazing on the hearth, feels most comfortable. Today not less than eight people have said to me, "Don't you reckon we are going to have any warm weather?" And by next week the same eight will probably be saying, "Whew! Did you ever see it so hot?"

My answer to each of the eight who made the remark was, "Well, don't you remember the summer of 1816?" and you would be surprised to know how many answered, "Yes, but er er why, you mean 1916, don't you?"

I did not mean 1916. 1816 was meant. But since it is very cool today, and has been recently, and since there are very few people who have any personal recollection of the summer of 1816 even from tales told by oldtimers, the following account of it, taken from a Northern paper may prove interesting.

The year of 1816 was recorded as the year without a summer. April came in warm, but by May first there was a temperature like winter with much ice and snow. Ice half an inch thick formed on ponds and rivers. Corn was planted the second time, but there was no crop, except that of a farmer in Vermont who built fires around his field. By the last of May everything had been killed by the cold. In June, frost and ice were plentiful. Snow fell to the depth of ten inches in Vermont, several inches in Maine, and three inches in New York and Massachusetts.

All summer long the wind blew steadily from the north in blasts laden with ice and snow. Mothers knitted stockings of double thickness for their children. Farmers worked out their time on the roads wearing overcoats and mittens. On June 16 a Vermont farmer sent a flock of sheep to pasture. In the morning of the 17th the thermometer registered below the freezing point. When

he started to look after his flock he jokingly remarked he might get lost in the snow. One hour after he left a terrible snowstorm came up. There were great drifts. Night came and the farmer did not return. His wife became frightened and a searching party was formed. He was found the third day lying in a hole on the hillside with both feet frozen. He was half covered with snow but still living. Most of the sheep were lost.

July was ushered in amid ice and snow. On the Fourth ice formed in the New England states. New York and Pennsylvania, August proved the worst month of all. Almost every green thing in this country and in Europe was blasted with frost. Snow fell at Barnet, thirty miles from London on August 30. English newspapers stated that 1816 would be remembered by the existing generations as the year in which there was no summer. There was great privation and thousands of people would have perished in this country had it not been for the abundance of fish and wild game.

One of the largest lawyer's fee ever awarded in North Carolina was the \$1,000,000 fee of the three lawyers who represented little Christopher Smith Reynolds in the Reynolds' estate squabble.

Back in 1886 a man by the name of Newberry started the tuberose industry in North Carolina. The dozen bulbs with which he started had increased to a million in two years and sold at \$40 per thousand. Eighty per cent of the tuberose crop in the United States at that time came from Eastern North Carolina.

In our list of names of well known citizens of North Carolina which are unique or unusual, we also wish to include that of the late Union League Spence of Carthage.

CLIFF BLUE...

People & Issues



PRIMARY RESULTS ... There were several upsets in the May 6 primaries in North Carolina.

First George Wallace's vote in North Carolina was far greater than many people expected.

Second, the results showed strong "anti-establishment" sentiment in North Carolina as has been evidenced in other states this year. It is beginning to appear that the candidates might be better off without the endorsements of top officials like governors, U.S. senators and congressmen.

Ldmond Muskie had many governors, U.S. Senators, and Congressmen backing him, but it did not appear to help him at all.

Here in North Carolina the so-called "party leaders" were behind Terry Sanford, the leading daily newspapers were all - out in support of Sanford and strongly anti - Wallace but it appears that this anti - Wallace group may have actually aided Wallace but it appears that this anti - Wallace group may have actually aided Wallace and hurt Sanford!

Wallace's victory in North Carolina was a severe set - back for Sanford and will greatly lessen his chances of receiving the Democratic presidential nomination in Miami.

GOVERNORIAL RACES ... Skipper Bowles' strong lead for the Democratic nomination for governor and Pat Taylor's position constituted more evidence of "anti-establishment" sentiment as Taylor was generally regarded as close to Scott and the present Administration.

In the Republican race for governor the closeness of the race between Gardner and Holshouser was unexpected as most of the politicians seemed to feel that Gardner would win rather easily.

U.S. SENATE ... Probably the biggest upset was Congressman Nick Galifianakis' strong lead in the race for the U.S. Senate over incumbent B. Everett Jordan. Most people seemed to think that Jordan would be renominated with a comfortable lead.

Nick is regarded as a liberal and Jordan

somewhat as a middle - of - the - road man. Nick's win could be compared with Bob Reynolds' victory over Cameron Morrison for the U.S. Senate in 1932 when Morrison was filling out the unexpired term of the late U.S. Senator Lee S. Overman.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR ... While Jim Hunt was expected to lead in the race for lieutenant governor his near majority over his four opponents was unexpected.

LIBERAL vs CONSERVATIVE ... In some instances it looked like a conservative victory in the May 6 primaries whereas in other races it was the liberals who were winning.

In the race for president in the Democratic primary Wallace was regarded as the conservative, and he was the leader.

In the Democratic race for governor Bowles would generally have been regarded as the more liberal between he and Taylor but in the campaign his platform and program was more conservative than Taylor's.

Everett Jordan was regarded as more conservative than Nick and Nick won.

In the race for lieutenant governor Hunt was regarded as the liberal and Sowers the more conservative and Hunt emerged as the top man with a near majority.

CONGRESS RACES ... State Senator Jyles Coggins' lead in the race for Congress in the fourth district was somewhat of a surprise. Bill Creech was expected to lead but incomplete reports showed Ike Andrews in second place, Wense Grabarek in third place, Creech fourth, Archie McMillan fifth and Charles Bullock sixth.

Charlie Rose's big lead in the seventh Congressional district over Doran Berry and Hector McGeachy was somewhat of a surprise as the three were generally regarded as near equal in support.

SECOND PRIMARY ... At this writing we have talked with none of the runners-up entitled to call a second primary about the matter. However, we would seriously doubt that there will be run - offs in many, if any of the state-wide races.

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS

composed of agents possessing integrity, intelligence, and training in law enforcement. Hoover carried out his orders and professionalized his small force. It soon became apparent that he was indispensable to the bureau and Attorney General Stone's temporary appointment was made permanent, a precedent which later Administrations followed to the end.

The magic of J. Edgar Hoover was the man. He began his career when the fundamental virtues - honesty, integrity, courage, loyalty, patriotism - were the building stones of life. He adhered to these American values and he expected his agents to do likewise. The monumental power that he had came to him because he never deviated from his goal of creating the best law enforcement organization on earth.

During the Depression the FBI won national acceptance as the country

extolled Hoover and his "G-Men" for their capture of one after another of the most notorious gangsters. He always won against the "public enemies" of the era.

John Dillinger, "Ma" Barker, "Pretty Boy" Floyd, "Machine Gun" Kelly, "Baby Face" Nelson, Alvin Karpis. It was his agents too that found the evidence leading to the arrest and conviction of the Lindbergh baby kidnapper, Bruno Richard Hauptmann.

By the late 1930's, the hoodlum war had been largely won, and Hoover turned his agents to meet a new challenge, Nazi espionage during the darkest hours of World War II.

Then came the Cold War and the Soviet efforts to obtain atomic energy secrets in a new era of spy and espionage cases. The Bureau, under Hoover, turned its attention to the preservation of the security of the nation.