

The News - Journal



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1973

As We See It.... By Kay Piotrkowski

Received some comments that we did a pretty fancy job of fence sitting on the ABC Store issue last week - and have to admit that is exactly what we did. It was intentional. Few public issues are so uncomplicated as to have 100 percent merit on one side and 100 percent evil on the other.

One such complicated situation came up in juvenile court last week when six youths under 16 appeared to answer shoplifting charges. A juvenile hearing is traumatic, to say the least, for most all concerned. In most instances it packs an emotional sledge hammer blow to the accused youths and their parents. Frequently the accuser has suffered much soul searching before drawing the juvenile petition. The judge is faced with making decisions which will affect the future life of the youngsters.

The items taken by each of the youths involved in last week's hearing were not of great monetary value - they ranged from less than a dollar to \$9. But there was much more at stake than dollar value. Often merchants fail to ask juvenile petitions in such cases for a variety of reasons - they know the juvenile's parents, they wish to shun publicity, they fear a reputation of taking youngsters to court will hurt their business or they just can't be bothered taking the time required to attend the hearing.

Merchants who feel this way are doing no one, least of all the juveniles, a favor. Youngsters who successfully and repeatedly shoplift small, inexpensive items may well be encouraged by the lack of action to graduate to bolder acts. We wonder how many young people convicted of breaking, entering, larceny and armed robbery started their path to prison with minor shoplifting? Perhaps had their parents been notified the continued shoplifting and resultant more serious criminal acts would never have been committed.

Granted some parents seem unable to control their youngsters and other means have to be used. We are not advocating these youngsters be shipped off to prison or correctional schools but do feel they probably need help from judges and specialists in dealing with problems and adjustments of the juvenile offenders.

Working with older criminals presents totally different problems. There appear to be many programs aimed at assisting adult misdemeanants and felons. The one most apparent to the public is home leave policy where a prisoner is allowed to visit his home for a specified period of hours.

In theory the program sounds fine and correctional personnel quote statewide statistics to indicate only a small percentage of these selected inmates run afoul of the law during home leave. But somewhere in the shuffle theory, statistics and practical reality are not always in agreement. In a little more than a year's time at least three prisoners on home leave have been arrested in Hoke County. One was involved in a shootout in which one man lost his life. Another was charged with driving while intoxicated and the third and most recent faces a host of charges resulting from a high speed chase in the wee hours of Sunday morning.

Perhaps it is time for the pendulum to swing back a bit more toward center with concern for the community receiving a higher priority than has been the tendency in recent years.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, September 16, 1948

The annual membership drive of the Hoke County Farm Bureau has started, according to R. E. Neeley, president.

North Carolina's worst polio epidemic is on the downgrade, although the decline is irregular, state epidemiologist Dr. Charles P. Stevick reported.

From Poole's Medley:
The less we get of government aid, the better off we will be, for it costs to collect and disburse funds the government helps with.

Lightning struck the roof of Senator Ryan McBryde's home here during a thunderstorm last Friday afternoon and knocked out a few shingles.

John Lacy Currie, 55, son of Mrs. Ida Adams Currie and the late Franklin P. Currie, a native of Red Springs, and a

resident of Suffolk, Va., for the past 10 years, died at the Veteran's Hospital, Kecington, Hampton, Va., on Saturday, September 11, after a short illness.

The white schools of Hoke County opened their doors for the 1948-49 session yesterday. All faculty members were in place.

"First aid kits are essential equipment on every farm," declared A. S. Knowles, county agent for the State College Extension Service, here this week.

15 years ago

Thursday, September 18, 1958

Arthur Derwood Gore, dean of the Hoke County Bar Association and city and county attorney, died in Cape Fear Valley Hospital, Fayetteville, early Wednesday of a heart ailment.

Robert L. Everett has been appointed State Probation officer for this section.

Franklin Williams is the new assistant farm agent for Hoke County.

'You haven't moved this fast since the vote to raise congressional salaries'



Le Pellay

The Christian Science Monitor

The Midnight Oil

by Jama Chesser

This is the most hectic time of year, especially for television watchers. Children start back to school, stores have end of summer sales, fall clothes must come out of storage, and the most challenging of all duties, new television programs must be watched and a new schedule of viewing decided on among the family.

The first week of new TV shows always runs the gamut of emotions. Neighbor little Johnnie is over to complain about his favorite program being moved to a time later than his bedtime. The dog is confused because Lassie is earlier and interferes with his outdoor time. I tried waking the dog up from his nap earlier than usual to allow for outdoor time before Lassie, but he was so sleepy he walked off the porch edge.

My husband is easier to please when it comes to TV programming. I simply buy him two or three good crossword puzzle books and he never knows when I switch channels. That is fine for weeknight programming. But it is quite obvious after this past weekend that I have a problem on weekends.

Cap has been out of the country during the past three football seasons, two years in Germany and one in Vietnam. During these years I have

grown selfishly accustomed to the smug feeling I experienced when other wives talk about their husbands chained to the TV. First of all I remind them it is better to have a husband chained to the TV than one who reaches the point of bringing week-old football films home with him and showing them on the living room wall up to six times in one weekend. That happened in Germany. "At least," I tell those wives, "you can have the lights on."

I thought those weekend flash-backs had sufficed. But, on returning from a short Saturday shopping spree, I found not one football game, but two. That's right, both TV sets were tuned to football and sitting at either end of the hallway as close as the antenna hookups would allow. My husband was perched in his desk chair in the center of the sets and spinning around from one game to the other depending on which announcers' voices were pitched the highest at the moment.

I tried to convince him that one game at a time was all his body and mind could stand on the first day of his first football season in three years. I failed. "Besides," I argued, "a Fred Astaire movie comes on in five minutes." That didn't seem to carry much of a punch.

I figured the I-told-you-so approach would work as well as any argument I could think up this early in the season, so I departed the scene to fix dinner.

Two pepperoni pizzas, a sausage submarine sandwich, one candy bar, two hot dogs, a cola, French fries with ketchup and three pieces of left-over barbecued chicken later, Cap made his last spin around and headed for the bicarbonate.

"I told you two games at once after three years on the bench were just too much for you," I said innocently.

Senator Sam Ervin Says

WASHINGTON - The Nixon Administration announced last week that it was considering a tax increase on individuals and corporations.

The announcement by Presidential counsellor Melvin R. Laird was immediately challenged by Treasury Secretary George P. Schultz who said that Laird ought to "keep his cotton picking hands" off the Administration's tax policies. Other reaction has been quite negative. Many will recall that just prior to the last election, the President pledged to the people that he was not going to raise taxes during the next four years of his Administration. While the President did keep the door ajar slightly, the fact was that he made a promise that he would not request any new taxes.

I do not favor a tax increase. The American people are already over-burdened with taxes. The cost of living is rising steadily each month. The price of food has increased at a fantastic rate this year. I am not convinced that raising taxes or allowing the government to hold tax funds in trust for refund is the way to handle this situation. Instead, the Administration should undertake to establish a better economic climate in this country. This can be achieved by cooperating with Congress in establishing sensible priorities for federal spending.

In the first eight months of this year, the President's economic advisors have come up with all kinds of proposals. As a result, there is much confusion abroad in the land. Mr. Laird at the White House suggests a tax increase, Mr. Schultz at Treasury says "no," and Mr. Burns, Chairman of the Board of

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



CAMPAIGN RULES... In the wake of "Watergate" legislative bodies throughout the nation are giving consideration to devising ways and means to bring about higher ethics in politics and government in general.

Last week the Alabama Legislature enacted a new law requiring Alabama officials and news reporters to disclose their sources of income.

In North Carolina a Legislative Committee headed by Rep. Ernest Messer has been holding public hearings concerning expenditures, contributions and reporting on them.

The writer attended a portion of the meeting held last Friday in the Legislative Building in Raleigh. Secretary of State Thad Eure explained the present law dealing with campaign expenditures and the reporting of the expenditures. The present law is good as far as it does but there is no adequate machinery for the enforcement or administration of the law.

It seems to us that if the General Assembly really wants to do something to help curb unnecessary and demeaning expenditures in political campaigns a strong "watchdog board" with real authority and responsibility should be created to monitor the campaigns from the filing deadline through the primaries and general elections. There should probably be a state "Watchdog Board" and "Watchdog Boards" in the respective counties, the latter to monitor the county races.

To implement the administration in addition to the "watchdog boards" composed of our most able and upright citizens, we feel that the present law should be amended to provide from the filing deadline regular designated reports should be mandatory.

We suggest that the first report be made two weeks after the filing deadline and each week thereafter until 10 days before the primary or general election, and that reports be made every - other - weekday (three times a week) during the last ten days before the primary or general elections.

We feel that if pre-voting reports are made and publicized, it will do much to keep down "dirty tricks" in political campaigns.

It is much better to prevent illegal and unethical practices than to prosecute a citizen for violating the law. Why wait to lock the stable door until after the horse is out?

While a final report would be necessary after the primaries and general elections, the pre-voting reports could prove to be a strong deterrent to unlawful contributions and "dirty tricks."

The "watchdog boards" would provide simple forms and return envelopes for reporting all donations and expenditures of every kind - credit cards, printing, newspaper, radio, TV and billboard advertising, autos, planes, office rent and income of every description. The "watchdog boards" should be empowered to move and to move quickly in case "dirty tricks" appeared to be getting underway.

Reports would be made by the candidates, signed by the candidates and their campaign chairmen or managers; by all committees or organizations participating in the spending or raising of funds - by newspapers, radio stations, TV stations, billboard and printing firms doing business with the candidates.

With the reports starting two weeks after the filing deadline, it would relieve the burden of lengthy reports in the closing and busy days of the campaign.

The writer who is the publisher of two newspapers and the owner of a printing shop would have to make many reports, but if started at the beginning of the campaign it would be a simple and easy task for what we believe would be in the interest of cleaner politics and good government.

If on a nationwide basis we had such a system as outlined above, we doubt that we would have a "Watergate" scandal on our hands today with people's lives impaired for life as a result of it.

In most instances good and solid legislation is not easily enacted into law for the simple reason that in many cases it upsets customs and practices that accrue to the advantage of special or select groups, otherwise it would have already been enacted.

Just One Thing After Another

by Carl Goerch

The late George Geoghegan was vice president of the Wachovia Bank & Trust Company and was an ingenious sort of individual.

Some years ago a man walked into George's office and tried to sell him a camera. George said he didn't want a camera. The man said: "I'll let you have it for ten dollars." That was a mighty reasonable price, so George pulled out ten dollars and gave it to him.

The Wachovia Bank in Raleigh employed about 125 people at the time. There were occasional changes in personnel. Applicants for positions were interviewed by Mr. Geoghegan. If they were found satisfactory, he said: "Sit down over there in that chair against the wall so I can take your picture."

He took the picture, had it developed and printed, and then pasted the print in a special book. Underneath he would write some personal information about the individual. As a result, George was never at a loss to recognize a new

employee and call him or her by their first name.

Quite a system.

Jim Stephens of Charlotte was telling us the other day about a large family living in the rural section of Mecklenburg County.

There are seven boys among the twelve children. One of the boys is named William, another is named Willie, and a third is named Bill.

The other night somebody called up at the house and wanted to know Queen Elizabeth's full name. We had a World Almanac handy, so in a few minutes were able to give the desired information.

That happened at about 9 o'clock.

We went to bed at eleven. At 11:30 the phone rang and we answered it. "I got a question I want to ask you," said a man's voice. The voice sounded just a trifle thick.

"What is it?"
"You been asking folks questions for a long time. Now then I'll bet you anything you want to bet that you can't answer this one."

"What is it?"
"What is the full name of Queen Elizabeth? Come on now; no stalling. What's her full name?"
"Queen Elizabeth Alexandra Mary," we told her. "And what's more she was born April 21, 1926."

There was a brief interval of silence, and then the voice, slightly lower in tone, said: "Well, I'll be damned!"

From Mrs. J. Ben Brake, of Rocky Mount:

"Speaking of odd names, here is a list that I heard of recently.

"Mr. Daniel Powell, of the West Edgecombe section, died a short while ago. Here is a list of the names of his nine children. You will note their names follow the alphabet from A to R.

"Ada Belinda, Claudia Dorinda, Effie Fostine, Gertha Helen, Ivey Joseph, Kate Louella, Marion Napoleon, Oliver Purvis and Queen Ruby. They are all living and live not far from Rocky Mount.

Rural Fires Call 875-4242

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