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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1975

Behind Troubling Teacher Strikes

Teachers' strikes around the country - both threatened and under way - reflect basic problems underlying the U.S. system of public education, most importantly how it is funded.

So far, teachers involved in contract disputes have refused to work in 10 states, affecting nearly a million students. Even more troubling, contracts in about 2,100 school districts remain unsettled, including New York, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. This is about twice last year's level, according to the National Education Association.

There can be no doubt that the cost of public education is rising rapidly, a function of an inflation-ridden economy and increasingly assertive teachers and administrators. Whereas the number of students has dropped steadily in the last four years (200,000 fewer this year than 1974), the cost of education will go up \$11 billion in 1975.

Faced with demands for tighter budgets, local governments no doubt would be looking for ways to cut school costs in any case. But the heavy reliance on the regressive property tax makes the pressure on school boards around the country that much greater. Some states (New Jersey, for instance) are slowly moving toward other ways of paying the costs of education while eliminating the sharp inequities between school districts. It can be hoped that the court-ordered action there will spur other states to adopt better ways of meeting school costs.

It is the prospect of larger classes, reduced school personnel, and the elimination of special programs that worries many educators today. This is a valid concern, and it is extremely unfortunate that many in local government are meeting the fiscal pinch by cutting into a service that represents an essential investment in the future.

But teachers' demands include a good bit of self-interest, too. Faced with layoffs in some cities, they are worried about job security. Most of them earn less than \$14,000 a year and they justifiably wonder why other public servants requiring less formal training (policemen, firemen, and even garbage collectors) often are paid much more.

At the same time, however, wage disputes highlight legitimate questions about teacher pay scales, the ease with which raises are attained in some places, and a tenure system which, although necessary, protects many incompetent teachers. Too many students leave school unable to use the fundamental tools of written language for job purposes. The particularly nettlesome issues of accountability and productivity must be realistically addressed both by teachers and their employers.

It is wrong to effect economics which in any way jeopardize the quality of education, but it is also irresponsible to demand more than school boards can realistically afford. For many teachers, elected officials, and parents the opening of school presents a confused and complicated situation which will demand the utmost in clear-headed thought and responsible action.

-Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, September 7, 1950

A committee from the Raeford Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches announced this week that Mrs. T.N. McLaughlin had been employed to teach Bible in the Hoke county high school two days each week during the coming school year.

Archibald Keahey Currie of Raeford died in a Fayetteville hospital at eight o'clock last Friday night after having been a patient there for four days.

J.B. McIntyre, operator of the Raeford Theatre, said this week that the owners of the building had decided to enlarge and remodel it in the near future and that plans are being designed for a building about 60 feet longer than the present house and completely modern in every respect.

Pvt. Thomas R. Inman, son of Mrs. O.C. Sanders, is now with an Infantry unit in Korea.

15 years ago

Thursday, September 8, 1960

The Raeford Junior Chamber of Commerce undertook an ambitious project on Friday when it set up a station on highway 401 south and started dispensing free cold drinks to the passengers of cars passing through on the main artery.

The Hoke High School Bucks are doing their last minute preparation for Friday night game with Lumberton.

The United Fund Board of Directors met in the Johnson Company office Friday afternoon and adopted the \$16,000 budget submitted by the budget and admissions committee.

Chief speaker at Monday night's Booster Club meeting was Horace Hendrickson, former Duke quarterback and onetime coach at the University of North Carolina, N.C. State College, Elon College, and the University of Pennsylvania.

'Ninety-nine percent of those interviewed are in favor of the teachers' right to strike against the public'



by Marty Vega

Secret Letters Here

Ever since the Kissinger garbage caper, hard working reporters have been roaming Washington neighborhoods checking out garbage from the homes of congressman, judges, cabinet members, and influential leaders who make the news. We have come across some hot items, copies of letters written by Congressman Ewing E. Swertman and carelessly discarded in an alley behind a Georgetown head shop, which we are fearlessly publishing.

General Manager
 Washington Redskins
 Football Club
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Fellow Sports Lover,

I am greatly sorrowed to discover that my request for six 50-yard line tickets to the Redskins - Dolphins game has been returned with a note stating all seats have been sold.

I consider this most unfortunate, as I had hoped to convince myself through personal research RFK stadium is being put to use and should not be demolished by Congressional order to make room for a military archives warehouse.

Therefore, much as I hate to

introduce a bill that might inconvenience your organization, it appears I have no tangible reason for withholding my proposal to destroy the facility where your team reportedly plays.

Should you happen to run across any solid evidence that would cause me to change my mind, please leave it in my name at the box office under grandstand 'C' a week from Sunday.

Lawrence Y. Wintergreen
 Foul Weather Rubber Goods
 Muckton, Ohio

Dear Larry,

Forgive my apparent delay in answering your letter of Feb. 4, 1974, which mentioned your firm was faced with bankruptcy and desperately in need of help. I was merely waiting to respond until I had some good news to pass along.

I am delighted to inform you Foul Weather stands to profit greatly from the big appropriations bill I am pushing through Congress for military aid to Nepal. As you know, it probably rains a lot there, and I foresee no difficulty in getting you a Pentagon order for at least 500,000 tank windshield wiper blades.

Actually, Larry, I do foresee one minor difficulty. I may not be able to win passage of this bill before the next session of Congress, by which time I may not be in Congress to do it. My re-election chances are not so good, mainly because I've stayed here pulling strings to help you while my pinko, peacenik, anti-military opponent, backed by the anti-rubber goods lobby, has been out drumming up big campaign contributions.

Currently, I'm afraid I'll come up about \$10,000 short of my needs for winning another term, and it would be a tragic irony if you had to close down because I've devoted my usual fund raising time to efforts on your behalf and

Stories Behind Words

by William S. Penfield

Cockney

In Middle English a small, misshapen egg, generally with no yolk, was called a "cokeney," meaning cock's egg. It was said facetiously that since the hen couldn't have laid such a malformed egg then the cock must have.

"Cokeney" later was used to denote a spoiled or foolish child, then by extension any foolish or effeminate person. English country folk then applied the name to any townsman, who supposedly was ignorant of country ways.

The word became "cockney" in modern English and was restricted in meaning - a native of London, especially of its East End.

Garnish

"Garnish," which means to deck out or adorn, originally meant to warn. A warning resulted in preparation of a defense. Therefore, "garnish" acquired the meaning of "to arm." Later, the word was used to refer to armor itself, and then to fancy armor.

The next step resulted in the word's present meaning.

From the definition of something elaborate, the meaning of "garnish" was extended once again - to make something elaborate by adorning or decking it out.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



FUND RAISING - Hundreds of Democrat leaders from across North Carolina will gather at Morehead City for fellowship, and politics and refreshments this Saturday, Sept. 13. Candidates and "would be" candidates for governor, lieutenant governor and other district and state offices will be plentiful and glad-handed.

It used to be that the Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner in Raleigh was the one Democratic fund-raising party of the year. Now there are three or four. The second annual fund-raising dinner started was the "Vance-Aycock" meeting in the fall of the year in Asheville. Later, a down East dinner was started and held at Wrightsville Beach. Then this year a Piedmont dinner was held in Greensboro, about which we did not hear a great deal.

OTHERS - It appears that the Democratic Party in North Carolina is not the only political entity in North Carolina with fund-raising problems. Some of the presidential candidates including North Carolina's own Terry Sanford are having a tough time raising sufficient money to carry on a campaign under the new political fund-raising laws. Sanford's statement in Boston several days ago criticizing President Ford for the latter's statement opposing busing as a method to promote school integration could hardly be expected to help him in North Carolina where a recent survey shows 78 percent of the 700 people interviewed agreed with the statement: "Busing to achieve school integration of public schools should be stopped."

A great majority of the people of the South and apparently of the nation have accepted "Freedom of choice" without reservation; but apparently they are just as strong against "forced busing" for school integration.

COMMISSIONER OF LABOR - The sudden passing of Commissioner of Labor Billy Creel marked the loss of a good steward in public service for North Carolina. He was a devoted public official who served the public well.

The passing of Commissioner Creel will give to Governor Holshouser the opportunity to fill a second vacancy on the Council of State. His first appointment to the Council of State was James H. Carson, Jr., to the Attorney General's office, a post vacated by Robert Morgan to run for the U.S. Senate. Carson lost out in the fall election to Rufus Edmisten in the Democratic landslide.

As of now the Democrats feel pretty confident of carrying the complete slate to victory in 1976 - unless they have another primary where the wounds do not heal as in 1972.

REPUBLICANS - The Republicans appear to be coming back to life in North Carolina and are beginning to feel that 1974 could have been only a temporary back-lash from Watergate. It now appears that the GOP will have a primary for governor, probably between David Flaherty and David Jones, each



heading up a state department under Governor Holshouser, who says he is keeping hands off the 1976 GOP gubernatorial primary campaign.

HEW & UNC - Concerning HEW pressure on Dr. William C. Friday, President of the University of North Carolina and the UNC Board of Governors, to locate the proposed new veterinary school at A&T in Greensboro rather than at N.C. State in Raleigh, Dr. Friday said last week that neither he nor the board of governors would be moved by undue pressure from Washington.

If more school authorities would stand their ground when they are on solid ground and know they are right there would be more respect and support for education in the state and nation. But, when officials almost jump out of their breeches when HEW SAYS "boo!" what can you expect?

TEACHER STRIKES - We have been reading about teacher strikes in some of the big cities in recent days. As we look at these "teachers" on strike on television we can't help but wonder if the students are losing very much by being out of school a few days or weeks. Can they be the "dedicated" type that we used to hear about?

N.Y.'S PENSION PLAN - One newspaper has termed New York City's pension plan as the most generous in the solar system. Well, it may now be generous but if the city keeps dipping into the pension fund as it did last week, to pay current expenses, when pension time for some arrives it just could be like Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard - bare!

Letters To The Editor

Again, the needs of the private interest groups have been served by our County Commissioners as they have been in the past. By approving the by-pass road around Raeford, they have served notice that we do not need any transit dollars in Raeford. We will surely lose a good portion of these dollars because most traveling people will bypass a town whenever possible. I imagine that the town of Red Springs will greatly appreciate this as they will probably pick up some of this money that we will lose.

Also in the past, I have been led to believe that the Chamber of Commerce was designed to keep all the business possible in a city, not turn it away. I am not a member of the Chamber, nor do I intend to be after having seen the actions of the manager of the Chamber on this matter.

In closing, I will say that I hope sometime in the future, the people of Hoke County will elect some County officials who will serve all of the people instead of a few private interest groups.

Joseph E. Thompson, Sr.
 Owner/Thompson Bait & Tackle

Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

who are not qualified, getting the stamps and selling them. She is afraid that if the abuses continue then the whole program may be stopped and that people who really need the help, like herself, will suffer.

Then there was the small - town service station operator who had received a letter that very day from his oil company saying that he could expect gasoline prices to go up as soon as controls ended on August 31.

He said this bothered him because many of his customers were forced to travel to larger towns where their jobs were and he felt that they simply could not afford to pay higher gasoline prices.

People such as these, who came voluntarily to give this sort of information with no thought of personal gain, made the two weeks very, very profitable to me.

Of course there were people who had all sorts of personal problems, some of whom we could help and some we couldn't.

At the end of my travels, I sensed that there is a feeling of frustration among our people and that middle-class Americans feel that they are being burdened with too much bureaucracy. I don't think they want government out of their lives completely, but they feel that there are too many rules and too many

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