

The News - Journal



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1975

Congress after the oil veto

By sustaining President Ford's oil veto, the Senate takes upon the shoulders of Congress a share of responsibility for the good or bad results of the presidential action. If six senators had changed their votes, and the veto had been overridden, Congress would have had six months of continued oil-price control in which to come up with an energy program in keeping with the majority's opposition to the administration's high-price route. Now the most the legislators are likely to get without another veto is a 45-day extension of controls.

Congress has failed both to agree on its own energy program and to reject presidential obstruction of it. The legislators have allowed the pressures for compromise to become greater on them than on the administration. For the sake of getting the nation's energy policy out of limbo, they must compromise swiftly - or devise their own plan with sufficient solidarity to make it prevail over presumed administration opposition.

For the latter outcome, the fumbling leadership would have to galvanize consent to a degree hardly expectable on its energy record thus far. So the only likely path seems compromise - which this newspaper had hoped the President would facilitate by withholding his veto. Now that confrontation has occurred, and Mr. Ford has won another round, it seems clear that some version of what he wanted will go forward.

Certainly the administration's stated intentions can be agreed upon - to reduce dependence on foreign oil by stimulating domestic production and reducing consumption. The question is whether decontrolled and therefore higher oil prices will do this job without a net counterproductive effect on the economy and individual budgets.

The thing is that domestic oil prices are gradually becoming decontrolled anyway - as less and less "old" oil comes from the pre-1972 sources pegged at \$5.25 a barrel. Mr. Ford's step away from the immediate decontrol he called for early in the year - and toward phased decontrol over a period of 39 months - is a recognition of a process that would have to be faced in any case. It is our feeling that this extended decontrol is preferable to immediate decontrol and would help the adjustment of the economy and the segments of it, such as independent refiners, who would be specially disadvantaged. With the windfall profits tax acceptable to the administration, there would be an amelioration of the feeling that it is all a deal to favor the big oil companies.

If Congress does not gather itself together and accept phased decontrol - or provide and alternative - then the immediate decontrol confirmed by Mr. Ford's veto remains in effect. And in that event the administration ought to move swiftly with its proposed legislative measures to soften the impact on independent refiners, independent retailers, and those dependent on propane gas.

Will the oil exporting countries look at an American willingness to accept higher domestic prices as an invitation to raise their prices more? Or will they perceive that American efforts to set its own house in order are a warning to exercise restraint? The latter is what we look forward to - if Washington finally takes decisive action.

-Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, September 14, 1950

Nine white men and 17 colored men of the county reported to the Fayetteville induction station for pre-induction mental and physical examination last Thursday. All of the white men passed and eight of the colored men were accepted for induction.

Sheriff D.H. Hodgin's drive on liquor sellers around Raeford continued last week and resulted in seven persons paying fines in Recorder's Court before Judge Henry McDiarmid.

The State Highway Commission has paved 58 miles of secondary road in Hoke county since the start of the \$200 million bond construction program last summer.

James Alexander, who has been working at the Bank of Raeford since the first of the year, is leaving today for Gastonia where he has accepted a position with the Firestone Rubber Co.

From Poole's Medley:
The people who were old folks
when I was growing up are all gone

and folks who grew up with one
except very few are all gone too.

15 years ago

Thursday, September 15, 1960

All telephone numbers in Raeford will change Sunday at 2:01 A.M. from the present number system to a system of seven numerals.

An out-played and out-manned Lumberton team fell before the rampaging Hoke High Bucks in the Buck's first game of the season on Friday night 40-0.

Allocation of \$7,015,112.19 in Powell Bill funds to 400 participating municipalities was announced today by the State Highway Department.

Six people completed work and were awarded Senior Life Saving certificates during a course taught at the Hoke Swimming Association pool this summer. Recipients of the Senior Life Awards were Bobby McFadden, Wanda Williamson, Harriet Smith, David Wheeler, Willie Earl Prince and Evans McNeill. Awarded certificates for Junior Life Saving were Penny Williamson, Mary Neil Senter, Gwen McNeill, Tommy Wright, William Haire, Judy Maultsby, Winborne Howell, Susan Gibson, Jane Wood, and Ken Wheeler.

'Hey fellows, where's my parachute?'



by Marty Vega

More Secret Letters

More secret, hitherto unrevealed letters written by devious Congressman Ewing Swertman have turned up, the latest batch found after the reflecting pool at the Washington monument was drained during the shark scare.

Editor
Washington Dispatch-Hound
Washington, D.C.
You miserable cur,

I demand that your lousy rag print an immediate retraction and apology for maliciously misquoting me in an Aug. 4 about proposed defense spending cutbacks in my home district.

The article maintains that I referred to my learned colleague and

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear editor:

I have been following the controversy over school busing around the country, whether it's in the cultural North or the backward South, and the problem seems to be the same, the people just as divided and the tempers just as raw, with the answer just as elusive.

This may be because the people aren't thinking, or because, some parents argue, the decisions are generally turned over to a Federal judge with a life - time appointment whose children are already grown.

Now of course it's hard if not impossible to explain to a parent why his child can't step across the street to a nice school already there, instead of having to ride a bus clear across to the other side of the city, while the kids over there ride a bus to the school across the street. You can't blame him for thinking such a plan must have been thought up by the bus manufacturers.

Now there's nothing wrong with riding a bus to school, it sure beats walking two miles to school when you and I were young. Or was it five miles?

But ride one when the school's right across the street? There's the rub. So the answer is to eliminate that school. Maybe make a library out of it. And then have just one school for everybody. The thing to do is for Boston, for example, to erect one school in the middle of the city, 20 stories high or however high it takes to hold all the school kids the town's got, with plans for adding more stories if the population keeps growing. You finish one grade, you move up a story, until finally you come out on the roof, fully educated.

Thus everybody goes to the same school, everybody rides a bus, the police can go about their regular work, the mayor can hunt for more taxes, and parents can have an extra hour of freedom mornings and afternoons while their kids are en route to and from the heart of the city.

If you argue that many buses will clog the streets, I'll remind you that the streets are already clogged, and besides, if engineers put their minds to it, they could devise pneumatic tubes extending spider - web - like out from 20-story school, with parents encasing their kids in plastic cocoons and shooting them to school in record time. A computer could make sure they took the right tube back home. Be safer than walking across the street. On reaching the school in the mornings they could all land in one, big room in the basement, intergraded like never before.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

good friend Rep. Waldo Wayfonger as a "sneaky, loathsome s.o.b. whose defense bill would treasonably leave America unprotected."

As I already have informed Rep. Wayfonger and his lawyers, I was deliberately misquoted by the Dispatch-Hound. In truth, I merely referred to the able Congressman as an s.o.b. whose sneaky, loathsome defense bill would leave America unprotected. At no time did I ever imply that Rep. Wayfonger is sneaky or loathsome as a person, which you claim I did.

Therefore, I demand you apologize for your error in print at once, or I will fix your wagon before Rep. Wayfonger fixes mine.

P.S. I will also fix your wagon if you don't tell that sneaky, loathsome s.o.b. in your delivery department to stop throwing my newspaper in the shrubbery every morning.
Chief Dietician
House of Representatives Cafeteria
Washington, D.C.
Dear Sir or Madam,

As a result of your daily work among the greats and near - greats of the U.S. Congress, you doubtless are aware of the sweeping power members of that august body hold. My own top level contacts with the FBI are sufficient to place anyone whom I consider to be a menace in a state of extreme jeopardy.

Naturally, I do not throw around the awesome power of my office, as I am well aware that the arrogant misuse of power can only lead America down the road to totalitarianism. In extreme cases, however, I do find it necessary to probe into the classified records of someone for the good of our country. I feel that information regarding moral and legal misdeeds in earlier life indicates a weakness of character which may well pose a national security threat.

This, of course, is especially true when it relates to persons like yourself who have somehow wormed their way into high places. Still, I may not use the damning information I have obtained about you to destroy your career and family life if it appears that you have mended your ways since you - know - what happened.

This puts your future directly in your own hands. Unless you immediately cease and desist from making mushy turnips the only vegetable available in the cafeteria every Tuesday, I must act as any good American and lower the boom on you.
Hoping you make the right decision,
Ewing Swertman

Tar Heel Spotlight

Colony Founded In 1729

Two hundred and forty-six years ago, on July 25, 1729, North Carolina became a royal colony of King George II of England.

On that date, seven of the eight lords proprietors of Carolina surrendered all of their rights to the region conferred on them by the charter of 1663.

The eighth proprietor, Lord Carteret (later Earl Granville), refused to sell his interest and was granted land rights to a region which comprised roughly the upper half of North Carolina. However, Carteret had no political authority in the area which came to be known as the Granville District.

Actually, it had been clear for a decade that the lords proprietors

OUR COURTS - Our courts have been in disrepute with a growing number of people for quite a while and "plea bargaining" we suspect will only lower the low standing in which our courts of justice are held. Only last week Bert M. Montague, director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, said there had been serious concern over the system for court-appointed attorneys, but there was now "alarm and disbelief" as he pointed out the "exorbitant amount of fees being allowed in many cases, particularly those on appeal; and the obvious lack of competence displayed by too many assigned attorneys in both the trial and the appellate courts."

Obviously, the lawyers who run the courts are not doing a good job in operating the courts of justice. Since the laymen have as great an interest in justice as do the lawyers, and more in most respects, it seems that boards and commissions empowered to see the courts operate smoothly and fairly in the interest of justice should have at least equal lay representation on such governing boards.

PLEA BARGAINING - With our courts in disrepute with a growing number of people, "plea bargaining" we suspect will only lower the low standing in which our courts of justice are held.

OPPORTUNITY - If one of our candidates for governor could come up with a strong program to do away with "plea bargaining" and restrict the powers of the solicitors, he might well attract mass support from people who are tired of the manner in which the courts seem to protect the criminals and forget those who have been harmed in some way or maybe robbed, raped or killed. The Franklin Times, commenting on "plea bargaining," had this to say in a recent editorial: "In the last term of Criminal Court held here, more than fifty charges were dismissed by the State - Plea Bargaining was evident in the majority of cases - and the number of suspended sentences was staggering."



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

After the Senate voted last Wednesday to sustain the President's veto of the bill to extend the controls on domestic "old oil" prices, it became apparent that some sort of agreement between the Congress and the Administration must be worked out quickly.

"Old oil" is oil from wells that existed before the oil embargo of two years ago. It has been priced at \$5.25 a barrel as opposed to imported oil and domestic oil from new wells, which currently sell for more than \$12 a barrel and may go higher later this month. The Senate's failure to override the veto means that all oil will be priced at the top market.

The President and his advisers want oil prices to be decontrolled over a period of 39 months. Most members of the Senate want to do it over a longer period than that, and I believe this is where the compromise will have to come.

I voted to override the veto and retain controls for another six months, in order to have time to formulate a workable policy - one which will encourage exploration for new oil sources but which will also give some protection to the consumer.

Frankly, I am afraid that the economy can not stand the effect of total decontrol immediately or even

over a short period of time. Those who drive cars, especially the millions who commute to work, would be sharply hurt. Truck fuel would go up and so would the price of goods that trucks carry, which is just about everything. Home heating oil would be higher. And this simply means added inflation.

We cannot afford to place the nation's consumers at the mercies of the large oil companies; their record doesn't justify it, as witness the general, unexplained price rise just before the July 4th holiday.

And the independent oil companies, who own no wells and must purchase crude oil for their refineries from overseas or from the large oil companies, and the independent service stations fear that no controls mean that they may be squeezed out by the big firms. This would remove competition which has served to keep prices down.

It will be my purpose to work with the Senate leadership to help draft a program as quickly as possible.

The nation has no problem more pressing or more critical today than the oil crisis, because this increases the cost of living of every citizen, whether he drives a car or not.

I hope to be able to report in the very near future that we have made progress on this.

In North Carolina the transfer in status from proprietary to royal had little immediate effect.

Not until 1731 did the first royal governor arrive in the colony. He was George Burrington, who had been proprietary governor from 1724-1725.

The long - term effect of the transfer was beneficial to North Carolina because under the crown, the colony grew and prospered.

Not until the days of the Revolution would North Carolinians feel that royal government was a burden. And even then many Tar Heels remained loyal to the King.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



DUNN TO O'HERRON - The resignation of SBI Director Charles J. Dunn to become associated with the budding gubernatorial campaign of Ed O'Herron will certainly be a plus for the Charlotte businessman and former chairman of the Eckerd's Drug Store chain. A former Raleigh reporter for the Durham Herald, a member of the Dan Moore Administration who later served as Administrative Assistant to Congressman Kornegay, and then from 1973 until the present time as State SBI Director under Robert Morgan as Attorney General, Dunn has few political scars and should be an asset to the O'Herron campaign.

WEAKENING? - With all the grants and Federal hand - outs being fostered before the people from Washington one begins to wonder if this is not breeding a weak generation?

In a group a few days ago someone mentioned labor unions. Another businessman spoke up and said: "Look at New York City! That is the best example I can think of."

Unions have done much for the working person and they can continue to safeguard the working person's place in industry and society if they will only turn to a more reasonable attitude of what is fair and just.

New York City is a captive of the labor unions and all can see the plight of the once proud city and the state of desperation in which it finds itself today.

REAGAN - Former Governor Reagan says a Republican race for the presidential nomination would be "very healthy for the party." We agree, but too often candidates are most interested in securing the nomination than in the general welfare of the part in respect to the needs of the people. Candidates who feel they are ahead seldom want to rock the boat. We wouldn't feel that Reagan has a 10 percent chance to win the nomination but an open campaign with two strong men seeking the nomination can certainly serve the people better.