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Angola In The Open

Amid the confusion that surrounds the Angola problem, one development at least should be reassuring to Americans. President Ford is reported to be opposed to any United States combat or adviser role in the former Portuguese colony and to regard the outcome of the civil war as of limited interest both to the U.S. and the Soviet Union. This should help allay any fears that this nation is about to get bogged down in another Vietnamlike quagmire.

However, after the painful experience of Vietnam and a long history of administration deceptions, it is not surprising that Congress is skeptical about the growing American involvement in Angola—and its clandestine nature. Indeed it should be. A strong case can be made that if the President determines that a continued limited flow of assistance to Angola is needed to counter the Soviet build-up there, he should tell the American people why and make this an overt operation. There could then be a public acceptance of the U.S. purpose there with a full knowledge of what the stakes are.

Clearly the whole complicated question of Angola needs to be publicly aired and discussed. The fundamental diplomatic question is how best to counter the visible Soviet penetration of a volatile region of Africa. Is it the wisest course for the United States to provide limited aid to the "anti-Soviet" factions in Angola and to mount a diplomatic campaign with a view to pressuring the Russians to reduce their participation? Or is it best to stand aside, keep American lines open to the Moscow-backed Angolan group, and count on Soviet influence eventually falling of its own weight and ineptitude?

We tend toward the former course but recognize that many factors have come into play and must be considered in trying to arrive at a judicious policy.

The Africans themselves are divided on Angola. Some 14 countries have now recognized the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), including the important country of Nigeria, which is far from having leftist sympathies. This suggests they see the MPLA as the only force competent and strong enough to run the country.

On the other hand, it was the neighboring countries of Zaire and Zambia that reportedly first urged the United States to do something to counter the Russians and, given their record of relatively moderate leadership in Africa, their opinion also merits consideration.

It is not at all certain that the MPLA, even if it gains the ascendancy, would oust American interests in Angola. Significantly, the Gulf Oil Company has been pumping oil in Cabinda at almost normal rates without MPLA interference and has been paying millions of dollars in royalty and tax payments to the MPLA as the controlling tax collector in Luanda.

It will frustrate the reader not to have a black-and-white answer to the dilemma of what to do. But that is the nature of the problem. What is sorely needed now is public clarity about the administration's view of the situation. If the Russians indeed were to establish a naval base in Angola, how grave a threat would this pose to the West's national interest? To its oil supply lines? At what point would American aid to the anti-Soviet factions become intolerably costly?

As these points become clarified, we would suggest again that aid itself is not sufficient in any event. Washington should make an energetic effort to enlist the Africans themselves to take the diplomatic initiative in insisting on the withdrawal of all foreign intervention. The ideal solution is that the Africans declare their own brand of "Monroe Doctrine" and decide their own affairs themselves.

—Christian Science Monitor

'I know it's not part of the act but it keeps me in shape'



by Marty Vega

Best, Worst Of Year

As 1975 draws to a close, it is only appropriate we gaze back on the big events of the year, and for this reason, a panel of experts has selected "The Best Column" and "The Worst Column" from these pages. The winner of each category was kept secret, hermetically sealed in a mayonnaise jar for months.

Last week's ruling from the Attorney General regarding the case of the man arrested for taping over "First in Freedom" on his plates was sound. It's just too bad it didn't go far enough, and clearly define what you can do. But at least someone has recognized these catchy little slogans, which seem innocuous, have always caused trouble, somewhere.

People who plunk down good money for their plates, particularly those of us from states who compel you to display two just to fatten their treasuries, have a right to expect satisfaction, just like in any other consumer purchase.

Buying your license plates every year has always been annoying. Remember when you waited for delivery on your new car in that real sharp color you liked, and the same year your state changed their plate to some icky hues which clashed horribly?

Fortunately, most states are now keeping the same old plates and selling decals, and anyway, none of us can afford a new car. Funny how those little paper decals cost just as much as metal, isn't it?

So, it seems clear to me, all states should discard these slogans, or at least settle on one and keep it, and not change it every so often just for the heck of it, and that would put an end to this bickering. This Flowers case was not the first, you know. This columnist has researched this thoroughly, and here for the first time, are true, heretofore unpublished accounts of others who battled for their rights. Only the names have been changed.

Some feature which is descriptive, but does not necessarily have anything to do with the official motto or state nickname, is put on the plates arbitrarily. Some slogans are misleading, ambiguous, or

downright lies.

For years Michigan proclaimed itself "Water Wonderland," a seemingly innocent enough phrase. But Minnesota sniped at this by declaring itself to be "Land of 1,000 lakes" at the same time, and a small band from Ishpeming, Mich., planned a Saturday night raid on Duluth to settle things with their fists. Trouble was averted though, because everyone up there is snowed in for six months of the year, and when spring came, the matter was forgotten. Anybody from the Upper Peninsula is a little off, anyway, so local lawmen were not greatly concerned.

However, when the slogan was changed to "Great Lake State" later, the first reported case of taping over occurred.

Gertie Glick, 25, of Detroit, with the aid of a \$2.89 artists brush and careful application of 3M tape, (all-weather), altered her plates to spell "Lakes Stink," foolishly leaving a big space where "Great" was, which did not go undetected for long.

Testimony at her trial revealed Gertie, an avid swimmer, had become angry because Lake Erie was too polluted to swim in, Lake Superior was far too cold, the waves anywhere on Lake Michigan were always very high, and Lake Huron was just too sandy.

Gertie presented no evidence about Lake Ontario and she was convicted and fined \$100.

Fred Flingerhaus, 28, of Tucumcari, N.M., almost made headlines in 1973 when he disavowed "Land of Enchantment" and publicly declared he was "Disenchanted and Disgusted" on his plates.

Fred, who had been absent from his home state while in the service six years, became disenchanted when he crossed into New Mexico at Glenrio, Tex., and found "they still haven't finished the d— interstate in all this time," he testified.

Under tricky cross examination, Fred blurted out "the scenery is pretty nice, yes, sort of enchanting," and he was found guilty and fined \$50. A final decision in Fred's appeal is expected in about six more years.

Lola LaRue, 36, of Cheyenne, Wyo., carefully blacked out the figure of the cowboy on the bucking bronc on her plates and inked in the words "Follow Me," the meaning of which was not entirely made clear.

Miss LaRue argued in her defense every citizen was entitled to a message, not just a picture, on her plates, and she was only exercising her right. Miss LaRue testified "they'll never be able to put a motto on them until Wyoming state troopers can learn to read."

She was acquitted.

Due to illness

The Puppy Creek

Philosopher

will not appear

this week.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



1975-1976 -- This being the last column written in 1975 we take the liberty to look back a little and also comment on prospects for 1976 in the Democrat and Republican gubernatorial races.

Several names have been mentioned during 1975 as possible candidates for both the Democrat and Republican gubernatorial nominations.

With the door to 1976 opening it appears that there will definitely be at least four running for the Democratic nomination, to list them alphabetically, -- Hargrove (Skipper) Bowles, Jr., Jim Hunt, Ed O'Herron and Robert Strickland. Among the group Hunt appears to be the front runner at the beginning of 1976 as he was at the beginning of 1975, but the other three, Bowles, O'Herron and Strickland will likely be narrowing the gap in the months to come. Every candidate would no doubt like to be the front runner and the position has many advantages, but there are also some drawbacks. The front-runner must stand a closer scrutiny than the other candidates and more shots will be fired at him. Four years ago Pat Taylor, then lieutenant-governor was regarded as the front-runner but Skipper Bowles led him in both the first and second primaries. Skipper conducted an excellent primary campaign but a weak general election campaign.

In the GOP gubernatorial sweepstakes, three members of the Holshouser cabinet are regarded as likely candidates -- Human Resources Secretary David E. Flaherty, Transportation Secretary Jacob F. Alexander and Secretary of Revenue J. Howard Coble. The Rev. Coy Privette of Kannapolis is the fourth GOP potential candidate. Many regard Flaherty as the front-runner as 1976 begins but who the lead man will be in the August primary could be a different story.

LIEUT. GOVERNOR -- In the lieutenant-governor's race there is a big question as to whether anyone is starting out far in front among the Democrats. Rep. Herbert Hyde of Asheville, House Speaker Jim Green of Bladen County, Waverly F. Akins of Fuquay-Varina, former State Senator George Wood of Camden County, Rep. John Jordan of Alamance County, B. Frank Stephenson of Murfreesboro and former Mayor Howard Lee of

Chapel Hill are expected to file for lieutenant governor, and possibly others who have been talking about running.

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY -- Immediately ahead will be the presidential primary in North Carolina with both Democrat and Republican candidates entered. President Ford and former Governor Reagan will square off for the Republican votes with a close contest likely. The entrance of Jimmy Carter and Senator Henry Jackson of Washington State can't but take votes from Terry Sanford. Gov. Wallace will probably not campaign much in North Carolina in 1976 as he made only one speech here in his successful 1972 campaign here -- that one in Chadbourne shortly before the primary.

POSTAL SERVICE -- Sam Ragan, editor of the Southern Pines Pilot has for months been waging a campaign to get the Postal Service put back into "politics". As the postal deficit grows it seems that more and more are becoming disenchanted with the service. Former Postmaster General Klassen and the unionization of the postal service have been considered by many as factors in the slow down and high cost of postal service. If postal rates increase like Postmaster General Benjamin F. Bailar says they should, pretty soon the postal service could possibly go the way of the Railway Express which priced itself out of business.

If there is a Federal law against the private delivery of mail, then it should be repealed. Some good competition might well help the situation. The postal service has lost and the great bulk of the newspaper business to motor vehicles and carrier boys. Klassen is out of the post office dept. but the union is there. Many do not feel that there should be unions in any department of government -- public schools, policemen, firemen, mail service or otherwise.

NEW YEAR'S WISH -- For the New Year, I send the readers of this column a favorite message, author of which is unknown: "I said to a man who stood at the gate of the year, give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown, and he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.'"

This Is The Law

By Robert E. Lee

Black leased a house from White, in writing, for a period of five years at a monthly rental of \$100. May Black assign or transfer his rights under the lease to Grav without the consent of White?

Yes. In the absence of an express restriction in the lease or proof that the lesser made the lease because of reliance on the personal characteristics of the lessee, the lessee may freely transfer his interest in all or any part of the premises.

If the rent of a store building is to be paid on the basis of a designated percentage of the lessee's total sales or net profits, may the lessee transfer his lease to another without the consent of the lessor?

No. Notwithstanding the fact that there has been inserted no provision against an assignment or a sublease, the particular lease is said to be personal and there exists no right on the art of the lessee to

transfer to another his interest.

A landlord leases his farm to a tenant. The tenant is to pay to the landlord as rental a designated percentage of the farm products raised on the land. May the tenant transfer to another his rights under the lease without the consent of the landlord?

No. Such a lease is generally regarded as a personal contract and not assignable without the consent of the lessor. The amount to be received by the lessor and the care of the property depend upon the character, industry and skill of the lessee.

This is the last of a fall series of articles that have appeared weekly during the past three months. They have been written for the non-lawyer as a public service of The Lawyers of North Carolina. Another series will begin in spring.



Read Acts 3:1-10

Peter said ... In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. (Acts 3:6)

The halo of New Year's Day is hope. We hope that our routine may be interrupted by a delightful surprise. Flexibility and openness to God's blessings can brighten our efforts all year.

This happened to the lame man to whom Peter and John spoke in Jesus' name. He asked for a pittance. He received the longed for and wonderful gift of walking, which he immediately translated into leaping. Before this new day he could only beg, so he went out among people and made his need known.

Today is a good time to air needs and share faith. To receive unexpected gladness, or to help make such a reality for others, can be a part of the day's journey. Look, listen, ask, respond in the name of Jesus. He makes the day new. He helps us to do what we never dreamed of doing, and He often uses what we give to work a miracle.

PRAYER: Our father, help us to seek newness of life every day, believing that through You we can turn dull days into joyous ones. In Christ's name. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Christ's entrance into our world marked a new day for all mankind. --copyright--THE UPPER ROOM --Sue Welch--Washington, D.C.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, December 28, 1950
 Cold Arctic air, left behind by Santa Claus as he sped back to the North Pole, hit wide areas over the eastern half of the nation yesterday.

In a letter to Harry Greene, Hoke representative in the General Assembly, last week, J.F. Havens, assistant to the president of Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, explained some of the things the company is doing to help local telephone service and other steps they plan to take soon.

County Game Protector H.R. McLean calls the attention of all hunters to the fact that the open season on deer will end in this county January 1.

Funeral services for James Wil-

liam McPhaul were conducted at the Antioch Presbyterian Church at three o'clock by the Rev. W.B. Heyward, pastor of the Raeford Presbyterian Church.

Corporation organized to construct 130 homes here.

H.L. Gatlin, Jr. new chamber head succeeding R.B. Lewis.

This year has been the third worst year for polio for North Carolina in the State's history.

Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce in its report of December 14, 1950 shows that 5,499 bales of cotton were ginned in Hoke county from the crop of 1950 prior to December 1.

15 years ago

Thursday, December 29, 1960
 Four fires brought personal suffering and property damage to Hoke county last week and completely destroyed the homes of three Hoke families.

Christmas business was the same or better than last year, according to a survey of Main Street stores which was taken here on Tuesday.

January is the month for license plates sales and Phil B. Rieg, of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, has urged residents of Hoke county to avoid the last minute rush by getting their 1961 plates early.

Any farmer in this State may have the acreage laid off for him on which he will plant his allotment crop for this year.