

# The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1976

## Italy Erupts Again

The latest political crisis in Italy could not come at a worse time. If it is not quickly resolved and leads to early national elections, it will bring to a halt progress on both the political and economic fronts that is crucially needed to stem the growing Communist tide.

Politically, an early election means the Christian Democrats and the Socialists will set aside the process of revitalizing their parties. Yet without a renewal of the pro-democratic political forces, it may prove impossible to stop the Communists' drive for power.

Economically, the crisis brings to a standstill the effort to get the Italian economy in better shape for elections in the spring of 1977. After months of squabbling the government had finally proposed a \$32 billion plan to help solve the unemployment and other problems brought on by the recession.

The Socialists, who brought on the crisis by withdrawing their support of the government, thus appear to have acted most irresponsibly, although they may have a case for complaint. One long-standing grievance is that they have not been consulted sufficiently about the economic program and other matters.

It is still possible the crisis can be resolved. The Socialists say they do not want early elections and they do not exclude participation in a new government. But the question is what the price will be for such participation and whether the Christian Democrats can pay it. The Socialists vaguely demand that the Communists have a more formalized role in support of the government program. What that means no one knows.

In any event, the West watches the confusion of Italian politics with growing concern. For, although one party and a handful of men have ruled Italy for 30 years (despite periodic crises), matters have reached a point where political stability is being threatened. Because of strong Communist gains in local elections, the once-safe margin of the Christian Democratic Party is declining. How these results will translate in national parliamentary elections is the big and crucial question. The Communists are pushing hard for what is termed "historic compromise" or participation in the government.

This is not a development which Italy's democratic friends would welcome, despite the moderate position which the Italian Communist Party is evolving. Whether CIA covert assistance to Italy's political parties is the way to deal with the Communist advance raises serious questions of judgment, however. Certainly the irresponsible public disclosures of such aid have done nothing but embarrass both the Italian parties and the United States Government - and thus helped the Communist side.

At the moment it can only be hoped that the Socialists will submerge their own intraparty politics, agree to support a new government and thereby give Italy time to put its house in order before the voters again go to the national polls.

Christian Science Monitor

## Pension Reform

When pension reform legislation was passed in 1974, supporters said that not only would employees' pension rights be protected, but new regulations would encourage private companies to set up pension plans.

Now it appears that just the opposite has happened. More than 5,000 companies terminated their pension plans last year, several times more than would have been expected given the natural attrition of some businesses due to economic conditions.

The tens of thousands of employees affected by the termination will be paid retirement benefits either from their employers' assets, or from the government-operated Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. But some employees may receive less than they would have under the privately operated plans, and there is fear that the government fund may become depleted.

Part of the problem appears to be the confusing and complex regulations and reporting procedures required of the 100,000 or so pension plans covered by the legislation, particularly burdensome for those thousands of very small businesses affected.

While the federal government should ensure that companies are not merely using this as an excuse to bail out of operating pension plans, the U.S. Labor Department and Internal Revenue Service could do much to simplify the regulations now imposed on small businesses.

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act represents much-needed reform that could go a long way toward preventing past abuses. But it must not become so cumbersome that government ends up taking over what is properly private industry's role.

Christian Science Monitor

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, January 11, 1951

J. C. McLean, Raeford electrical contractor, died here early this morning. He was about 45 years of age and had heart trouble.

The town Board of Commissioners voted last week to expand and improve the town water and sewage facilities and streets to the extent of

\$200,000 if the voters of the town are willing.

From Rockfish News: Probably a lot of people don't know that Rockfish has a Fayetteville street. It's the one on which cars get stuck in the sand. It has its advantages though for it's a wonderful place for children to play.

From Poole's Medley:

'Congress has pinned that sign on you again, Henry'



by Marty Vega

## Resolutions All Broken

Now that we are already two weeks into January, no doubt everyone has already broken their New Year Resolutions and anybody who claims he hasn't, is just a bare-faced liar. Now that this is out of the way, we can get on to this week's lesson.

Faithful readers of this column will remember the valuable advice which was given on how to discourage door-to-door

### Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear Editor:

According to an article I read in a newspaper which blew against my back door and I had to pull down anyway to see out -- I know where that loose board is on the step but I like to see it before I put my foot on it -- seventy percent of the U.S. population now lives in or near big cities.

As you can see, this leaves 30 percent in small towns and the country, which is all right with me, as it's not the percentage that counts, it's the quality, and when it's not the quality, it's the distance apart, which sometimes is nearly the same thing.

But the most important thing about the article was its statement that in 40 years all these big cities will double in population.

I don't see how the cities can stand it. I never heard of solving the problem of over-crowdedness by crowding in more. What I mean is, go into any big city and try to imagine it with twice the traffic snarl it has now.

Furthermore, I saw a television report the other night showing one block in one city with 1600 people living in it. You try to picture 1600 people living on one block in Raeford and then multiply that by a few more blocks and while I don't know what you'd come up with, it's not for me. I like my fellow man, but not that many that close.

I understand that the main purpose of most big cities is to keep growing; any time a census report shows one has gained in population its newspapers come out with big headlines, but it seems to me the cities may be carrying this too far. If they all double in size in 40 years, they'll be building highway loops half way around the country just to by-pass them, and a man in the country wanting to get another spot in the country will have a choice of driving 200 miles to get around one or losing a week trying to go straight through.

I don't know that there's anything that can be done about this, or should, but it's a problem I intend to watch from a distance.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

salesmen who come knock, knock, knocking to disturb your peace. Faithful readers will remember, but the dimwits, although loyal, don't remember so well so it bears repeating. If you don't own a menacing large dog, hang a sign 'Quarantined by order of health dept. - PLAGUE. If this fails, and you are foolish enough to open the door, remember you will be at the mercy of this predator who will lay bare your inadequacies and failings to peddle his product. Consider this little vignette which could easily transpire:

"Good morning, madam. What an alert, intelligent mother you are."

"Thanks, but I don't want any".

"Not for yourself - but you do want to give your child the best things in life!"

"Yes, but..."

"I'll bet he's the brightest student in his class".

"Why, no, but he's doing all right".

"Just 'all right'? You mean he's about to be lost in the shuffle, just another face in the crowd?"

"I didn't mean that".

"It takes courage to admit failure but you can tell me. What grade is the poor thing in?"

"Third".

"My, you brave woman, the humiliation you must feel".

"But he's only eight".

"It's so sad. Only eight, and already on the scrapheap".

"He seems so happy!"

"Of course. There's no challenge for him in the third grade. He's taking the easy way out. Remember, ignore an intellectually sluggish child and you have a future drop-out!"

"I never thought of it like that".

"What will you say when he becomes a bum? Will you say that he failed you-or admit that you really failed him?"

"What can I do? Help me, please".

"Not I, madam, but Encyclopedia Europitancees will save him. Now here's our easy ten year monthly installment plan with interest deducted in advance....."

## Double up, America.



of The Bank of Raeford Thursday H.L. Gatlin, president since 1945, was moved up to the newly-created position of chairman of the board, and R.B. Lewis, executive vice-president since 1946 and cashier since 1920 became president.

E.B. Satterwhite, 66 who retired December 31 after 34 years as McCain postmaster, died Sunday in Moore Memorial Hospital at Pinehurst.

### 15 years ago

Thursday, January 12, 1961

At the directors' meeting following the annual meeting of stockholders

CLIFF BLUE ...

## People & Issues



FULL EMPLOYMENT -- Last week we mentioned Terry Sanford calling for full employment but noted that he was not spelling out details of how he proposed to bring about "full employment."

We have a suggestion for Terry and other candidates who are interested in full employment.

Our proposal would be patterned after the program provided for World War II veterans after their return home from the smoke of battle with the supply of jobs not sufficient to go around.

Set up a program for trainees, regardless of age, if they are unemployed and need work. It would be financed by the Federal government and private industry -- large and small, and would run for a year.

First three months, government pays \$1.50 and private employer 50c for a total of \$2.00 per hour. Second three months, government pays \$1.20 and private employer 90c for a total of \$2.10 per hour. Third three months, government pays 80c per hour and private employer \$1.40 for a total of \$2.20 per hour. Fourth three months, government pays 40c and private employer \$1.90 for a total of \$2.30 per hour.

Thereafter, it would be up to the trainee and the private employer to work out the rates without obligations on the part of either. The man should be trained sufficiently in a year's time to earn the minimum wage or more.

In the meanwhile, while the training was in progress either party could, for good reason, discontinue the program. Maybe the trainee would want to terminate because he found a job that would enable him to earn a better salary than that for which he was in training. On the other hand, maybe the employer found that the trainee was untrainable for some reason and wanted to be relieved of the contract.

Money for the government's part might well be taken from the welfare fund or funds for the unemployed since it would be these people it would be helping. No extra tax funds would be needed. Also, it might be well for a person on unemployment pay to be offered work three out of five days on some type of public work for which he was qualified. This would provide a strong motive for him to get a job

rather than going around to places, inquiring for work where he or she knew no job was available. The other two days the person could spend looking for work while "drawing." While we know there is serious unemployment and these people need and deserve our help, a number of the unemployed are not overly interested in a job as long as they can "draw."

This would not only put people to work but would increase production which should ease inflation.

ENCOURAGING NOTE -- There is one encouraging note in the fight against crime. Cumberland County Sheriff O.F. Jones has invited 58 sheriffs to a meeting in response to increasing crime rates and an apparently growing laxity of the courts. Buncombe County Sheriff Tom Morrissey is helping arrange the meeting, and a similar session will be held later in Asheville for Western North Carolina sheriffs. "Sheriffs are becoming more alarmed throughout the state that they cannot do their jobs because of the increasing laxness of the law," Jones said, adding, "The pendulum has swung too far. The laws are protecting the criminal, and they weren't intended to do that."

More power to Sheriff Jones and Sheriff Morrissey and the other Sheriffs joining in the meeting. Our feeling is that they will have great public support behind them in their efforts to uphold the law and not the criminals.

HERBERT HYDE -- Rep. Herbert Hyde, a Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor hits hard at crime, saying: "I suspect that crime is increasing in our state and elsewhere because we have failed to apply the proper sanctions. . . They (the public) do not believe there is any certainty in law. We have also been hypocrites in other ways. For so long we have accepted and even championed the idea of rehabilitation in prison. It is a myth and a will o' the wisp. It doesn't work, never has and never will," says Hyde, adding, "it is time we faced up to the facts of life. We cannot hope to rehabilitate those in prison. We can only hope they go out no worse than they went in."

Well, it appears that Rep. Hyde is simply facing reality, and we have heard it said that "an honest confession is good for the soul."

## Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan



Recently in the Senate I co-sponsored, with Senator Lawton Chiles of Florida, a bill to reform the Food Stamp program.

We have had many complaints that the program is costing too much and is being used by persons who really are not in need. Somewhere along the way, the well-intentioned program wandered away from its Congressional mandate, which was to "provide for improved levels of nutrition among low-income households."

Under the program, as it is now administered, a person can deduct his income taxes, retirement, Social Security, union dues and even alimony payments from his gross salary and thus reduce his income so that he will be eligible for the stamps.

This has led to many middle income families becoming qualified for assistance, even though they do not fall into the category of "low-income households" the food stamps were intended to help.

After hearings were held, we decided on the following course to reduce the cost of this program and to increase its efficiency.

The bill eliminates all of those income deductions that are now being used and substitutes a standard deduction of \$120 per month, with an additional \$60 per month deduction for households with elderly residents. These latter, living on fixed income, have been the most severely hurt by inflation. By changing the deduction method, it is estimated that 650,000 households will be removed from the program and millions of others who are potentially eligible now will also be eliminated. The bill also calls for better procedures in administration to reduce errors that resulted in 650,000 ineligible persons obtaining stamps during the last six months of 1974.

The adoption of these two measures -- the standard single

deduction and better administrative procedures -- should save the taxpayers between \$250 million and \$350 million during fiscal 1976.

One more provision in the bill calls for continual Congressional scrutiny of the program and requires that the Secretary of Agriculture submit an annual report which would include a comprehensive evaluation and a systematic review of necessary changes.

One of the main problems in government today is that the Congress starts programs and then fails to see what course they take. This has been one of the principal reasons the Food Stamp Program has gone astray.

There is little argument about the plan's original purpose to provide the needy with a better diet. The bill outlined above will return the Food Stamp Program to that original intent.

In the newsletter of August 22, 1975, complaints about the Food Stamp Program were discussed. This letter is simply an explanation of what I have tried to do about this situation.

## Stories Behind Words

Canter

When Thomas A. Becket became Archbishop of Canterbury he opposed King Henry II in many matters. In 1170 some of the king's followers, upon a hint from him, assassinated the archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral. The king was required by the Pope to do penance at Becket's tomb.

Becket was canonized and it became fashionable for the people of England to make pilgrimages to the saint's shrine at Canterbury.

Many of the pilgrims traveled great distances, and those who were mounted rode their horses at an easy gallop so as not to overexert them. The gait was called a "Canterbury gallop", a name that was shortened to "Canterbury" and finally to "canter".