

# The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER  
ESTABLISHED 1888  
Free Press  
A Day  
MNA SUSTAINING  
MEMBER - 1973

North Carolina  
PRESS  
ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Raeford, N.C. 28376  
119 W. Elwood Avenue

Subscription Rates In Advance  
Per Year - \$5.00 6 Months - \$2.75 3 Months - \$1.50

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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1976

## Restoring National Unity . . .

It is disheartening to watch the confusion that often surrounds American foreign policy these days. Even America's friends abroad have taken to publicly voicing their concern about the absence of firm diplomatic leadership from Washington because of the lack of trust between the President and Congress.

One leading London Newspaper suggests that the European allies are appalled by the "open disarray" in American public life and by the "self-criticism and self-destructive tendencies" now evident. Other commentators, too, note that Congress frustrates presidential initiatives, that the CIA is being undermined by overzealous attack, that the Secretary of State is under constant attack.

Such descriptions are overdrawn and oversimplified. Yet as the new year begins there does seem to be a good deal of divisiveness and disunity at a time when problems all across the diplomatic spectrum cry out for national initiative and national will: Angola is but the latest thorn to crop up in relations with the Russians. The SALT talks are stalled, begging for a breakthrough if mankind is to avoid another lethal round of arms development. In Europe, Washington's relations with Turkey are still chilly, the Cyprus problem remains unresolved, and political uncertainty threatens in Portugal, Spain and Italy. In the Middle East, a way out of the deadlock is sought. And in Asia, a new unknown equation emerges with the passing of Chou En-lai.

If this were not enough, the world's statesmen have yet to come to grips with the less dramatic but no less important problems of food sufficiency, new trade rules, energy, and the economic development of poor nations.

This is not to paint a picture of gloom and doom, for the very absence of wars or major crises points to a degree of stability in the world. But the United States should be doing much better, and would be if it were not weighed down by domestic political considerations. Not only is this an election year, when politicians tend anyway to act more like politicians than statesmen. But the people's elected representatives are still playing out the passions of Watergate—probing, exposing, questioning, certainly legitimately but sometimes to the point of damaging the nation's best interests.

The argument can be made that America must live with this condition for a whole year. That foreign policy cannot be brought under real control until there is an elected president in the White House who can confront Congress on equal terms. At the moment the President is on the defensive—both because he calculates every move for its political impact and because he was appointed by Richard Nixon.

Need this be the case? Is it not possible for the White House and the lawmakers to reflect on what they are doing to the nation and for Americans, as James Reston puts it, to "stop tearing ourselves apart"? There is great need for self-examination of America's institutions and its policies; that debate must go on—over the U.S. role in the affairs of other countries as on many other difficult issues. But certainly there is point of legitimate debate that still makes it possible for the President and the Congress to join in a mutual recognition of the national interest and to reach a consensus on key diplomatic initiatives.

In the months ahead the President ought to make every effort to meet with congressional leaders to explain his policies and get majority support—to try to restore a feeling of trust between the two branches. The legislators ought to meet the chief executive halfway and exercise forbearance. If they do not do at least this much, 1976 could find the United States with a lame-duck foreign policy.

## . . . And Trust

America's national restoration of trust can be fostered by a public conviction that the government is taking all possible measures to ensure that intelligence activities are both effective and free of abuse. To make such measures work there needs to be the spirit of cooperation suggested by the decision of the White House and the Senate intelligence committee to try to prepare joint proposals for reform legislation.

Both parties are reported to reserve the right to take separate paths when agreement cannot be reached—and properly so. The House intelligence committee, indeed, prefers to fashion its proposals "uncolored by influences of the executive branch."

But both the White House and Congress will have to live with the final legislation. The more each step can be strengthened rather than diluted through mutual efforts, the better.

The integrity of individuals, as always, remains the key to how far the CIA, the other intelligence agencies, and the administration's use of them can be trusted. Much of their work, by its nature, has to be secret. In the past, there was a widespread public assumption that what the agencies and representatives of the people did in secret would be in keeping with what the people, given the circumstances, would accept as being done in their name. The disclosures of abuses have reduced that assumption.

New legislation can help restore a trust in proper governmental use of secrecy if it both encourages individual integrity and protects against lapses of integrity. This means strict rules of accountability and means for punishing violations. Obviously, there can be no return to the CIA's history of ability to control Justice Department prosecution of CIA employees in criminal cases.

In a broader sense, if congressional "oversight" is to mean anything, the proper committees must not only be informed about covert activities. They must have means to have their opinions considered without risking legitimate secrecy by leaking information.

Two promising suggestions—made by the Rockefeller CIA investigating commission among others—are strengthened "oversight" bodies in both the executive and congressional branches. In the executive, the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board would be expanded, including distinguished citizens with varying backgrounds, to watch over the CIA. It would have access to all CIA information to assess the agency's effectiveness and compliance with the law. At the same time, improved internal controls in the CIA would ensure that individuals of integrity be heard whatever their level of employment. The commission noted that lowerlevel employees had, indeed, questioned some of the activities later exposed as improper or unlawful.

On the legislative side, there is merit in the proposed joint congressional committee on intelligence. Like the joint committee on atomic energy, it would be entrusted with secrets. Its membership would be rotated to avoid any tendency of congressional committees to slip into the pocket of agencies they are supposed to oversee. It would have powers of soliciting testimony and information from the executive branch, with standards set for what might be legitimately withheld.

Through such means the road to trust could be reopened.

—Christian Science Monitor

'We put Reagan's name on the back...er...in case...'



by Marty Vega

## Volcanic Eruption Next

It is quite a letdown about the big earthquake that was supposed to be here Saturday. Somehow it just makes a person feel cheated, doesn't it? Of course, the real story is that nutty California soothsayer was close, but she got it all mixed up.

We have contacted famed psychic Ewing Waxwood, who shuns publicity, yet because of the great urgency of this matter he graciously agreed to divulge to us the one and only correct prediction.

For any of you who do not know Waxwood, or doubt his powers, understand that he does not claim any supernatural gifts, but rather he relies on what he divines from the universe through his intense powers of concentration. His predictions are uncanny, yet true, and still he is regarded by some of the conventional psychics as "phony."

Yet this is the same man who pondered the size of the galaxy for months, and then correctly predicted more people would buy a fairlane!

Since no intelligent person can dispute such an amazing ability to foretell the future, we put the question to him.

"There will be a major volcanic eruption in the Piedmont area... no, I see it clearly now... a volcano erupting in the sandhills region of North Carolina the week of, uh, the third week in January," he declared.

"Sir, can you tell which volcano it will be?"

"My extra - sensory thoughts tell me it will be one of the long thought - to - be inactive volcanoes, possibly in or near Hoke County. Or possibly occurring in Fayetteville."

"Sir, can you be more specific?"

"My child, you must understand, the present era is the Cenozoic, the last million years of which is known as the Quaternary period. The Quaternary period is divided into two epochs; Pleistocene and Holocene. The Pleistocene epoch lasted from about 1 million years ago to the most recent 15,000 or 20,000 years. These last 15,000 or 20,000 years are known as the Holocene epoch."

"Yes, of course, that's understood. But what can the average person do now, BEFORE the big volcanic eruption?"

"My child, the same thing the citizens of Wilmington did after the earthquake warning. They all rushed out and bought earthquake insurance."

"Your advice then is to buy volcano insurance?"

"My child, I do not give advice. I only foretell the future. The future tells me that since the ordinary homeowner's insurance policy does not cover earthquakes, every insurance agent in and around Wilmington took out big ads in the newspapers to proclaim this fact, and the results speak for themselves. So, I see now many, many people in haste to buy volcano insurance and many, many insurance companies raking money."

"Do you have any other important predictions for the year sir?"

"Ah, yes. I see a big, rotten, stinking snowfall last Saturday which ruined the whole day except for those lunatics who get a kinky thrill out of how big the flakes are and think snow is swell, yet they don't think it's so swell that they move up North where they can be knee-deep in it half the year...."

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear Editor:

As some of you may know, I was suddenly carted off to the hospital a few weeks ago, but I can now report that I'm back in fairly good working order.

Thought I'd tell you about a dream I had. I dreamed that for some strange reason the three TV and radio network editors and the leading newspaper and wire service editors all gathered at my Bermuda grass farm out here one day. There was Walter Cronkite, John Chancellor, David Brinkley, James Reston, and too many others to mention. "Look," the president of CBS said. "We're getting tired of having to chase all over the world with our cameras and reporters every time a world crisis breaks out in some country we never heard of before."

"That's right," John Chancellor chimed in. "I've been in the news business all my life and it was only a month ago I heard of Angola. Took two secretaries and half the morning to find it on the map."

"Yeah," Walter Cronkite put in. "Beirut, Zaire, Zanzibar, Belfast—every one of them has been in a world crisis at one time or another. Everybody gets excited, world leaders confer and wring their hands, we report it all, then the crisis fades away and we get set for another one. It's getting monotonous. There ought to be some way to stop it."

This dream is pretty wild because at that point I spoke up. "I've got an idea," I said. "Let's teach the world a little lesson. Let's make up a mythical country, manufacture a crisis there, put it on TV and radio and in the

newspapers, and then sit back and see how the world leaders perform."

"Great idea," David Brinkley said. "What are we going to call this country?"

"I've got the perfect name," I said. "Let's call it Hypodermia."

"Great," James Reston of the New York Times said.

They all agreed and that evening the news was filled with the new world crisis developing in far-off Hypodermia. "Internal strife is boiling over in the towns and throughout the countryside," the reports went. "Two Soviet ships loaded with supplies have been sighted off the east coast of Hypodermia."

Lights burned late at the U.S. Senate Department that night and by next morning Washington was seething with excitement.

"Where is Hypodermia?" one State Department expert asked.

"What difference does that make?" another put in. "Let's get our aid on the way and we'll find out later where it is."

"Should we tell Congress about this?" another asks.

"No," another answers. "You tell Congress and it won't be 24 hours before the whole country knows."

Unfortunately, a nurse came by to give me a pill before I finished this dream, but you've got to admit it has some side-splitting possibilities, especially when you think of all those cargo planes loaded with U.S. aid circling the globe trying to locate Hypodermia so they can land and protect our interests.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

CLIFF BLUE . . .

## People & Issues



EDWIN GILL...With State Treasurer Edwin Gill deciding not to seek reelection, he can look back on a job "well done" as State Treasurer, set to leave office with the State having a triple A rating in borrowing money -- a rating unexcelled by none.

Not only has Gill been an able and outstanding state treasurer, he is a man steeped in government -- county, state and national as few other officials are. Not only has he been an outstanding figure in government, but in other fields as well, particularly in the field of arts.

Governors, legislators -- state and national have sought his counsel and advice. When a bond issue was to be submitted to the people, Gill's advice was always sought. In his years of public service he has fully earned the acclaim, "Well done thou good and faithful servant". His successor will have big shoes to fill.

CANDIDATES...State Rep. R. Lane Brown III, Stanly County Democrat announced several weeks ago that he was a candidate for the office. No doubt there will be other candidates. Gill's deputy, Harlan E. Boyles, has said that he would seek the job if Gill decided against running, and others may well toss their hats into the ring. Brown has been travelling the state for several weeks devoting full time to the campaign.

GOOD EXAMPLE...Lt. Gov. Jim Hunt, Jr. set a good example last week in measuring up to the spirit of the 1975 Legislative Ethics Act. Despite a ruling by the Attorney General that the present members of the General Assembly and each presiding officer would not have to file a report this January 15, Hunt did so saying: "I believe that was the intention of the General Assembly for all present members and each presiding officer to file an economic interest by Jan. 15, 1976," adding, "I have done so."

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY...The presidential primary in March is expected to bring out a record vote. President Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan will certainly bring out a big Republican vote. On the Democrat side a heavy vote is also anticipated with Terry Sanford.



## Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

After its holiday recess, Congress went back into session this week. The members face a year that is bound to be filled with controversy and debate, made more intense because this year we elect a President.

On a personal note, I found the recess useful, as I stayed in North Carolina, got some rest, and worked in my Raleigh office. All during this time, I talked to constituents in an attempt to learn their views on public matters.

One issue that will arise quickly this year is that of the Post Office.

People are upset and unhappy with the higher rates that went into effect in late December, but the problem goes much deeper than that. The very future of the Postal Service, as I see it, is in danger.

Of course the objective in raising the rates was to reduce the operating losses which the Postal Service says it is suffering. But I am afraid that this increase in the cost of mailing may not do what was intended.

Already, private carriers are siphoning off much of the more profitable mail that is being sent. There have been stories in the papers that some industries, such as utilities, are considering methods of delivering monthly statements to their customers by messengers in an effort to cut costs. And on one Wilmington television program on which I took part, it was stated that even some government agencies are using the private carriers rather than the Post Office for parcel post.

If this trend should continue and the Post Office loses more revenues than the added postage rate brings in, then we are going to be in a real mess in that area.

As everyone knows, the government, in 1971, turned the Postal Service over to a government-owned department that is administered by a board of governors. Many of their policies, especially on the wages and salaries, have been questioned and criticized, and

George Wallace and Jimmy Carter having asked to be put on the ballot. Also expected to be on the Democrat ballot are Senator Henry Jackson of Washington and Senator Lloyd Benson of Texas, bringing the number to five for the Democrats.

OTHER ISSUES...Other state issues will be decided on the same day, March 23rd, the presidential primary day, in North Carolina. Tar Heel voters will decide for or against two constitutional amendments and a state bond referendum on capital improvements for state institutions of higher learning.

The first proposed amendment would allow the legislature to authorize the counties, cities or towns to issue revenue bonds to finance the building of health care projects, whether governmental or non-profit corporation.

The second proposed amendment would allow the legislature to authorize counties to create authorities to issue revenue bonds to pay for, but not to refinance, the cost of capital projects consisting of industrial manufacturing and pollution control facilities for industry, and pollution control for public utilities. Such bonds would be secured by, and payable only from revenues or property derived from private parties, and in no way be secured or payable from any public moneys.

The bond referendum proposed the issuance of \$43,267,000 in bonds to pay for capital improvements at state institutions of higher education.

POSTAL RATES...We hear a lot of grumbling about postal rates. It seems that postal rates are out-running inflation by leaps and bounds. Many people, we understand, have started delivering local first class letters by hand. Commenting on the system, Gene Smith, Editor of The Havelock Progress says: "Despite the clamor, despite the inefficiency, despite the deficits and despite the declining service we will have the Postal System or its successor with us, losing more and more money, cutting more and more services and charging more and more for the lesser efficient service...The Postal System's inefficiency is here to stay."

some members of Congress feel that the Postal Service's troubles stem partly from mismanagement.

There is a bill now in the House of Representatives to bring the Post Office back into the government, and I am sure that this will get some support. Whether this is the answer is something I will have to study further before making a decision, but I am sure of one thing and that is, we cannot let the nation's Postal Service be brought to a point where it breaks down.

Also, there seems to be no excuse for the huge deficits it keeps piling up, when a private competitor can deliver parcel cheaper and faster and do so profitably.

I am certain that Congress will take up the matter and do whatever is necessary to keep the Postal Service viable. After all, it's a service we cannot do without.

## Letter To The Editor

To whom it may concern:  
You had a writeup in the paper about what the judge said about calling the cops jokers. He did not say anything about all the lies (police officer) Tindell told about what happened on the street. I asked him how could he sleep after telling all those falsehoods. He replied "The D.A. told him to do it". Chief Wiggins is not any better, for he covers up dirt for them.

Signed,  
Louis C. Cunningham  
Editor's Note: The author of the above letter was a defendant appearing in District Court Jan. 9 who was found guilty by Judge Charles Guy of disorderly conduct and resisting a police officer and is appealing the convictions. The article published in the News-Journal to which the writer refers reported the remarks of Judge Guy concerning Cunningham's testimony.