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THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1976

Politics Plus

We are encouraged by the way government — or, more accurately perhaps, democracy — is working these days. Not only is the political process in healthy full swing across the nation after the convulsions of Watergate. But our national leaders are beginning to come to grips with the most fundamental issues that face the republic in this bicentennial year. True, there is a high level of political rhetoric in the mix. But behind the rhetoric some meaningful debate is under way.

Here are two instances:

The battle positions are now drawn on the vital issue of how much government should do for people, and how best to do it. President Ford of course wants it to do as little as possible. But, the merits of the issue aside, we are impressed that the President took to the platform himself to explain to the press the intricacies of his new budget. He was knowledgeable and articulate. This is the first time since the days of Harry Truman that the chief executive fielded budget questions from reporters, and there is no doubt this will help him erase that public image of a "bumbling" president.

Whether Sen. Edmund Muskie made as good a public impression in his television rebuttal to Mr. Ford's State of the Union message remains to be seen. But he at least presented the Democrat's alternative approach and gave voters something to think about. His call for more public-service jobs and federal aid to localities for public-works projects will certainly meet sympathy among some segments, including the unemployed. But a lot more nitty-gritty detail, dollars-and-cents figures — and debate — will be required before judgments can be made.

The White House and Congress are also squarely facing the basic question of how to reform the American intelligence community. Post-Watergate investigations of the CIA have brought a mutual recognition that controls are needed to prevent the kind of deceptions and unlawful actions committed by past administrations, Republican and Democratic. It now seems certain that reforms will include a new congressional oversight committee to monitor intelligence activities, budget disclosure and review, and a tightening of the CIA's charter.

Given the importance of intelligence work to the U.S. national security, the reform of the CIA and other institutions can only be beneficial. The public airing of this question has been salutary.

There are other areas, too, that demand national discussion but are not yet getting sufficient attention. Foreign policy is one. President Ford raised the problem of authority over foreign policy and who — the Congress or White House — should control it. Mr. Muskie likewise spoke of the "gulf of confidence" in foreign policy. Both political leaders were short on specifics, however, leaving the field wide open for closer scrutiny of this important aspect of government.

The 1976 election campaign and the nation's bicentennial celebration can be much more than mere form and rhetoric. This is a once-in-200-years opportunity to cut through mere slogans and platitudes and get to the heart of the most important issues of the times. There are some good signs this is happening, and, if the momentum keeps up, the republic will be the better for it. Mr. Muskie sounded a note on which all agree:

"I do not believe we face any problems we cannot solve. Our problems are man-made, and men and women can find their solutions. We need the will to try. The state of the Union is as strong as the bond between us." *The Christian Science Monitor*

'Greetings, Henry. What seems to be the trouble this time?'



by Marty Vega

Time To Speak Out

There's getting to be entirely too much voter apathy and the time has come to speak out again. Remember, democracy is the will of the majority, yet it also protects the rights of the minority, right? This principle bears repeating, often. It also leads us into the subject.

Membership in ALIENS (Association for Legislation of Interest to Everyone Not a Southerner) has been in a slump, and this is very bad in an election year. It is bad ANYTIME, but particularly so with the election coming up, as we were hoping we could sneak by our legislative proposals attached to HR Bill 003905582 "Clean Air, Safe Streets, Preserve Polar Bears Act" without too much scrutiny, as the legislators would be in a hurry to adjourn and get on the campaign trail.

Not that our proposed legislation will not bear up to close scrutiny.

Who can deny the need for such reform as "it shall be a misdemeanor for any public eating establishment to serve iced tea with sugar already in it without posting notice of same. A lesser included offense under this statute will be to serve grits before the hour of noon after the customer has said three times "No, No, No", with two witnesses, punishable by a \$500 fine or one year imprisonment."

Or, "It shall be a felony for any public official or ordinary citizen, or ordinary official, to give road directions to any stranger which include the use of foreign terms like "so, and so's Crossroads, so and so's Pond, so and so's Farm, etc, an it shall be expressly prohibited to describe any distance to such stranger as "yonder", punishable by \$5,000 fine and five years imprisonment, or both."

award to outstanding leaders last Thursday evening when he received the coveted "Silver Beaver" Award at the annual meeting of the Fear Area Council in Bladenboro.

Sam Homewood, manager of the Raeford Worsted Plant, has announced that Herbert Knox, a native of Abbeville County, South Carolina has been appointed as superintendent of weaving at the local mill.

The Rev. and Mrs. Gower Crosswell are scheduled to move today to Winston-Salem where he is to become pastor of the Lee Memorial Presbyterian Church.

When Mrs. Ina Bethune retires as librarian of the Hoke County library at the end of this month, she will have a remarkable record of services shared with her sister, Mrs. A.K. Currie.

Neil Edgar Townsend, Rockfish community farmer died Monday night in Veterans Hospital after a period of ill health. He was 72.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



TERRY SANFORD... The big news in Tar Heel politics during the past week centered around former Governor Terry Sanford and his withdrawal as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

While Sanford had been a candidate for several months, he failed to attract serious national attention and here in North Carolina many of his friends and supporters felt that he would not be able to overcome his defeat by Governor Wallace of Alabama four years ago. Sanford's withdrawal was a bitter pill for the former governor to take but he did it like a man, saying, "I have no alibis and no complaints," he declared. "I made my honest effort and now I am content to close the book."

We can think of about four or five of the remaining candidates for the Democratic presidential nominations who we think might be smart to follow Terry's lead and step aside!

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY... With Sanford out of the race the North Carolina presidential primary will take on even greater significance along with New Hampshire and Florida.

With former Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia having made an excellent run in the Iowa precinct meetings last week, the Georgia peanut grower will likely move up to be George Wallace's strongest challenger. Sen Henry Jackson of Washington state will be a candidate. However, in 1972 he received a very light vote in the state as he did no campaigning here. Senator Bentsen of Texas and Rep. Udall of Arizona have announced that they will request a place on the Tar Heel ballot. A candidate's name on the ballot without an organization will hardly mean much to an average outside candidate, although George Wallace had little organization in North Carolina four years ago when he led Sanford by over 100,000 votes.

It was George Wallace's appearance before the Senate Committee on Elections and Election Laws that kept the presidential primary last spring and for this advocates of the presidential primary can be thankful.

GEORGE LITTLE... George Little of Southern Pines who is Deputy Secretary of the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Economic and Natural Resources says he is giving serious consideration to running against John Ingram for Commissioner of Insurance on the Republican ticket. Jim Harrington is Secretary of Economic and Natural Resources and it is known that he has been considering job offers and if he leaves the Department before the end of the Holshouser Administration, Little will likely be named to succeed him.

PRESS INSTITUTE... As has been our custom for many years, I attended the 51st annual Newspaper Institute at Chapel Hill and

Durham last week. While the programs are ok, we enjoy meeting old friends and the newcomers as well, talking shop and politics with them.

Those with whom we spoke felt that Jim Hunt was out front for governor on the Democratic ticket but some suggested that it would be well to keep an eye on Ed O'Herron of Charlotte, who some thought might come on fast once he gets organized. Also, Skipper Bowles who was the Democratic nominee in 1976 will bear watching as he is well-known over the state and will hardly find it necessary to seek the spotlight too early. State Senator Tom Strickland of Goldsboro is also moving about over the State. We heard little talk at the press meeting about the GOP candidates, but from what we have been able to observe it seems as if the Rev. Coy Privette, Tar Heel Baptist leader is ready to leave the pulpit for a try at the governor's mansion.

SPEAKERS... There were several interesting speakers on the Press Institute program. Dean Adams of the UNC Dept of Journalism said that in a first examination of those entering the journalism class, 51 percent failed in spelling and grammar in the first test given and 8 percent failed to pass when the spelling and grammar test was given the sixth time!

Others on the program included George F. Wills, budding young columnist out of Washington; Terry Sanford, who passed over his withdrawal as a presidential candidate in an indirect way with a sentence or two; Malcolm F. Mallette, director, American Press Institute; and Richard Schmidt who spoke on the subject: "The First (amendment) Last?"

Letter To The Editor

To the Editor:
 The year of 1975 has gone down in history, taking with it many scars for future generations to frown upon. What happens during 1976 will be dependent upon our attitude. I am sure all sober minded people will agree we are living in a troubled world, and the great need is love, not only by individuals, but nations as well. Where love abounds, there is peace. As we travel life's one way path with no point of return, we would do well to remember (1) Man's ingenuity in wrong doing is not motivated by spiritual power. (2) This world is not our home, we just sojourn for a little while and move on. (3) In Mark 13:33 we read: "Take ye heed, watch and pray; for we know not when the time is". This is a warning of the second coming of Christ, and death as well.

Are we concerned?
 H. R. McLean

Good News Spending \$ Wisely

It is indeed good news to hear of the latest use to which taxpayers' money is being spent. Let's have a cheer for the Department of Corrections, who announced the award of a \$26,650 grant to N.C. State University to find out what makes inmates want to escape from prison.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
 A friend brought me a newspaper yesterday saying he hoped it would help speed my recuperation from my recent illness, an I can now report, without the aid of X-rays and a battery of laboratory tests, that I am just about cured. Any time you can read the front page of a paper these days and not have a relapse you're bound to be hale and hearty, makes no difference what it was you were ailing from.

Anyway, what caught my attention was an article about two New York banks, classified as the second and third largest in the country. Although the two are in sound financial shape and are making satisfactory profits, still they have two or three hundred million dollars out in questionable loans-loans they're going to have real trouble collecting, in fact may have to write off as losses. In short, as the heading over the article said, they're shaky loans.

Now this kind of news disturbs some people, but that's because they have no imagination and can't see the possibility of the situation. Now me, I think every bank ought to have a Shaky Loan Department.

A man who has all the collateral he needs can go into a bank and get a loan any time he wants one, but with others it'd be if you could walk into a bank, go right past the regular officers and ask to be directed to the Shaky Loan Office.

If you hear of any bank around here getting up on the New York level and opening a Shaky Loan Department, let me know immediately so I can get there before the line extends out the door and around the block.

Yours faithfully,
 J. A.

Tar Heel Spotlight

'Old Christmas'

At Rodanthe a unique festival took place. In this easternmost village of the United States, as well as in several other villages of the Outer Banks, "Old Christmas" is observed Jan. 5.

Nowhere else in the world is Old Christmas kept on Jan. 5. In several other places in the world, the celebration is held Jan. 6, but in the fishing village of Rodanthe, on a reef in the Atlantic, Old Christmas is Jan. 5.

Some accounts say the Old Christmas observance began as far back as 1752 when the English calendar was revised, with 11 days deleted, moving Christmas back to Dec. 25. Some diehards couldn't give up the original day, so thus began the annual celebration of what came to be known to the rest of the world as Epiphany or 12th night, which, according to Scripture, was the night that wise men reached Bethlehem and gave gifts to the Holy Infant.

The highlight of the day - long celebration at Rodanthe is the evening appearance of "Old Buck" -- a legendary figure from nearby Trent Woods who keeps tabs all year on island children. As the villagers gather in the community house for the evening get-together, the "official drum beater" gives a long and spirited roll on the ancient ceremonial drum said to have come from a shipwreck more than 100 years ago. At this instant, the delight of all present, Old Buck walks on stage. (Old Buck is

actually a crude affair of wood and hide and cow horns animated by two men who walk underneath).

(In English legend Old Buck is the dragon who figured in the legend of St. George, England's patron saint. According to local folklore, he spends the other 364 days of the year roaming through the dense woods west of Cape Hatteras, sometimes as a large steer, sometimes as a monstrous deer -- but always with an eye on the children's behavior!)

The Old Christmas festival customarily begins the night before when children hang their stockings again and Santa is generous enough to visit a second time. Grownups, too, are included in this double largesse in the Dare County

Also on Old Christmas Eve, legend has it that the beasts in the field kneel in prayer in solemn homage; leaves sprout on hop vines and poke salad bushes; streams turn their flow backward; and woodland creatures dance for joy in the moonlight. As the sun rises, the new leaves wither and die, the creeks and brooks return to normal courses, and animals resume their grazing.

In years gone by the next day traditionally began before dawn when a band of roving amateur musicians playing fifes and drums piped the town awake. The inhabitants of North Rodanthe and South Rodanthe (about a mile apart) visited each other -- one whole See TAR HEEL SPOTLIGHT, page 13

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, January 18, 1950
 Funeral service was held at his home here last Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock for John Calvin McLean, who died suddenly Thursday morning of a heart attack.

Thaddeus McAadoo Boseman, 33, died in a Fayetteville hospital Sunday night of injuries suffered early Saturday morning in an automobile accident in this county on the Raeford-Rockfish road.

Mrs. J.M. Baker, clerk for the Hoke County Selective Service board, this week released the names of the 30 Hoke county men who have entered the Army through the Selective Service system from Hoke county since the first men went on October 15, 1949.

From Rockfish News:
 What a time we do have, we

misquote and the Journal reminds quotes.

From Poole's Medley:
 For something like my first forty years of this life, I could hardly make ends meet, but it is now apparent I had no reason for complaint.

The Raeford Lions club had its "Ladies Night" at K&M restaurant last Thursday night with good attendance.

15 years ago

Thursday, January 19, 1960
 Governor Terry Sanford this week accepted Hoke County's invitation to appear at the Hoke County Golden Jubilee to be held here during the week of May 14, with the tentative day for Governor's Day" being set as Monday, May 15.

Clyde Upchurch, Jr. was the recipient of scouting's highest