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PAUL DICKSON Publisher-Editor
SAM C. MORRIS General Manager
MRS. PAUL DICKSON Society Editor
MARTY VEGA Reporter

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1976

Keeping A Campaign Watchdog

In its recent decision refining the Federal Election Campaign Act, the U.S. Supreme Court gave the Congress 30 days to restructure the Federal Election Commission within constitutional bounds. Unfortunately, there now appears to be substantial effort in some congressional quarters to weaken, if not entirely do away with, this most important campaign watchdog.

The long-fought-for campaign reform legislation finally came about when the need to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption became overwhelmingly obvious. Reports continue to come out on such things as corporate payments to certain politicians.

Setting spending and contribution limits and establishing some measure of public financing of campaigns is to be welcomed, but such measures cannot work without proper administration and oversight capabilities. There can be little doubt that an independent body with enforcement powers is necessary if campaign reform is to be successful. Indeed, if the commission is not retained, the public financing process and spending limits may be interrupted if not halted.

The election commission was created with two-thirds of its members appointed by Congress, however, and the Supreme Court properly recognized this as a violation of the constitutional provision for separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches of government.

A congressionally appointed commission could still collect information and investigate suspected violations, but there are many more important functions that can only be dealt with by an agency appointed by the president.

Among these are: certification of candidates for public matching funds; the setting down of rules and regulations under the spending law; issuing of advisory opinions; and enforcing of the law through lawsuits and administrative sanctions against violators.

President Ford and leaders of both parties in the Senate favor an election commission whose members would be appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. Indeed, the Senate several times over the past five years has passed such legislation.

The problem comes in the House of Representatives where congressmen appear less willing to accept a watchdog looking over their shoulder, particularly one that they don't have a hand in selecting. Rep. Wayne Hays, who fought long and hard against the election reform law and chairs the powerful House Administration Committee through which correcting legislation would have to pass, has vowed to kill the election commission.

Mr. Hays and others want to transfer the distribution of public funds to the General Accounting Office, but the comptroller general has said he is not prepared to do this on such short notice. Such a move no doubt would blunt any movement toward reconstituting the election commission and this may well be the aim of its sponsors.

Also worrisome is the effort by some legislators to attach such things as public financing for congressional campaigns to legislation correcting the makeup of the commission. There may well be other campaign reform measures - such as the expansion of public funding - that would be valid. But since it is too late to apply them to this year's campaign, they do not demand immediate attention and would no doubt bog down the more urgent need to make legal the Federal Election Commission.

A law bringing the commission within constitutional bounds would be relatively simple to draft and pass - without controversial amendments. And with Congress's recognition that public opinion and effective campaign regulation demand such action to retain the watchdog. *Christian Science Monitor*

Improving Amateur Sports

It is significant that the first report of the President's Commission on Olympic Sports should come just as U.S. athletes compete at the Olympic Winter Games in Austria.

The commission was established last year to study the whole of amateur sports in the United States and first indications are that the country could do much better in the way that it supports its amateur athletes.

The report notes that other countries have been improving in international competition at a much faster rate than the U.S. Even more important, the United States falls far behind in its support for those millions of less serious athletes across the country - particularly women and those engaging in "minor" sports like canoeing, cycling, fencing, handball, and volleyball.

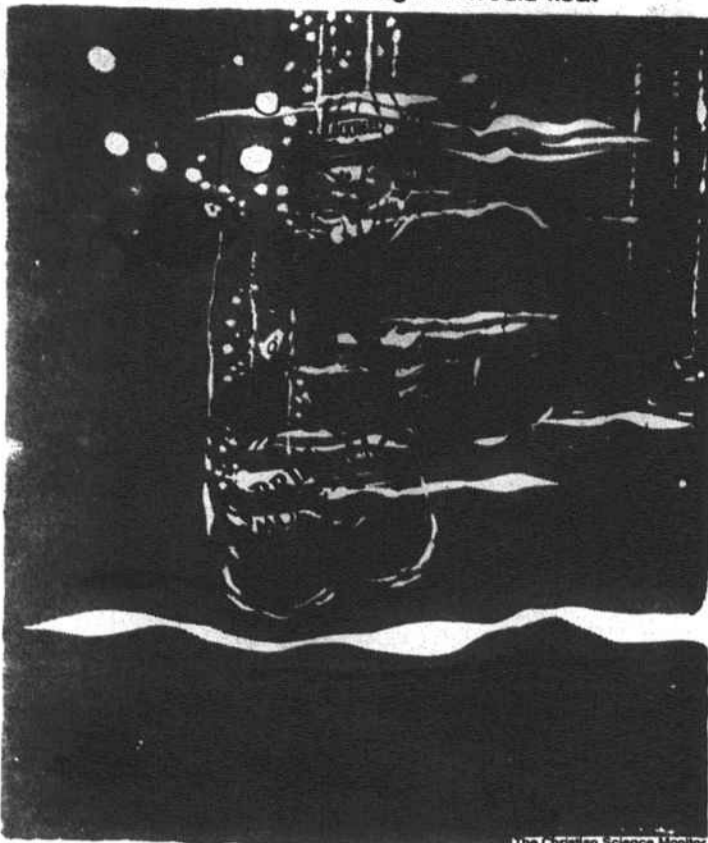
A relatively small amount of public funds for amateur sports, fierce competition for those funds, and power struggles between such organizations as the Amateur Athletic Union and National Collegiate Athletic Association have not helped the situation, the commission report states.

At this point, commission members think perhaps a "highest sports authority" should be established within the framework of federal government, but warn against "political or government control" of amateur athletics.

What better time than an Olympic year to focus attention on amateur sports in the United States and how it can be improved. *Christian Science Monitor*

Welcome God to America's
bicentennial...
practice what you
pray.

'Good heavens, I thought it would float'



by Marty Vega

200 Years Ago Today

Bicentennial Minute

Feb. 19, 1776. Two hundred years ago. Nothing happened that day. Forget it.

Feb. 19, 1701. Two hundred and seventy five years ago. This minute is NOT being brought to you by the oil company.

On that date in history, a small band of Frenchmen led by Cadillac Seville stood alongside a large band of Indians led by Chief Pontiac along the banks of a mighty river called "Nee-na-no-na-wa-wa-nahyee-Ojawawee", which was later shortened to Tahquamenon Falls. This was in a faraway land, west of Cleveland, where it was very, very cold. Originally it was believed trappers came to this land hunting fur, yet it was many years later when historians discovered these early settlers did not come to trap, they came to hunt. They were lost and HAD to hunt furs to keep from freezing. For this land was called Michigan, which in Indian meant "land of mighty rivers, land of mighty snowfalls, freezing cold and

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear Editor:
I don't guess there's anything funnier than a far-out environmentalist who has run out of something to warn against.

According to an article I read last night while I was sitting comfortably in front of my fireplace, an environmentalist has figured out that fireplaces take out more warm air up through the chimney than they leave in the room and are therefore an utter waste of energy.

I started to get an overcoat or wrap up in a blanket, but then I got to thinking. What a joke it's been on man! You'd think somebody would have caught on. Here for centuries past, before gas and electricity, men have been building fireplaces, standing in front of them, sitting in front of them, cooking in them, all the time thinking they were keeping them warm but all they were doing, according to this environmentalist, was chilling the room, not to mention polluting the air with smoke, destroying the forests, and maybe ruining the upper ozone layer, which accounts for so much flu lately or even maybe the number of people running for President.

Speaking of staying warm I notice in nearly every newspaper I read lately that utility bills are going up and people are complaining from one end of the country to the other.

I have no solution for this, but I thought I'd tell you how a bank in England in 1880 kept its heating costs under satisfactory control, according to what I read in a book a friend gave me.

The bank informed its employees that due to the rising cost of coal and the necessity to economize it would continue to maintain its stove in good working order but whenever the weather was cold enough for a fire each employee must bring four pounds of coal to work with him each morning.

I don't believe this would work these days in a twenty-story office building. There aren't enough coal yards in most cities.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Democratic politicians 'speaking forked tongue'.

Although it seemed uneventful, that fateful meeting between Cadillac and Pontiac on the freezing banks of the Rouge River near the confluence of the "Oh-Wa-My-As-Freeze-Wah" stream and the mighty Lake Erie, had far-reaching consequences.

Cadillac spoke first.
"What is this land you call home, old scaly face red man?"
"Nah hee yah nee nah-ya Ta-was," said the mighty chief.
"How much you want for it?"
said the fur-trapper's assistant, a friendly faced man with a rambling manner called Studebaker.

"Nah hee yah nee nah-ya Ta-was," said Pontiac.
"Look, turkey," said DeSoto, growing impatient, "New York went for \$24, this heap isn't anything, now what'll you settle for?"

"Nah hee yah nee nah-ya Ta-was," said Pontiac.

Fairlane and Belvedere, who were standing off to a side, scowled.

Buck, who was one of Pontiac's young hot tempered Buicks, became angry and cursed.
"Ya ya wa kee HOO na-Chicago," he screamed.

Nash, realizing the situation was getting out of hand, spoke to Bel Air, who conferred with Polara.

Hudson, who was later to become famous by having a whole bay named after him, grunted.
"Nah hee yah nee nah-ya Ta-was," said Hudson.

"That's my line, white man with goat smell!" screamed Pontiac.
And that's the way it was, two hundred years ago.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:
Our group at Hoke County High School is deeply concerned about the decline of our school. We would deeply appreciate it if you could publish this.

Nobody really understands the High School like its students. Our school is steadily going downhill, mainly because of our system. We think that something should be done about it. The first thing we need is a principal and not an SBI agent who worries about how many people he can bust in one day. If the system would get off the teachers' backs and let them have a little freedom the teachers could do the same for the students. Not all the teachers try, though they constantly are threatened with being fired. What we need is another principal like our last one. He was strict, but he was more like a friend or a father than a principal. He never tried to get you in trouble, but to get you out of trouble. Who knows how to stop this and really get something good going for Hoke High School? It's up to the community and the students to try. We are trying to do our part, can the community do theirs? If we succeed, maybe by next year we can have a good school again, something to be proud of.

Thanks,
Annoyed
Joel Blanton

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



MORE PAY FOR JUDGES ...
With 44 Federal District Judges drawing salaries of \$42,000 plus generous expense allowances, and now filing suit for greater salaries with the Federal Government head-over-heels in debt, it will hardly increase the average citizen's respect for the judges' dedication to the Federal judiciary. Many of the citizens might feel that the country would not be the loser if some of the Federal judges decided to call it quits and let others fill the coveted positions.

Despite the inflation, \$42,000 a year is still a pretty good salary when you think of all the "extras" that go with the salary of Federal judges.

Many people have long felt that Federal judges should not be appointed for life, but subject to reappointment and, or, confirmation.

EXTRA OFFICERS ... In Moore County last week Sheriff C.G. Wimberly requested and was allocated \$20,000 in additional funds for the extra fiscal year to hire three extra officers to help cope with the crime wave which seems to be rampant throughout the county.

Until the courts face up to their responsibility and realize that pampering hardened criminals with light or suspended sentences will not bring about respect for law and order and property, the fight to curb crime will likely continue to be a losing game.

Recently we quoted State Rep. Herbert Hyde of Asheville as 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," said the Buncombe legislator, 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."

OUR YOUNG ... Speaking of crime, it seems like the more you do to try and help some of our young people like providing recreational

opportunities the more crimes they commit. We suspect that an amendment reducing the minimum wage and lifting the age-limit for high school boys and girls to work, with the Federal government directing a tiny-bit of its foreign-aid money to provide jobs would bring about a better respect for work, law and order than the way in which it is being spent. It has long been said that "idleness is the devil's workshop" and the ever-increasing crime among the young, many or most without jobs, proves the assertion.

RIGHT TO WORK ... Senator Henry Jackson has long been regarded as strong among the labor unions. This very fact with Jackson being against the "right to work" laws may prove to be a weight around his legs in his race for the Democratic presidential nomination in North Carolina, and some of the other "right to work" states.

North Carolina is one of the several states in the union - 19 I believe, which has the "right to work law" which has been held constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. Last week former State Party Chairman John T. Church withdrew his support from Jackson after the Washington senator had voiced opposition to the "right to work" laws while in Charlotte a few days ago.

WITHDRAWING ... Well, we have had a couple of candidates withdraw from the Democratic presidential nomination contest ... Terry Sanford of North Carolina and Senator Benetsen of Texas. While Benetsen is remaining as a "favorite son" candidate for president in his home state, this may not help him in his campaign for renomination and reelection for United States Senator.

BREECE ... With State Rep. George W. Breece's announcement for the Democratic nomination for Secretary of State in opposition to Thad Eure, we feel quite sure that the young Cumberland County legislator will not have as one of his platform points that he attempted to take away from the people the presidential primary in sponsoring the bill to repeal it in the 1975 General Assembly. This could be a talking point for Thad Eure.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, February 15, 1951
In an inspiring address to 150 Boy Scout leaders and persons interested in Scouting, Former Senator William Bumstead of Durham said here Tuesday night that work with the youth of this county through organizations such as the Boy Scouts was the best way to eliminate communism as a danger to our country's future.

A pair of sad - faced bloodhounds belonging to Heston Rose of Raeford and being used by the Cumberland county police tracked down two Cumberland prisoners within three hours after they jumped off a prison truck last Wednesday.

From Poole's Medley:
The better plan to attend car inspection is at a good garage, where there are people who can tell what the trouble is and how to remedy. Do not wait for the law.

Fire alarm at 3:20 p.m. Tuesday in Raeford had people running at a great rate for a pile of creosoted poles were on fire between the homes of Clarence Lyth and Walter Maxwell on Elwood Avenue.

Neill A. McDonald, county chairman for the March of Dimes, said his week that the returns from the drive so far has amounted to \$4080.50.

Mrs. Mary Teal Blue, 78, widow of the late James K. Blue of Blue Springs Township, died Monday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. T.C. Davis.

15 years ago

Thursday, February 16, 1961
Every woman in Hoke County is invited to attend the organizational meeting of the Golden Jubilee Belles to be held Thursday, February 23, at the Court House.

Hoke County High School's second annual College - Career Day, Thursday, was an overwhelming success, according to Dewey Huggins, principal.

Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr., Democrat of North Carolina, announced Monday that he had appointed Miss Mary McBryde, of Raeford to fill a position on his staff as clerical assistant.

Jimmy McGougan, Route 1, Lumber Bridge, was named "Young farmer of the Year" Monday night at a joint dinner meeting held by the Farmer's Club and the Raeford Jaycees.

The Hoke County Courthouse was filled to the brim Monday night when some 300 men attended the Kick-off to the beard-growing "Brothers of the Brush" activities, in connection with the upcoming Hoke County Golden Jubilee.

The Hoke County High School Glee Club won the highest rating obtainable for the third consecutive year at the Southeastern District festival held at Lumberton, Friday.

Phil B. Rieg, manager of the Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce, has handed in his resignation to become executive secretary of the Rockingham Chamber of Commerce.