

The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION
Free Press
A Day
NNA 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, MARCH 11, 1976

Ford's school aid

Federal aid for education has continued to labor under three problems: a bureaucratic tangle of programs, too much distance and lack of understanding between those doling out the funds and those who need them, and a question of who is really in charge.

President Ford's proposal to consolidate federal funding programs for elementary and secondary education is a step in the right direction toward resolving those problems.

Under Mr. Ford's plan, 24 programs would be lumped together into single block grants to states totaling \$3.3 billion for 1977 with an additional \$200 million a year through 1980. State grants would be determined by the number of schoolchildren, with special consideration for the level of poverty. States would be free of current federal restrictions on how such aid should be spent, but would still have to meet such requirements as civil rights laws and special consideration for Indian tribal schools.

States would have to pass along most of the funds to localities and 75 percent of the money must be spent on the poor and handicapped, under the Ford plan. But within those broad guidelines, state and local boards of education would be able to allocate the federal grants on the basis of local need, provided that public hearings be held before decisions are made.

In recent years, Washington seemed to be going at the problem of establishing clear lines of authority for school aid by adding bureaucratic layers instead of simplifying. Agencies and executive positions were created both within and separate from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) in ways that just seemed to confuse things. Naturally, the greater the administrative maze, the more tax dollars seem to get siphoned off before they reach their intended goal.

As long as certain basic aims are established and held to (equality by local, special help for the poor, antidiscrimination, etc.) state and local mechanisms are better prepared to put that money to work efficiently.

The question of how much of the federal budget goes to education may be less easy to settle. Congress last year overwhelmingly repulsed the President's veto of a school aid bill Mr. Ford thought too costly. He seems to have made some small concessions in his proposal this week, but not to the extent that education grants would keep up with inflation.

But when President Ford says that the federal government "cannot know what is best for every schoolchild in every classroom in the country," he should get no argument from Congress. --*Christian Science Monitor*

Military campuses go cold

The four American service academies, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, are well under way with preparations for the feminine invasion of their hallowed halls which begins this summer. The initial masculine misgivings and jitters which accompanied this overthrowing of tradition now have been supplanted by determination to integrate the women cadets and midshipmen with as little fuss as possible. As one official pointed out, the change will be a "growing experience" for all.

Already a portion of the Class of 1980 has arrived at West Point for orientation training, with 15 women included in the group. By July between 50 and 100 women will join the 4,000 man cadet corps. There, as at the Naval Academy at Annapolis and the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, the feminine contingent will be expected to drill and run with rifles and combat boots, just like men.

The amount of research that has gone into feminine uniforms, dormitory requirements, and physical strength would seem rival that accorded by military experts to a new tank, warship, or aircraft. Nobody intends to lower his or her standards one iota as the big change takes place.

And it is a major change — the largest since the academies became racially integrated less than a decade ago. But with goodwill on the part of both sexes, the transition to coed status should go smoothly. One suspects the girls, chosen from many hundreds of nominees and applicants, will prove as gung-ho in this segment of military life as the boys. --*Christian Science Monitor*

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, March 8, 1951
In a startling reversal of the usual lack of interest in Raeford civic matters by the voters, almost 300 of them went to the polls Tuesday and 223 were able to vote on the issue of town bonds.

Alexander Gilmore Leach, 60, died Friday morning at the home of two sisters, Mrs. Mary Leach Morgan and Miss Maggie Leach, at Shannon.

Dr. Henry Wade DuBose will preach at the Raeford Presbyterian Church next Sunday, March 11.

15 years ago

Thursday, March 9, 1961
With members of the Hoke County High football team serving as pallbearers, gridiron star Johnny Howard Sams was buried in Raeford Cemetery.

Chamber of Commerce President J.D. McMillian announced late Wednesday the appointment of Edward J. Menke as Manager of the Raeford - Hoke Chamber.

Governor Vance Baker of Raeford died unexpectedly at his home Saturday.

'Thunder from Mt. Sinai is one thing...but what if Congress is in on this?'



by Marty Vega

Bicentennial History

Question: Now that we are into the Bicentennial year, why isn't more being made of George Rogers Clark and his daring expeditionary forces that helped shape the nation?

Answer: After British hands took over the Illinois country in 1765, Clark and his band of 175 riflemen swept westward from the Ohio River to the Mississippi in 1778 and won the land from the British, making Kaskaskia, just east of St. Louis or just south of East St. Louis, the capitol. Clark designated the region a new county of Virginia, earning a name for himself as a daring frontiersman and a lousy geographer. This is why not more is being made of George Rogers Clark in the Bicentennial year.

Question: What is the special heritage of Wisconsin in this Bicentennial year?

Answer: Nicolet, a French explorer, crossed the Great Lakes in 1634 to the site of Green Bay and the entire region was claimed for France in 1686. In 1960, the entire region was claimed for football.

Question: Why don't we hear much of LaSalle anymore?

Answer: He died, mainly. But

after enjoying booming sales in the 50's, Buick discontinued that model.

Question: What is the longest suspension bridge in the world, and how did it get its name?

Answer: Originally, it was believed to be the 14th St. Bridge stretching between Arlington, Va., and Washington, however, recent research has apparently proved it is the Verrazano Narrows Bridge between Staten Island and Brooklyn. It got its name in 1523, when Giovanni da Verrazano investigated the coast from North Carolina to Newfoundland. The far-sighted Verrazano envisioned a great Italian population in New York City, and yet his reward was to have the bridge mispelled. (toll)

Question: In 1639, Hernando de Soto, whose participation in the conquest of Peru had gained him fortune, landed in Florida and his search for treasure took him through the southern United States, and he was quiet possibly the first white man to sight the Mississippi, yet he died without finding any treasure and was buried in the Mississippi, yet why did Chrysler name a car after him?

Answer: Beats me.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

Shortly after taking office in the Senate last year, I was made aware of a program that brings high school students to Washington, where, for a week, they are given a close look at their government.

The program had never been offered to North Carolina young people, and the Close Up Foundation representatives asked if my office would like to help get it started in our state. After taking a long look at what Close Up had to offer, we decided to help bring it to North Carolina.

The start was taken in a modest, tentative way, and was limited to four counties which were selected by the Close Up people. And it was rather surprising that more than 200 boys and girls from Wake, Durham, Orange and Harnett Counties got on chartered buses early one morning last May for a week's trip to the nation's capital. Students from these counties will come back this year.

Now a week in Washington as these students spend it under the supervision of Close Up is no ordinary tourist week. These young people got to meet, hear and question national leaders in the three branches of government and they came away with a knowledge of how things really work in the capital.

Last year there was practically no local money available to help these boys and girls who wanted to participate in Close Up. The Foundation committed some \$20,000 to offer one fellowship to a student and one to a teacher from each school, but the rest of the group paid their own way.

This year, however, the picture is much brighter.

The R.J. Reynolds Company of Winston-Salem learned of the

program and felt that support for it would be a contribution to "better government."

So, Reynolds decided to contribute \$25,000 to help young people from 11 counties in North-west North Carolina take part in this year's program. That means that students from at least 15 counties will be going to Washington this May for a first hand look at how their national government is run.

Also, a group of Black leaders in Raleigh started a drive for funds which will assist several students from Wake County to take the trip in 1976.

There will also be a number of students from the School of the Deaf at Morogantown who will be included, as the Close Up people last year started a week for students from these schools from all over the country.

Next year, it is hoped that the program can be extended to other counties in North Carolina as corporations, and possibly civic groups, will recognize the benefits of Close Up, just as Reynolds did this year. I feel that it is important that we try to expand this program.

Perhaps Charles B. Wade, Jr., senior vice president of Reynolds Industries, put it best when he said, "In this bicentennial year, we feel that a renewed interest in our government is very important. By giving these young people an opportunity to examine their national government at close range, we believe we are making a contribution that will be valuable now and in the future."

The Senate Committee which has been looking into the activities of the nation's intelligence agencies will soon be writing its report and will almost surely recommend that

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



J.J. DINNER... This will be a big week for Democrats over North Carolina as they gather in Raleigh for the annual Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner Saturday evening with State Treasurer Edwin Gill serving as Dinner Chairman and Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham, presiding.

Preceding the dinner on Friday evening will be the annual reunion of former and current Democrat House and Senate members which brings together former legislators from all over the state.

CANDIDATES... With many candidates having announced for the several state and district offices and the presidential campaign warming up, the JJ meeting should draw a record crowd.

For governor the four candidates -- announced and unannounced -- are expected to be present with hospitality rooms -- they being, Skipper Bowles, Jim Hunt, Ed O'Herron and Tom Strickland.

More have announced for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor than any other race, they being, Waverly Akins of Wake, Jim Green of Bladen, Herbert Hyde of Buncombe, Howard Lee of Orange, E. Frank Stephenson of Hertford and George Wood of Camden.

For Secretary of State the candidates are incumbent Thad Eure of Hertford County and George Breece of Cumberland. For State Treasurer, Harlan Boyles of Lincoln County and Lane Brown III of Stanly County.

For Commissioner of Labor, Bog Dunnagan of Kenansville and Mrs. Robert W. Scott of Haw River. For State Auditor, Henry Bridges, incumbent and Mrs. William Woo, Supt. of Public Instruction, Craig Phillips, incumbent and Ben F. Currin, Supt. of Rocky Mount Schools.

Thus far the two Council of State offices without opposition for the incumbents are Commissioner of Agriculture and Attorney General, Jim Graham being the present Commissioner of Agriculture and Rufus Edmisten being the incumbent Attorney General Beverly Lake Jr. could be waiting in the wings for a call to run for attorney General.

PRESIDENTIAL RACE... Harry Truman once referred to presidential primaries as "eye-wash" and maybe they were 25 years ago but this year it would now appear that they may have more real power than ever before.

Last week the Massachusetts primary eliminated Burch Bayh,

and for all practical purposes Sargent Shriver, Milton Shapp and very likely Fred Harris.

New Hampshire put Jimmy Carter of Georgia in the front-runner position, only to be given a set-back in the Massachusetts primary where he ran fourth. In this week's primary in Florida, either of the three main candidates could be given a set-back -- Carter, Jackson or Wallace. With this column being written Saturday and the Florida primary three days later on Tuesday it is precarious to do much predicting. If Wallace is not in first place he will be badly hurt. If Carter is not in first or second place he will be badly hurt and if Jackson does not make a very respectful showing he will be hurt. Florida could hurt more candidates than it helps.

PRIMARIES: GOOD OR BAD?... There has long been a debate about the value of primaries, particularly presidential primaries. Presidential primaries really put the candidates through the mill -- but for the people, the taxpayers, this is good. The Presidency is a full man-size job and if a person is not able to stand up and make solid decisions in a presidential primary, he would hardly be able to stand the pressure that the man who sits behind the desk in the oval room of the white house must bear daily.

Primaries are a good place to weed out candidates who try to talk out of both sides of their mouth. Primaries are a good place to hammer out solid positions and let the people know where you stand.

MORRIS UDALL?... Could Morris Udall be the "George McGovern" of the 1976 presidential primary? While McGovern was later than this in making much of a showing in 1972, the Arizona congressman is certainly not a man to be brushed aside.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

As I understand it, a bunch of Federal Judges who make \$42,000 a year plus free office rent and a secretary, are claiming that inflation has in effect reduced their net pay and this is unconstitutional because the Constitution says a Federal Judge's salary shall not be diminished. The Judges say the rising cost of living has diminished their salary and they're suing for a raise plus about \$50,000 in back pay through 1968.

I'm all for the judges, but they're going about it backwards. Instead of suing the government for more pay, they ought to inform the government that inflation is unconstitutional and it has 90 days to put a stop to it. If in 90 days a Federal Judge goes to the supermarket and finds that his \$42,000 won't buy as many groceries as it did in 1968, then everybody in Washington is in contempt of court, and will have to ride to work in a bus.

Changing the subject, I noticed the postal service is trying to shut down several hundred small post-offices around the country, saying they're unprofitable. "They're losing money and they ought to be closed," officials said.

This could get out of hand. You shut down every postoffice that isn't showing a profit and what have you got left?

Changing the subject again, I have finally found the answer to the problem of sports, where one side always loses. What I've been looking for is a way for both teams to come out a winner, and the Presidential candidates have discovered it.

"If I can get 40% of the votes, I'd consider that a victory," one candidate says. Another says 25% would mean a victory for him, and so it goes.

That's the answer. All a coach has to do from now on is announce ahead of the game, "If we can get 40% of the score, we win."

I hope that works better in basketball and football than it does in Presidential primaries.

Yours faithfully
J.A.

Reminder

The News-Journal welcomes letters to the editor and is happy to publish as many as space permits.

Readers are reminded that letters must be signed or they cannot be considered for publication. Readers may request that the name be withheld due to special circumstances which will be considered by the editor.