

The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION
Founded 1886
Free Press
& 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, APRIL 15, 1976

A reprieve for revenue sharing

Has federal revenue sharing returned "power to the people" as the Nixon administration said it would, or simply provided a way for Washington to avoid its responsibility to improve conditions in local communities? Five years into this \$30 billion legacy of the "new federalism," the answer lies somewhere in the middle.

Like birds at a winter feeder, the 39,000 cities and towns covered by revenue sharing have become used to those quarterly checks from the federal government. Now, Congress is wrangling over whether to continue this massive program and efforts to scrap or modify it are mounting. There are, in fact, strong arguments against simply extending revenue sharing for another five years as the White House, mayors, and governors urge.

For, far from being the "resounding success" President Ford proclaims, this new form of federal aid has more often than not helped perpetuate local programs and policies (including their bad points) rather than brought about reform or boosted new and innovative municipal services.

The state of the economy no doubt has influenced mayors to throw revenue-sharing sandbags against the rising tide of property tax rates, but so too have thinly disguised political considerations. Boston Mayor Kevin White squirreled away \$20 million in revenue sharing to use just before his bid for reelection.

Among nationwide shortcomings: less than 3 percent of the funds have been used for social services and specific help for the disadvantaged; citizen participation in deciding how to spend the money (as envisioned by the legislation creating revenue sharing) has been almost nil; antidiscrimination guarantees have been easily circumvented by receivers and inadequately enforced by the federal government.

At the least, these defects should be corrected before revenue sharing becomes a more permanent part of the federal budget. Since (as a Brookings Institution study showed) the program has made only a "limited contribution" toward equalizing differences between per capita income and the local tax bite among states, perhaps the aid formula should be changed to favor poorer localities more than it already does.

While federal aid to state and local governments has increased sevenfold since 1960, the economic pinch and municipal problems that still need solving add up to a continued requirement for Washington's help. But that help should not come without guarantees that it is being properly applied.

Now, Congress is tied up with its own reelection worries and wondering whether the next president will be a Republican or Democrat, all of which is bound to influence decisions on revenue sharing. For this reason, the best bet would be to extend the program through 1977 and let the necessary tinkering wait until after the campaign questions have been answered.

Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, April 12, 1951

Work started this week on a new building on Main street at the corner of Edinborough Avenue just across from the courthouse. The building is being constructed by McLaughlin Company, Inc., for lease to Cooper Food Stores, who plan to open a food store there by mid-summer.

Mrs. Sallie Lona Smith, wife of E.M. Smith, passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J.N. Gullede, here at 12:30 a.m. yesterday after an illness of several months.

From Poole's Medley:

People are as a rule more persistent in wrong doing than they are in doing right.

From Rockfish News:

Fayetteville Street's one-half case of mumps developed to about three-fourths and is about well now.

Due to artillery firing the Raeford-Vass road will be closed to traffic on the Fort Bragg reservation on Monday, April 9, Tuesday, April 10.

Coach Haywood Faircloth's

Hoke County High baseball team took a close game from Southern Pines High on the local field Tuesday afternoon, 5 to 4.

The Youth Rally, Methodist Church, Fayetteville District, was held in the Raeford Methodist Church Friday, April 6. Over five hundred young people were present at this semi-annual meeting.

15 years ago

Thursday, April 13, 1961

Preparations for the upcoming Golden Jubilee moved into high gear this week as headquarters were officially opened in the spacious (and vacant) store next to the Post Office.

Hoke County Librarian, Mrs. Lee Cameron announced this week a change in the hours for the library. It will be open all day Tuesday and Saturday, with a 3:30 to 5:30 schedule for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

All five members of a Raeford family were hospitalized last weekend as the result of a Sunday evening car wreck near Red Springs. Mr. and Mrs. Miles Johnson and their three boys were taken to Southeastern Hospital in Lumberton after their car was smashed by another vehicle coming around a curve in the rainy night.

'He's cheating. He's not even on a horse'



by Marty Vega

Pure Corn Here

Presidential campaigning, '70's style. Carter puts it into his mouth right up to the kneebone with "ethnic purity" and then poor Ford, down in Texas, puts a tamale, corn shuck and all, into his mouth to the utter amazement of an entire ethnic class, Mexican-Americans.

Although it was not immediately discernible how many millions of Chicano votes Ford lost, in my own household, Senor Vega, my East Los Angeles bred better half who is neither ethnic or pure, admitted that Ford had not lost his vote over the tamale incident, mainly because he never had it.

So, because of this frenzied backlash against Ford just related here, let the defense present its side. (Wolverines have to stick together)

Number one, there are only a handful of Mexican restaurants in all of Michigan, and certainly none in Grand Rapids. In fact there are likely no Mexicans in Grand Rapids, and only a handful in all of Michigan.

Ah, now you are going to say, is there corn in Michigan? For if

there is corn in Michigan, then it stands to reason there are also corn shucks?

Now is the fallacy. Yes, there is corn in Michigan. Yes, there is corn in Mexico. But is it the very same corn? No! Yes!

The corn is the same, but the shucks. In Michigan the corn shucks are green. In Mexico the shucks grow yellowed and dried because of the extreme heat. In Michigan there is no heat except in July and August (the corn season).

Now if they had given Ford a tamale wrapped in a green corn shuck, he would have said Ah, corn shucks, and peeled it away to eat his tamale.

But they didn't give Ford a Michigan tamale. They gave him a Mexican tamale and he was fooled. It's not nice to fool President Ford.

They should have taken him to Taco Bell.

At last a far-sighted individual has come up with the solution to the problem of a big, centralized government with all its bureaucratic waste and inefficiency.

The thing to do is to divide the United States into four sub-countries, each with its own capital and federal budget.

By dividing the whole huge federal machinery by four, it would be easier to keep track of where tax dollars go. It is easier to work with a budget of 25 billion dollars instead of 100 billion dollars. All these various agencies and branches that are spread over everywhere is not good business management.

Every person knows that the federal government squanders millions (or billions) of our tax dollars on useless programs and overpriced goods. Yet how is the average person able to determine just where the fault lies when it is spread over Congress, and all of these innumerable government agencies, each putting the blame on someone else?

Look at how our taxes keep going up. Look at how the national debt keeps increasing. Look at the mess the post office is in.

If you visit Washington this year for the Bicentennial, drive down Independence, Constitution Avenues. See the Department of This, The Department of That, The Bureau of This, The Bureau of That. Think of all the tons and tons of papers and records in those buildings, and it will make you want to throw up.

Letter To Editor

As you will recall, Mr. Wilfred Walters and two other Raeford men were fatally injured recently in an automobile collision. This was a terrible tragedy, and it greatly affected the Walters family as well as the other two families. The family members are deeply upset and have not built up enough strength to visit the wrecked van or even desire to visit it. On Thursday, April 8, 1976, you published a picture of the wreckage in the News Journal which I feel, along with all who share sympathy for the Walters family, that you acted too soon in this publication. Do you really feel it was necessary? Have you and your staff even imagined how this photo affected the family? As a very close friend of the Walters family, I feel you should at least give this saddened family an apology of some sort, as I cannot even begin to express how this family is feeling.

Sincerely,
Debbie Ward

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



WHERE, OH WHERE? -- With the Republicans now in executive control of the state government for the first time in 72 years you would think that there would be an out and out "administration" candidate running for governor on the Republican ticket this year. But, it appears that the three leading GOP candidates will be campaigning aloof from the governor!

The Rev. Coy Privette of Cabarrus County, a Baptist minister who led the campaign to defeat liquor by the drink in the state, is expected to be independent and unorthodox in his approach to the issues of the day.

David T. Flaherty who recently resigned as Secretary of the Dept. of Human Resources let it be known in his announcement that he expected to run his campaign independent of the Holshouser administration, and if elected a new standard of ethics would be followed by those associated with him. Flaherty is generally regarded as the "organization" candidate and the candidate to beat if someone else is to be the GOP nominee.

Jacob Franklin Alexander, Jr., Secretary of the Dept. of Transportation and Highway Safety has taken an independent approach as head of the Highway Department -- differing with Governor Holshouser over the handling of the speeding incident of Highway Patrol Chief E.W. Jones.

The defeat of President Ford in the recent presidential primary by Ronald Reagan was a severe jolt to Governor Holshouser who headed up the Ford campaign not only in North Carolina but in the Southern states.

DEMOCRATS -- From the Democratic side it now appears that the situation is pretty stable with Hunt, O'Herron and Strickland deep in the race with no other serious possibilities being talked at this stage of the game.

Of course it's not too late for a new candidate to surface on either the Democrat or Republican side. Remember, the first primary is still more than four months away -- plenty of time for a strong new face to enter the race and make off with the bacon. In 1948, the late Kerr Scott, then commissioner of Agriculture, didn't announce for governor until February. Then he found the going tough for several weeks before Capus Waynick was persuaded to come in and manage

his campaign. In the first primary Charlie Johnson led with 170,141 with Scott in second place with 161,293. Others receiving votes in the first primary were, R. Mayne Albright, 76,281; Oscar Barker, 10,871; W.P. Stanley, Jr., 2,428; and Olla Ray Boyd, 2,111. In the second primary Scott went on to win with 217,620 votes to 182,684 for Johnson.

POSTAL SERVICE -- Commenting on statements by Rep. Bill Hefner and Postmaster General Bailor about the bad financial shape of the postal service, John H. Moore, editor of the Laurinburg Exchange may well have hit the nail on the head when he writes: "It is interesting that neither the Postmaster General nor Congressman Hefner addressed himself to the biggest reason for the financial tragedy of the Postal Service -- out of hand unionism."

BICENTENNIAL -- We read and hear much about the Bicentennial, people being asked to make the year outstanding because of what the founding fathers gave us 200 years ago. One thing in particular which has aroused interest and action is history writing. Counties and communities over the state are busy writing histories this year as never before. It has been well written: "He who careth not whither he came careth not whither he goeth."

JOHN CONNALLY -- Former Texas Governor John Connally recently suggested Senators and Congressmen be barred from running for President. Connally says it's clear conflict of interest and that instead of serving the people of Congress, candidates and their staffs spend their time pursuing presidential campaigns.

To allow them to become candidates later, Connally would include in the constitutional amendment banning such candidacies a limit of two six-year terms for Senators and three four-year terms for Congressmen.

He thinks this would guarantee a flow of new leadership in Washington, men or women who come straight from business, farm or shop and who therefore know the people's problems first hand. It would discourage the system of career staffs or committees or subcommittees. John Connally's suggestions deserve serious consideration -- more than they will likely get by career senators and congressmen!

Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan



In the bitter argument over whether the New River, in the mountains of Ashe and Alleghany Counties, shall be made part of the National Wild and Scenic River System -- in order to block a big hydroelectric project there -- some very important people have been forgotten: the taxpayers in those two counties, especially those who live along the river.

Therefore, I have insisted that a provision be included in the legislation designating the New River as Wild and Scenic, which will insure that the landowners are compensated for their losses.

Appalachian Power had planned to build the dams to generate power for use in other states. Environmentalists fought the project, pointing out that it would produce water that would be pumped uphill to a reservoir, to be used during periods of the day when demand for electricity is at its peak.

The North Carolina State Legislature attempted to outlaw the project, as did the U.S. Department of the Interior.

An act of Congress, designating the New as part of the Wild and Scenic River System, and revoking the permit, was proposed.

But what about the people who own land along the river, up in Ashe and Alleghany?

They have a Constitutional right to just compensation for the taking of their land, or for any lessening of the usefulness or value of that land. If the valley were flooded by the dam, these people would be bought out by the power company. But if their land were just designated "wild and scenic," they would have their right to use the land restricted.

What can we expect them to do, just sit there and pay taxes on it,

