

# The News - Journal



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THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1976

## Ford on the defensive

President Ford no doubt is reflecting on his resounding defeat by Ronald Reagan in the Texas primary. In the after math of that loss we hope Mr. Ford elects to change his strategy — away from one of campaign rhetoric the answers charge with countercharge to a more presidential posture of explaining the issues on their own merit even if this means holding a position to the left of the former California governor.

The President is emerging as a candidate very much on the defensive. Yet given the power of his office and the advantage of incumbency he should be carrying the initiative. This defensive stand, aside from its impact on the political campaign itself, impairs Mr. Ford's image as a national leader and damages Washington's foreign policy interests.

Obviously Mr. Reagan's charges cannot be totally ignored. It is irresponsible for him to state that the United States is encouraging a massacre of white Rhodesians in offering to provide economic and political support to the black African nationalist movements. Henry Kissinger was right to respond that the U.S. seeks precisely the opposite — to avoid bloodshed by giving these movements the incentive for peaceful negotiation.

But the overall impression Mr. Ford leaves is sometimes one of backing away from his sound national policies in order to out-Reagan Reagan. Early on, for instance, he suddenly dropped the term "detente" from the diplomatic lexicon. The word was ill-advised to begin with but its abrupt demise in mid-campaign made it appear the President was changing his policy toward the Soviet Union under fire from the right.

Then there is Panama. Reagan insists the U.S. owns the Panama Canal and should not negotiate a new treaty. To the distress of his own diplomats, President Ford at first said that the U.S. would "never" give up its defense and operational rights to the canal. He has been backing down from this position even since — but he has not gone so far as to state the U.S. is not sovereign in the Canal Zone.

A still more sensitive issue revolves around Reagan's claim that the United States has slipped to "second best" among the super-powers. This is clearly a subject that concerns Americans and the President is trying to assure them by proclaiming a "peace through strength" policy and supporting the B-1 bomber and other military programs that convey a determination to maintain a defense superiority. Now Mr. Ford is weighing a decision on a costly Navy shipbuilding program.

Defense is extremely important, and no one would quarrel with the need to keep America's military might up. But there needs to be a lot of level-headed thinking about infinitely complex defense problems that do not lend themselves to easy answers. Many Pentagon officials, for instance, oppose the construction of huge multimillion-dollar nuclear-powered aircraft carriers and strike cruisers, favoring instead smaller ships that have more flexible use and are less vulnerable.

Such matters ought to get serious, thoughtful debate. When Mr. Ford — again responding to Mr. Reagan — suggests that the Soviet Union's advantage in conventional ground troops in Europe could only be matched by restoring the draft in the United States he is not making the right points. The fact is that NATO has upgraded the quality of its tanks and other weaponry and is more than a match for the Warsaw Pact forces.

Thus, defense, Panama, relations with Moscow, Africa and other foreign policy issues ought to be dealt with publicly with the utmost care and balance. Else the national interest is damaged. It is difficult enough to try to conduct foreign policy in an election year. But it does not help the American public — or the President's political image — to oversimplify the problems or to shoot from the hip to try to outgun Mr. Reagan. The latter's often fatuous pronouncements ought to fall of their own weight.

Christian Science Monitor

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, May 3, 1951  
John W. Best took over the management of the Raeford Hotel Tuesday from Mr. and Mrs. O.W. Holtzclaw.

A number of Raeford people attended the sesquicentennial anniversary meetings at the First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville.

From Poole's Medley:  
Sometimes when I am not asleep I take the years as they come, and recall event after event. Good and bad have mingled since I can first remember.

"Hoke High Lights," student

publication of Hoke County High school was one of the southern school publications receiving recognition at the meeting of the Southern Interscholastic Press Association held at Washington and Lee University April 27-30.

Mrs. Helen S. Barrington, local representative for the American Red Cross, justice of the peace, and collector for the Carolina Telephone Co. moved her office this week from the telephone building to the building of the T.B. Upchurch Seed department across from the cotton platform.

The local Boy Scout troop went to the Western District Camporee at Camp Tom Upchurch last Friday, Saturday and Sunday and came home with top honors among the 80 - odd boys

'Harvey...I think I've found out what's happening to the mail'



by Marty Vega

## Shocking Evidence

This column and our associates have uncovered shocking, new evidence of another astronomical cost - overrun involving America's military defense program, which, of course, will be borne by the American taxpayer.

Along with the F - 111 fighter and other enormous wastes, it should come as no surprise that the Department of Defense is again running up a ridiculous deficit in its summer riot and civil disorders training for Army soldiers.

A young paratrooper stationed at an eastern North Carolina sprawling infantry base leaked to us, with the promise of anonymity, the real facts behind the case:

Combat - ready troops in the Army are now in the midst of riot training in the event of a hot summer with civil disorders breaking out, so each day this week

platoons are enacting realistic mob situations. In order to make it realistic, of course, the soldiers playing the parts of the rioters are furnished with eggs and tomatoes to throw at the soldiers playing the parts of the Real - Life (not to be confused with Pro-Life) soldiers.

Now how many eggs and tomatoes do you suppose it would take for a brigade, with how many battalions each, to complete this critical training? You don't know? Doesn't matter, what matters is this:

We have solid, undisputed evidence that the Department of Defense paid 69 cents a pound for the tomatoes at a nearby national grocery discount chain store on Ragg Blvd., when they could have purchased tomatoes for 48 cents a pound at a national discount grocery chain store on Ratford Rd.

And the eggs? If you think of all the thousands of dollars overspent on the tomatoes, you wouldn't want to think about the eggs!

Again, we have it from reliable sources, that the eggs were Grade AA jumbo, purchased for 89 cents a dozen, when they could have bought large grade A, two dozen at \$1.

When you think of 16,000 soldiers, if they each threw only one tomato and two eggs, which is a minimal amount for your average, real - life rioter, what does that come to in terms of taxpayer's dollars? Huh?

Do you think the Army cared whether the eggs thrown at them in Detroit or Newark were jumbo Grade AA or Large Grade A, or that the tomatoes were plump, ripe, delicious 69 cents a pound, or mediocre, tough and lacking in flavor at 48 cents a pound?

Do you think anyone cares about serious, responsible journalism at its best as appears in this column?



"I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Matthew 28:20, RSV)

It was impossible not to notice them - a tall, blond young woman in deep mourning, holding a very small boy by the hand. They stood a little apart from the crowd who were looking at the huge marble statue of Christ which stands atop a mountain peak, with arms outstretched in blessing over the city of Rio.

Clouds scudded by, driven by erratic, gusty winds. After the statue had stood sharply outlined against the deep blue of the sky, it suddenly was wrapped in mist and completely lost to sight.

The small boy tugged at his mother's hand. "Look, Mommy, look! He was there when the clouds came. Will He be there when they go away?" The young mother threw back the heavy crepe from her face, looked up, and suddenly smiled. "Yes, oh, yes, of course, darling. He will be there when the clouds move away."

That evening, as our ship set out to sea, I saw the statue once again and in my heart repeated her words: "When the clouds move away, He will be there."

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, give us patience to live through the darkening clouds and to have faith that they will move away to show us that You are always there. Amen.

CLIFF BLUE ...

## People & Issues



LOOKING 'EM OVER... As a trustee of Sandhills Community College in Moore County I attended the Spring Delegate Assembly Meeting of the North Carolina Trustees Association of Community Education Institutions in Raleigh last week. Highlight of the meeting was short speeches by the candidates for governor, both Democrat and Republican. Six of the seven announced candidates were on hand with only George Wood, who just the day before, announced his switch from lieutenant governor candidate to that of governor, unable to attend.

The candidates evidently sense the growing sentiment among trustees and institution presidents for a separate board for community colleges and technical institutes, apart from the State Board of Education. Four of the candidates speaking, Ed O'Herron, Jake Alexander, Coy Privette and David Flaherty recommended a separate board for the community college and technical institutes. Jim Hunt did not take a positive stand on the issue, saying that he would await the finding of the study commission on the subject and would do what is needed to be done. Robert Strickland was the only one to raise the issue of problems affecting the system, specifically the abuse by some administrators of enrollment to improperly increase state assistance to their institutions. Wallace McCall of Transylvania County, a part-time Baptist preacher and business-man, said he was not well-enough informed to take a position on the community college problems.

Most of the candidates acquitted themselves well, and gave trustees an opportunity to size them up as gubernatorial candidates.

GEORGE WOOD... The entrance of George Wood, farmer, businessman and former legislator from Camden County into the gubernatorial sweepstakes will no doubt liven up the race for the Democratic nomination for governor and could well result in a run-off primary.

Some may figure Wod's entrance into the gubernatorial race comes too late for major support that might have come his way earlier. Others point to the successful candidacy of W.Kerr Scott for governor in 1948. Scott was considered a candidate to succeed himself as Commissioner of Agriculture until in January, 1948, he an-

nounced that he would not be a candidate. Then, it was sometime in February before he announced for governor which was only about three and a half months before the primary which was in May. Wood's announcement for governor on April 28 gives him slightly more than three and a half months before the August primary.

While many of the "pros" are committed, most of the rank and file voters are still free to vote their unfettered choice.

JIMMY CARTER... From the momentum given the Jimmy Carter candidacy for the Democratic nomination for president as a result of the Georgian's big win in Pennsylvania last week it would appear that Theodore White would be well advised to lose no time in gathering background information for his next edition the "The Making of A President."

It is of course possible for Carter to stumble before convention time but the possibility is growing fainter by the week. Pennsylvania not only knocked Jackson out as a viable candidate, but did about the same thing to Humphrey. Udall admits he is down, but says he is "not out." The opposition Carter may well re-group around Udall but from a practical standpoint there can be only a tiny hope of winning first place on the ticket.

COURT REFORM... Many people see the need for "court reform" which has been tried before but with little noticeable improvement. George Penny, managing editor of the Montgomery Herald in Troy offers this suggestion: "More than a few dollars can be saved by eliminating two layers of the judicial process which wouldn't be missed with revamping the court system: the magistrates, and the district courts. Functions of these two layers in the judicial process could be handled by Superior Court in every county in North Carolina five days a week and eight hours a day throughout the year. The district attorney could issue the warrants now handled by magistrates, and the courts could catch up on the backlog of cases and guarantee defendants in criminal cases a speedy trial. If the judges and district attorneys didn't do the job properly, they could be replaced by the electorate. Once the criminals cases were in hand, the courts could start on trial of civil cases which often aren't settled for years after they are filed."

## Letters To The Editor

We are writing this paper concerning an accident which happened April 2nd, that claimed the life of our brother Robert A. Barefoot, and two other Raeford men.

We are concerned as to why the Raeford Police Dept. or Sheriff Dept. did not notify our father of the accident, after all this is what they are getting paid for.

As a resident of this town for fifteen years, was very well known, to us there is no explanation for this.

My father received a phone call at 7 o'clock A.M. Friday morning asking if one of his sons had been in an accident. He was unaware of this and told the caller that it was not one of his sons, because he had not heard anything about it. After a second phone call asking about the accident and telling my father two of the boys had been killed, he became concerned and called Crumpler Funeral Home and was told that Robert had been in an accident and taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital where he passed away at approximately 9:30 A.M.

We have always had respect for the police dept. and Sheriff Dept. of Hoke County and thought that they were doing a good job, but can not understand why they were so unconcerned about this family.

We hope nothing like this ever happens to any of their families, if so then they will know and understand why we have this attitude toward them.

Sisters of Robert A. Barefoot,  
Doris B. Skinner  
Edna B. Kerr, Kernersville

Editor's Note: The policy of the Raeford Police Department in regard to victims of accidents is to notify the next of kin as quickly as possible. In the event of a death, the notification is made in person and not by telephone.

In response to the comments made in the above letter, Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said the victim's next of kin, his wife, was out of the city at the time of the accident and police were unable to locate her whereabouts. The department policy is to make every effort to locate any member of the family and Wiggins said a brother of Barefoot, a worker at Burling-

ton, was contacted sometimes between 7 - 8 A.M. Wiggins said the brother agreed to notify members of Barefoot's family.

Police contacted an aunt of Barefoot's wife living in the city, Mrs. Clyde Stocks, and she advised police she knew where Barefoot's wife could be reached in South Carolina and she would notify her.

To the editor,

As I look over the past two years and at the success that our Booster Club has had, we find people like our fine merchants that buy an ad in our football program each year and ones who support our athletic program. We would also like to thank the fine people that join our Booster Club each year to make it a success. We would like to take this opportunity to thank The News - Journal and WSHB for their fine support. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our coaches for the many long hours they put in each year with our young men and women to have a fine athletic department in our school system.

Noah A. Hendrix, Sr.  
President, Hoke Booster Club

Dear editor,  
I would like very much the publishing of this letter.

I would like to thank the people of the Sandhills Community College, and the Hoke County Board of Education, for their adult night school for helping me and others like me in the fulfillment of a dream.

And congratulations to the teachers who helped each student in an up-close and personal way. And, most of all, to Mrs. Williams for giving everything a special touch, from the class ring right down to the cap and gown. And so much more. To them I would like to say thanks from the bottom of my heart. And, knowing these people's hearts, I know the best gift I can give them is to urge anyone who has not finished high school to come out and give night school a try.

Thank you from the night school class of '76,  
Ronald Wayne Phillips