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THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1976

An important privacy bill

It may be surprising to America's less cynical citizens that no federal statutes protect their bank accounts from FBI scrutiny, their phone calls from monitoring by the boss, their mail from being systematically inspected and recorded according to what's on the envelopes.

But Congress is well aware of such intrusions on the right of privacy. The question is whether it will do something about them, at least to the regulatory extent proposed by the long-pending Bill of Rights Procedures Act, which is scheduled to come before the House Judiciary Committee next week.

Prompt work by the committee is necessary for House passage in time to encourage Senate action and completed legislation by this fall.

The bill was first introduced in 1974 under Republican auspices — Sen. Charles Mathias of Maryland and Rep. Charles Mosher of Ohio. It has a bipartisan group of more than 70 co-sponsors in the House. It was reported out of sub-committee last month with a unanimous vote. It deserves full support.

Support has already come from credit and financial institutions who welcome the prospect of being able to cite federal statutes when the government calls. Suppose federal agents want customer information from a credit-card firm, bank, or telephone company. The bill would require them either to get the written consent of the customer, serve a subpoena on the institution, with a copy to the customer (who could challenge it), or obtain a search warrant from the courts.

As for "mail covers" — the surveillance of information on the outside of first-class mail — the bill would make law of various current Postal Service guidelines, with specific provisions for authorization and subsequent notice to the person under surveillance.

The final section of the bill would take the valuable step of requiring a court order for intercepting telegraph messages, computer data transmissions, and other communications in addition to the aural or spoken word already covered by wiretap laws.

The Mosher-Mathias bill does regulate the monitoring of calls by telephone companies and other firms in the name of checking up on the level of service. For example, employees would have to be informed that their phone calls are subject to monitoring and no phone could be legally monitored without being identified as a phone subject to monitoring.

We go into these procedural controls at some length, partly because they imply the existence of practices that are either unknown to many Americans, fatalistically accepted by them, or suspected to the extent of inhibiting a democratic sense of free communication.

There is always the pitfall that the legislation of controls on such intrusions may be interpreted as tacitly permitting what might be ruled out entirely by appeal to the Constitution. But constitutional protection has already been judged not to apply to some of the practices that would be controlled by this bill. Last month, for example, the Supreme Court overruled a lower court's decision that had supported an individual's claim to privacy for his bank records.

Though the present bill would control the invasion of such records only by federal agents, it can be hoped that it would provide a model for state legislation — and, indeed, that financial managements would require anyone soliciting customer information to fulfill the same obligations placed upon the government. —*Christian Science Monitor*

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, May 24, 1951

Robbins Heights, 130-unit housing development on the north side of East Prospect Avenue, is just about ready for the people to start moving in, according to officials of Raeford Betterment, Inc., builders of the houses for the individual owners.

Mrs. Hattie Pellman Sessoms, 78, died at 7:00 o'clock Saturday morning at her home on Route 3, Fayetteville.

Hinton McPhaul, Harvey Warlick and Starr McMillan were initiated into the Shrine in ceremonies in Greensboro during the past weekend.

From Poole's Medley:
 People did not know the worth of cotton until there came a time when there was but little made. The world finds it cannot get along without it.

15 years ago

Thursday, May 26, 1961

The Hoke County Golden Jubilee ended Friday night in a blaze of fireworks, glory and exhaustion.

A total of 74 boys and girls are poised to receive their coveted diplomas at Hoke High graduation exercises set for this coming Tuesday night at the Raeford Elementary Auditorium.

Graduation exercises for Upchurch High School will be held Tuesday night in the school auditorium at 8 p.m. with Dr. Lafayette Parker, Dean of Fayetteville State Teachers College, delivering the commencement address.

Governor Terry Sanford has announced the appointment of Tommie Upchurch of Raeford to head the drive in Hoke County to save the Battleship North Carolina.

'Mr. President, you're beginning to look like a winner'



by Marty Vega

Gracious Manners Here

Who says courtesy and gracious manners have gone out of style? Having had the pleasure of entertaining Norfolk, Va. friends for the weekend at the house, we received the following thank you note in the mail promptly after the guests' return, with these excerpts:

"Pets... guest was unaware of feline's presence in motel room, since notice of same was not posted by management, therefore causing guest's heart to palpitate upon seeing sudden movement in mirror"

"Dining room service... customers had no complaints about quality or service, coffee, Dr. Pepper, and pizza were rated highly. However, walls badly in need of paint, suggest a sunny yellow or restful green..."

"Television... Guests were under impression motel was furnished with color TV and were disappointed to find black and white only available. Very unusual."

"Furnishings... customer approved of all furnishings with the exception of one chair in the lobby. This chair partially collapsed while guest was in occupancy, causing a startled reaction. Repair or replacement recommended..."

"Linens... Guests had never heard of a motel where one had to furnish one's own linens, causing inconvenience to the traveler and annoyance, as one's own linens are rather tattered and streaked with red Magic Marker. Motel management strongly advised to replenish supplies of sheets, towels, etc..."

"Bathroom... Guests approved of bathroom with exception of faulty door and lighting... Failure of door to remain completely closed caused concern to guests..."

Guest's request for a light bulb to replace burned out bulb not handled satisfactorily by motel management. Although management promptly responded to request, guests did not fully approve of a blue light bulb, which caused marked changes in appearance of skin, clothing, and hair, as viewed in bathroom mirror"

"What a heartwarming thank-you!"



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

Last Thursday, I went before the Senate Interior Committee to urge that it give a fair hearing and early approval of a bill which would preserve the New River in North Carolina in its natural state.

The Senate bill, which is similar to one introduced in the House, would designate some 26½ miles of the river as a part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This bill now has my support.

I arrived at this position only after a period of much thought and great criticism during which the rights of property owners were at stake. A letter from the North Carolina State Department of Administration now assures me that land owners along the river will be treated fairly and will be compensated for any rights of use of their land that they may be denied.

There are not many of these property owners, measured against the number of people who love the river and want it kept free instead of being dammed as proposed by a large utility company. But had there been only one, or six, or a dozen, the principle would have been the same. Because if the government can take the property rights of a land owner on the New River without compensation, then it can violate the rights of any of us.

The crux of this whole matter was the stated intent of the State Government to use flood plain zoning along the New River, not as a means of protecting life and property, as such zoning is intended to do, but to protect the river.

There is not another river in the United States in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System in which flood plain zoning has been relied upon. Yet the State had said publicly and in writing that unless Ashe and Alleghany Counties enacted such zoning, then the State itself was prepared to do so.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



BADGER JOHNSON
 Badger Johnson of Laurinburg stopped by for a brief chat recently. Badger is a native of Sampson county and our conversation soon turned to people we both knew well.

With my wife Gala Nunnery being from the Roseboro community in Sampson County, I have come to know well and favorably many fine people in this great agricultural county.

Our conversation soon got around to politics and Badger had an idea as to how the Democrats could win this fall, not only in North Carolina but in the nation, almost as easy as falling off a log!

Badger said that if only half of the Democrats who had voted for Nixon and Agnew in 1972 would turn back and vote Democratic, the Democrats would have it in the bag. About this, Badger is right, but first the Democrats must nominate candidates that will be a little more appealing than the Republicans.

With party labels now meaning less and less as the years go by it seems that many would rather "switch" than vote straight, maybe, feeling that their party should not only offer candidates as good but candidates with a little more strength of character than the opposition. This, we suspect may go for Republicans as well as Democrats.

PERSONALITIES... Personalities that I came to know well in Sampson County included Deems H. Clifton with whom I served in the House in the 1947 or 1949 session. Also, I served in the House while the late Henry Vann served in the Senate, and while Henry's cousin, Percy served in the House, having a close acquaintance with both of the Vanns. Tom Newman, a farmer, was another close friend, and there are others too numerous to mention whose friendships and acquaintance I value highly.

NOTABLES... Think of Sampson County and the names of great people come to mind. William Rufus King, ambassador to England and France, and the Vice President who never served, was born in Sampson County. Elected vice president in 1852, he took the oath of office March 4, 1853 in Havana where he had gone for his health but died soon after he returned home. A monument to

this distinguished son and statesman is on the courthouse lawn in Clinton.

Another distinguished family of Sampson, was the Butlers. Marion Butler was elected to the U.S. Senate through a coalition of Populists and Republicans in 1897. That campaign resulted in Sampson becoming a Republican County for at least 50 years. Senators Butler's nephew, Algernon Lee Butler is Chief Judge, United States District Court, Eastern District in North Carolina.

Another distinguished family, the Highsmiths, gave to Eastern North Carolina a generation of doctors. One was the late Dr. J.F. Highsmith of Fayetteville, who operated the Highsmith Hospital in that city for many years. The three Highsmiths of Sampson, John Jacob, Robert, and George, had six sons to enter medicine and dentistry. All three were Confederate veterans, all returned to Sampson County. The old Highsmith farm is near Roseboro.

Clinton is the county seat of Sampson but it has numerous other smaller towns and villages, --Roseboro, Garland, Salemburg, Newton Grove, Turkey, Ivanhoe, Autryville, Newton's Crossroads, Harrell's and Delway, all have a part in making up North Carolina's largest county, covering 963 square miles.

RALEIGH POLICEMEN... We note that the Raleigh policemen are going beyond the bounds of reasonableness in issuing citations to court where in ordinary times they would be more reasonable. They say they are doing this to force a pay hike. This kind of public service certainly doesn't speak well for law-enforcement officers -- or any other officer. They were not drafted into service like soldiers in time of war. If they are dissatisfied they are free to resign and give employment to others who might show greater appreciation for these positions paid for with hard-earned tax money.

Letter To The Editor

Since May is almost over, I would like to thank these people who made this a successful beautification month.

At the beginning of this month, we had a rainy cleanup day, which did not stop a lot of people. (Here are some names that helped me prepare, and up to the end were available)

Mr. Raz Autry, Mr. R. Drumwright, the ladies from the Garden Dept. of the Raeford Woman's Club and the ladies from the Conservation Dept. of the Junior Womans Club, Rev. J.W. McRae from Cameron Heights and his church as well as many Girl Scout troops.

Now this was just the beginning. All through this month we had the judging of "County Yard of the Week" and "City Yard of the Week".

When anyone is downtown, notice the planters on Main St. They have been prepared by Mr. S.L. Williams and his high school horticulture class. The class also landscaped the civic center grounds. The painting of the civic center was done by Mr. Hunter's carpentry class from the high school.

Many thanks to each of these great people.

Hoke Drug and Kinlaw Jewelry Store have spruced up the outside of their stores and signs. They look great. The tennis courts behind McLachlin School are progressing rapidly and hopefully will be finished by June 17.

The area of the shopping center is still being fixed up. Thanks goes to Mr. Jones from the Laurinburg and Southern Railroad.

In addition, I would like to express my appreciation and congratulations to the staff of WSHB, the staff of The News-Journal, and the county extension office.

Many thanks to all.
 Mickey Christopher
 Beautification coordinator

