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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, JUNE 3, 1976

Saving social security

Four decades ago social security was envisioned as a self-supporting system to help retirees, widows, orphans, and the disabled. In essence, younger workers would be contributing to a fund that would provide them financial support in later years.

Today, however, demographic changes and political decisions have left social security in serious trouble. The fund set up to pay out benefits is shrinking and unless firm steps are taken the situation will only get worse.

This was pointed out most recently in the annual report by the social security trustees — the Secretaries of Labor, Treasury, and Health, Education, and Welfare. Since most Americans either pay into the social security trust fund or receive benefits from it, any resulting governmental action will have widespread effect.

The report noted that the system's trust fund will drop from \$44 billion to \$40 billion by the end of this year. Deficit projections have improved somewhat due to the general economic upturn, but the 1976 deficit still is estimated to be over \$4 billion. If the ways social security is funded and paid out are not changed, the trustees warned, the deficit will increase by 50 percent over the next 75 years and the trust fund will be depleted early in the 1980s.

What it boils down to is relatively more retirees and fewer contributing workers over the next century or so. If present trends continue, there would be half again as many recipients of social security per worker shortly after the year 2000 as there are today.

The simple answers are to either increase social security revenues or lower benefits. Lowering benefits substantially would be unfair to future generations of retirees, to say nothing of politically difficult. Raising revenues would involve a hike in the payroll tax, lifting the limit on the amount subject to the tax, or dipping into general revenues.

President Ford has proposed increasing the social security tax now levied on both employers and employees. Congressional critics who have rejected that method say it would hurt most those least able to afford it, many of whom now pay more to social security than they do in income taxes; they would rather raise the taxing limit (and thus tax richer people more), or use revenues from the more progressive income tax to help fund social security.

Regarding social security benefits, there are convincing arguments that too much has been promised. Raises in future benefits for those now working, for instance, would be tied to increases in both wages and prices and thus make up twice for inflation. Projections show that retirees 20 or 30 years from now thus could be paid more than what they earned while employed.

The cost of social security has become so high that more than 100 city and county governments have pulled out in favor of private pension systems said to be more efficient. Another 200 governmental units, including New York City, are planning similar moves. New York alone could cost the social security system \$3 billion over the next five years, Social Security Commissioner James Cardwell has warned, and present a "serious adverse short-range effect on the trust funds."

These are many other present and potential problems facing the future of social security: widowers' rights (counting a wife's earnings toward future family benefits), revising the age of retirement, changing the limit on earned income for those receiving social security.

The point is for Congress and the Executive to recognize the seriousness of the situation and take steps toward correcting it. Further delay can only make things worse.

Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, May 31, 1951

The graduation program of the Hoke County High School brought the commencement exercises to a close Tuesday evening, May 29 at 8:15 o'clock when Dr. Frotis Johnson of social science department of Davidson College delivered an inspiring and challenging address. W.T. Gibson, Jr., principal, awarded the diplomas to 50 seniors.

From Poole's Medley:

I remember how good water was from the two pumps and one well on Main Street before water systems were put in.

Marion Gatlin, member of the new board of commissioners of the Town of Raeford and for several years a member of the Raeford district school committee, announced this week that he was resigning as a member of the school committee in order not to be in two public positions at one time.

Fvt. Robert S. Perry, Jr., 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Perry of McCain

and Pvt. Duke Marshall, Jr., 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Marshall of McCain, are completing AF basic airmen indoctrination course at Lackland Air Force Base, the "Gateway to the Air Force."

Raeford will join the national home inspection drive to rid American homes of fire hazards starting June 1, Fire Chief R.B. Lewis, announced today.

The Raeford Grove of the Supreme Forest Woodmen Circle won the first prize for being the outstanding Grove in the State at the state convention.

15 years ago

Thursday, June 1, 1961

"You count," said Dr. Voight R. Cromer, president of Lenoir-Rhyne College addressing the 74 graduates of the 1961 graduation class at Hoke High School.

From Rockfish News:

Planners for the Jubilee surely hit on a good week between a rainy spell and the cold of last week. How about sitting out for anything last Saturday?

'It can't be the food, so maybe it's my voice,
maybe it's my smile ...'



by Marty Vega

Picnic Days, Ho Ho

How many of you enjoyed your Memorial Day weekend by hosting an outdoor cookout for friends and family? Or did you pass up plans for a barbecue because of the HIGH COST OF FOOD, or just invite a very few? For that matter, were you

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear editor:

According to people who're supposed to know, gasoline prices will go up this summer because, they say, of the law of supply and demand but it's probably also because of some people's knowledge of human nature. You have a car packed full of fishing gear, picnic supplies, swim suits and kids and the folks with gas to sell know a jump of five cents a gallon isn't going to hold you back. They understand children.

After all, somebody put all those highways out there and you know people feel an irresistible obligation to not let them go to waste.

This brings me to the energy problem and how to solve it. So far, about all the thinkers have come up with is conservation. Stop using so much gasoline, they say. Cut down on your driving. They mean business. Why, there are people so concerned over the waste of fuel they'll ride one-to-a-car going to a meeting to protest people going to work one-to-a-car. In earlier times, when people rode horses, they'd be protesting because people weren't riding double. This wasteful use of oats has got to stop.

Let's face it, this is the automobile age where people are going to get in their cars and go where they want to, to work, to play, or wherever, until the earth is pumped dry of oil, and the answer is to find something besides gasoline that'll run the things.

Electricity is the answer. Now I don't understand the stuff. I can understand how you can send water or oil through a pipe but I don't understand how you can send electricity down a wire when it hasn't even got a hole in it and I don't know what the stuff is. All I know is that if you can turn a generator, it'll turn out electricity. Where it comes from I don't know, but I don't think it uses up any of our natural resources, other than our money, and you don't have to dig, strip-mine or drill for it. Environmentalists would wither from lack of something to do if everything, including cars, ran on electricity.

And that's my point. We've got to invent a method of broadcasting electricity to a moving vehicle, whether a car, an airplane, a ship, a train, a motorboat or a motor-scooter, with the electricity coming of course from a pollution-free source like the sun. Storing it in batteries won't work. Oh, I guess you could load a plane down with enough batteries to lift it off the ground, if you had a small pilot and no passengers.

Some people will say it can't be done, you can't broadcast electricity to a car, but if man can send colored television pictures by air, why can't he send electricity that way? Looks like it might even be simpler. Electricity isn't colored. I don't think.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

able to afford to eat last week?

Interested in what people paid for food for Memorial Day 15 years ago, according to a grocery chain advertisement published in the NJ May 18, 1961?

In case you celebrated the holiday with an early brunch, you served your guests coffee that was 53 cents for a one pound bag. Maybe some cinnamon or sugared donuts, 21 cents for a dozen. Bacon? Sure, one pound package, smoked, sliced, and "algood", was 39 cents. Fruit and pastry lovers coming over, too? How about a fresh baked peach pie, large, for 49 cents.

No brunch that day, but a big, old-fashioned cookout in the afternoon?

You bought a nice sized, tender ham for 63 cents a pound. For barbecuing, you thought of pork chops, center cut loin for 65 cents a pound. And of course, baked potatoes would go right on the grill. Six pounds for a quarter.

And corn? Everyone enjoys corn on the cob outdoors. Six ears for 29 cents. And what would a picnic be without pork and beans? The 52 oz. can (think, now) was 29 cents, too. And what would a picnic be without pickles? A quart jar of dill pickles was 29 cents.

Don't forget the salad. Two heads of iceberg lettuce went for 29 cents. Heard enough? Agreed.

This Is The Law

By Robert E. Lee
(Sponsored by The Lawyers
of North Carolina)
ABORTION

The 1967 North Carolina General Assembly enacted a statute liberalizing abortion laws in this State. It was heralded as being in the vanguard of abortion reform throughout the nation.

Prior to 1967, North Carolina, like the vast majority of other jurisdictions, prohibited abortion "unless the same shall be necessary to preserve the life of the mother."

The North Carolina 1967 statute contained guidelines and procedures to be followed not only by the pregnant woman but also by the physicians conducting the operation. This statute was amended in 1971 and completely rewritten in 1973.

The new statute is short and fairly simple. Two pertinent provisions are as follows:

"(a). It shall not be unlawful, during the first 20 weeks of a woman's pregnancy, to advise, procure, or cause a miscarriage or abortion when the procedure is performed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina in a hospital or clinic certified by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission to be a suitable facility for the performance of abortions."

"(b). It shall not be unlawful, after the twentieth week of a woman's pregnancy, to advise, procure or cause a miscarriage or abortion when the procedure is performed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina in a hospital licensed by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, if there is a substantial risk that continuance of the pregnancy would treaten the life or gravely impair the health of the woman."

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



REPUBLICANS ... It used to be that the Democrats did most of the squabbling in North Carolina, but now in this Bicentennial year it seems that the Republicans are as divided as the Democrats used to be.

Two years ago the Governor and the moderate wing of the GOP were in firm control, riding high, kicking Frank Rouse out as State Chairman and calling the shots in Republican affairs in North Carolina.

Now, two years later, the worm has turned. Holshouser, the first Republican governor since the turn of the century lost out when he backed the incumbent Republican President of the United States! This would have seemed a natural thing to do, back the incumbent, but the Holshouser-Rouse fight two years ago planted seeds for the 1976 eruption between the conservative wing of the party led by Senator Helms and the moderate wing of the party led by Holshouser. Senator Helms is probably one of the strongest public officials in office today and whoever the Democrats nominate to oppose him in 1978 will have their hands full unless something unforeseen develops to cause the senior senator's stock to fall.

TEACHER ENDORSEMENT ... We note that a number of school teachers have taken issue with the N.C. Association of Educators over its endorsement for governor and lieutenant governor in the Democrat races. The group endorsed Jim Hunt and Jimmy Green and some of the teachers didn't like the Green endorsement. Some, at least felt former Chapel Hill Mayor Howard Lee should have been endorsed. Come to think about it, we doubt the endorsement will have much weight with the rank and file teachers over who they will vote for.

In the presidential primaries we took note that Jackson received the labor unions' endorsement in the states where the unions are supposed to be strong but that in most of the states Jimmy Carter who did not have labor's endorsement won!

It will be remembered that in 1964 the leaders in the Tar Heel Education group went all out for Richardson Preyer for governor, but in the second primary Dan Moore received 480,431 votes to

293,863 for Preyer. We doubt that pressure groups have much influence beyond their own individual votes insofar as the rank and file of school teachers and labor union members are concerned. At least the presidential primaries this year indicate that their voice is far louder than their influence is strong in delivering votes. Congressman Udall who speaks boastfully of his labor union votes has failed to lead in a single state. It just looks like union members and teachers don't like to be told how to vote—and lots of other people have the same feeling.

CRIME ... We note that most of the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor have been calling for government to deal more firmly against crime and violence. Last week David Flaherty, GOP candidate for governor said he has "serious doubts about the ability of government to change the attitudes and value system of convicted criminals." Ed O'Herron and Jim Hunt have taken strong stands against crime as have Jim Green, Herbert Hyde and other candidates, both Democrats and Republicans.

What most law-abiding citizens would like to see is for the judges and solicitors to firm up and bring about justice to the extent that the criminals will know first hand that crime doesn't pay.

Many of our law-abiding citizens view our court system as weak and deplorable.

DELEGATION CHAIRMEN ... In the Democratic Party a contest is on between U.S. Senator Robert Morgan and State Party Chairman Jim Sugg for the chairmanship of the delegation to the national convention in New York in August. Between the two we would predict the edge for the state's junior U.S. Senator. Among the Republicans the feeling seems to be that U.S. Senator Jesse Helms can have the chairmanship with so little as a nod of the head.

BEVERLY LAKE, JR. ... Former Assistant Attorney General I. Beverly Lake, Jr. is running for the State Senate from Wake County. If elected, young Lake may well move on to run for governor of some state office like Attorney General in the not too distant future.

Open To The Public

'Closest Thing To Broadway' Has No Red Tape

By Mike Steadman

"The theatre productions here are open to the public and no one should have any hesitation about coming on post to see them," said George Yarick, chief of the music and theatre branch of the Recreation Services Division at Ft. Bragg.

Yarick was this writer's very knowledgeable guide on a candid tour of the impressive facilities of the music and theatre branch during Ft. Bragg's media day held May 12.

"I know people have a funny feeling about going on a military installation if they are not a part of the armed forces," he added.

Yarick has been the head of the music and theatre branch for seven years and since that time has accomplished many things. One of those accomplishments is responsibility in the production of five different plays in a 48 hour period. This was a repertory production for the All Army Festival of the Performing Arts. Ft. Bragg took first place in the competition that included military installations all over the world.

Yarick said the music and theatre branch is divided into four sections: live theatre; post music program; imported and touring shows; and entertainment centers. The live theatre section is composed of the Cabaret Dinner Theatre and the Ft. Bragg Play House.

The post music program produces such things as national operas and productions of the North Carolina Festival of Performing Arts.

The imported and touring shows involve sending groups of performers to overseas installations and to countries during war and peace times.

The entertainment centers are actually music workshops where future artists get their starts in the performing field.

Yarick said the combination of

the four sections produces 400 performances of everything (theatrical productions, concerts, etc.) in 365 days.

He said the branch is financed by two separate budgets with most of the money coming from non-federal appropriations.

Yarick said if all the branch had to work with was the tax money, the productions could not operate over six months.

He said the only kind of charges made to the public is the cost of admission to the theatrical productions.

Yarick said his staff consisted of nine people and the rest of the production crew were volunteers.

"This is the closest thing to Broadway without leaving North Carolina," he said.

He said the Ft. Bragg Playhouse is easy to get to (Knox St. on post) and there is no red tape to go through getting there.

"The more the merrier. I'd like to invite everyone to come see our productions," he said.

"All you have to do is call for reservations and settle back for a night of restful and delightful entertainment," he added.

The next play at the Fort Bragg Playhouse is "A Championship Season" with Broderick Crawford in the lead.

This production begins May 28, and will run through Sunday of that week and will begin again on Thursday June 3, and will run through June 6, with two performances on Sunday at 2 and 8 P.M.

All other performances begin at 8 P.M.

After viewing the production of "Guys and Dolls", this writer wouldn't miss "A Championship Season", and would advise all to attend.

The production is recommended for adults due to the language and the subject matter.

Call for reservations at 396-2388 or 396-6723 daily from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.