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THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1976

On standardized containers for business garbage

We took a rather dim view at first of the city's plan to require all commercial establishments in the city to acquire and use standardized garbage containers, seeing it as just another in the seemingly endless procession of new and additional expenses of doing business these days.

A further look at the matter, including a complete explanation by City Manager Robert Drumwright, has brought us to the conclusion that the action is right and proper. We now believe it will result in more efficient garbage pickup and a cleaner city, that it is the fairest course for all taxpayers, and that in the long run it will be cheaper for the commercial establishments of the community.

Certainly, having all commercial garbage kept for pickup in tight, presentable looking containers with lids on them will be cleaner and will at least make it a little more difficult for the rat population of our alleys to grow and prosper. The smell should be some better — just think of rotting cabbage back of a food store, for example. Our store operators will now not have to fear the sudden appearance of Sanitarian M.R. Mills in their alleys.

As for efficiency of pickup, there appears to be no argument at all. With the compatibility of the new truck and the containers to be required, and a considerable reduction in human labor, the result will be tax money saved for a long time to come.

It would be difficult indeed for the city to justify using city funds to purchase these containers for commercial establishments at the expense of all taxpayers. Homeowners in the city, most of whom do not own or operate commercial establishments, would have a right to expect the city to furnish them with garbage cans as well, it would appear, and the confusion this would entail would be formidable indeed.

Now the city estimates that enough of these containers for the whole business community will cost between twenty and twenty-five thousand dollars, or a tax increase of from four to five cents at present valuations, and no estimate has been furnished of providing garbage cans for all residences in the city. This would be just a one-time tax increase, theoretically, but we all know it takes a far colder day than we have had this June to get a tax increase, once applied, to come back down.

The city plans to make these containers available at a cost of as low as about \$75 per business on a share basis to a high of \$383 for the largest container used by one company alone. The plan also is to allow them to be paid for over six months with no interest by those wishing to buy them this way.

So, we would therefore repeat our contention that the one-time extra expense for a business will be cheaper in the long run than a tax raise which might never come down.

Better, cheaper, fairer — these have changed our dim view of the idea to a bright view. We would even go so far as to predict that in years to come we'll wonder how we ever did it any other way, like we do so many other things we have scrapped a little over in the past.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, June 21, 1951

The weekly survey of cotton plants in the county was conducted by a representative of the Extension service this week, the fifth straight check for the boll weevil, and the figures for his work disclose a startling and pronounced increase over the number found on the check of June 11.

First cotton blossom of the season to be seen in The News-Journal office was brought in Friday by J.D. McCrimmon of the Edenborough section of Allendale Township on Red Springs Route 3.

Janet Hodgkin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D.H. Hodgkin, and Joyce Conoly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.L. Conoly, spent last week at the American Legion Girls' State, conducted annually at the Womans' College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

From Rockfish News: People enjoy a pause in the cotton dusting since the rains, as well as the weevils.

From Poole's Medley: These tractors are going to replace the number of horses and mules in use on the farms, for a tractor can do as much plowing in a day as ten horses or mules.

15 years ago

Thursday, June 22, 1961

Hoke County voters will soon get a chance to vote on a special tax levy to support their County Library.

A new policeman, Harvey Young, has been added to the force, Chief L.W. Stanton reported this week.

A stern crackdown on traffic violators was promised this week by Mayor H.R. (Hooch) McLean.

Close to a hundred Hoke National Guardsmen returned to Raeford Sunday morning from two weeks annual summer field training at Fort Stewart, Ga.

A Raeford youth is one of six in the entire nation to be chosen for the staff of the Junior Leaders Scout Camp at Mendham, N.J. Hubert Wooten, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Wooten, was selected from more than 200 applicants.

Two Raeford girls will be crowned as "queens" in a coronation service to be held this Sunday evening at Raeford Baptist Church at 8 P.M. They are Marie McFadyen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McFadyen, and Mary Neil Senter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Senter.



by Marty Vega

Part II Of Thrilling Saga

(Part II to last week's thrilling chapter in history.)

There was much unrest and discontent among the settlers during those turbulent times. Terrible rain storms pounded the colonists almost daily, drenching their bodies and spirits. The people would awaken to hot mornings and it grew hotter and hotter until it reached 90 degrees or more. As the colonists labored at their daily chores, sooner or later, the sky would grow dark and the winds would whistle and then the down-pour would begin.

The colonists began to blame the Indians for their superstitious rites and the Indians, in turn, grew

distrustful of the white men. With each powerful new thunderstorm, the colonists prayed silently they would be spared from disaster, at least for the night, and that the fury of the storm would not disrupt the cablevision. Of course, these people were of sturdy stock and accustomed to going without many things. Some historians even say the colonists said they wouldn't mind if the electricity or the telephone was cut off, as long as they had their cablevision. Other historians have claimed that if the electricity went off, they wouldn't have television anyway, so there the matter rests, for later historians to decide.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor: People have been asking, What's gone wrong with Congress? All those scandals and that sort of stuff, why it's gotten so that if you open your newspaper and don't find a new one splashed over the front page you're disappointed.

I've been thinking about this. Now it's possible that some Congressmen need revising, but above that I've figured is the need to revise Congress itself. It's too shielded from the people.

Look at it this way. Say you have a farm anywhere from 500 to 2000 miles away and you send some hands, ordinary people like the rest of us, up there to work it for you, never get up there to check on it yourself, and depend on reports the hands send back on how well the farm is doing. You reckon it'd be a very good investment? Reckon before long it wouldn't get weedy?

That's the way we operate Congress. We send a hungry, lanky young man up there, pay him \$42,000 a year with lots of fringe benefits, give him about \$400,000 a year to hire a staff to do most of the work, and before you know it he's eating too much, getting fat and contented, and making holding on to such a job his main ambition in life. Why not? The hours are good, you don't have to show up for work if you don't want to, you get your picture in the paper, you get interviewed when you fly back to your home district at your employers' expense, and if you stay there long enough — that's the only requirement — you can become chairman of a committee and wield all sorts of power, like telling other Congressmen where they can park their cars.

That's an odd way to run a business. I've been trying to figure out a way to run Congress by a nation-wide television hookup, with each Congressman, after he's gone to Washington to get sworn in, staying at home in his own district where his employers can keep an eye on him. Instead of voting by punching a button from your desk in Congress, buy more wire and put the button back home in your own district.

I'm not sure this'll work. On the other hand, you've got to admit that these sex scandals coming out of Washington lately ought to at least put a stop to all this talk about our having a do-nothing, impotent Congress.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



CHIEF TOPIC -- As we talk with people about the issues of government and politics, it is our opinion that the chief issue of concern in North Carolina is not inflation, not the high cost of living, not the national debt, not the salaries of school teachers and state employees, but the rising crime rates and the manner in which many feel our government and our courts in particular are failing to measure up to the challenge of crime.

It's not the misdemeanor cases that seem to concern our people so much but the felonious crimes of robbery, breaking and entering, murder, rape, etc. Citizens are appalled at the number of defendants found guilty of capital crimes receiving death or life sentences, back on the streets a few years later, many to take up their old ways of vice and crime again. This is an issue which could go a long way toward electing a governor if the people could be assured that the candidate meant business!

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY -- The writer has for so many years been an advocate of presidential primaries. A strong effort was made last year to abolish the presidential primaries in North Carolina. State Senator Tom Strickland, now a candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination was the leader in the General Assembly to keep the presidential primary. It looked like the bill would be repealed until George Wallace made his appearance before the North Carolina General Assembly and spoke against the repeal bill which caused the advocates of repeal to shake in their boots and for all practical purposes drop the campaign for repeal. While Jimmy Carter was not the first choice of the writer, we doubt that the Georgia peanut grower would ever have moved ahead as he has, had it not been for the presidential primary law. Smoke filled rooms late at night may be following the trail of the one-horse farm insofar as nominating presidential candidates are concerned. Of course the political leaders will continue to have their opportunity to register their choice

as they help pay the taxes and abide by the rules of the law.

SIR WALTER -- We note from the Raleigh News and Observer that a group of businessmen or investors are planning to purchase and completely renovate and add to the Sir Walter Hotel in downtown Raleigh. This is welcome news which people from over the state going to Raleigh on business and otherwise will appreciate.

For many, many years the Sir Walter Hotel was not only a meeting place for Raleigh citizens but for people from all over the state to cross paths and meet for business, social and political talk. For a dozen years and more the Sir Walter has been on the downward drift and in recent months has been turned into an office building. We note that the new group expects to spend about \$6,000,000 in the renovation and enlargement project which will most likely bring it back to its old status in Tar Heel life.

WALLACE -- An editorial caption in the Laurinburg Exchange in Scotland County says "Wallace Loses And Wins." The closing paragraph of the editorial reads: "It proves something else -- that George Wallace has been right all along. Well, not exactly right philosophically, but his 'send 'em a message,' his 'fed-upism' and his charge that the other candidates have stolen his thunder and adopted his demands for drastic change in Washington have now been given a new stamp of validity. Wallace has faded as a candidate but he has indirectly won a major victory."

HISTORIES -- Probably more local histories have been and/or being written this year than ever before. Many communities which heretofore have never had a history written have come forward with one. Last week Pinebluff with a population of 610 (about the size of Plains, Georgia) had its history in hand fresh off the press. In a few weeks Aberdeen (four miles from Pinebluff) population 1600 when everybody is home, will have its first local hard-bound history in hand. Yes, it looks as if 1976 can be looked upon as a local history-writing year.

Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan



President Ford recently signed into law a bill I introduced for the benefit of America's small businessmen.

We've gotten to thinking big business is all there is anymore, and that is just not so. It is a surprising fact that 40 million people hold jobs in small businesses. This kind of dispersion of economic power is healthy, and Washington ought to do what it can to foster it. The new law -- S. 1298 -- is one step in the right direction.

It raises the limit the Small Business Administration can loan directly to a small businessman, from \$350,000 to \$500,000, to take care of the recent inflation.

And the SBA's backing of small business investment companies (SBIC's) will also be improved. These companies are formed for the purpose of investing in someone else's small business, and have become an important source of financing for smaller enterprises.

The SBA will now be authorized to loan SBIC's \$3 for every \$1 of private capital, instead of \$2 for \$1. And in the case of SBIC's which make an equity investment in small firms, the SBIC can loan \$4 for every dollar.

For the first time, farmers will be able to apply for help from the Small Business Administration, provided similar help is not available from the Department of Agriculture.



"Good deeds are conspicuous; and even when they are not, they cannot remain hidden. (I Timothy 5:25, RSV)

Consider our reaction to John, who always reminds everyone of all the good things he has done. "That's nice. He's on an ego trip. Big deal-blowing his own horn." His bragging becomes monotonous. He has probably even exaggerated his claims.

On the other hand, consider George. It was almost by accident

that you discovered some of the fine things he has done. And you suspect there is probably more that you don't even know about. Chances are that he has understated his case.

If we do good deeds, according to Paul, they cannot remain hidden. Though not immediately, our good will eventually catch up with us. And there is no hiding it from God.

It is like the illustration Christ uses. The hypocrites in the synagogues want everyone to know their generosity. But "they have their

reward" — if you can call it that. The advice of Jesus is for us to give humbly and sincerely, "in secret." This cannot be hidden — it will be conspicuous, where it counts the most. "And your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

PRAYER: Our Father, help us to want to do good because of our love for You and not for what others will think about us. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
 The good that we do will catch up with us.