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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1976

## A strong cabinet

It is never possible to please everyone. But it seems to us President-Elect Carter deserves high marks for choosing a Cabinet that both balances various geographic, racial, and other interests and provides an executive staff of high intellectual caliber and professional competence.

The nation ought to be very well served by these men and women. They are not political in an ideological sense but this does not suggest they are without demonstrated ideals and a sense of humanism. They promise to approach their jobs pragmatically, with a strong eye to efficiency and the budget, but with a compassionate awareness of human needs.

We do not share the criticism that Mr. Carter has gone back on his promise of bringing new faces into the administration. He can still do so at lower levels. The point is that Mr. Carter, totally unfamiliar with the Washington scene himself, will benefit by having Cabinet officials who know their way around the halls of government. Such experience is all the more essential if Mr. Carter is to carry out his intention of reducing the influence of the White House staff in policymaking and giving his Cabinet officials more direct authority.

Moreover, it is not necessarily new faces but new approaches and ideas that are needed. It will be up to the new President to set the tone of innovation and creativity. And, far from being mere "technicians," some of the nominees have proved sufficiently dynamic in their own right to be able to assist Mr. Carter in this process.

It is worth noting, too, that in each of three major areas -- economic, legal, and foreign policy -- Mr. Carter has chosen one individual who is a close friend from Georgia and on whom he can personally rely. We have no basic quarrel with this. Surely the President needs a few confidants around him -- provided they also meet the test of competence and integrity.

Griffin Bell as attorney general is of course the most controversial appointment among this group because of his mixed record on civil rights, his approval of the Carswell nomination, his membership in exclusive clubs, and his intimate tie to Mr. Carter. Congress will no doubt subject this particular nominee to thorough examination. But Mr. Bell does have the endorsement of respected members of the legal community and it is doubtful he will not be confirmed. He could also prove to be a good attorney general, and one especially attentive to the issue of civil rights precisely because of the current criticism of him. (We are reminded, for instance, that Walter Hickel turned out to be an excellent Secretary of the Interior although his nomination at the time was strongly opposed by environmentalists.)

Of the appointments on which we have not yet commented, that of the head of the Central Intelligence Agency, puzzles us somewhat. We do not see what special qualifications Theodore Sorensen, President Kennedy's speechwriter, has for this job other than his proven intelligence and ability. But we like his early indications that he would run the CIA without using such unacceptable tactics as assassinations and interference in elections abroad.

Joseph Califano will bring not only his concern for the underprivileged to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. While working on Lyndon Johnson's domestic programs at the White House, he won a reputation as a probing, hard administrator and this is sorely needed at the massive HEW bureaucracy. Patricia Harris at Housing and Urban Development can contribute her sound experience in lawyering, civil rights, and diplomacy; but she will have to learn the housing field.

With the appointment of James Schlesinger as the nation's next energy czar, Mr. Carter has signaled that he intends to give top and tough attention to the energy problem. Formerly a staunch advocate of nuclear power development, Mr. Schlesinger indicates he is adjusting himself to the President-Elect's preference for the development of coal and stronger research into solar and other sources. His dynamism and intellectual brilliance are well known and we look forward to a vigorous hand on this vital national concern.

It is, in short, a strong Cabinet. Not ideal in every respect, perhaps, but reflecting Mr. Carter's penchant for "doers" not just "thinkers." In view of all that needs doing in these four years ahead, the President-Elect has in the main put together a creditable crew.

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, December 27, 1951

The latest figures on the 1951 cotton crops for the State as a whole indicate that of the about 45 major cotton producing counties in the State, Hoke County will rate fourteenth in number of bales ginned up to December 1 from the 1951 crop.

From Poole's Medley:

There were no paved streets here until the State was paving 15-A and the town went in with the State and paved Main Street and Harris Avenue.

15 years ago

Thursday, December 28, 1961

The News-Journal has won two awards in the annual statewide competition of the N.C. Press Association, it was announced here this week.

N.C. Demo chairman and Winston-Salem businessman Bert Bennett visited Raeford last Thursday and put on display the kind of talent that has made him a widely-mentioned gubernatorial possibility for 1964.

Before we run out of oil we may run out of Earth



The Christian Science Monitor

by Marty Vega

## Fearless Forecasts

With the great and glorious Bicentennial year of 1976 nearly a memory now most of us are wondering what is in store for the new year.

Wars, turmoil and strife throughout many lands? Strikes, shutdowns and energy crises? Who knows. But who can resist checking the tea leaves to see what might lie ahead?

In this spirit, we bring you our own Fearless Forecasts for 1977, based on the most reliable sources for predictions. (The Weather Service.)

NEW YORK, March 4 (AP) Veteran newscaster Harry Reasoner is reported resting comfortably in the mental observation ward of Mt. Sinai Hospital here and has received thousands of congratulatory telegrams following his unexplained attack on Barbara Walters on last night's ABC Evening News. Reasoner, in the middle of reading a story on women's economic rights, suddenly flung the copy to the floor, leaped to his feet and decked his co-host with a left uppercut to the jaw, yelling, "that oughta straighten that crooked jaw, mumble-mouth broad!"

HOLLYWOOD, CAL., May 16 (UPI) Former Attorney General Edward Levi came under heavy attack today from both Congressional leaders and the White House after yesterday's appearance on the daytime show *Name That Tune* in which he lost the final round to his opponent, fugitive skyjacker D.B. Cooper, who has been sought on federal charges since 1971. "I didn't catch his name," Levi bleated, "I was concentrating on the game!"

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 2 (AP) Amy's, the first in a proposed nationwide chain of fast-food outlets, opened on Pennsylvania Ave. today to capacity crowds. The founder of the chain, nine-year-old Amy Carter, gave away free lemonade in grand opening ceremonies with the purchase of each Big Amy, a quarter pounder triple decker of freshly ground peanut butter on a toasted roll with "all the fixins". Meanwhile, the youthful founder's Uncle Billy announced simulta-

## Letter To The Editor

It is time for the parents to be told that they are appreciated. The teachers are happy to have them cooperate with them and the school.

I'd like for those generous parents of the kindergarten children in Room 101 at J.W. McLaughlin Elementary School to know that the Christmas Cheer Party that they sponsored at 217 Harris Ave. on Dec. 21 was greatly appreciated. There were happy smiles on the faces of the boys and girls all during the party, and many of them said to me "Wasn't that Christmas party lots of fun?"

Teacher in Room 101,  
Mrs. Henry Payton Jr.

Take  
stock  
in America.

CLIFF BLUE...

## People & Issues



A BACKWARD LOOK...As we look back over 1976 as the year comes to a close we can see great changes in the political arena which have taken place during the past twelve months. Not many Tar Heel politicians would have taken an even 10 to 1 off bet that Jimmy Carter would have won the Democratic nomination for president to say nothing of the election 12 months ago. Here in North Carolina Terry Sanford was a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination and George Wallace was regarded as the man for him to beat here in North Carolina, with little thought being given to Jimmy Carter. In fact George Wallace appeared to be the man for any other candidate who might win to beat, in the nation as well as in North Carolina.

SANFORD WITHDRAWS...In the latter part of January Sanford decided to withdraw, even before the New Hampshire primary in which Carter led. While Carter carried New Hampshire, he lost Massachusetts, but then won Florida and North Carolina. It was Carter's big win in North Carolina which Wallace had carried big over Terry Sanford in 1972 that really zoomed the Georgian ahead. In 1972 Wallace had not only carried North Carolina but had also carried Florida in a big way.

SENATOR JACKSON...Senator Henry Jackson had big money behind him, but he was a hard candidate to sell. He carried Massachusetts but did not do near as well in New York as he had hoped to do.

Congressman Udall persisted in his campaign like an old ox, but he just couldn't come in first. Senator Bentsen of Texas and former Senator Harris of Oklahoma just couldn't attract the voters. After the North Carolina primary in March Carter's biggest opposition came from Governor Brown of California.

FORD AND REAGAN...Early in the year the polls showed President Ford the leading candidate for president and it took several primaries for Reagan to become a viable candidate. North Carolina, under the leadership of U.S. Senator Jesse Helms gave Reagan his first victory. North Carolina played a big part in both the Democratic and Republican

campaigns. The primary's competitiveness in the 1976 presidential campaign should preclude another early move to abolish it as took place in the 1975 special session of the General Assembly. Following Reagan's victory in North Carolina he came within 100 votes of winning in the GOP national convention in Kansas City. However, Ford won on the first ballot as did Carter at the Democratic National Convention in New York.

NORTH CAROLINA...Now, taking a brief look at the North Carolina political situation now as compared to the way it looked a year ago, the Tar Heel State voted much more according to the outlook at the close of 1975 than did the nation in the presidential election.

A year ago at the close of 1975, Jim Hunt was way out front, and he never lost the lead. Ed O'Herron, Jr., George Wood and Tom Strickland tried hard but Hunt had a comfortable lead over the three, plus Barker, in the first primary. In the General election Hunt had a two to one lead over David Flaherty, Republican candidate for governor who won the GOP nomination in a second primary over Coy Privette, a leader in the Baptist Church.

House Speaker Jimmy Green had a hard fight to win the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor, going into a second primary, which in the final analysis he won by a big majority, over Howard Lee. In the general election he had a 2 to 1 win over his GOP opponent -- Rep. Wm. S. Hiatt.

Secretary of State Thad Eure and State Auditor Henry Bridges had tough primary opposition but weathered the storm to come through the general election in flying colors. About the only upset in the statewide primary was in the race for Commissioner of Labor in which Jessie Rae Scott lost out to John Brooks in the second primary.

NEW YEAR'S WISH...For the New Year, I send the readers of this column a favorite message, author of which is unknown: "I said to a man who stood at the gate of the year, give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown, and he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better to you than a light and safer than a known way.'"

## Tarheel Spotlight

Christmas week in North Carolina recalls the numbers of stories written about the season -- stories of gaiety, of joy and delight, the turning of all hearts toward wherever they call home, and of giving with love.

One of the most poignant stories in American literature is the story of two young people and their gifts to each other in O. Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*.

North Carolina's own O. Henry, pen name of Greensboro's William Sidney Porter, loved the "little people" -- the shop girls, the Bowery inhabitants, the drifters, the "down and outers." He took story ideas wherever he found them and each was marked with the manners of the decade, reflecting his wide travel and close contact with many kinds of people.

The use of coincidence was a favorite play with O. Henry, and his biographer has stated of the *Gift of the Magi* that "the tender spirit of mutual sacrifice imparts a special glow."

As we all know, Magi are wise men who invented the art of Christmas giving at the birth of the Christ child.

The leading characters Della and Jim, add a touch of their own, as O. Henry tells it.

Della was a young wife, very much in love, who had saved her pennies carefully for months as she bargained with the butcher and the grocer. Her husband made barely enough to cover the necessities and the rent on the small, cheap flat in New York. Her pitiful gift fund amounted to \$1.87.

How could she let Christmas pass without a grand present for her adored Jim? And what grand gift could be bought with \$1.87.

The young couple had two possessions they were most proud of. Della had long, beautiful brown hair -- the envy of everyone, and Jim was the proud owner of an unusually handsome gold watch, which had been his father's and his grandfather's before him. He was only a little ashamed of the leather strap attached instead of a fine watch chain.

But Della's hair was exquisite -- "rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters," as O. Henry describes it.

Madam Sofronie's sign outside her shop proclaimed "Hair Goods of All Kinds."

The dispassionate woman who had said, "Yes, I buy hair," put \$20 into Della's hand after whacking away at the "rippling and shining cascade" with large scissors.

Della probably avoided reflections of herself in store windows as she happily searched the shops for the special gift -- there would be no other like it anywhere.

When she finally found it, she rushed breathlessly to her apartment to arrive before Jim did. As her beloved Jim entered, he stopped at the sight of his shorn wife -- his eyes held "an expression that she could not read" -- not the anger or horror or disapproval she'd expected.

"It'll grow out again," she promised, all in a rush of words before he spoke. "... don't look at me that way."

And Jim repeated his dull words, "You say your hair's gone?"

She tried to be bright and cheerful, assuring him she couldn't have lived without a gift for him.

He took off his coat and threw a small package on the table. "Don't make any mistake Della, he said. 'I don't think there's anything in the way of a haircut or a shave or a shampoo that could make me like my girl any less. But if you'll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going awhile at first.'"

Hands quickly tore at the wrapping and string. Then came "an ecstatic scream of joy" which quickly changed to "tears and wails."

"For there lay 'The Combs' -- the beautiful set of combs Della had worshipped for so long in a downtown store window -- just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair."

"My hair grows so fast, Jim," she reassured him again.

The she remembered he had not yet seen her treasure for him. She held out to him the fine watch chain -- exactly the one to complement his watch.

Instead of taking it, he suggested the two of them put away their grand gifts for awhile, since "they are too nice to use at present." Then he added, "I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs."

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.