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## Mr. Ford's farewell

What American did not quietly cheer along with Congress as President Ford stood before that body to deliver his State of the Union message? The genuine outpouring of warmth, the spontaneous burst of affection, transcended all partisanship and surely was shared by every citizen of the land.

In these final days of the Ford presidency it is hard to avoid sentimentalism. But, as Mr. Ford delivered perhaps the most effective speech of his presidential career, our hearts could not but fill with deep respect for the man who brought America through two and a half difficult years and with pride in the nation's "government of laws" that produced his genial stewardship.

It is traditional to ring the theme of unity and continuity at such a time. Mr. Ford did so with characteristic graciousness. Even as he dwelt on the past, he looked to the future and extended his support prayers to the incoming president. This was more than mere words. One has only to walk the offices of Washington to detect quickly the general spirit of cooperation that is making this one of the most affable and efficient transitions in memory.

That Mr. Ford should have summed up his record with a strong accent on accomplishment is his due. He never sounded so self-confident or presidential, and that shows the measure of his growth. Many, however, will feel that he described the State of the Union in tones glossier than the situation warrants; he did not after all win his case before the American electorate. Indeed, if Mr. Ford himself had vigorously and creatively followed through in those areas of concern he mentioned - energy, jobs, government reorganization - he probably would be staying in office.

The President's scolding of Congress would have had more credibility if his own leadership had been skillful enough to bring about that promised era of "cooperation and conciliation." That goal remained unattained.

In broad outlines, nonetheless, we can share Mr. Ford's assessment and appreciate his legacy. The economy, while still tenuous, is emerging gradually out of trough of stagnation. American foreign policy is sound, with such pluses to its credit as improved prospects for peace in the Middle East and strengthened alliances. The nation's defense, which Mr. Ford pointedly warned must be bolstered to keep abreast of the Russians, is basically strong.

Above all - and Americans today and in the future cannot be reminded of this too often - Mr. Ford infused the White House with new openness, honesty, and civility after the ravages of Watergate. We are glad the President did not go so far as to claim, as he has in the past, that public trust in government has been fully restored. Clearly it has not. But through the force of his character, which embodies the best of everyday America, the President did strip away the manipulative and deceptive ways of the Nixon years and lay a strong foundation of honest conduct of government on which the new leadership can build. The process of healing is well begun.

Thus, considering the dark times from which the country has emerged, the State of the Union is good. And for this President Ford is bound to enjoy the continuing goodwill and gratitude of all Americans. —Christian Science Monitor

'But at last we're in a tight ship and headed in the right direction'



by Marty Vega

## Know Why It's Cold?

This week there is a number of important issues to cover—space exploration, television, electricity—so, to begin alphabetically:

There has been plenty written in the newspapers lately about the coldest winter of the century. All of the meteorologists are saying this has been the most unusual in years in terms of prolonged cold. Add to this all of the blizzards coming from the West and the North which we get as freezing rain.

Yet, no one has come forward with the real reason why we are freezing here at 18 or 20 degrees for weeks on end, while up in Greenland it is warmer, much warmer, than in N.C. (This is true) There is plenty of evidence to suggest that abrupt changes in the weather follow these frequent launchings of space craft by the U.S. and other countries. (Remember back in 1969 when the men went to the moon it rained nearly every day for a month afterward on the east coast?)

Finally, there is a group organizing to bring all of the facts to light: Taxpayers of America Disturbed Over Space Exploration. (Nicknamed TOADS) The aim of

this group is to put pressure in the right places to stop all space programs, wait a while, then see if the weather goes back to normal. But TOADS can't do it alone. They need money to hire scientists to undertake a study and then compile a position paper to present. Also, they will need money for typing paper and carbon paper for the position paper.

This group doesn't claim it has all the answers. Some members say the weather is only affected by trips to the moon, others believe any excursions to outer space affect the delicate balance of the ionosphere, the stratosphere, and all that. But everyone is open minded, so if you have any fresh ideas about the connection between weather and space, you'll be heartily welcomed.

Incidentally, this group did not choose the name to denote any connection with frogs. The name is derived from the unexplained phenomenon of toadstools appearing in front of rainbows.

The unbearable weather naturally leads to the subject of television. Why? Because it's too cold to go out. But television isn't entertaining anymore. You can count on the fingers of one hand the number of good shows. The rest? Bionic people sailing through the air, the windup Donny and Marie dolls, Captain and Toenail, the Rhodas, Phyllises, Aliceses and all the rest of the whining women with their shrieking voices.

Doesn't it make you want to throw up?

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Sir,

I am a resident of Raeford but I am presently in prison at Wagram prison unit.

I'm serving a 15 to 20 year sentence for some felonies I was convicted of March 4, 1975.

I would like for the young people in Raeford to put themselves in my shoes for a brief moment. Just say that you were out with the gang of girls and boys having fun. They are your friends and always will be as long as you've got a ride, or something to get high on. But then when the chips are down you're forgotten about. This is not the type of friends you need.

I had that type of friends and they were close to me. But I got busted and now my friends are down to one person, and I'd like to say this about her, she's the best friend I've ever had, it's my wife, Ginger Scott.

My other so-called friends won't even spend 13 cents to drop me a few lines, so I know now I don't need that kind of friends. Friends like that could be a one-way ticket to prison!

I guess everyone has done some wrong, some worse than others, but I don't think you should condemn a man or woman for their mistakes, should you?

I guess I'm one of the lucky guys in prison. I do have a very dear wife and son to come see me on Sundays.

Well, all I'm trying to say is, a friend is the best thing you can have if he or she is a true friend, but who knows until the chips are down.

Sincerely,  
Jerry A. Scott  
P.O. Box 268, Wagram 28396



## Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

A bill to abolish the limit that a person drawing Social Security benefits may earn has been introduced in the Senate and I am pleased that I am one of its sponsors.

Under present law, a person who is getting Social Security checks loses one dollar for every two dollars he or she earns in excess of \$3,000 a year. This is called the "means test" and the bill would simply do away with it.

The best estimates that can be obtained show that more than two million persons between the ages of 65 and 72 are denied all or a part of their Social Security benefits because they are working and earning more than the \$3,000 limit. This is true because many of these people just can't afford to quit work and live on the monthly sum they get from Social Security.

The unfairness of the present system is shown in that a person who draws thousands of dollars from investments or rentals can still draw his full benefits, even though he needs the benefits less than the person who feels he must work. This penalizes the person who needs help the most.

We must remember that payments from the Social Security fund are not gifts from a benevolent government. These funds have been placed in trust by deductions from the workers' pay checks during their earning years, plus contributions from their employers.

The Social Security Program, when it was conceived and created in the 1930's was accomplished by statements of purpose that benefits would be paid as "a matter of right" when a worker reached a specific age.

Yet, now a worker is told that he must establish need in order to obtain full benefits and the program has been turned from a contributory program into one that resembles welfare.

Senator Barry Goldwater, who introduced the bill which I co-sponsored, has called this penalty "a shameful robbery by law of our senior citizens" and I agree with that assessment.

What has actually been happening is a lot of double talk given those retirees by their government.

In 1939, when Congress passed the Social Security Amendments, it was accompanied by a statement that "granting benefits as a matter of right preserves individual dignity."

The concept of a person earning a right to his benefits has been restated many, many times, yet all the while a retired person must prove to his government that he needs the benefits in order to get the money back that he paid in during a lifetime of work.

During the years, Congress has raised the amount that a retired person may earn. In 1972, the limit was raised from \$1,680 to \$2,100 per year, and then in 1973, the sum was raised to \$2,400. It is now \$3,000 and it is time that it was removed completely.

There is little justice in treating a person who must work to supplement his benefits differently from a person who receives dividends and interest from investments or rentals from property. Certainly the present system is discriminatory any way one looks at it.

It is time that retired citizens' rights to their benefits become a reality.

## CLIFF BLUE ...

## People & Issues



**JOBS FOR THE JOBLESS ...** Jimmy Carter has called upon the people to write and let him have their suggestions for consideration by his administration. Since the former Georgia governor has put jobs for the jobless at the top of his list, our suggestion will be on this subject.

We are leary, and question the idea of solving our unemployment through a public works program unless the public works are needed. Public works for projects are quite proper.

We are afraid we have too many people on the "unemployed" rolls who do not want to work. They work a few weeks then "draw" as long as possible. Too many of our

unemployed have been brought up under the welfare system and have little incentive for earning a living when they can draw welfare payments and Food Stamps.

On the other hand, we have many people who are entitled to welfare aid and Food Stamps and to the deserving people we would take nothing from them, but would like to see them given greater help and support.

We are concerned about the unskilled and the untrained who add to the unemployed and welfare rolls.

We suggest the following co-op plan between the government and private enterprise to train and give them a job.

Period	Employer	Govt.	Total Pay
1st 3 months	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$2.00
2nd 3 months	\$1.30	\$ .70	\$2.10
3rd 3 months	\$1.60	\$ .40	\$2.20
4th 3 months	\$1.90	\$ .40	\$2.30

We are not wedded to the above figures but a system with the government thrust toward getting the unemployed trained and/or off the welfare rolls and back to work is what we are thinking about, not some program which would perpetuate government handouts.

After this one-year of training there would be no further obligation on the trainee or the employer. Hopefully, the employer would be able to continue to offer employment at a higher rate of pay.

Remember, these people would not be on the training program if they had a job. It would be for the unemployed and untrained and if they could find a better job elsewhere while on training they could go to the better job.

The wage scale listed above is low but the whole plan is based on the theory of taking people who want to work off the unemployed rolls and giving them a chance to draw a salary while training.

This is similar to the Veteran's Training program which the U.S. Government promoted after World War II.

The G.I. on the job program trained young veterans in a similar U.S. Government approved program after World War II which proved beneficial to the veterans as well as the employer.

SOUTHERN WEEK ... This is

a real Southern Week. -- Robert E. Lee's birthday January 19; Jimmy Carter being inaugurated President, January 20; Stonewall Jackson's birthday January 21. Three great Southerners: Strike up "Dixie!"

**GOVERNOR & SENATE ...** Could it be that Luther Hodges, Jr. and some of the other feeling out possible strength for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Jesse Helms are doing so because they feel Hunt may get the State Constitution changed so he can run for a second term.

Hodges was a strong Hunt supporter and many people felt he might like to follow in his dad's footsteps and run for governor before going on to the Senate, but with the possibility or probability of Hunt being a candidate again, having decided that his best bet would be for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

**FORD ...** We thought President Ford made a mighty fine speech before Congress and to the nation last week. We have been thinking all along that he might make another try for the White House in 1980 should the tide appear to be turning from Carter. Even though the chance of either of the two major parties may not appear bright, there are always plenty of willing candidates.

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, January 17, 1952

The Hoke County March of Dimes got off to a fine start at the High School Saturday night with the big variety show, featuring Lulong Ogburn, Fred Fletcher Puddinhead Jones, Fay Ridenour and others.

Private Lacy E. McEachin, who recently returned from the Korean combat zone, has been assigned to the 1277th Area Service unit at Camp Kilmer, N.J.

Under the guidance of athletic director Haywood Faircloth, an immense physical education program is carried on at Hoke High School for the benefit of the students of Hoke County.

From Rockfish News:

We have had dry weather for some time but with all the weddings that are planned it is likely that there will be showers this month.

From Poole's Medley:

There is too much tendency toward a centralized government. If the Federal Government were to protect the interests of the United States and stop with that, taxes would be lower and the people happier.

### 15 years ago

Thursday, January 18, 1962

Raeford Baptists made news this week on several fronts. The Rev. J.M. Glenn announced a note-burning ceremony for the 11 a.m. service this Sunday, a.m. organization of the Education Department beginning January 28 and plans to open a mission chapel in a small house in Robbins Heights.

Cars moved slowly along main St. early Friday morning after a snowfall that slicked the roads, closed schools, and cancelled a basketball game.

The Upchurch Eagles in their first game since the holidays suffered their first loss of the season to Anne Chesnut of Fayetteville 48-46 in overtime.

The Hoke political pot began bubbling this week in preparation for the Democratic Primary in May - with the announcement from Neil McFadyen that he would fete soon for re-election as State Representative.

Lt. Col. William Lamont, Jr. was presented a recliner on the occasion of his retirement as commander of the 2d Medium Tank Battalion, 196th Armor, of the 30th Division (Army National Guard).

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.