

The News - Journal

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1977

Carter's first chat

The President's first television address to the American people did more to set a tone and mood than to clarify substantive issues. But this was the right note for the occasion. By his easy informality and soft, conversational voice Mr. Carter conveyed a genuine impression of wanting to keep in touch with the American people and of making them feel they are being listened to. Never mind that the President carefully rehearsed this "chat." His earnestness and thoughtfulness came through.

Much of what he said echoed his campaign oratory, including his pledges to spur the economy, reform the tax and welfare systems, reorganize the federal government, streamline defense, and enhance the moral tone of foreign policy. Even this early reaffirmation of his goals is welcome, however, for it is one thing to make promises in an election campaign and another to pursue them vigorously once the office has been won. Mr. Carter indicates he is not changing colors and is determined to see these promises through.

His caution on this score is merited nonetheless and Americans will appreciate that he recognizes the impossibility of achieving reforms quickly or easily. An honest admission that "there are many things that a President cannot do" and that "both the Congress and the administration...have limited powers" is a healthier approach than raising expectations which cannot be fulfilled.

Quite properly the American people are told they must be willing to accept sacrifices and to cooperate for mutual benefit. The President's words on the energy crisis especially ought to be etched in the public consciousness: "There is no way that I, or anyone else in the government, can solve our energy problems if you are not willing to help," he commented. "There is no energy policy we can develop that would do more good than voluntary conservation."

This bit of gentle jawboning -- and Mr. Carter also directed it at utility companies and industry -- is needed. Yet he surely is aware from the experience of his predecessors that the public will respond only to a certain point. Pep talks lose their momentum. Without strong sanctions built into the law against the waste of energy, without a policy that compels conservation (such as a stiff tax on gasoline), Americans will go their prodigal ways.

But we have always felt that strong presidential leadership is essential to give Americans a sense of national direction and purpose, and Mr. Carter gives early hope he will provide that kind of leadership. It is too early to detect that "toughness" which the President will have to display to get results but we are not lulled by the "softness" of Mr. Carter's television talk. Nor should Americans be.

One last point. That the President wants to keep in frequent personal touch with ordinary Americans is a refreshing aim. How that will work out in practice -- with "town hall" meetings across the nation and a White House switchboard tied up with incoming calls "from the people" -- remains to be seen. Even the "fireside chat" (or should we say "sweater session"?) could lose its impact if it becomes too frequent and mundane. The challenge for the President will be to keep an open, down-to-earth administration without depriving Americans of the feeling that the presidency is something special. Otherwise they may stop listening to him. *Christian Science Monitor*

Vivid not violent

Now the actors too, are getting on the bandwagon against excessive violence on television. At least the Screen Actors Guild has come out with comments we like to hear such as these: Scripts can be made exciting without all the violence they have now. And the "skill and daring" of stuntmen can create impact in feats that are not violent.

A few reels of old movies should convince anyone that there can be plenty of action on the screen without bloody mayhem. It is laziness to substitute violence for imagination. Applause for the actors who know that TV can get rid of its savagery without losing its punch. *Christian Science Monitor*

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, February 7, 1952
 The Hoke County High School girls' basketball team lost a close one to Clayton High in Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh yesterday afternoon, 51 to 47.

Landlords have only a few days left to register accommodations which are now being brought under the Rent Stabilization program.

United States deputy collectors of internal revenue will come to Raeford next week to help people with their 1951 tax returns.

Thieves and prowlers were apparently abroad in Raeford Friday night and before day Saturday

morning, as several cars in Raeford were entered and items were stolen from some of them and the locks were tampered with on some.

Bank of Raeford reported yesterday that \$6590.62 had been deposited in the Hoke County March of Dimes for 1962. Quota for the county had been set before the drive at 5,000.

15 years ago

Thursday, February 8, 1962
 The Western Auto Store on Main St. was broken into in the early a.m. hours of Sunday morning, and more than \$1,000 worth of merchandise was stolen.

Sheriff's deputies will have a

'Isn't it wonderful . . . and it isn't even Christmas'



by Marty Vega

History To Be Told

The terrible winter of 1976-77. How will the history books tell it 100 years from now? They won't. Well, maybe 50 years from now.

Some will claim that the whole thing was staged by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission as a dramatic re-creation of the suffering and self-sacrifice endured at the time of the nation's founding. But most history books written for schoolchildren will present the bare facts, just as they happened:

America had a very, very cold winter during '76 and '77. There were terrible blizzards, roads closed and rivers frozen. The cold caused an energy crisis which was very bad.

Winter started very early that year. It started in November. There was a presidential election. President Ford, who was from Michigan, lost the election to Jimmy Carter (pronounced CAH-ta), who was from Georgia. The President from Michigan knew all about cold weather and snow and blizzards. The new President from Georgia didn't know about such things.

Between the election in November and the inauguration in January, there was a time called a transition period. It got steadily colder.

After the inauguration, the ex-president went to Palm Springs, Cal., a resort in the desert where very wealthy people lived. President Carter went to the White House.

In the White House, he put on a sweater and talked to the people on TV in what was called a "fireside chat". He told the people to put on sweaters and then he made a speech about energy. Everybody had a sweater to put on. But lots of people didn't have a fireplace to sit next to and this made them unhappy.

The President promised he would send everyone \$50. They could spend the \$50 on anything they wanted, even fireplaces.

Matters got steadily worse. The city of Buffalo, N.Y. pleaded for help because of the snow but President Carter ignored Buffalo.

He got confused because he looked at a map and thought Buffalo was a part of Canada. But the people persisted. So President Carter sent his son Chipmunk as a special emissary to Buffalo. He returned and told his father what snow was and the President declared it a federal disaster area.

But people in other parts of America were unhappy and began to resent the way things were. Some weather experts were predicting the next four winters would be even harsher than this, and that would mean all the way to 1980 when the President's term was up.

So some Americans began to think they had made a mistake. Some Americans wanted to call back the ex-president now living in California to come and lead the country again out of the crisis.

So they made the call. But the telephone company made a mistake. They got the other ex-president living in California instead.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

Some Washington columnists have been saying the past few years that one trouble with the country today is that people have lost faith in government officials.

There's another side to that. Some government officials have lost faith in the people.

For example, President Carter has proposed giving every person in the nation \$50 apiece to get the economy moving faster. His economic advisers say the release of that much money, around 10 or 12 billion dollars, will stimulate business and get the wheels of trade and industry whirring.

But now here comes a Senator saying it won't work, that too many people won't spend their \$50. They'll sock it away in the bank or in savings and loan or under their mattress. Or, what is worse, instead of rushing out and buying something new they'll apply it on their old debts and this won't nudge the economy up a nickel's worth.

This is what I'm talking about. The Senator has lost faith in the American public. How can he be so far out of touch with reality? Doesn't he know that, except for a few moss backs who don't understand the economy and think you can save your way to prosperity, the rest of the people, given \$50, will spend it as fast as they can get to a store or thumb through a catalog?

Public officials ought to get out among the people and find out how they operate. Furthermore, Congressmen, as soon as they get their economy-stimulating 25 per cent raise on top of their present 44,500 salary, ought to set an example and pledge themselves to spend that extra \$10,000 as soon as they get their hands on it. Saving up for a rainy day isn't the way to do it. Although, come to think of it, perhaps a lot of the country should have been saving up for a snowy one.

If that Senator knows of anybody who won't spend his \$50, strike his name off the list and send the money to me. I know what to do with it.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

When Shakespeare spoke of "the winter of our discontent," he might have been predicting this year in the United States, because this coldest of cold winters has plunged this nation into the worst energy crisis in its 200-year history.

The President acted quickly last week to face up to the serious shortage of natural gas that has closed industries, thrown people out of jobs and disrupted our lives generally. He requested emergency powers from the Congress to help deal with the situation, by giving him control as to where gas in the pipelines should be sent.

The Senate acted quickly on this emergency legislation, and I am proud that I was a co-sponsor of the bill that was passed with little delay. Because, this is more than a winter of "discontent." This is a national crisis in which we are all trying to survive until the weather grows kinder.

I think it is important to see just where we stand, now that this legislation has been passed and the President has some power to take action in the emergency.

In broad terms, it gives the President the right to order gas sent through the pipeline to the areas where the need is greatest.

We have two types of pipelines through which gas flows in this country. One type flows across the country from state to state and the other carries gas within the borders of a state. Now, the President can order gas shifted from one system to another, an important factor to North Carolina which is supplied by only one interstate pipeline.

The President now can order emergency sales to pipelines at unregulated prices. If there is a dispute over the prices, he has the power to set what he deems a fair

value for the gas. This power was granted because interstate gas is regulated while gas produced and sold within a state is not.

These are purely emergency measures that will exist until April 30, when we should be out of danger. It is a stopgap measure, enacted quickly to meet a crisis, to see that homes have heat and hospitals are kept warm.

But no Act of Congress can increase the amount of natural gas that we will have next winter or the next. Producers of gas, which include practically all of the large oil companies, tell us that the supply is low and our reserves are dwindling. Some believe that their estimates may be too low, but as of now there is no way of challenging them.

In the present crisis, the people are being called upon to band together just as if we were at war. The present plea is to help your neighbor by conserving energy -- and that doesn't mean just our North Carolina neighbors but our neighbors in other states as well. Florida's crops have been ruined and Ohio's industries closed, and Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York are among our hardest hit neighbors. We are all in this together and it is a national, not a regional, effort to get through the remainder of the winter.

Congress and the Carter Administration must soon, very soon, come to grips with a long range energy program. I think that the current crisis has made us all more aware of this. But during the days just ahead, we must meet this crisis as best we can and that is what the emergency legislation, together with a national effort to use as little energy as possible, can hopefully accomplish.

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



J.E. BROYHILL . . . While I have known of and heard about James Edgar Broyhill of Broyhill Industries, headquartered in Lenoir for many years, I never had the opportunity to have a full appreciation of the man until recently when I read a feature article about him in the January 1977 issue of "Nation's Business" magazine. Having "followed the mule" long enough, at the age of 21, and with \$5 in his pocket that his dad had given him he headed for Boone to enroll in Appalachian Training School, followed by service in the Army during World War I. Afterward he became involved in the furniture business with his brother. Now 84 - years old, J.E. Broyhill operates the second largest furniture manufacturing business in the United States, employing 6,500 people with annual sales of \$200 million from his 16 plants.

The product of a one-room, one-teacher school before going to Appalachian, Mr. Broyhill says: "Every day, I read a chapter in the Bible. Most of my reading is religious literature. The Bible is the greatest book ever written. Thousands of books have been written on how to manage people, but none of them is as good as the Bible."

Yes, J.E. Broyhill appears to be a chip off the old block that gave us such industrial leaders as James B. Duke, Charlie Cannon and other benevolent men.

RAEFORD LADIES . . . A night last week I was invited to talk to a group of Hoke County ladies with the topic, being "Legislative Action." After my little talk we had refreshments and informally discussed political subjects. While I am not strongly opposed to ERA, I have never been able to see the need for it. As I talked with the Hoke County Ladies I came away with the feeling that many ladies who favor ERA do so because they feel that in many instances they do not get equal pay for equal work, and that in some way the ERA Amendment will enable them to equalize pay with work. I am in agreement that in too many instances it's the woman who does most of the work and the man gets the credit and the bigger pay check. This is not right and should be corrected.

CARTER & HUNT . . . President Carter and Jim Hunt were faced with an unexpected new issue which came upon them like a cloud-burst at the beginning of

their administrations--the energy crisis. Both appear to be facing up to the crisis pretty well with a good passing grade.

ERA . . . In a letter to the editor of the Fayetteville Observer, Donna Sulser wrote: "I have never understood why women want to be equal to men. All my life I thought I was superior and now, if ERA is passed I will have to drop down to be equal."

CONGRESS PAY HIKE . . . U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., Virginia Independent, spoke some statesman - like words last week when he said: "How can Congress effectively urge labor unions to hold down wage increases and industry to hold down price increases if congress itself gets a 29 per cent pay increase?"

ELECTOR'S PAY . . . The bill introduced by Rep Richard C. Wright of Columbus County in the N.C. General Assembly to increase the per diem allowance for members of the Electoral College from \$10 to \$25 and the mileage pay from five cents a mile to 15 cents recalls some early background to the United States Constitution.

When our republic was coming into being two hundred years ago, our forefathers were taking a big move in going from a government headed by a king who served for life.

In this new nation our thought is that the framers of the U.S. Constitution had little thought of the average citizen having a direct hand in the election of the President. The average citizens would simply elect capable and knowledgeable leaders to select the President and this impressive group was called the Electoral College. Well, pretty quick, having tasted a bit of freedom and independence, they started electing Electors committed to a specific candidate.

SOCIAL SECURITY . . . It seems that reducing Social Security payments \$1 for every \$2 earned over \$3,000 is a great deterrent for our senior citizens to have a sufficient income to enjoy more than the bare essentials of life. Social Security was never intended to be doled out like welfare payments. It was established to provide a retirement program for senior citizens regardless of whether their income is \$3,000 or \$30,000.