

The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
Free Press
A Day
WNA SUSTAINING
MEMBER - 1976

North Carolina
PRESS
ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Raeford, N.C. 28376
119 W. Elwood Avenue

Subscription Rates In Advance
Per Year - \$8.00 6 Months - \$4.25 3 Months - \$2.25

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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1977

Budgeting for 'the folks'

President Carter needs the help of the American people by May 1 if the "human" thrust of his changes in the Ford budget is to be followed by long-term fairness and efficiency in meeting the people needs. The date of May 1 was designated by Mr. Carter as the deadline for "evolution" of the welfare reform he has promised. He wisely wants the fullest public debate, so that he will have the benefit of all views aired before that time. If the public does not speak up now it will have to share the blame if it does not like the outcome.

Already at work is a consulting group including representatives of the recipients of welfare as well as local, state, and federal governmental bodies. A public hearing will be held in Washington March 10. Mr. Carter sounds as if he means business, and he seems to be opening himself to a test of the seriousness of his intentions.

Budget director Bert Vance has set the proper tone at the top by saying of the budget that "we have tried to show our compassion and concern for the folks of the country." By reversing some of the Ford cuts in programs to meet human needs, the Carter budget gives concrete evidence of the spirit of caring which the previous administration never quite conveyed even though its efforts to fight inflation were a basic remedy for the strong economy necessary to reduce hardship.

Now the Carter challenge is to build on the first gestures of caring to create a new welfare system - or sufficiently refine the present system - to check the current waste, fraud, and disparities while serving all those in real need. Just one of the problems to be addressed may be indicated by the differences among the states. Benefits for a family of four in the North are several multiples of some in the South, while the pattern in food stamps is the reverse. The federal government picks up a larger percentage of the cost in states which provide the lower benefits.

Mr. Carter has been on sound ground in wanting to establish some sort of national standard of benefits, adjusted for local cost of living. He also has rightly discerned the distinction between providing for the needs of those who are not employable and providing jobs for those who are. And he has favored the federal government gradually assuming a greater share of costs.

The questions come in the specifics of programs to carry out such aims. They include the apparent simplicity of a negative income tax as suggested by conservative economist Milton Friedman and many to his left. By contrast, they also include improvements to the present hodgepodge of programs which some welfare specialists feel "fit together much better than most people realize," as one of them has said.

Among the elements of reform should be incentives to keep families together rather than tempt fathers to stay away; allotment of benefits to encourage work rather than reward idleness; means to match those who are able to work with public or private jobs, preferably ones that are socially useful and that contain opportunities for developing skills to life workers out of the need for welfare; and account-ability procedures to guard against misuse and ensure that benefits reach those genuinely in need, many of whom are neglected now.

The opportunity between now and May 1 is to bring to the surface all the options, expose mistakes, recognize achievements. Mr. Carter has the reputation for being open to opinion but then moving ahead relentlessly when he has settled on a plan. It is important that this welfare plan have the benefit of the best wisdom from all "the folks." *Christian Science Monitor*

From Berlin to Buffalo

From across the seas comes a bit of news that should give Americans a lift. West Berliners, it seems, have contributed some \$475,000 to the German Red Cross to aid Buffalonians, Ohioans, and others suffering from the winter's severe cold.

Aid to the United States? For so many years America has been a one-way dispenser of humanitarian assistance abroad. Aside from government aid, Americans privately raise hundreds of millions of dollars every year for distribution overseas. So to be on the receiving rather than the giving end of things is something of a turnabout.

Not that Americans cannot afford to take care of their own. They can and should. But the generous impulse of the West Berliners in showing their appreciation for American aid to their divided city since World War II is heart-warming. Surely it is the spirit of mutual help, broadened to include peoples everywhere, that will bring all mankind in from the cold. *Christian Science Monitor*

CIA and U.S.'s 'greatest strength'

It ought to go without saying, but Admiral Stansfield Turner said it, and we are glad. "I would resign if put into the position of carrying out an immoral or illegal action," he promised in Senate hearings for heading the CIA.

To give such an assurance reflects the Admiral's valuable recognition that, despite all the new machinery of reform, the reputation and credibility of the intelligence community still need further restoration. Tight regulations are necessary, but there is no substitute for individuals devoted to carrying them out in the spirit as well as the letter.

Again, it ought to go without saying, but it was good to hear Admiral Turner testifying that President Carter wants all intelligence activities conducted "strictly in accordance with the law and with American values." After the disclosures of the past, this is no easy assurance to give or live up to. Our high confidence in the Admiral's determination to do so was bolstered even further by his statement of basic American outlook: "I believe with my deepest conviction that the greatest strength we have as a world power is our moral dedication to the rights of the individual." *Christian Science Monitor*

'I wonder what Truman meant, the buck stops here'



by Marty Vega

Cloud Hanging Over Rain Chart Maker

In last week's 'Around Town' column which appears on the front page of this newspaper and is written by Sam C. Morris, an item was included about Robert Gatlin, the rain chart expert for this newspaper.

It is unfortunate, but true, that the rain chart maker took umbrage at the disclosure that he told a joke, which in Mr. Morris' words, "Laid an egg".

Our Friend Gatlin was primarily concerned that the information as reported last week would reach his daughters and that this would bring no small amount of shame and embarrassment to him. Although he didn't say so, the impression he left in this office was that it would be very embarrassing for an ex-schoolteacher to be publicly labeled as a C- for his story telling abilities.

So, in fairness to our friend the rain chart maker, perhaps more information should be given now about the particular joke to help remove the cloud over the rain man.

The joke concerned a mother of several children who was preparing to go off on a trip with her brood. According to the story, the mother

and her six children were in the ticket office of a railway station and she proceeded to step up to the window to purchase the necessary tickets for the journey.

(At this point, it should be mentioned that it could just as easily been a bus station. Or an airline ticket desk. Or possibly even a travel agency. The point is, it was told by the rain chart maker as a railway station, so this could have some special meaning to him.)

Anyway, this mother went ahead and gave the ages of her children to the ticket agent because, you see, the cost of their fares was reduced according to their ages. Children under 12 years of age would be less than full fare, children under six would be reduced fare, and so on and so on. So this is why the mother was divulging the ages of the children to the ticket man.

(At this point it probably strikes the listener, why was this woman going on such a trip with so many children to handle all by herself? She was by herself, her husband was not along, nor any other adults who could reasonably be expected to help manage so many youngsters of such young age. It seems odd, doesn't it? So many boisterous children to manage, all by herself? But the story teller did not shed any light on this matter so we don't know).

Anyway, it seems that after the woman recited the ages of the children, it turned out that half of the children were twins! This was made clear by the story teller because of their ages.

(At this point it should be mentioned that this is an almost unheard-of occurrence. For a mother of three sets of twins to be in a railway station. Buying tickets for a trip. The alert reader will also note that at no point has the destination of this woman and her children been announced. Where were they going? Would they miss their train? All sorts of unanswered questions persist.)

Anyway, the ticket agent was so astonished that this woman had three sets of twins that he asked her about it. And she answered him. (If you want the exact wording to this conversation, you'll have to ask Gatlin. If you can get him to tell you.)

Now, if you want to hear an A-plus joke, ask the rain chart maker to tell you about Parson Brown. Or just ask the man to stick to his chart making and forget the jokes.



Read 1 John 2:1-10

"Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:2 RSV)

When my husband and I were married, we went on a shopping expedition. We bought a small decorative light bulb in which the filament formed the words "I love you" and which glowed pink when turned on. This served as our night light in our bedroom those first months of our marriage.

A year later we bought a bigger house and prepared to move. We packed and sacked the things we

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



LISTON RAMSEY ... Rep. Liston Ramsey of Madison County is reported to be way out in front for House Speaker in 1981 with a considerable majority of the present House Democrats committed to him. Why, you might ask, is he campaigning for the job in 1981 when the next election for the office will be in 1979? Well, House Speaker Carl Stewart has announced that he expects to seek reelection to the post in 1977, so to avoid a conflict with the incumbent, Ramsey who is a shrewd politician, may figure that he would have much clearer sailing in 1981 than in 1979 when Stewart and Rep. William T. Watkins of Granville County are expected to be squared off for another contest for the job.

Rep. Ramsey is regarded as one of the wheel-horses of the General Assembly, having served as Finance Chairman and a member of the powerful Advisory Budget Commission under House Speaker Jimmy Green, and now having been appointed to the Advisory Budget Commission by Governor Jim Hunt.

REFERENDUM ... If Veto, Succession and ERA are put to a vote of the people it will probably bring out a big vote regardless of whether the vote is held in November 1978 or in a special election later this year.

We suspect the legislators will prefer a special election this year if the three issues are on the ballot, for they might well prefer for the issues to have been decided before they have to face the voters again.

CANDIDATES? ... Lt. Governor Jimmy Green and House Speaker Carl Stewart are likely candidates for state-wide office come voting time, 1980.

Green is regarded as a likely candidate for governor and reports are that "early birds" are already offering their support.

House Speaker Carl Stewart is reported to have said that he expects to be a candidate for statewide office in 1980—either for lieutenant governor, governor or attorney general.

SCHOOL VIOLENCE ... The report by the U.S. Senate subcommittee headed by Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana is quite disturbing. The report cited "70,000 serious

physical assaults on teachers and literally hundreds of thousands of assaults on students" each year. This is terrible. The report also said that for a growing number of students and teachers the primary object is "no longer education but preservation."

Certainly, the situation in North Carolina and in the South in general is far better than the Senate report indicated, even though a student was killed by another student in Fayetteville a few weeks ago.

JIM HOLSHOUSER ... Former Governor Jim Holshouser is being warmly received in Moore County and the Sandhills where he has become associated with W. Lamont Brown, a Democrat, in the practice of law in Southern Pines. The former governor says it was his intention to spend the greater part of the time in Southern Pines during the school term and most of the time in Boone during the summer months when school was out, but daughter Ginny appears to be partial towards school in Boone which necessitates somewhat of a shift in arrangements -- at least for the remainder of the present school term.

CORRECTION ... In the January 10, 1977 release of this column vote totals were listed for members of the Council of State in which we listed John Ingram as having received the largest vote of any member of the Council of State which was in error, as called to our attention by F. Carlyle Teague.

Ingram received the votes attributed to him -- 1,048,527, but was behind Rufus Edmisten who received 1,066,036 for Attorney General, and Jim Graham who received 1,053,650 for Commissioner of Agriculture, with Ingram coming in third instead of first.

Other members of the Council of State received votes as follows: Harlan Boyles, 1,037,156 for State Treasurer; Henry L. Bridges, 1,037,090 for State Auditor; Thad Eure, 1,031,472 for Secretary of State; Craig Phillips, 1,007,318 for Supt. of Public Instruction, and John Brooks, 900,317 for Commissioner of Labor.

We appreciate the error being called to our attention as we want to keep history straight.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, February 28, 1952

The Hoke County High school girls basketball team performed as expected to win the Cumberland County tournament which was completed in Massey Hill gym Tuesday night and came home with first prize.

Dave Miller, well known colored painter around Raeford, about 45 years of age, was found dead near the colored village north of town at about eight o'clock yesterday morning by a school child.

The Colonial Frozen Foods locker plant here, which has been owned by the Pilot Life Insurance Company since last September, is now the property of Turkaline Farms, Inc., it was recently announced.

From Poole's Medley: What we do, what we say, and how we treat other people, will be the criteria by which we will be judged by those living around us. Live honestly.

Robbins Mills announced this week that they would sponsor an official "Little League" of baseball teams for boys eight to 13 years of age in Raeford and Aberdeen.

The Carolinas yesterday dug out from a heavy snowfall that snarled traffic, closed schools and sent dozens to hospitals after falls.

15 years ago

Thursday, March 1, 1962

Superior Court Judge Hemar Clark of Fayetteville told members of the Cumberland and Hoke County Bar Association late Wednesday afternoon that he would not be a candidate for re-election this year but will complete his term.

Checks owed Priebe employees for back wages failed to arrive this week, as had been promised by Chicago attorney Harry Ash, the court-appointed receiver for the bankrupt interstate poultry corporation.

A Raeford man has been promoted to the rank of Sgt. Major in the Army National Guard, the highest enlisted rating in the Army. He is Jesse Gullledge, a member of the Headquarters Company of the 2d Medium Tank Battalion, based here in Raeford.

Army 2d Lt. Edward H. Langston, Jr. 22, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Cole of Raeford, completed the airborne course at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga.

Raeford businesses and offices will be asked to close for one hour on March 9, from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. for the observance of the annual World Day of Prayer, an interdenominational program.