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PAUL DICKSON Publisher-Editor
 SAM C. MORRIS General Manager
 MRS. PAUL DICKSON Society Editor
 MARTY VEGA Reporter
 SUZANNE APLIN Reporter

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1977

Now, Senate ethics

The Senate deserves credit for following the House of Representatives in the direction of a toughened ethics code. But, like the House, it appears ready to stop short of the full financial disclosure which is essential if voters are to exercise informed judgment.

If there had been this kind of disclosure in the past, it seems safe to say that there would have been a forestalling of many of the problems leading to a demand for reform legislation. The secret and determined wrongdoer would not have been bound by any code. But at least voters would have the information to decide for themselves whether there were obvious conflicts of interest unacceptable to them.

And certainly Senator Weicker was right when he wrote in the New York Times this week that if a state's voters "are outraged by their senator's earning one nickel from a law firm, why should I say 15 percent is all right?"

Mr. Weicker was referring to the 15 percent limit on earned outside income which has now been passed by the Senate, after sharp controversy, as it was by the House. This means a senator can earn \$8,625 on top of the \$12,900 raise that brought his salary to \$57,500 - for a total of more than \$66,000 a year. There remains no limit on such unearned income as dividends and interest.

There were plenty of minority outcries calling the limits only on earned income an example of unfairness in "the rich man's club" of the Senate. But the majority - as in the House - recognized that there had to be a show of financial restraint after the public reaction against the congressional pay raise.

It was a mistake in both houses to create the impression that stricter ethics standards were the price of the raise, as if a congressman's ethics depends on his take-home pay. And, as Republicans in the House rightly pointed out, there was also an appearance of buying ethics in increasing each member's official expense funds by \$5,000 in the package calling for an end to the "unofficial" office accounts exploited by some members.

Thus, for all the welcome congressional efforts to clean house, there is the danger that progress toward the goal of restoring public confidence in Congress may be reduced by a feeling that the code is cosmetic as well as corrective. Any cosmetic impression could be dispelled by the full financial disclosure called for by Senator Weicker and others.

The new disclosure requirements are certainly an improvement over the old ones, under which only sources of income, holdings, and debts were publicly disclosed - with actual dollar amounts reported only confidentially to ethics committees. Now some specific values are to be publicly disclosed, but some are only to be indicated by categories, such as "less than \$5,000" and "above \$100,000." Obviously it would be of interest to a voter to know that his representative or senator had a specific number of millions in some specific company.

Thus, specific amounts of assets and liabilities should be listed. Full tax returns should be made public. And, indeed, as Mr. Weicker suggested, all the information should be easily available in a single document.

Whatever the details of the congressional codes, disclosure is the key. Those who run should know they are entering a fishbowl where giving up some privacy is part of the game. --Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

It was learned late yesterday that Sheriff D.H. Hodgin received a call from Lumberton yesterday requesting a special venire of 50 men from Hoke County for jury duty in Robeson County. They are to serve as jurors in the trial of the four alleged Klu Klux Klan members charged under an ancient 1868 statute forbidding membership in secret political organizations.

Fred M. Culbreth of Raeford was presented the Annual Distinguished Salesman Award at a meeting of the Sales Executive Club of Richmond.

From Poole's Medley:
 It was in the newspapers that \$5 of the total number of prison camps in North Carolina are now equipped with television sets. Is that a necessary expense?

J.E. Byrd, manager of Cooper's Super Market announced today that Johnny Jr., Goodwill Ambassador for Phillip Morris, is making his annual tour and will be in Cooper's Super Store March 28.

Work was begun this week on the little league baseball diamond located in the Robbins Heights area.

15 years ago

Election Board Chairman, W.L. Poole, announced this week that a county-wide ABC election would be held May 26 in conjunction with the regular primary voting.

Archie Daniel Peterson, 69, was buried Monday afternoon in Raeford Cemetery following services conducted at Raeford Presbyterian by Rev. W.B. Heyward and the Rev. F.E. Edens.

Sheriff's deputies reported a \$2,000 loss at Harvey Warlick's FCX store and mill after a break-in last week.

About 200 Hoke County "prospects" will be soliciting in the next few weeks on behalf of the Moore Memorial Hospital building campaign, chairman Neil L. Senter announced this week.

Lloyd Gillis, 45, of Antioch died Wednesday afternoon after a long illness with cancer.

Buck horseholders are currently batting .500 on the season to date-with an impressive 11-3 win over Red Springs last week and a 4-2 loss to the Lumberton Pirates in the home opener Tuesday.



by Marty Vega

Great Courage Shown

Now and then you hear of an act of unusual courage, a deed so unselfish and daring in the face of great danger that ordinary mortals like us are stunned with wonder and awe.

The hero, or heroine, takes on proportions seemingly larger than life. Such bravery is superhuman.

This writer is privileged to relate to you the details of an extraordinary action which occurred in Raeford Monday. Look closely in this newspaper. Do you see the photograph of the dangerous reptile, the enormous, menacing snake. Doesn't it strike fear in your hearts?

While recoiling in your horror, don't you wonder what superhuman heroine stood in the face of such sure destruction with a camera?

Wouldn't you feel cheated if you didn't know? Wouldn't you burn with curiosity, the question consuming your mind and disrupting your lives with its gnawing presence, until you at last learned the answer? Who was this brave soul who gambled a terrifying death and lived to tell about it?

It was me. I did it. No one else. Me. Modesty would prevent me from telling this. False modesty would, too. But I have neither. My

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

You open up your newspaper or turn on the evening news any day in the week and find the world's endless, dreary troubles laid out before you. Every day it seems like a new country is heard from with more trouble than the one in the news the day before - countries a lot of us never heard of a year or two ago, like Zamia, Zaire, Uganda.

And that's just on one continent. Tomorrow somebody is going to find another country we never heard of before on some other continent, and it too will be reported in big trouble. The papers and the networks will carry the story, public officials will agonize over it, and we can add one more problem to our list.

I have thought long and hard over this and I've figured out the solution to people's mounting worries. What the world needs is a new set of leaders, all of whom failed geography in school. You can't worry about or come to the aid of a country you don't know exists.

Maybe we need a President for example who, when asked - by some reporter who probably just heard of the place - what he thinks ought to be done about say Angola, could reply without being laughed at by the rest of us: "I'm not too familiar with that local situation, is Angola in Oregon or West Virginia?"

People are simply learning too much geography. Don't the newspapers and networks know that every time they introduce a new country to us they're just adding to the sum total of our worries?

Understand, I don't think ignorance is bliss, but on the other hand being informed can give you a headache.

By the way, which state is Angola in? What's the town's problem, busing? Drought?
 Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

mother told me that false modesty was a sin. True modesty I never acquired.

Now that the story is out, I know I will be deluged with inquiries from scores of people demanding the whole story. *Time* magazine, probably, will pick it up within the week.

How did you do it, everyone will be clamoring. Well, some are born great and others have greatness thrust upon them.

You don't just pick up a camera and step out and confront a snake eyeball to eyeball. You have to work up to it. You start by taking a picture of a dead snake first. Like about two years ago. Then you put it out of your mind.

And then, a man walks into the newspaper office and says, "Would you like a picture of a snake?" You say sure, we'd like a picture of a snake, let's see it.

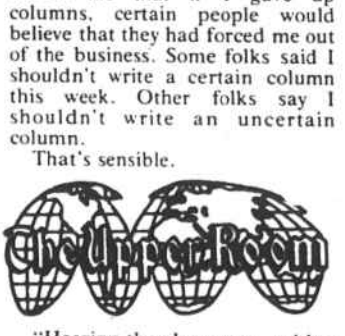
And when the man says no, that's not what he meant, he meant he wanted a picture TAKEN right now and the horrible beast was waiting outside, what do you do?

It's true grit, friends. Some of us got it and some of us ain't got it.

Consider yourselves lucky that you should know such a great person in your lifetime.

I do want to assure all my faithful readers (both of you) that I will not carry out my threat to quit writing columns. I had decided to give up some bad habits, like smoking, swearing and writing columns, but cooler hand convinced me that if I gave up columns, certain people would believe that they had forced me out of the business. Some folks said I shouldn't write a certain column this week. Other folks say I shouldn't write an uncertain column.

That's sensible.



"Hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." (Matthew 13:13)

"Tom, you haven't asked David tonight! I told you your father and I had tickets for the theater."

"I thought you said David could come to supper."

"Any evening except tonight, Son."

"Sorry, Mum. I honestly didn't hear you."

Although I was exasperated, I knew Tom had not been deliberately disobedient. He had been so full of his own plans that he had been deaf to what I was saying.

How often we are so preoccupied that we fail to hear our heavenly Father when He speaks to us! We talk of "saying our prayers" as if the value of prayer lies in the number of words we utter. Yet we would not dream of talking nonstop to an earthly friend without listening to his or her reply.

God speaks to us in many ways: through the beauty of nature, the voice of conscience, the words of people we meet, the books we read, the opportunities He gives us every day of doing good and practicing patience and restraint.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

Members of Congress value the opinions of the people from their home states on issues that arise, and generally, writing to your Senator or Congressman will cause him to consider your views before making a judgment and casting a vote. But sometimes, in their zeal, constituents can try to ask too much.

In a short time, a bill to allow common situs picketing will be before the Senate for debate and then a vote. Briefly, this bill allows any union working on a job - even a union made up of workers for a subcontractor - to strike the whole job if they walk out.

This issue came up in the last session of Congress and it passed but was vetoed by President Ford, even though he had promised the labor unions he would sign it. I voted against it in the last session and I plan to vote against it in this session. I have stated this publicly, both when I campaigned in 1974, and since I have been in the Senate. But that hasn't satisfied some people.

Just a few days ago, a representative of a national organization called the Right to Work Committee called my Washington office and asked how I stood on the common situs bill. A member of my staff told him I opposed it. Then he asked if I would commit to vote with opponents of the bill on all procedural votes and was told that I probably wouldn't because no one could be sure what sort of procedural votes will arise.

This apparently angered him and we began to get an avalanche of letters, and then there was an advertisement in the Charlotte paper saying, Senator Morgan refused to commit himself, and we got more mail. The my Raleigh office got a call saying that every businessman in North Carolina who supported and contributed to my campaign would be asked to

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



APRIL 29 - 30 -- On Friday, April 29 former Democratic members of the House and Senate along with incumbent members will hold their annual reunion in Raleigh at the Velvet Cloak Motel. Former House Speakers head the committee for this reunion.

On the next evening, Saturday, April 30, the annual Jefferson - Jackson Day dinner will be held at Dorton Arena at the State Fair grounds in Raleigh. Tickets will be \$20 each instead of the \$50 price-tag heretofore asked. Vice President Mondal will be the featured speaker.

ETHICS ORDER -- Governor Hunt's ethics order is coming under heavy fire and criticism by Community College and Technical Institute Trustees. They point out that only a third of the trustees are appointed by the governor and that only the third that he appoints could come under his ethics order that this would be unfair. The trustees further argue that since they serve without remuneration and are in no position to overly or covertly exert undue influence on the business affairs of the institutions, the governor's order should not apply.

SEPARATE CC BOARD? -- Chairman Dallas Herring of the State Board of Education has called attention to the fact that the last time the community college and technical institute trustees voted on whether to seek a board separate and apart from the State Board of Education, the trustees voted against the proposal which took place in Winston - Salem about two years ago. The trustee association will soon be meeting again and the manner in which they vote is expected to have considerable weight with how the General Assembly looks upon the proposal.

CALIFANO -- With HEW Secretary Joseph A. Califano resorting to hiring a \$12,000 cook and a \$44,000 a year office aide and bodyguard and approving discrimination in reverse, we wouldn't be surprised to see him become the first person to leave the Carter cabinet.

CARTER SALARIES -- Speaking of White House salaries, the Fayetteville Observer says: President Carter has raised the salaries of his top aides from \$44,600 to \$56,000, presumably for a job well done in the presidential campaign since the success of the administration itself is still pretty much in

bring pressure on me to support a filibuster or any other procedural road block that opponents of the bill could dream up.

There may be literally hundreds of amendments and tactical motions made before a vote is taken, and I am just not willing to give anybody a blanket commitment on how I'll vote on each and every one.

Situations may arise, as they did last year, when to vote for an amendment may weaken the bill. Senator Javits, a supporter of the bill, offered an amendment to exempt homes of three stories or less where there was no elevator and public buildings where the law said contracts must be let separately, from common situs picketing. I figured if the bill was going to pass, and it did, that we had better weaken it every way possible, so I voted for that amendment. Some who opposed the bill voted against the amendment, saying, "if it's going to pass, let's ram the whole thing down their throats." I just didn't see it that way.

These high pressure campaigns can backfire. Another Senator, who is from a northern state where opposition to the bill is less intense, remarked the other day that because of the organized pressure he might support the bill at this session. Last time, he voted against it.

I know how emotions can flare when an issue such as this comes up. But the idea of being pressured by every businessman who supported me goes too far. Nobody has bought me and the people know I am not for sale. I'm against common situs, but I am fundamentally opposed to making commitments on votes when I don't know what the votes will be. I really don't think the people of North Carolina would want me to follow any other course.

the air." Hefty salary raises like this doesn't seem like statesman-like leadership to curtail inflation. However, we shouldn't be too surprised for he approved the Ford recommendation for hefty raises for the Congressmen and U.S. Senators.

Who was it who said: "What you do speaks so loud we can't hear what you say."

SIZING UP CARTER -- People are still trying to size up Carter to see which way he is heading. In some ways he has pleased labor; in other ways he has displeased George Meany and other labor bosses.

We have been interested in his moves to make friends out of long-standing foes like Castro in Cuba and the government leadership in Hanoi. We don't like Castro's communistic ties but the ties may be there because of the United States ill-fated bay of pigs expedition back in 1961 when John F. Kennedy was president. Frankly, we never thought we had any more business in Vietnam than Russia had in Cuba when Nikita Khrushchev was attempting to set up a fort of missiles in Cuba in 1962.

OBSERVATION -- We have sometimes observed that in public life a person who gives frugally of his own is quite willing to vote generous when it comes to government or tax-payers money.

JUDGES -- Speaking of the proposal to abolish the election by the people of all judges in North Carolina, we heard an outstanding state official say recently that it might not be bad to put such a proposal on the ballot as it might help to carry down to defeat other proposals which might be just as objectionable but with more appeal.

QUOTATION -- Who was it who wrote?:
 "Give us a man of God's own mold,
 Born to marshal his fellow-men;
 One whose fame is not bought and sold
 at the stroke of a politician's pen."

