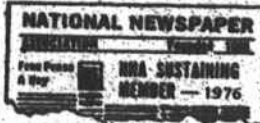


The News - Journal



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

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

Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1977

Hello, gasoline tax

"Gasoline tax" is the phrase that leaps to the headlines out of the stories about President Carter's complicated forthcoming energy program. How the whole package hangs together will be the most important criterion. But the gas tax is a key test of urgency and approach. Reports of the latest energy program drafts carefully note that changes are still possible before the official announcement next week. If the idea of a gas tax is being floated as a trial balloon even at this late date, we hope it is not shot down.

For a gas tax is one of the few means short of rationing to indicate to the public that oil is running out fast enough so that something really has to be done about it. Production as well as conservation has to be encouraged, of course. But no foreseeable production gains will offset the need for consumption cuts -- which, in effect, are also the cheapest form of extra production. Even Saudi Arabia and other producers will not meet all United States needs beyond 1982, if current growth in consumption is not checked, according to Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Sheikh Yamani.

Nevertheless -- unless and until American ways of life, work, and commuting are altered to fit the long-term energy picture -- many Americans are dependent on their cars. Mass transit is not available in rural areas. Sometimes those with particular economic needs have to drive particularly far to work.

Somehow, in recycling the revenues obtained through gas taxes, the government has to respond to these people as well as to the need to return the revenues to the economy and to use them in behalf of creating more energy. Apparently the forms of recycling have not yet been settled on. Some relief from other taxes will doubtless be involved. The skill and sensitivity with which the administration works out these problems will have a major effect on the acceptability of a gas-tax plan.

Experts disagree on how much a gas tax has to be in order to deter waste. Last month Mr. Carter roundly denied that he intended an increase of 25 cents a gallon. Now his reported plan calls for a "standby" increase of up to 50 cents a gallon. At present prices this would still leave Americans paying less per gallon than many drivers overseas.

But the Carter increases would at least be a reminder to conserve. And they place the burden on the public -- and on other elements in the Carter package -- as to whether he ever has to violate his pledge against a 25-cent tax. For the gas tax would not be imposed if targets of controlled consumption are met. Each percentage point of consumption above the level would bring a five-cent tax increase. The consumption would be controlled not only by individual drivers but by the tax penalties and rebates proposed to discourage gas-guzzling cars and encourage gas-efficient vehicles.

Will the American people and the American carmakers get the message and respond before the full weight of taxes has to be imposed? That would be the ideal outcome. But past experience suggests that some not-so-subtle nudging will be necessary. For this reason it might be well to prove the administration's sense of urgency by taking a base of consumption earlier than next year, with excesses triggering a tax increase before the first date now being mentioned, January, 1979.

The political problems are a whole other story. The smashing of the gas tax in the previous Congress provides a hint. But the Ford White House also opposed it. With the new President himself taking the lead, with the world's oil a couple of years closer to depletion, there now may be a fighting chance. --Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, April 17, 1952
Two hundred and thirty-eight Home Demonstration Club women and visitors attended the Annual 16th District Federation meeting which was held at the Raeford Methodist Church on Wednesday.

A new market for North Carolina turkeys has been assured through the organization of Turkalina Farms, incorporated, which plans to operate a turkey processing freezing plant in Raeford.

From Rockfish News:
The picture was not shown at Rockfish Monday night as it was announced because nobody came.

The Mildouson PTA will serve a chicken and rice stew supper Thursday night at Mildouson for the public.

From Poole's Medley:
The papers give some space to such objects as the moon and stars.

and that they may be peopled, and some time we may be able to visit some of these planets. Foolish creatures.

Sgt. Marvin J. Wood, the new National Guard instructor for the 130th AAA Battalion, has arrived in Raeford to begin his duties.

15 years ago

Thursday, April 19, 1962
Teacher Marion Gatlin never saw a pink elephant but last week he saw a peacock casually preening on the ledge of the second floor archway at Raeford Elementary School.

Two young men paid their filing fees on Thursday and Friday to run for Sheriff, following Dave Hodgins' withdrawal announcement. The two new entrants in the race are Dave Barrington, who resigned his deputy's post to run, and lumberman Bill Clark.

A new launderette is coming to town and will open soon, on Oakwood Ave. near Hoke Oil & Fertilizer.



by Marty Vega

Read With Disgust

In this newspaper you will find a story concerning the old Maultsby house downtown. You will note in this story that the controversy over this house has reached the stage that city officials, including the honorable Mayor, are now being called disgusting for their conduct.

An observation was made by our friend J.H. Blue Jr., who isn't often wrong, that bears repeating. The officials are certainly disgusting, to be sure, but for a variety of reasons. But some good, constructive discussion has come of all this unpleasant business and some keen minds have hit on the perfect solution. Don't tear the old place down and have the city lose that valuable tax base.

The facility could easily be converted into an active business. Like a massage parlor. Since the city code evidently doesn't bar the use of neon signs, the massage parlor could be so equipped so as to draw in business from 401-business.

The only disagreement during this discussion was whether the signs would be flashing on and off or stay on all the time. This will be decided the democratic way, by votes. Maybe.

The massage parlor would, of course, want to become a member of the Chamber of Commerce right away, and the Chamber, of course, would welcome any new business heartily.

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear editor:
Of all the things I don't understand, one of the uppermost is Foreign Policy.

For example, recently Secretary of State Vance went to Moscow for a talk with Russian leaders and the meeting was termed a failure because Russia wouldn't agree to his proposals. Had she agreed, the meeting would have been hailed as a success, when everybody, especially Russia, knows Russia will keep an agreement with one country just as long as a better agreement with another one doesn't come along.

I estimate that in the past 25 years at least 500 agreements between nations of the world have been signed, and 499 broken. The one that wasn't broken got lost in the files somewhere and nobody could remember what it was.

Foreign policy is like the tail fins Detroit used to put on cars. Nobody knew what they were for but everybody had to have some on his car. Foreign policy is like fashions in clothes. What's in this year will be out next year, but what country wants to be out of style?

Most of the time, it looks to me, our foreign policy consists of signing an agreement on top of a table and passing money under it. When the money stops, the agreement is canceled.

I got to thinking. What would happen if all the countries of the world got together and agreed to abolish all foreign policies? Just do away with the things, on the grounds their cost-benefit ratio is out of line, they cost more than they gain.

Some people will argue it won't work. It'd leave the world's countries quarreling and snarling and ready to grab each other by the throat, with every nation arming itself to the teeth. We couldn't have that.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

In the meantime, volunteers are needed this Saturday for the Fix-up Festival to plant flowers and shrubs around the house.

Discrimination
It has been reliably reported from several sources that a well-known Raeford grocery store with the initials HFM is engaging in discriminatory practices against one class of shoppers.

It has been said that if a Northern lady goes in and asks for V-8 juice, she is told "we don't sell gasoline, lady". Can you believe the crust of that?

This Is The Law

By Robert E. Lee
Sponsored by The Lawyers of North Carolina

Cora's parents deeded property to her with the following provision: "It is understood and agreed between all parties herein that if she said Cora G. Jones marries, this property reverts back to the grantors, their heirs and assigns." When Cora subsequently married, did she cease to be the sole and absolute owner of the property?

No. The policy of the law is to encourage marriages. It frowns upon provisions in contracts and conveyances in general restraint of marriage.

In a case before the Supreme Court of North Carolina, the court said, "It is the principle very generally recognized here and elsewhere that, when an estate has been definitely conveyed to another, a condition subsequent, in general restraint of marriage, will, as a rule, be disregarded."

However, restraints against remarriage by widows and widowers are a well-established exception to the general rule, and a person who receives property from a spouse can lose the property should he or she violate the provisions of a will by remarriage.

Letters To The Editor

Readers are reminded that Letters to the Editor must be signed. Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.

Readers may request that names be withheld. Names will be withheld when an individual's personal circumstances deem it necessary.

Dear Sirs:
The following is a letter to the Editor:

"There are a number of things that bother me about the dismissal of Allen Edwards as our High School principal. I feel that: 1) the reasons given for dismissal do not seem to be serious enough to warrant this degree of punishment and its accompanying humiliation and career-damaging effects. 2) such a serious decision should have been deferred (after the 5 1/2 hour executive session rather than arriving at it at 1:30 A.M.) because of possible mental fatigue. 3) there should be solutions to personality conflict short of dismissal.

I think it would be appropriate for the Board of Education to take the following actions:



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

The Congress has passed, and the President has signed, the Government Reorganization Bill, which is designed to cut some of the waste in the Executive Branch. I voted for this and hope that it will do what it is planned to do. Put simply, the bill gives the President the right to take such measures as he deems necessary to streamline the government unless one of the Houses of Congress objects to a recommendation within sixty days after it is presented.

President Carter is not the first chief executive to have the power to reorganize the federal bureaucracy. Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford all had relatively the same power that has now been given President Carter by Congress. But none of the others campaigned, as did Mr. Carter, on a platform of cutting down unneeded agencies and none made this one of his top goals.

Realizing that he needs a strong institutional base from which to work on the reorganization, the President has indicated he will place much of the responsibility in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) which is headed by his Georgia friend, Bert Lance. The administration says this will provide a natural link between the budget and organizational changes, and will provide the nucleus of a staff to start the work.

The President has promised that there will be no career employees who will lose their jobs or suffer pay cuts because of this program. That seems to weaken the effort until one

considers that 10 percent of the government work force is lost each year by retirement or by the departure of employees to the private sector. The President says he plans to involve as many people as possible in this effort. A Reorganization Advisory Group will be established and it will try to get Congress, government units, and the public to participate or at least be aware of what steps are proposed to bring government under better control.

One approach that President Carter says he will take may give his program a better chance to succeed than the efforts of those who preceded him in office. He plans to start his study of each agency, not at the top, but down where the programs and the people meet. This, after all, is where an agency fails or succeeds.

Too many reorganization tries in the past have ended with reorganization on paper, achieved by shuffling a few jobs at the top. Some of this probably needs doing, but the real test is down at the level where the citizen and the agency become involved with each other.

I feel it is a task that the nation wants him to succeed in, because I feel that the great majority of our people feel that the Federal Government needs to be cut back to some reasonable size.

It is certainly a task that he is going to need help in doing if he is to succeed, and much of that help must come from the Congress.

There's no doubt that the people want him to succeed.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



ROY H. PARK...Roy H. Park is a native of Surry County, who for years has made his home in Ithaca, New York, still has "tar on his heels" and keeps fully abreast of the business and political life in North Carolina.

I first met Roy Park several years ago when he served as chairman of the Public Relations Committee at State University, of which I was a member.

Passing through Aberdeen a few days ago Roy dropped in for a chat. A graduate of North Carolina State College back in the "depression" days, Roy became editor, advertising and publicity manager for the North Carolina Cotton Growers Association in which capacity he served for 11 years.

Next he took over the advertising and PR department of GLF -- a farmers' cooperative known as "Agway" in Ithaca, N.Y. "My mistake was getting into political advertising," said Mr. Park who handled the advertising for the ill-fated presidential campaign of Tom Dewey in 1948, who it will be remembered was defeated by Harry Truman.

Park soon started franchising top quality foods under rigid controls approved by Duncan Hines which proved to be a big success.

In recent years Park has added an additional line to his business enterprises -- the new media.

From 1962 to 1972 Park built broadcast operations, both TV and radio, and also acquired his first advertising plant in 1963. He now owns, individually, seven TV stations and 13 radio stations. He has a TV station and two radio stations in Greenville, North Carolina. He owns a TV station in Alabama, two in Tennessee, two in Virginia, one in New York, and in the last four years has bought up 21 newspapers in six states.

Since moving into the "fourth estate" field his newspapers in 1976 received 55 awards for excellence, they being located in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Nebraska, New York and Virginia.

Roy Park, while living in New York, owns some 2,000 acres of land in eastern North Carolina and keeps a keen eye on what's going on in his native North Carolina where he is a frequent visitor.

RECALL BILL...A "Recall Bill" introduced by Rep. David Bumgardner and co-sponsored by Reps. John Gamble of Lincoln and E. Graham Bell of Gaston, probably may not get far in this General Assembly, but has the earmarks of being a genuine "people's bill."

The Bumgardner-Gamble-Bell "Recall Bill" would establish a system whereby people would be able to vote out all levels of officials from local to governor. The bill would require a petition of 25 percent of the number who voted for governor in the preceding election before a recall election could be slated.

Rep. Bumgardner recalled that North Carolina was one of only 10 states in the union without a recall provision.

The bill, if enacted into law, would probably be used very little but it would be a reminder to some of those who occasionally are "cocky and irresponsible" after election that they could be brought to the bar of justice before the people without having to wait two or three years before re-election time.

We would hardly consider it "must" legislation, but we believe it should have due consideration and not be swept under the rug of the constitutional committee to which it has been assigned.

The people could vote on the matter since it would be a constitutional amendment at the same time that gubernatorial succession is voted on.

GENE BOST...Former N.C. House Speaker Eugene T. Bost, Jr. who died last week was an able and outstanding member of the General Assembly for 20 years (1937-1957). A solid conservative, he had great influence, serving as chairman of the House Finance Committee and a member of the Advisory Budget Commission as well as House Speaker during 1953-54.