

The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
 Free Press
 A Day
 NWA 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, APRIL 28, 1977

A test for the President, too

President Carter confronts Americans with one of the greatest tests ever: to tighten their belts and reorder their way of life in order to help lick the energy problem. But he, too, now faces a test. That is to demonstrate that he has the political skill and goodwill to work with Congress to push through a strong national energy program -- even if it does not parallel his own in every detail.

For it will take the closest cooperation and give and take with the lawmakers to get a program adopted. Mr. Carter is looking to the American people for a "supracongressional" source of support for what he is trying to do. That support will be essential, and the President will need to continue exerting pressure in this direction. But if he fails in his diplomacy with the legislators and alienates them, the whole effort to forge an effective energy policy could be jeopardized.

So far Mr. Carter's working relationship with Congress has not been the best. Some disturbing questions are asked in Washington these days. Does Mr. Carter have an adversary approach to Congress? Does he sometimes invite a battle even when a battle is not necessary? If so, such methods would certainly not serve the national interest.

We would not have Mr. Carter compromise substantively on what he thinks is the best course for the nation as a whole. We applaud and support many of his policies. He displayed precisely the needed leadership, for instance, in challenging the time-honored practice of pork-barreling of water projects. He was right to subject to stern review the many dams, canals, and other projects under construction, to rule out those that are not economically and environmentally justified, and to lay down stronger guidelines for future programs.

However, Mr. Carter caused much unnecessary resentment in Congress by the way he went about things; for instance, failing to notify and consult senators whose projects were affected. He angered Morris Udall and Edmund Muskie, two powerful environmental advocates whose backing he vitally needs. Yet, in the end, Mr. Carter restored many projects.

The President has seemed to spark gratuitous irritation on some other issues, too, including executive appointments and the economic executive appointments and the economic stimulus package. Although cool to the idea of the \$50 tax rebate, for example, many Democrats in Congress went to bat for the President, cajoling colleagues to support it in the interest of party harmony. Yet when Mr. Carter decided to stop the idea, he did not consult with Al Ullman of the House Ways and Means Committee, who had done so much to promote the President's program despite his own reservations.

Much can perhaps be forgiven the President because his administration is still young, both in time and experience. Mr. Carter is surely learning. Presumably he is aware of the importance now of enlisting both Democrats and Republicans in his massive energy drive. The other night he himself spoke of a "partnership" with Congress.

It will be up to both -- the Legislature and the President -- to make that objective a reality, especially in an area of such overriding importance to the nation's welfare. --*Christian Science Monitor*

'Anybody want to change places with grandpa?'



by Marty Vega

Idea For Petition

Since one thing that Raeford lacks is citizen petitions right now, we would like to offer a helpful suggestion. Since you hardly ever hear about the petitions about anything these days, it seems like a good idea to start one up.

Our idea is to petition the Southern Restaurant to publish a newsletter daily, or if that is too much, say three times a week, giving a summary, or a digest, or whatever, of what was said about whom every morning by the customers.

This would certainly serve the community and would be very beneficial to large numbers of people who want to get the facts straight.

Since the Southern is a regular a.m. hangout for the influential and not-so-influential locals, there is a great deal of discussion going on down there every morning. And, since everybody who has to work for a living can't be there constantly from 6 a.m. on to 9 or so, the situation is getting serious.

The situation is getting so bad, in fact, that one well-known figure said last week that he had regular 9 a.m. briefings in his office to learn what was said about him that morning by a certain customer down there.

Others, who are regular fixtures down at the restaurant, have in the past admitted quite candidly that they go there to keep their detractors from making them the topic of conversation.

The solution seems simple. A regular news digest that the Southern customers, and others for a fee, could get along with the morning paper.

The mechanics of this could be quite simple. Microphones would be placed at each table, between the salt shaker and the ashtray, and a master tape recorder would collect all of the conversation. After the breakfast rush is over and before the lunch crowd arrives, the tape would be played back and one of the girls could jot down all of the essential information and type it up. Very handy to the restaurant is the Quik-Print plant, so the news digest could be gotten out the same day.

This added service would be a real boon to the restaurant as consumer acceptance would be very high. For customers who were sick, or had another appointment, or for any reason skipped their morning visit, it would be a way to keep up on what they missed. And it would help the non-customers, too. Especially the ones who can't stand to be talked about -- but would probably wither up and die if they didn't get somebody to talk about them.

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear Editor:

One of the troubles with high-powered newspaper and television reporters is they're too superficial, they don't go deep enough into the important news stories of the day.

For example, the Supreme Court, but a vote of 5 to 4, has ruled it's not unconstitutional to paddle a school kid.

The wire services and the networks reported this, along with reports on why some members voted for, some against.

But they left out what I wanted to know: How many members of the Supreme Court were paddled when they were in school? If a member was paddled, did it, now years later, reflect itself in how he voted on this Constitutional crisis? Did the 5 who voted for paddling get paddled when they were in school, and the 4 who voted against escape? Or was it the other way around? That is, from which end did they approach it? While of course getting to the seat of the problem.

Reporters ought to get on the ball and give us the news we're really interested in, like does getting a paddling in school make a liberal or a conservative Supreme Court judge?

Some people don't think times have changed, but they have. Years ago, when a kid got paddled for misbehaving in school, it went to the Supreme Court, all right, but that court wasn't located in Washington, it was much closer. It was at home, where the kid automatically got another paddling for getting a paddling in school. You might call this double jeopardy, but to the kid it was a signal of clear and present danger that if he didn't straighten up he was going to have trouble sitting down.

I don't know whether this worked or not, but it sure saved legal expense.

Also, I don't know whether kids learned more or less years ago than kids do nowadays, but whatever was, more or less, it sure was quiter. Oh, occasionally an erasure was thrown through a window, but never a teacher.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

Letter To The Editor

To the Editor:

The recent controversy over the decision of the board of education to dismiss Allen Edwards as high school principal brings out several points to the citizens of Hoke County.

First, all elected and hired public officials are extended a special trust and confidence by the voters. When these officials are in their own self interest or that of a small group or individual, this trust has been violated. In other words, these officials should do their homework before extending snap decisions based on the prejudices of one individual.

Second, when the public asks questions, evasion is not the avenue for these officials to take. This being the case at the Board of Education meeting on April 21, I realize that there are many cases where certain information should not be publicized, however in my opinion, the Board of Education placed itself above questions from the ordinary citizen.

And third, let's hope that this incident does not just "Blow Over". We must become more aware of the functions of our county and certainly take a more active part. We must not leave our responsibilities at the voting booth.

Gerald Sappenfield
 309 Old Farm Rd.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

As I travel about the state and listen to North Carolina people talk about their government, I hear them voice their concerns and worries about many things that are happening in Washington and at home.

Some worry that we are losing ground in defense and believe that Russia is getting ahead of us militarily. Others worry about inflation and still others about unemployment. There seems to be a general agreement that the government has grown too large and is interfering too much with people's private lives and the way they run their businesses.

But the one thing that seems to concern people most is the huge deficits that are being piled up each year and the growth of the national debt. Many persons look to the plight of New York City which for months has teetered on the brink of bankruptcy and ask if this could happen to the national government.

Most economists think that what is happening to New York couldn't happen to the United States, because of the latter's immense taxing power and its ability to print money, but a continuation of these large deficits could bankrupt the people individually through the loss of buying power of their inflated dollars.

I, too, have been troubled by the red ink that permeates Washington and which continues to flow because no one seems to know how to put the cap back on the bottle. Last year's record budget deficit will be followed by another one this year, and although the President has said he will have the budget in balance by 1981, there are few in Washington that believe this is possible.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



HEALTH CARE COSTS...It is hard to think of anything that has increased in cost percentage-wise, more than health-care costs, which is one place where exorbitant prices should be guarded against.

We applaud President Carter's proposed plan to control health costs by placing a ceiling on increases in hospital charges. Few laymen can see the reason for medical costs to rise so much faster than run-away inflation in general!

We have long opposed socialized health-care by government which is creeping in on us pretty fast and unless the cost is kept more in line with the average run of inflation socialized health care will follow as night follows day.

We have just received a notice of rate increases for Blue Cross-Blue Shield hospital charges which is operated on a non-profit basis and the new rates are scheduled to increase by approximately 27 percent from the last increase two years ago.

If any costs should be held in line it should be health-care costs, for the pain of the poor is just as severe and agonizing as that of the more affluent who can provide medical care.

COLLEGE BILL...In recent days we have been reading and hearing right much about the State Board of Education. Well, any day now, you can expect a bill to be introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly to create a "State Board of Community Colleges and Technical Institutes."

Since the passage of the legislation in 1963 providing for the comprehensive system of community colleges and technical institutes, these institutions have been operated under the State Board of Education. There are now 57 of the institutions, forty technical institutes and 17 community colleges. The feeling among quite a few is that a separate board could serve the institutions better at no increase in cost as the division of community colleges of which Dr. Ben H. Fountain heads under the State Board of Education is sufficiently manned to carry on a separate board.

HUNT & GREEN...It seems that Governor Jim Hunt is not having quite as easy sailing as he would like in the General Assembly.

Some people feel that Lt. Governor Green is crossing up the governor when possible. Others say not, that Jim Green is his own man just as Hunt is.

For 18 years the writer was a member of the General Assembly and we have seen significant pieces

The President acted responsibly in deciding to cancel his call for the \$50 tax rebate. This would have added over \$8.6 billion to the already large deficit.

For one thing, the rebate would most certainly have been inflationary. To finance it, the government would have had to borrow the money and the increased demand in the money market would have driven up interest rates, because the money market operates on the principle of supply and demand just the same as coffee and wheat.

While many people would have welcomed getting their hands on the rebate now, inflated taxes and prices in the future would probably have cost them more and the effect on unemployment would have been minimal.

Our national debt is now more than \$600 billion and interest along in 1976 was over \$35 billion. Those sobering facts should give any thinking person cause for concern.

According to the most recent Harris poll, a 70 per cent majority of the people sampled feel that taxes in this country are "unreasonable" and fully two-thirds say they have "reached the breaking point" on taxes they can afford to pay.

A tax rebate, financed with borrowed money could only increase future taxes, as we would have to pay it back with interest. Even the supporters of deficit financing have to hope for a heated-up economy to pay the increased debt -- and that can only mean more inflation.

Just as we are being called on to face the energy situation, I think the problem of red ink is one that we must confront and we must not be too long in doing it.

of legislation enacted into law without due and thorough process. This kind of roller-coaster legislation ceased with the Holshouser administration because Holshouser was a Republican and the General Assembly was Democratic by a Substantial majority.

The Holshouser Administration, being Republican, caused members of the General Assembly not to accept legislation just because it was "the governor's bill." It put steel in the back of legislators that had not been in evidence in over 70 years. Now, even with a Democrat governor, some of that steel is still there and may show up from time to time.

In the by-gone years we have observed recommendations of the governor for appointment to the State Board of Education sail through, without even going to a committee, which in actuality was making a farce of the Assembly's authority and responsibility in the matter.

Having tasted a little more authority, some members may be a little reluctant to give it up.

REFERENDUMS...When it comes to referendums, people can generally justify or oppose it by their stand on the issue. Take liquor-by-the-drink issue. Advocates would oppose a state-wide vote because they would fear that it would lose. They would favor local option because they feel they could win in many areas.

Take ERA. Opponents would have been glad to put it to a referendum. Proponents, fearful that they would lose in a popular vote, were against it.



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Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, April 24, 1952

The Raeford Junior Chamber of Commerce held its charter night program Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Benton Thomas Pond.

Funeral services for John Frank McPhail, 88, who died at his home in Hoke County last Wednesday night, were held Friday afternoon in the Raeford Methodist Church.

R.R. Potter, Jr., new Hoke County farm agent, will begin his duties here tomorrow.

Tentative plans have been drawn up to start a city baseball league in Raeford this summer.

From Poole's Medley:
 Think of buying two frying size chickens for a quarter, and four dozen eggs for a quarter.

Included in the last of 43 projects released last week by the State Highway Commission was a highway project for this county. The Hoke project will involve construction of a bridge over Raft Swamp and elimination of dangerous curves at Antioch on Highway 211.

15 years ago

Thursday, April 26, 1962

In the sustaining gifts division of the Moore Memorial Hospital Building Fund, Raeford now ranks a close second behind Southern Pines, chairman Neil Senter reported this week.

George C. Wilson, 83, longtime resident of Ashley Heights died Monday at Moore Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Callie Sessoms Currie of Raeford, Rt. 1, died Friday at the age of 75.

From Rockfish News:
 Herman Koonce didn't say that he would get even with me for saying he didn't wash the dog food cans, but now he has the German Shepherd back and she is taking such good care of the remaining puppies I can't get to his home to see whether he's doing things right or not.

Mrs. R.E. Neeley has announced her resignation from the presidency of the County Council of Home Demonstration Clubs.