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THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1977

## A sad spectacle

We regret that Watergate has again ballooned into the news. The nation had taken steps toward reforms that would rule out future such scandals and was putting this episode behind. But Richard Nixon himself bears responsibility for spotlighting the issue through his very commercial television appearance.

Since the former President made that decision, therefore, it is disappointing and saddening that in this first post-resignation appearance before the American public he did not summon up the moral courage to admit that he was guilty of obstructing justice while in the White House. He came so close to such an admission, stating that "a reasonable person" could call Watergate a cover-up. By going that last small step, he might finally have won that public and personal rehabilitation that can only begin with an honest acknowledgement of wrongdoing.

As it was, the television interview with David Frost disclosed a man still skillfully side-stepping the substantial evidence of criminality on the public record. In the process, however, Mr. Nixon revealed to a greater extent than ever before the weakness of his defense. Nowhere did this show itself more than in his astonishing assertion that his motive was "pure political containment" and that "that's a very different motive from the motive of attempting to cover up criminal activities of an individual."

That is no defense at all. What, it can be asked, is so pure about "political containment"? That argument does not distinguish a corrupt from an incorrupt motive, since political acts can be moral or immoral. Mr. Nixon thus begs the question. By his definition, any criminal act in high office could be justified on political grounds. What did he mean by "political containment"? What innocent people was he trying to protect? If they were "innocent," why did they need protection? How could this justify obstructing a criminal investigation?

Other questions also went unanswered. Who, for instance, authorized the break-in into the Democratic headquarters? And why? Does Mr. Nixon see a justification for such an act? And what were the CIA "shenanigans"?

His British interviewer chose to focus most on intricate details of the Watergate cover-up but, even so, drew forth other self-incriminating answers to generalized queries. Thus, Mr. Nixon justified not "telling the cops" about his aides' involvement out of supposed humanitarian and personal concern for John Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman, who he said he felt were legally innocent of the charges against them. If that were the case, why was he not interested in throwing open the investigation so as to remove the cloud and prove their innocence?

Mr. Nixon has laid himself open to the charge that he designed his performance — for which he will be paid handsomely — to evade the issues as much as possible and to appeal to public emotion rather than reason. "I let down our system of government and the dreams of all these young people that ought to get into government," he said at one climactic moment.

Such a far from convincing reexamination of Watergate is not likely to change the minds of these young people. Nor will Mr. Nixon's culminating words that his mistakes and bad judgments were "of the heart, rather than the head" and that in the top job the "head must always rule the heart."

Here, ironically, lies the tragedy. Mr. Nixon had an opportunity to unburden his heart and let it all come out. Surely then the nation would respond with compassion. Instead there was still more political "head" than straight "heart" in what the nation saw on television this week.

Christian Science Monitor

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, May 8, 1972  
 Charles A. Hostetler, chairman of the Hoke County Red Cross Chapter, announced Wednesday that the final report of the annual Red Cross Drive had been completed and the total contribution was \$2019.99.

James Lawrence Conoly, 48, died at his home on Raeford, Route 2, early Friday morning of a heart attack.

The Senior Play "Clementine" will be presented at the Hoke High school tonight at 8 o'clock.

From Poole's Medley:  
 When the Confederate forces were passing our place a number of the soldiers offered their horses for sale. Mother knew we needed a

horse, but she was afraid the same man who sold her a horse would steal him the same day.

R.E. Neeley, county board of education member, and K.A. MacDonald went to Raleigh on Tuesday for a conference with the school planning division of the State Department of Public Instruction and the State Insurance Department.

The Raeford Television Company is open for business in the new post office building next to the town hall.

### 15 years ago

Thursday, May 10, 1962  
 A flurry of opposition showed at three Democratic precinct meetings held in Raeford last Saturday, but when the smoke of battles cleared away committeemen had been elected who were favorable to the continued county chairmanship of Sam Morris.



by Marty Vega

## Disgusting Conduct

It has generally been the reporter's creed not to disclose suspected immoral behavior by a public official, unless the behavior affects his official duties as an elected leader. But the statement last week from a certain city councilman regarding the recent suggestion to build restrooms downtown is so utterly shocking it must be reported immediately.

When asked his stand on the proposal that the city fund the restrooms, this councilman replied that he hadn't formed an opinion but that "he would look into them."

Citizens, don't be misled by this guise. Of course this councilman is in favor of building them, if not, he wouldn't be thinking ahead to looking in them. Is this any way to

spend taxpayer's dollars?

If you take a drive out in the county on some hot day, like last Friday, you better dress like a mummy or the wheat flies will tear you up.

If you never heard of wheat flies, you're not alone. Our friend Robert Gatlin, who is usually well-versed on Hoke county matters, claimed he never heard of such an insect. He evidently doesn't have about 18 bites the sizes of dimes all over his body. Well, somebody is misinformed, as it was told to me by sincere-looking types at the scene that IT WAS WHEAT FLIES! Now, maybe, this was just another joke to play on Northerners, as it was perceived some miles later that there is no wheat growing here!

Yet, another source claimed they do exist by that name. So, it is a distinct possibility, that at Gatlin's advanced age, he was in a momentary lapse.

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:  
 According to an article I read in a newspaper the other day, President Carter is getting about 75,000 letters a week from people around the country. It might be even more, but you know how the mail service is these days.

Anyway, I got to thinking about this. Seventy-five thousand letters! If each letter averages just 100 words, that's 7,500,000 words or, divided into books of 50,000 words each, 150 books.

Now no man can read 150 books a week and still have time to run the country and teach a Sunday School class too. So obviously somebody else reads the letters and answers them. It's like nine million people trying to call the President when he held his famous phone-in a while back. Only about a dozen actually got to talk to him. Those 75,000 letters a week constitute a problem for which I have no solution. It's one of those problems like energy or the Middle East which, after you get through stating it, you're too tired to go any further.

But speaking of mail, I understand some people are suggesting the post office department adopt an electronic system of delivering letters. Instead of being actually carried from one town to another, the letter is photographed and transmitted by wire to its destination, where another machine reproduces it exactly like you wrote it and seals it. A mailman then delivers it to the proper address, as soon as he can get around to it.

The system has a few drawbacks, like what about privacy although I guess clerks could be required to turn out the lights when they're feeding your letter into the transmitting machine so they couldn't see what you wrote.

This reminds me of an experience a depot agent in a small town had back in the days when we had trains and the agent, being the only telegrapher in town, handled telegrams.

One cold rainy day he received a telegram on his wires for a woman. He telephoned her and said he had a telegram for her but since it was too cold and rainy outside for her to come by and pick it up, would she like for him to read it to her?

"Don't you dare open my telegram!" she shouted.  
 Yours faithfully,  
 J.A.

Getting facts straight...In this business, you often times have to ask figures in the news for their correct age. This satisfies the public's curiosity. Since Ken McNeill is touting himself as successor to the Democratic party chairman here, it became necessary to place a call to Home Food Market for the required information.

The answer was that Ken is around 51 or 52 but I was advised to "put down 55, anyway". Now, of course, this wouldn't be the right thing to do, so the next call was placed to Ken's home. But I still failed to get the information as his maid who answered the phone declined to summon him because "he was resting".

So the first man was probably on the right track, after all, only maybe he meant 65 instead of 55.

## Letter To The Editor

To the Friends of Allen and Whimsy Lundy:

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your contributions, gifts, kindness and the graciousness you have given to our parents for their 50th wedding anniversary. You have made it possible for them to truly have a wonderful year, with a trip to Hawaii, an opportunity to meet the celebrated Lawrence Welk, and a trip to California and so very many treats that would be too numerous to put in this letter. None of these things would have been possible without your help and contributions.

We would especially like to thank Mr. Leonard Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Morgan of San Francisco, who were gracious enough to have our parents as house guests in that city, Mayor J.K. McNeill and the City of Raeford.

"Thank you" seems so very inept when we owe so much to all of you, but please know that we will always be grateful that you gave something very special to our parents, something that we could never repay. We thank each and every one for all you did. To quote Mother when we spoke to her in Hawaii, "If Heaven is anything like this (Hawaii), I'm ready to go now".  
 God bless you all.

Louise Nichols  
 A.J. Lundy Jr.  
 Bobbie D. Lundy



## Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

A Code of Official Conduct for Senators, officers and employees of the Senate who make \$25,000 a year or more has now been enacted by the Senate.

I supported the measure when it came to the floor of the Senate and have now been placed on a Select Committee on Ethics which will oversee the new code's functioning. Under the new rules, those who are covered by them must disclose their sources of income, their assets and liabilities and their holdings in stocks and bonds and real estate. All of the above must be reported and made public annually. Here are some of the other things the new code does:

- Places a limit of \$100 as the aggregate total of gifts a Senator or employee may receive during a year from lobbyists.
- Limits the outside income of any person covered to 15 percent of any individual's salary, and that includes honorarium from outside speeches.
- Bans mass mailings at public expense 60 days or less before a primary or general election.
- Prohibits foreign travel at public expense by lame duck Senators, unless the travel is agreed to by the Senate by vote, or is at the request of the President.
- Restricts Senators and top-level employees from practicing a profession while working for the Senate.
- Eliminates outside office accounts.

Any alleged violations of the code will be brought before the Ethics Committee, whose members will have the power to investigate and levy penalties if any wrong doing is

found.

One of the most controversial of the new rules is the one that limits outside income to 15 percent. There are some Senators who will have their incomes cut, because they make far more than this from the honorarium paid them from outside speeches.

Some argued that the rules were inequitable because there are some rich members of the Senate who own large amounts of stocks and bonds and there is no restriction on the income from these. I raised one question on this because I wanted to know if money made from farm management was regarded as outside income, and the Internal Revenue Service says that it is. That means that a wealthy Senator can continue to receive dividends and interest from stocks and bonds, but I cannot tell someone living on my farm where to plant potatoes.

Overall, though, it is a strong code and I supported it willingly. It is regrettable that the passage of such rules were deemed necessary in the nation's highest legislative body, but once in awhile someone comes along whose activities stray outside the rules.

President Carter has now asked that all policy making employees in the Executive Branch be placed under a somewhat similar code. I believe that this effort will find support, both in the Congress and from the public.

As a member of the new Ethics Committee, I will do all that I can to see that the code is lived up to and not just something that is presented as window dressing and forgotten when the next season and the new fashions come along.

## CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



DUAL SYSTEM OF JUSTICE  
 -- Had a nice talk with 12th District Court Judge Joseph Dupree of Raeford a few days ago. In Fayetteville on May -- The day after "Law Day, U.S.A." the Hoke jurist came forth with a suggestion as to how to delete the "dual system of justice" in traffic cases and how to bring into the state treasury some \$12 million extra dollars without raising taxes.

Joe Dupree, a lay, district judge with a head full of common sense said that in 1975 -- the last year for which figures are available, there were 717,208 traffic cases and 403,820 additional criminal cases filed in North Carolina.

Judge Dupree said 206,167 of the criminal and traffic cases were either called and failed to appear, or dismissed for other reasons by the District Attorneys. He also said that about 131,089 of the cases called and the defendants failed to show were traffic cases and that they were dismissed by the District Attorneys, and instead of fines and court costs they got only points on their driving license record.

Had the traffic defendants appeared in court and paid an average fine of \$10 each and court cost of \$27 each, a total of \$37 per case, it would have brought into the state treasury approximately \$4,850,293, said the Hoke judge.

Now, two years later, Judge Dupree after long hours of study has come up with this suggestion: Amend the law to provide that a person's operator's license be taken up and held by the court for a period not to exceed 120 days when given a citation for a traffic offense, and that he in turn be given a receipt, which he could operate on, pending the disposition of his case.

Judge Dupree suggests that contrary to what people might

believe, this would not mean that a person's operator's license be suspended if he is called and fails to show in court. However, if the defendant is called and fails to appear the second time, his license suspension would become automatic.

Judge Dupree says such a change in the law would save the taxpayers in this state in moneys expended and revenues taken in a conservative figure of not less than \$1,000,000 each month.

Judge Dupree says the most important aspect of his proposed change in the law would be to eliminate a dual system of justice in our traffic courts. Under our present system with so many of the traffic offenders failing to show and paying no cost or fine, the net result would be to eliminate the unequal dual system of government now practiced in our courts regarding traffic cases.

We hope the 1977 General Assembly will give due attention and consideration to Judge Dupree's proposal which he outlined and emphasized on "Law Day, U.S.A."

DAVIDSON COLLEGE -- While Davidson College Board of Trustees voted 37 to one to alter the tenure policy of the Presbyterian institution founded in 1837 to include non-Christians, we suspect thousands of rank and file Presbyterians will now have less interest in the institution and less inclination to support the college where Woodrow Wilson once studied. Many church members may ask: "What justification is there for a protestant Christian college if non-Christian faculty members are to be hired and granted tenure?"

RELIGIOUS TAX EXEMPTION -- We suspect most Americans strongly approve of bonafide churches being exempted from taxation. However, church exemption of taxation appears to have attracted a number of free-loaders, and possibly phonies. We understand that the properties of The Rev. Sun Myung Moon in New York and elsewhere, running into the millions of dollars are tax exempt.

BUREAUCRACY -- We hear a lot of talk about the Federal bureaucracy in Washington and how it has grown like topsy. Well, here at home in recent years it looks as if municipal, county and state governments are growing, percentage-wise, as fast as the Washington bureaucracy!

**Perform a death-defying act.**  
**Have your blood pressure checked.**  
 Give Heart Fund  
 American Heart Association