

The News - Journal



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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, MAY 19, 1977

They loved him in London

President Carter has passed his first diplomatic test abroad with flying colors. Where there was a certain wariness in Europe about the new American leader, this appears to have been displaced to a new respect and even admiration. Mr. Carter clearly impressed Europeans by his quiet determination, intelligence, and unpretentious. While the London summit meetings produced mostly atmosphere and rhetoric, it is fair to say the President ably reasserted America's leadership of the Western world and laid the ground for nuts-and-bolts cooperation during his administration.

It is important to know that Mr. Carter has the ability to establish good working relationships with world leaders and to represent the United States in forthright, yet flexible manner. His lengthy meeting with Assad, for instance, brought forth warm words of appreciation from the Syrian President and helped nudge the Mideast diplomatic process. He did not manage to patch up the quarrel over Cyprus in his talks with the leaders of Greece and Turkey, but he apparently impressed them by his blunt assessment of the problem. He also managed to smooth over relations with West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, even though some crucial differences of opinion over nuclear proliferation remain. This is as it should be — the capacity to deal with allies on a frank but amiable give-and-take basis.

Nowhere did Mr. Carter invite more approving — and deserving — comment than in his speech to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting. Europeans were no doubt buoyed to hear the United States considers the alliance the "heart" of its foreign policy and intends to make sure it remains strong and united in the face of growing Soviet military might. Certainly this was a needed and welcome reaffirmation of Washington's commitment.

It has been plain for some time that NATO needs strengthening. The alliance is basically in good shape now. But, as Mr. Carter implied, there is considerable concern about NATO's ability to deter a Soviet aggression in, say, 10 years' time. In this context, the President called for what amounts to a thorough overhaul of the alliance. Defense ministers are asked to come up with recommendations at the next NATO summit.

Although Washington clearly would like its European partners to contribute more by way of defense. Mr. Carter diplomatically side-stepped this issue on this occasion, noting that the allies' difficult economic problems "set practical limits" on what they can do. This tack no doubt pleased them — as did his call for a "genuine two-way transatlantic trade in defense equipment."

Indeed much more needs to be done in the standardization of NATO arms. According to some estimates, waste runs as high as \$10 billion a year in the collective NATO nations' budgets due to nonstandardized weapons. Here will be an early opportunity for Washington to bring more efficiency to NATO procurements and give West Germany and other nations a greater share in the arms production.

In sum, the economic and military goals enunciated by Mr. Carter and his colleagues are splendid. The right mood of mutual commitment and cooperation has been established. Now the harder part — the nitty gritty of following through without the glare of summitry and publicity — begins. —*Christian Science Monitor*

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, May 15, 1952

On Tuesday evening the elementary school presented their annual May Festival to a large audience, estimated to be about 700 persons.

Robbins Mills, Incorporated, of New York City, this week announced the election of William P. Saunders, former executive vice-president, as president of the firm to succeed Edward A. Werner.

From Poole's Medley:

The worst feature of ball games and other sports is the gambling involved. That is wrong, whether they win or lose.

From Adenda by the Editor:

Now that we really feel the need of a vacation, we can't get away, we have no place to go, no facilities for getting there, and no money.

Mrs. Flora McNeill Boyce, a resident of Raeford since 1941, died at the Confederate Woman's Home in Fayetteville last Friday afternoon.

15 years ago

Thursday, May 17, 1962

Advocates of legal control met Friday night at a local pond for what was described as a "fish fry and strategy" meeting.

About 75 Hoke prohibitionists turned out Sunday afternoon for a well-advertised rally that featured Tennessee Baptist preacher, Fred Dies, director for Alcohol and Narcotics Education for the United Tennessee League.

County Democrats of the Executive Committee re-named Sam Morris as Party chairman in a meeting held following the biennial County Convention last Saturday at the Courthouse.

On March 1, the State Board of Education at its meeting increased the rental fees for use of high school books from \$4.50 to \$6.00.

A losing baseball season for the Bucks concluded Tuesday night when the Lumberton Pirates downed the locals 2-0.



by Marty Vega

County Board Needs Fresh Ideas

County commissioners' meetings here have always been rather poorly attended. Generally, there is only a handful of people present and this is a great shame. The commissioners really do like company.

In fact, one of the weighty matters under discussion Monday could probably have benefitted from more people getting in with fresh ideas.

The commissioners got to talking about who would be liable if a citizen was injured while using one of the county-owned garbage containers. Chairman John Balfour suggested that a citizen might have the lid fall down on an arm while depositing garbage, and who would be responsible for the broken arm, the county?

This alarming possibility put solemn looks on all faces until Balfour stated later that they needn't worry too much about it, since the lids have been broken off most of the containers, anyway.

This fresh thought brought back happy faces around the meeting table, but the commissioners overlooked a number of other dangerous situations which could result in serious injuries.

We would like to respectfully suggest that the commissioners consider these hazards:

A lady from Dundarrach said a citizen might back a truck up to a container to put in his garbage, lose his balance and fall in himself. Would the county be responsible?

Another person said a citizen might slip and fall on a banana peel, or some other rotting garbage lying nearby, and injure himself. Would the county be responsible?

What if a citizen reached in with his garbage and received a painful bite on the hand from an enormous rat who was feeding himself? Would the county be responsible?

Or what if a citizen deposited a heavy load of trash, not realizing that a drunk was sleeping within, and the weight of the garbage seriously injured the drunk? Would the county be responsible?

Or consider the possibility of dogs congregating around a container looking for food scraps. If a citizen was mauled to death by a pack of dogs, would the county be responsible?

Or what if a citizen was looking for a *News-Journal* issue and went looking in a garbage container for a copy. Think of the dangers he might be exposing himself to. Would the county be responsible?

(Space will be provided here at no charge for the next four weeks for responses from the commissioners.)

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

It isn't an earth-shaking problem but then very few problems are — television reporters and headline writers just make them sound that way — but over the years I've noticed a problem Presidents have when they emerge from an airplane and plunge into the crowd shaking hands with the people.

Everybody moves in eagerly with hands outstretched hoping to be able to tell their friends they shook hands with a President, but only about two per cent get to touch him. The rest are left holding out their hands fruitlessly.

There's a remedy for this problem. Have you ever seen a small boy walking along a picket fence with a stick in his hand, rattling each picket as he goes?

That's the answer. One of the planes accompanying a President should be equipped with a big roll of picket fence. Before the President steps out of his plane, the fence is un-rolled and the people told to line up behind it, each with one hand stuck through at about waist high.

The President then emerges and strides rapidly down the fence, his right hand gliding over each outstretched hand as he passes. This way he gets to touch at least 50 times more hands than the old disorganized, crowd-around-him way, and it makes a lot less noise than a boy with a stick.

To avoid foul-ups where the crowd is longer than the fence, the Pentagon should always determine in advance the amount of fence needed for a given airport by computerizing the population of the place, the type of weather expected, and the estimated popularity of the President in that area. I'd suggest the Pentagon not use the computer its been using to tell us how many guided missiles Russia has or how big her grain crop will be.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

There are definite signs that the nation's economy is recovering and unemployment, although still unacceptably high, is coming down — slowly but steadily.

The problem of inflation, however, continues to plague the country and the rate at which the costs of goods and services went up during the first three months of the year was frightening. Unless inflation slows down during the remainder of the year, we shall be facing rises in the cost of living in excess of 10 percent.

Because I am terribly worried about inflation, I have voted during the past several days against measures that would increase government spending, thereby making the next year's deficit larger, and raising the interest costs the nation must pay.

I did not favor the \$50 tax rebate. Had it passed, more than \$8.6 billion would have been added to the national debt. That would have been borrowed money and the tax payers would have had to give their rebate back, with interest.

For the same reason, I announced against the \$19.8 billion "economic stimulus appropriation" bill, although I would like to have supported the portion which would have allocated \$4 billion to finance local public works projects and created some jobs. Finally, I announced against the Concurrent Budget Resolution which carried a deficit tag of \$63.6 billion.

Already, in 1977, the nation will pay \$38 billion in interest on our national debt. In 1978, the interest costs will be \$43 billion, and if we keep on, by 1982, interest costs alone will exceed billion. We simply have to stop somewhere!

CLIFF BLUE...

People & Issues



SPECULATION -- I attended a meeting in Raleigh an evening last week in which the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house and most members of the General Assembly were present, and as usual politics was discussed.

I was approached by one of the "honorable" -- one I would consider in the "moderate to liberal" category. This member, who preferred not to be named, but would likely respond if you asked him, said that he had seriously studied the several candidates being mentioned for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate, and that he had come to the conclusion that not one of those now being mentioned could defeat Senator Helms in the general election. He pointed out that to defeat Helms, the Democratic candidate would have to draw considerable support from the Democrats who voted for Helms in 1972, and he did not feel that any of those mentioned could likely do so.

This "honorable," by the way, had not supported Jimmy Green for lieutenant governor in either the first or second primary, but he was now of the opinion that Jimmy Green, if nominated, would have an excellent chance to win the Helms senate seat.

Personally, I had not thought of Green as a candidate for the U.S. Senate before. But in one statement in particular, I know the "honorable" was right. If a Democrat is to unseat Senator Helms, the candidate must be able to overcome the 117,955 lead Helms had over Nick Galifianakis in 1972 when Helms had 795,248 votes to 677,293 for Galifianakis.

SOCIAL SECURITY -- The Social Security fund is in danger at the present rate of payments and President Carter has called upon Congress to raise the limit on salaries on which the social security tax must be paid, and also dipping into the general fund for additional billions of dollars. In our opinion the two greatest peace-time measures sponsored by the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt were Federal Deposit Insurance for banks and Social Security for our senior citizens. As much as we

Because I believe we must call a halt to these ever increasing deficits, I have co-sponsored a resolution in the Senate which would call for an amendment to the Constitution that would provide that the national budget must be balanced each year, just as our State Constitution mandates that the North Carolina budget be free of a deficit.

The resolution proposes an amendment to provide for a balanced budget within four years of ratification, and to require that five percent of the national debt be paid off each year after that, so that by the end of the 20th century the nation would be completely out of debt.

The resolution provides for suspending these conditions if a national emergency arises, but it would have to be a real emergency and designated as such by a three-fourths vote of the Congress.

The interest provides for suspending these conditions if a national emergency arises, but it would have to be a real emergency and designated as such by a three-fourths vote of the Congress.

The interest we are paying on the present national debt is larger than the appropriation for any department in the government except the funds voted for National Defense and for Health, Education and Welfare.

We need to -- we must -- put our financial affairs in order.

I think that the people understand this and I believe that they would support a Constitutional Amendment if Congress should give them the right to express their feelings at the polls.

rejoice in seeing Social Security stay abreast with inflation, we hope that the straw that broke the camel's back will never be the fate with Social Security.

With people living much longer today than was the case when Social Security was adopted in 1935, we think that instead of a hefty hike in social security taxes that the beginning age for Social Security payments might be upped from 65 to 67 years, and then enable the recipients to make as much as they could earn without reducing their social security payments.

EXTENDING TERMS? -- We hear talk about extending the terms of office for congressmen, state legislators, town commissioners, etc.

We can't believe such a move is in the interest of democracy or good government. In recent years we have more and more "patriots willing to serve" to quote the late Governor Gregg Cherry. Most people will likely see through this "extending terms" talk as "self-serving" and the legislators themselves should balk at such proposals. If the official is doing a good job, the candidate will have little trouble winning renomination and election, and if the officeholder is not doing an acceptable job, the people should not have to wait two extra years for relief!

VIETNAM -- We spent several years in Vietnam, about as long as it took our forefathers to win independence from Great Britain, but lost the war, in which millions still feel we had no more business than Russia had in Cuba in 1962.

Now, Vietnam is wanting the U.S. to help rebuild the country where we gave thousands of lives and billions of dollars in a war in which we were told was vital to democracy.

OUR LADIES -- Step by step our ladies are moving ahead. We note that Jo Ann Parker is now among the growing list of women who are heading units of government, having been named chairman of the Randolph County Board of Education. In adjoining Moore County Lou Frye has served for several years as the very capable and popular chairman of the Moore County Board of Education.

Empty
seats
outnumber
full seats
4 to 1.

Doubling up can
cut your commut-
ing expenses in
half as well as
saving our Nation's
energy. It can also
make that daily
drive twice as nice.