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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1977

## Handcuffs on energy agency

After all the talk about the urgency of the energy crisis, Americans once again are being left with the impression that not enough is being done about it in Washington. Both houses of Congress now have passed a bill to establish a new Department of Energy, but their treatment of the proposed agency seems designed to erode its powers.

The House of Representatives, for example, has just refused to give the head of the new department authority to set natural gas rates. And concurrently, a Monitor survey indicates that President Carter's proposal for a standby tax on gasoline likewise will not earn approval on Capitol Hill.

Congress has its reasons for going slow and setting up safeguards on the Energy Department's scope and powers. It has some reservations about Mr. Schlesinger as the President's new energy "czar," dating back to earlier experiences with him. And there may be some justification for its reluctance to give one man in one department complete sway over so vast a problem as nationwide energy.

But the other side of this coin is that handcuffing the Energy Department with restrictions is scarcely the way to get the necessary quick action in improving the energy situation. A weak Energy Department, in short, would be ill equipped to come to grips with such problems as how to deal with natural gas, gasoline, and other fuels which are basic ingredients of the overall energy crisis. And if a new Energy Department emerges without adequate powers to do its enormously complex job, then the United States will be little better off than before.

Both the House and Senate are well aware of the urgency, of course. And there is little opposition to the idea of a single department to coordinate the nation's energy activities. Where the rub comes is in Congress's reservations about granting powers that it regards as too sweeping or unclear, as in the case of natural gas pricing.

This certainly is the proper time to be raising and debating questions about the new department's role. But Congress should be careful, at the same time, not to unduly shackle or emasculate the agency whose purpose it is to get the country rolling on the imperative quest for an energy solution. Action and movement, not just handcuffs, are needed. -- *Christian Science Monitor*

## Callaghan's call

A new warning to the white minority governments of South Africa and Rhodesia to change their policies quickly now has been issued by Britain's Prime Minister Callaghan. Speaking at the Commonwealth conference in London, the British leader made a vigorous plea to whites in southern Africa to "cease to block the path of negotiated settlement" lest "an increasing number who see the gun as the only means of winning freedom" be proved right.

His comments left no doubt how strongly Britain feels about the situation in southern Africa, a view shared not only by most of Mr. Callaghan's Commonwealth colleagues but by United States officials working jointly with the British to forge a settlement of Rhodesia.

"Today more than ever before, the issues of peace and war, of racial harmony or racial conflict, hang in the balance," Mr. Callaghan pointed out. "Which path will the minorities of southern Africa choose?"

"I would like to make clear now," he added, "that the cornerstone of our policy is our deep-seated and unshakable belief in the rights of the individual and in the capacity of all men, regardless of color and creed, to live in conditions of equality and mutual respect."

Candid words, these, but right on target. -- *Christian Science Monitor*

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, June 12, 1952

The heat wave that moved into Hoke County on Wednesday of last week also brought with it destruction in the form of a hail storm that in some cases caused over a 50% loss of crops.

Ten local girls have entered the "Miss Hoke County" beauty pageant to be held at the armory on Friday, June 27, by the Raeford Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The State Highway Commission completed 10.20 miles of new paving in Hoke County during the month of May, Commissioner George S. Coble of Lexington reported today.

Sunday morning the local guard unit will depart for their annual two-weeks training at Camp Stewart, Ga.

### 15 years ago

Thursday, June 14, 1962

Local business leaders this week reported "a strong possibility" that the now Shuttered Priebe Poultry Plant might soon reopen under new management.

Free summer recreation for children in three different age groups gets underway next Monday, June 18, and will continue through August 17, Director George Wood announced this week.

Lawrence McNeill, C.L. Thomas, Bernard Bray and Tom McBryde will attend the World's Fair in Seattle, Wash. next week as part of the Wachovia Agribusiness Caravan.

State Softball Commissioner Jim Day announced this week that Raeford has been selected to host the district Slow Pitch Softball Tournament in the latter part of July.

Togetherness



The Christian Science Monitor

by Marty Vega

## Need Info Fast

Information please... The subject of Buffalo Springs came up recently. The question is, how did this area get such a name?

Some of us were under the impression that buffalo didn't come this far east. Buffalo were only out in the plains.

So we need to find out fast. (This is very important) Does anybody know how Buffalo Springs got its name?

Officials here are hopping mad over the announcement from Washington that the public works grants got turned down. Again.

The city was figuring on getting about \$460,000 and the county a little more than that.

Also, other applicants were turned down and they can't understand why.

How does the government decide who gets funded? What is the formula used? Everyone wants to know.

### Puppy Creek

## Philosopher

Dear editor:

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the average loaf of bread now contains less than 3 cents worth of wheat, 2.7 cents worth, to be exact.

Just because I don't grow any wheat is no reason why I can't discuss this matter, any more than a Congressman who adds on his fingers can't discuss intercontinental ballistic missiles.

It seems to me therefore that the ancient saying, "Cast your bread upon the water and it will return a hundred-fold," could have a modern version: "Cast your wheat upon the market and some smart guys will take 2.7 cents worth of it and make a 60 cent loaf of bread out of it."

This is like taking 40 cents worth of cotton and making a \$10 shirt out of it. It's like taking \$200 worth of steel and making a \$5,000 automobile. It's like taking a \$100 state legislator and making a \$57,000 Congressman out of him. It's like taking an ex-Secretary of State and making a multi-millionaire out of him.

People blame all this on the middle-man. As I understand it, in the case of wheat, the middle-men are those people between the wheat grower on his farm and the housewife in the grocery store buying a loaf of bread, and it takes some shrewd people to be able to squeeze from the middle and come out on the top only. You can't do it with an orange.

I guess the only answer to this is to buy your own wheat, grind it up, and make your own bread. You're going to run into trouble though when you try to make that plastic stuff to wrap it in.

Times have changed. Nowadays, if you cast your bread upon the water it's likely to hit an oil slick. These are the days when it's more profitable to repair appliances than own them.

As the poet said, "A jug of wine, a loaf of bread and thou singing beside me in the wilderness, ah, that were paradise enough, so long as farmers will keep on raising wheat at below cost." You can't beat poetry for getting at the truth.

Yours faithfully,  
 J.A.

The answer is the government has devised a very equitable formula based on the number of syllables in the town's name. Two syllable applications are given the highest priorities. This is why Whiteville, Red Springs, Fairmont, etc., got their money.

But there is another factor the government considers. The syllables must also spell separate words taken independently.

This is why Raeford is ineligible for funding. Lumberton, although it is a three-syllable applicant, received more points because Lumber uses more letters to make a word.

Unfortunately, Raeford cannot make a word, no matter if you go across down or sideways on the scrabble board. Neither will Hoke County.

The only word you could make from Raeford would be ford, which could be a noun or a verb. You have to specify in the application whether you are using it as a noun or a verb.

Of course, after the government gets all of the names down on the scrabble board, it might turn out there is some extra money left over.

When this happens, then the government will review the county applications to see if there is anything deserving. If they find something which sounds deserving, then they will look for something irregular.

Like Buffalo Springs.



Read Ephesians 4:11-16

"We are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." (Ephesians 4:15 RSV)

Near our home in California, several neighbors had tall redwood trees in their yards. Some of our most exciting boyish adventures involved climbing to the tops of those trees.

One particular tree nearly reached the sky. My little brother and I started climbing it one day, and as we approached the top it started swaying. I climbed on, but he became less adventurous. To try to coax him on, I called out, "Come on up. Boy, you can really see far up here. I can even see Japan!"

It was a childish imagination, and I have since matured, I trust. I no longer climb trees, nor do I pretend to be able to see around the circumference of the earth.

But sometimes I wonder just how mature I have actually become. When I look at Christ and then consider my own life, I see how far I have yet to go. I'm still struggling to conquer my pride, my fear of rejection, my selfish ambitions. But I haven't given up. I'm still trying. And one day, praise God, I shall reach the full stature of Jesus Christ and become one with God.

PRAYER: Help me, O God, to put away my childish ways. May I seek to grow up in every way into Christ my Lord. Ever keep before me that goal of maturity in Christ. In His name. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY  
 The highest goal of life is to be one with Christ.  
 --copyright-- THE UPPER ROOM  
 James O. Whitfield  
 (Fort Collins, Colorado)

## Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan



Several bills have been introduced in the Congress this year to create a Consumer Protection Agency. The formation of such an agency at the federal level has the support of the Carter Administration and is expected to be strongly backed in Congress.

In 1974, when I campaigned for the Senate, I said I felt that the consumer needed some protection by a national agency. During my first year in the Senate in 1975, a bill to create such an agency was introduced and I voted for it.

Now, I am beginning to have reservations.

After watching the Washington bureaucracy at close hand for the past two and one-half years, I have about decided that we have all of the bureaucracy we need or can stand. This proposed agency could easily wind up as another unresponsive federal boondoggle.

On consumer protection, I feel that my record is good. When I was Attorney General of North Carolina, we started the State Consumer Protection Agency within the Justice Department. This became one of the busiest agencies in State Government, as citizens brought hundreds of complaints of alleged mistreatment in the market place.

We were able to help a lot of individuals who would have had nowhere else to turn, and we also represented consumers before such agencies as the Utilities Commission, where we were able to save energy users some \$400 million dollars.

Last year, the Congress put an additional weapon to protect consumers in the hands of the State Attorneys General. One section of the Anti-Trust Bill which became law in 1976 gave the State the

power to bring class actions in behalf of consumers in cases where companies were suspected of price fixing.

So, I am very familiar with consumers' concerns and the protection that the general public needs, and should have, but I am afraid that a federal consumer agency might be too far away from the average citizen to give him much help. The federal bureaucracy I have observed is too often either aloof from those with whom it deals or else is busily engaged in pestering people to death with nit-picking regulations.

It may be that it would be better to leave the business of protecting the consumer in the hands of the several states. Many of the State Attorneys General have already established good records in this field and, with increased support, they could do an even better job.

There is a strong feeling among many members of Congress that the federal bureaucracy has grown too big. I share that feeling and I am loathe to establish still another bureau that could grow and grow and grow as other agencies have in the past. They start in a modest way but they have a way of expanding.

Right now, in Washington, we need to cut spending and bring the national budget back to sanity. The President is committed to balancing the budget, and that is certainly one of my first priorities. Creating a new agency, one of doubtful value and one which would duplicate efforts at the state level, would be costly at the start and more and more expensive in the future.

The consumer should have all the protection he needs, but I now question whether a new federal bureau is the answer.

## CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



ROBERT MORGAN -- Senator Robert Morgan is co-sponsoring in the U.S. Senate a Constitutional Amendment that would require the United States to operate on a balanced budget -- just like North Carolina, under the law must do. Morgan's proposed Amendment would provide that the U.S. government be on a balanced budget within four years from adoption.

In North Carolina it is mandatory upon the governor who is Director of the budget, to see that the state operates on a balanced budget. If the General Assembly spends more money than is coming in under the revenue laws, it is mandatory upon the governor to cut spending, and salaries across the board to bring spending into balance with revenue.

We think Morgan's proposed constitutional amendment is entirely reasonable and should be passed on to the people through a constitutional amendment for the people to adopt.

Morgan's proposed amendment would also provide: unless there is a national emergency, that five percent of the national debt be paid off each year thereafter. The nation would then be completely out of debt at the end of the century.

But such a sound proposal, we fear is too much to expect out of the crowd in Washington from the way they have been voting deficits during the past quarter of a century.

PRISONERS -- We note that

bills to put a small number of Tar Heel prison inmates to work on the roads and highways appears to be headed for passage in the House and Senate. Many people have long felt that there are no sound reasons for able-bodied prisoners not to work on the roads as in by-gone years, but under humane conditions.

RECALL -- The proposed Constitutional Amendment which would permit the removal of all elected officials through recall elections squeezed by the House constitutional committee last week by an eight to seven vote. However, the bill has a rough road to travel before the people get an opportunity to say "yes" or "no" on the matter.

The "Recall Bill" was introduced by Rep. David Bumgardner of Gaston County and co-sponsored by Reps. John Gamble of Lincoln and E. Graham Bell of Gaston. It has the ear - marks of a genuine "people's bill" and sometimes the legislators don't see eye-to-eye with "people's bills."

The "Recall Bill" would establish a system whereby citizens would be able to vote out all levels of officials, from the governor on down. 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. We understand that North Carolina is one of only 10 states in the union without a recall provision.

We would hardly consider the recall bill "must legislation" but we are pleased that the House Constitutional Committee gave it a favorable vote. The people could vote on the matter with no additional cost to the state election since it would be a constitutional amendment acted upon at the same time that gubernatorial succession is voted on.

ZERO BASED BUDGETING? -- Another matter that we heard right much talk about when the General Assembly was convening, and before, was "zero-based budgeting." Sometimes "solid and needed" legislation steps on too many people's toes in taking away unneeded positions. "Whose ox is being gored" can have tremendous effect on the passage of good and needed legislation.

ALERT LEGISLATORS -- Now is the time for alert and able legislators to be on guard against bad legislation. The bill recently introduced which would allow the governor to name additional members of the Wildlife Commission might be listed in this category.

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