

# The News - Journal



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THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1977

## Economy on the up

There is no doubt about it now. President Carter was right in dropping his proposal for a \$50 tax rebate stimulus and adopting a "let's-wait-and-see" policy on the American economy. After much wringing of hands in the past couple of years, there is definitely a buoyancy in the air. Some economists are even forecasting that the U.S. gross national production will grow by more than \$1 trillion by 1980 -- a prediction which should dispel any rock-bottom pessimism if it still exists.

Economic indices these days are upbeat. The growth of GNP for the entire year is now expected to stand at a healthy 6 percent. The national unemployment rate has dropped below 7 percent for the first time in more than two years and the number of persons working has soared to a record high of over 90 million. Inflation, still too high for comfort, is nonetheless holding at about 6 percent annually. Real personal income is rising. And the Wall Street stock market, responding perhaps to all these factors, is witnessing its first daily gains in a long time. To add to the overall sturdy picture after a hard winter and brief pause in the recovery earlier this year, the overseas trend is also looking better.

While this is a time for smiles, however, it is not a time for euphoria. Reading economic forecasts is a risky business for the art of forecasting is far from infallible. One has only to recall that most economists were glumly predicting a poor first quarter of 1977 to be reminded that a healthy caution is always in order.

In any case, there are pitfalls to be watched and some grave problems still to be solved. Charles Schultz, head of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, sees the main challenge in bringing down the still unacceptably high unemployment rate to 5 to 5½ percent within the next two to three years without spurring another round of inflation. How to do this no one is sure, especially when the labor force is growing so dramatically.

Of particular concern is the intractable problem of youth unemployment, a concern shared by all the industrial nations of the West. This issue was high on the agenda at the recent summit meeting in London and it is expected to be the subject of future discussions. Certainly when joblessness among young people runs as high as 25 percent and, in some cases, higher, a country is courting social trouble and wasting its future resources.

Still another worrisome set of figures is that on the United States balance of trade. The nation this year will run a trade deficit of between \$23 billion and \$25 billion because of its imports of oil. This is troublesome because the import bill is growing and more and more American exports of food and manufactured goods are earning dollars not to be spent in the United States but to pay for the petroleum. So the imbalance benefits largely the OPEC oil cartel rather than Europe or the developing countries which need to expand their exports to the United States.

Hence there is no room for complacency. America has to get cracking on a serious energy program and it must come to grips with that slippery problem of unemployment-cum-inflation. But, insofar as the economy is registering a vigorous expansion, the American public -- and the Carter administration -- cannot be blamed for a modest hoot and a holler. -- *Christian Science Monitor*

## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, June 26, 1952

The crowning of Miss Hoke County of 1952 will take place at the Armory tomorrow night, June 27th at nine o'clock.

The Raeford Rebels, local semi-pro baseball team entered the East Carolina Textile League last week.

From Poole's Medley:

I have seen a wagon load of melons in Aberdeen which weighed 80 to 90 pounds. A large watermelon is much sweeter than a small one. Get one of each and see.

The Post Office Department announced Tuesday that it has approved re-routing of the Greensboro and Warsaw North Carolina Highway Post Office route by way of Carthage, Southern Pines, Aberdeen and Raeford, effective July 1.

Mrs. Walter Freeman, who recently sold her home in Aberdeen, where she had lived for a number of years and who has come to Raeford to live, will move into the Thomas house on West Donaldson Avenue.

### 15 years ago

Thursday, June 28, 1962

The Hoke ABC Board announced this week "a binding verbal agreement" with realtor Julian Wright for construction of a liquor store on US 401 next to the Tastee-Freeze.

Marvin J. Pinson, Jr. will take over as Plant manager of the Raeford Worsted Plant, succeeding Sam Homewood on July 1.

A first place award for the nation was presented to The News-Journal last Thursday night at a banquet meeting of the National Editorial Association held in Hershey, Pa.

Members of the Hoke Cattle-men's Association met at Tom McBryde's pond for a supper Tuesday night.

At press time, the ABC Board had agreed to meet with a delegation of Raeford merchants, but chairman K.A. MacDonald said he cautioned the merchants that agreement on the site of the liquor store had already been reached with Julian Wright who was busy getting the lot that is involved in the deal.

'Nope, nothing in here except some money'



by Marty Vega

## Serious Treatment

This week's column was intended to be a serious treatment of the one-way street controversy. It was intended to set forth the facts of the matter and clearly show that the city council has erred in its decision to return Elwood Avenue to two-way traffic.

Instead, I am now forced to chuck all of that presentation and find myself obliged to explain why I was observed making a right turn off of Stewart St. onto E. Elwood Avenue and proceeding the wrong way on or about June 13 at about 8:25 p.m.

My accusers, who witnessed this alleged breach of the law, were milling about the corner of Stewart St. and Central Ave., their attention fixed on the automobile crash which had occurred moments before at Edinborough Ave. and Stewart St.

Accuser number one claims that she recognized me and decided that since I would have to pass by her on my way from the accident scene, she would wait where she was and then hail me so she could find out what the accident was all about. But instead, she is prepared to swear to the authorities, that the car I was operating turned off the wrong way on Elwood and disappeared from view.

Now, there are a lot of very good people here who could easily become upset over this matter, so let's put it to rest. Everybody makes mistakes. 'Tis human to err.

And for the accusers who are thinking it would fix her if a

policeman saw it and gave her a ticket -- ha. The police were all down where the accident was, or doncha think I thought of that before I did it?

Some citizens are wondering why the city council doesn't take up the issue of massage parlors and get in the act, too.

The answer is that it's not that the councilmen aren't thinking about it, it's just that they have a lot of other important business to take care of first. Besides, they know that they can depend on the planning board and zoning board to keep any of that stuff out.

Members of those boards would certainly disapprove of any such business request, unless it was to be conducted from a mobile home office. If it's mobile homes, well, that's fine. They might let you put them in the middle of Main St. if you asked real nicely.

As for the real business ahead for the council, they are considering annexation of Spring Lake and Lumberton so they can get some of the federal public works funds, debating whether paint or wallpaper would be best in the new council chambers, and are trying to determine just why all their meetings last way past 10 p.m. no matter what business is before them.

### Puppy Creek

## Philosopher

Dear editor:

According to an article I read in a magazine last night because there wasn't anything to watch except re-runs, some experts have come out with a theory on why people go bad. They say it's something they ate.

According to them child delinquency, which leads to adult delinquency, which leads to crime, which leads to jail or would if the cops could catch them and if the courts would ever get around to trying them and some lawyer didn't get them off and if he doesn't and they go to jail they weren't let out soon to start robbing all over again -- anyway, to get hold of this sentence before it arm-wrestles me to the ground, according to them child delinquency is caused by inadequate or improper diet. Kids either don't get enough protein-rich food or they eat too much junk food.

In many cases this is probably true, but the trouble with theories is that if you keep reading you'll run into something else that makes you scratch your head.

For instance, when former Attorney General John Mitchell went to prison the other day, the newspapers reported that he was the 25th member of the Watergate group to be jailed.

This got me to thinking. What did those 25 men eat when they were kids?

Like the rest of the nation, I saw all of them on television and they all looked like they'd had a well-fed childhood, and were all eating good at the time they were caught. Not a one looked like he'd ever been undernourished.

It's pretty hard for me to believe you can blame Watergate on sodawater and potato chips.

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.



## Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

A few days ago, hearings were held in Raleigh on the Rural Housing Bill of 1977, which has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Hubert Humphrey and others.

The Raleigh hearings were conducted by Senator Jake Garn of Utah and me. He is the ranking Republican member of the Rural Housing Subcommittee and I am its chairman.

A great deal of concern is expressed by public officials, civic leaders and the press about city slums, and there is no doubt that housing in the inner cities is in many cases deplorable and needs the government's concern.

But little is said publicly about the needs of rural housing, a subject which has long been neglected by the Federal Government and almost everyone else. Yet the problem is very real and it is national in scope.

Statistics generally are dull things, but it is a fact that in rural America one family in five uses an outdoor privy. In a state that adjoins North Carolina, one family in three live under these primitive conditions, and in some selected counties, the rate is over 60 percent.

There are rural places where the water is polluted, because of human and industrial wastes that have been dumped directly into rivers and creeks.

This nationwide problem is one that directly relates to North Carolina, where about one-half of our people live outside urban areas.

The Humphrey bill would, among other things, increase the federal share of rural water and sewer grants from 50 and 75

percent; broaden rural housing loan and grant programs to include the handicapped and establish a new research program on rural housing in the Department of Agriculture.

There are some sections of the bill, as it was introduced, that I probably shall oppose because they would be too costly, and with our perennial deficits in the Federal budget, I feel there is a limit to what government should do.

However, if we can expand our program of low interest loans, working through the Farmers Home Administration, to help families in rural areas to obtain decent housing, then I feel we should act.

A very good argument can be made that a healthy economy in the United States depends to a great extent on the health of the housing industry, and building better homes in rural areas creates jobs just as does construction in the cities.

A better argument could be made that it is simply the right thing to do. Back in 1949, the Federal government committed itself to providing "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family." Certainly, with one of five rural families forced to use outside privies, this goal has not been reached, or even approached.

The proper agency to deal directly with this situation is the Farmers Home Administration. I hope we can come up with a final version of a bill that will allow rural Americans to obtain decent housing with a minimum of red tape; and at the same time, keep the program fiscally sound.

### CLIFF BLUE ...

## People & Issues



JOHN INGRAM -- Against the lobbyists and special interest group Insurance Commissioner John Ingram did not come out on the top side. However, with the "voters back home" John Ingram probably stands the tallest and most secure in his life. Two years ago when John Ingram was seeking renomination to his insurance post he had but little money to campaign on but "the people" made their way to the polls in spite of a well-financed and determined campaign to defeat him to show their appreciation, and he won renomination and re-election by commanding majorities.

We know that insurance companies must make a reasonable profit to stay in business. We also know that repairs to wrecked automobiles oftentimes appear to be unreasonable. However, it is up to the insurance companies to see that repairs to the wrecked automobiles are reasonable and fair. Most people are for the free enterprise system and by the same token they want to see the public get a fair deal.

DRUG EXECUTIONS -- A House committee in the Florida legislature recently recommended that prisoners condemned to death be given a lethal drug injection rather than burned to death in an electric chair.

Some states -- at least one, shoot; others hang and use the electric chair. If capital punishment is to resume in many states, certainly painless drug injections are a more humane method than hanging, electrocuting or shooting.

WASHINGTON PENSIONS -- The high pensions which Congressmen, Senators and their assistants receive upon retirement can only taste bitter to most of the taxpayers back home. William "Fishbait" Miller, 66, retired doorkeeper of the House of Representatives get \$37,000 a year. He was a 42-year employee, and, as doorkeeper was paid \$40,000 a year. Retired former House

Speaker Carl Albert gets an estimated \$48,500 a year. Former U.S. Senator Hugh Scott gets an estimated \$41,500 a year, and the list can go on and on in the Federal government. Pensions for Federal government employees appear to be far more hefty and inviting than retirements in the private business field.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PAY -- The Laurinburg Exchange points out an effort in the North Carolina General Assembly for a quiet "salary hike" by the honorables. We quote from the Exchange: "Before the final gavel falls on the 1977 term of the state's General Assembly, the representatives and senators are expected to go to the public trough to get their share of the spoils."

"That's the word out of Raleigh. A little bill has been quietly introduced about increasing salaries of our lawmakers. Despite the mauling congressmen got for sneaking through their last pay bill, our legislators seem to prefer that kind of approach. This bill calls for lawmakers' salaries to automatically go up every time there is a blanket raise for other state employees."

Although North Carolina legislators are part-time employees and their entire annual compensation, including fringe benefits, comes to nearly \$12,000 a year already, many of them want to avoid putting themselves on the spot periodically for personal raises. They want full pay for part-time work.

INSURANCE BILL -- If House Bill 658 which would partially "de-horn" John Ingram from protecting the public from unwarranted increases in automobile insurance is enacted by the General Assembly you can expect many of those who opposed the measure to seek a letter from Ingram come re-election time 1978. And enforcements from the insurance lobby will be of little help for those who supported the measure.

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.