

The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
 Free Press A Day
 NHA SUSTAINING MEMBER - 1976

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

PAUL DICKSON Publisher-Editor
 SAM C. MORRIS General Manager
 MRS. PAUL DICKSON Society Editor
 MARTY VEGA Reporter
 SUZANNE APLIN Reporter

Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1977

Airline pacts

Both sides can point to gains — and losses — in the new British-American airline agreement. The Americans successfully fended off the British effort for a 50-50 split in air travel between the two nations. They, therefore, can argue that the principle of strong competition between the airlines has been preserved.

Yet, in a number of specific instances, the new agreement does restrict competition among the airlines, which, from the American viewpoint, is a setback. Pan American World Airways complained that the new pact "transfers net economic benefit from the U.S. flag system to the British flag." The results could be higher fares and lessened service, something to be guarded against.

The British, for their part, can point to significant improvements. The number of empty seats on flights across the Atlantic will be cut down, as they desired. Only one airline per country will operate flights between London and all 14 American cities served, with the exception of New York and Los Angeles, which each will have two airlines. Additional American cities are opened up for direct international flights. And American rights to carry passengers beyond London and Hong Kong face new restrictions.

But the British did not get all they wanted, either. The major demand for an even split in traffic between the two countries was turned down. So was the idea of serving London with only a single U.S. carrier. But, as British Trade Secretary Edmund Dell put it, the agreement gives British airlines "a better opportunity to fight for a greater share of a growing market."

For the U.S., the problem now is that other nations, having watched the British battle successfully for concessions, will be encouraged to improve their airline agreements, too. Japan and Italy are in the vanguard of those wanting a reconsideration. And, as with Britain, their airlines probably prefer less, rather than more, competition with American carriers.

As these bilateral negotiations arise, U.S. officials should avoid, in the interest of American passengers and lower fares, making any more concessions than are necessary, especially where free competition is involved. If the agreements merely enable companies to operate inefficiently in the guise of "equity," they will serve neither the vitality of the companies nor the pocketbooks of passengers. —Christian Science Monitor

'That equal sky'

Drop everything and take a look at the sky. It is immaculately blue where and when this is being written. It gives you a lift if you are not staring at your shoelaces.

The other day the June skies hereabouts were just as glorious though in another way, pillowed and festooned with cotton clouds. We caught the tail end of a local newscast in which people on the street had been asked to look up and be interviewed. A simple, but just possibly profound idea. They liked what they saw up above the horizon.

When there are gray skies, don't mind the gray skies, as the old song said. But when there are blue skies, rejoice.

If your sky is not as stunning as ours at the moment, try another peek tomorrow. And don't let us get away with that your-sky-and-ours business. It remains "that equal sky," as Pope wrote in his "Essay on Man" two centuries ago. Everyone beneath it is somehow kin. It belongs to all who raise their eyes. —Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

- 25 years ago**
 Thursday, July 3, 1952
 Mary Sue Upchurch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Upchurch, was crowned "Miss Hoke County" (the First) at ceremonies following a dinner and beauty pageant staged by the Raeford Junior Chamber of Commerce at the Raeford Armory last Friday night.
- 15 years ago**
 Thursday, July 5, 1962
 The new pastor of Raeford Methodist doesn't have sons with football eligibility. But the Rev. R.E.L. Moser told his congregation Sunday that his 23 year - old son David used to play football and besides, the preacher has a piano - playing daughter!
- Dogs, and the unique gifts they bring to lawns and shrubbery, were discussed Monday night by members of the Town Board after hearing Edison McGirt on the damages caused by canines at large.
- A number of entries have been received for the Southeastern District Slow Pitch Softball tournament to be held in Raeford late this month, and Commissioner John Manuel anticipated a total of 10 or more teams.
- Two Indians were arrested at the site of a 400 - gallon still last week in Allendale Township.
- Dr. Riley M. Jordan has arrived in Raeford and will be associated in practice with Dr. R.A. Matheson.
- Postmaster Lacy Clark said this week that there would only be one daily mail delivery to business firms in Raeford until further notice.



by Marty Vega

Poor Pickings Here

Weekends, particularly long holiday weekends, make very poor pickings for newspapers. There just isn't any real news happening, unless you count murders, war, strikes, rioting.

So sometimes the editors have to throw in some stories to get your attention. Like in Monday's paper, "Auto Tires Have Shorter Life on Tar Heel Highways". Or, if you read it in another paper, the headline was different, but the story was the same. A study conducted by one of the country's major tire companies showed that tire mileage in North Carolina is one of "the worst in the nation".

By some sheer coincidence (it was a coincidence, wasn't it?) Monday's newspaper also carried a story, "Process Finds Use for Discarded Tires". But that's another story.

But what interests us is the worn out tires. It used to interest us what became of worn out tires, but that mystery was solved when we decided we needed a break today and tried breakfast at one of the national fast - food chains. When we sampled the English muffin we instantly knew what happened to old worn - out tires.

The news that the state is bad for your tires couldn't have come at a worse time. The General Assembly has adjourned for the year, so the tire problem can't be debated along with liquor by the drink, gubernatorial succession and all the other legislative crises.

The study gave four reasons for the poor showing of tires here: Humidity, warm climate, the granite composition of the roads and the state's racing fan drivers. It seems that the granite is the culprit in all this, as other states are just as humid and hot, and the race fans would have to drive from one end of the state to the other constantly (when they're not watching races) to influence the statistics to any degree.

The most damning evidence seems to be the rural paved road system, which is described as a very durable road surface with a rough texture, treated with a layer of asphalt topped with a layer of crushed, coarse granite.

The conclusion of all this was that granite is worse than limestone. (Apparently some roads are made from limestone or they wouldn't have brought this up.)

The point is -- this is an awful state of affairs. If limestone is what it would take, what's the big deal. Wouldn't it be more economical for the taxpayers? Granite has to come from Maine. That's the Granite State and it's a long way. Limestone comes from Kentucky where the caves are. Limestone State.

Besides, green roads would be prettier than drab gray.

If you support this, write your representatives in the General Assembly. If you don't, write Gov. Hunt and tell him you support the bill to make all newspaper columnists pass a competency examination, like fourth graders.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Americans, mostly, if given the facts, will act rationally excusing some people here and there, mostly there, but getting the facts is the hard part.

I don't have any way of keeping score on this, but I suspect the big news outfits, like the television and radio networks and the wire services and big newspapers, send out about as much mis - information as information. It's not intentional, they just don't know any better. They just report what somebody tells them.

Take the energy shortage. In the last few months I've read or heard on television that: (1) oil and gas will run out in 20 years, (2) they'll run out in 40 years, (3) next winter, and (4) the earth has 1,000 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, enough to last 2,000 years, and un - told barrels of undiscovered oil.

Only a Congressman could believe all four of those.

Or take that town in California where the people were told if they didn't start using less water they'd all run out. They believed it, till the city told them if they didn't stop saving so much, their water bills would be doubled.

And back when gasoline was selling for 30 cents a gallon and we had a shortage with cars lined up at service stations trying to get a few gallons, I heard a man say that when gasoline goes to 50 cents a gallon plenty of the stuff will show up. It did.

You see, there are two laws of economics most people don't understand: (1) the higher the price of gasoline goes, the more there is, and (2) the lower the price of farm products goes, the more the farmers produce.

This problem could be solved if we'd put farmers in charge of gasoline and the gasoline people in charge of farming. It's not likely.

The main trouble with the energy problem is that it's hard to get the facts when there aren't any.

Yours faithfully
 J.A.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

More than 650 North Carolina businessmen gathered in Raleigh last week to try to learn the ins and outs of doing business with the world's largest purchaser of goods and services -- the United States Government.

It was my privilege to sponsor this conference. Members of my staff put it all together, and I was gratified by the large attendance. Comments from businessmen who attended caused me to feel that it was worthwhile, and that the participants learned things that will help them in the future.

The purpose of the conference was simple. It was to help small businessmen understand how to proceed in dealing with the government.

The format was also simple. People from government agencies came to the meeting to explain to businessmen the correct method of bidding on government contracts. I think the need for such a conference is self evident. Large corporations are able to employ specialists who do nothing but try to obtain government business. Big business maintains offices in Washington which keep in close touch with the procurement people in the Department of Defense and other government agencies who must buy goods produced in America.

These specialists of the big corporations need no one to tell them what business is available. Their task is to monitor the bid lists of the various agencies and see that their companies submit proposals in any situation where they can compete.

Yet, the small businessman, in practically all cases, has no one to

represent him in the capital and even if he knows that a product of his is wanted, he may not know how to go about letting the proper person know it. And, like everything else in government, bidding on a contract has special rules and procedures that must be followed and unless the bid is filed properly, the business will be lost.

So the North Carolinians who attended the conference were able to sit down with these men from government agencies, discuss their own personal business situations and any problems they may have had in the past with securing federal business.

Small business, so called, is really not small at all when considered in the aggregate. There are some 40 millions of Americans who own or work for what we call small business. And it is only fair, all things being equal, that this segment of the American economic structure should be given at least an equal chance to sell goods and services that the government must purchase.

With the advantage the large corporations have, it is a certain fact that they get more than their fair share of government money. And there are some areas where they can probably do a better and more economical job.

But if the government wants some product that a small firm in North Carolina can furnish, then that firm should have an equal opportunity to bid on that contract and it should be shown the proper manner in which to bid so that it won't be penalized because of his lack of knowledge.

This is what this conference was all about and I think it helped.

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- At the conclusion of almost every General Assembly, one piece of legislation stands out above the rest. With the adjournment of the 1977 General Assembly it is hard to find one, unless it is that the state government was able to move along without any new taxes which Governor Hunt promised in his campaign for governor. In these days of regarding government, from the town hall to the nation's capitol somewhat as "Santa Claus" this fact is certainly not inconsequential in so far as fiscal responsibility is concerned.

TAXES -- Governors who have called upon the General Assembly to raise taxes have as a rule left office very unpopular.

Terry Sanford was the first governor in modern times to call for increased taxes, who did in the way of a tax on food. Terry was a wheel when it came to organizing but the food tax was too heavy a load to carry, which carried Richardson Preyer down to defeat by Dan Moore in 1964.

GOVERNORS -- Dan Moore didn't raise taxes, but Bob Scott brought about an increase in gasoline taxes, and like Sanford he went out of office in pretty "low cotton."

Jim Holshouser didn't raise taxes or rock the boat but considering the fact that he was the first Republican elected since the turn of the century and that "Water-gate" cast lengthening shadows over GOP administrations over the nation, (he was quite unique in being able to) returned to private life in a rather commendable manner.

CAPSTONES -- Greater support for public schools was the capstone

of Sanford's first two years in office and the enactment of the comprehensive community college act was most certainly the outstanding feat of his second two years, and of his entire administration.

SUCCESSION -- Hunt's influence in getting the General Assembly to place before the people a constitutional amendment to permit the governor to succeed himself may have been the high - water - mark in the 1977 General Assembly.

The issue is now up to the people and you can expect the Hunt forces to come forth with every ounce of persuasion they can muster up and garner sufficient votes to bring about it's enactment at the polls this coming November. Failure of the people to support the succession amendment will be a blow to Hunt, like the blow that hit Sanford when the people turned down several bond issues which he persuaded the General Assembly to submit to the people in 1961.

ONE OPPORTUNITY -- There was one opportunity which Jim Hunt, Jim Green and Carl Stewart -- all three failed to sound "the tocsin" in behalf of the people. They failed to rally to the support of John Ingram and let the influence of the insurance lobby to a large extend "dehorn" the insurance commissioner from protecting the people from over - charges by the insurance companies.

We all know and realize that insurance companies must show reasonable profit, but having been in a two - session fight with them back in the mid - fifties over the cancellation of health and hospital insurance, we learned they must be regulated, else they become overly greedy and self - serving.

Considering all the people involved with the actions of the 1977 General Assembly, we suspect John Ingram and Rep. Ernest Messer became the spokesmen and tribune of the people to a greater extent than anyone else. While defeated, they carried the banner and waved the flag in the face of special and predatory interests, while Hunt, Green and Stewart remained quite in their sanctuaries.

SUPREME COURT -- We doubt that our "founding fathers" ever fathomed or dreamed that the U.S. Supreme Court would ever take unto itself the power to "legislate" that it has practiced in recent years. Now, more than ever we believe that tenure on the Federal courts should be limited, possibly subject to re - appointment and confirmation by the U.S. Senate for a specified term.



Susan S. Houston