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THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1977

Tackling welfare

Debate and controversy are bound to swirl around specific details of President Carter's sweeping plan for overhaul of the nation's welfare system. But there is no question the basic thrust of his proposals will strike a responsive public chord. Mr. Carter is right on target with his effort to (1) simplify the system, (2) make certain that it will be more profitable for an individual to work than to receive welfare, and (3) ensure the integrity of the family.

These ingredients are absolutely essential to reform of what everyone regards as the "welfare mess." At the moment federal welfare is a tangled mix of programs that results in inefficiency, unfairness and waste. As the President duly noted, it treats people with similar needs differently, depending on type of program and area of residence. It encourages families to break up because two-parent families are generally not eligible for welfare aid. And it discourages welfare recipients from going to work because they often lose out financially.

Mr. Carter's approach is a simple and a sound one. He in effect divides poor people into two groups, those who can work and those who cannot. Those in the first category, including mothers with children over 6 years of age, would be required to take full or part-time jobs or lose most of their welfare payments. Those who are unable to work, such as the aged, the disabled, and single parents with preschool children, would be given a cash payment -- up to \$4,200 for a family of four.

Clearly the "guaranteed income" is an idea whose time has come. It may still seem radical to some but President Nixon, it will be recalled, supported a similar though more modest scheme that was shot down in the Senate. Today both liberals and conservatives see the merit of replacing the largest existing welfare programs -- Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Supplemental Security Income and food stamps -- with a single system of cash payment. This would greatly reduce the complexity of the welfare system and for the first time introduce the needed element of uniformity into welfare payments.

We also like the fact that Mr. Carter's program would provide more tax relief for the working poor and lower middle class. Workers would receive increasing cash benefits until they were earning \$8,000 annually and their taxes would be reduced as long as they earned under \$15,600 (for family of four). It is estimated that more than half of all American families would be benefited by this proposal.

One objection which may be raised to the Carter program concerns the provision of up to 1.4 million public service jobs for welfare recipients if they cannot find other work. Would these be simply dead-end jobs with little value, disguised "welfare" in another form? Obviously careful thought and planning will have to be given to this. Labor Secretary Ray Marshall believes there are many meaningful jobs that need doing, such as services to the elderly, winterizing the homes of low-income people, and providing child care.

There may also be some distress that the President is advocating spending an additional \$6.2 billion on welfare, jobs for the poor and reduced taxes for workers. He had hoped to overhaul the system without any additional cost. But, when one considers that the nation's defense budget alone runs to well over \$100 billion a year, it should be possible to find savings in other areas to make up that amount.

The important thing is that Mr. Carter has laid the ground for a creditable beginning toward reform of what is certainly one of the nation's most intractable domestic problems. As we have come to expect of him, he has approached the problem with thoughtfulness and determination. --Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

15 years ago

Thursday, August 16, 1962
 The Hoke ABC store in its first week of operation grossed a tad under \$7,000, manager Joe Huffman reported.

At press time a large quantity of wine was being trucked into the A&P Grocery Store on Raeford's Main Street.

The first open cotton boll this season was brought in Wednesday morning from the Antioch farm of Albert Currie.

A.W. (Wilton) Wood, Jr., long-time assistant cashier for The Bank of Raeford has resigned in order to go with the public relations department of National Old Line Insurance Co. of Little Rock, Ark.

Details on two upcoming Jaycee-sponsored events were announced this week. They are Junior Champ Day, a track meet with various events for boys up to age 17 and the annual Hoke County Fair which will begin September 17 and runs through the week to September 22.

25 years ago

Thursday, August 14, 1952
 A full staff of teachers for both the elementary and high schools has finally been secured after much search. Principal W.T. Gibson, Jr. seemed relieved to make the announcement, as school opens just three weeks from today.

The annual McBryde reunion was held at Antioch Presbyterian church last Sunday with about 150 members of the clan attending from Virginia and South Carolina as well as North Carolina.

Twenty-three prospective players attended a football meeting at the high school gym last Tuesday and plans were laid for practice sessions and for a week's training at Myrtle Beach.

From Poole's Medley:
 It is said practice makes perfect and it does help a little. But practice must be done with an eye to improvement, or little will be accomplished.

'Pardon me, I'm just feeling your muscle'



by Marty Vega

Tea And Sympathy

This month marks the third anniversary of this writer's arrival in Raeford and it seems an appropriate reason to reflect on the many changes, the subtle and not so subtle, which have taken place since 1974.

A great deal has taken place in these short years. The new buildings which have sprung up, even a new highway, come to mind first, and then the many places which have changed hands and acquired new names.

Yet if one had to pick out the singular most significant event of this chapter, the answer is easy. A new dawn for civilization has come. You can get unsweetened iced tea in Raeford.

The Uptown Restaurant serves it, the Captain's Place serves it, and even the Pig 'N Chicken has finally come around, although there you have to ask for it special and the wait is a minute or two.

The last holdouts are the Southern and Family eateries, although in the case of the latter, there may be some cause for optimism as that establishment recently came under



1 John 3:16-24
 "Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us." (Ephesians 5:2)
 Christ's greatest gift to us is the gift of love. In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul emphasized this love as a fundamental factor in building a church.

Sometimes churches forget this and operate as if buildings, organizations, and public worship were the essence of all they represent. They forget that "God is love" and that without it Christianity can only be "as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." This, in fact, is what we all become if we show no love.

Near the end of Thornton Wilder's book, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, the Abbess muses, "All those impulses of love return to the love that made them." Without these impulses, there is little to return. We cannot lean upon love's everlasting arms if we have never known or shared it.

Our churches should be centers of the kind of love Paul talked about: a love that will reach forever out. But sometimes we are as cold as the stones that hold up our buildings. Why? Probably because we are, in some way, afraid. What do we fear? Rejection, maybe?

But the irony is that love is the perfect way -- the only way -- to cast out fear.

PRAYER: Father, teach us to love one another as You love us. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
 Love casts out fear and anything else that would defeat us.

--copyright--
 THE UPPER ROOM
 --Elise Newton
 (Camrose, Alberta, Canada)



new management and the hosts may be open to suggestion.

The breakthrough may justifiably be viewed as a bittersweet victory for the long-oppressed minority, as it is an unquestioned fact that the majority of local diners prefer their tea the way it has been served. And, it is true that in a democratic republic the will of the majority rules, yet the rights of the minority must be preserved at all costs.

(When the patriots dumped the tea in Boston Harbor, did they sweeten it first?)

So, it is a jubilant time for those of us who savor the refreshing delight of ice cold tea unspoiled by the cloudy appearance and the sugary aftertaste which we have come to know and fear worse than Kool-Aid.

We loyal tea drinkers (there were about seven at last count) of Raeford make only one request: Try to respect us, although our beliefs may seem bizarre and threatening. If you can't do that, at least do not insult us by bringing four or five packets of "Sweet and Low" or any similar product to the table with the tea.

We really do like the taste of unsweetened tea. We don't ask for it because we don't like sugar. We actually like it that way.

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear editor:

With a new school year about to get underway, the time seems right to look at a problem schools all over the country are faced with, or will be nine months from now.

The problem is the pupil who comes up to graduating time from high school without having learned to read and write. I have no idea how many of these there are, but people claim there're a lot.

"Why," some people say, "some high school graduates can't even fill out a simple government form."

That's no test. There are no simple government forms. Nonetheless, some high school graduates are almost illiterate. But what's the school to do? You can't keep a kid in the first grade forever. In a few years he'll out-grow the seats. His knees won't fit under the tables. So a child is passed from one grade to another, everybody hoping he'll pick up something as he goes along, until finally, especially if he can play football, he makes it through and is shoved out the top with a diploma in his hand, which he may have to get somebody to read for him.

However, there are people who are demanding that a high school diploma mean something, educationally speaking. If one person achieves a genuine high school education and another doesn't, but their diplomas read the same, what's fair about that? Nothing.

So consider this: The Army has a special discharge which it sometimes gives an enlisted man. It's called a discharge "For the Convenience of the Government."

That's the answer. High schools need two sets of diplomas. One certifies that the student has truly attained a high school education, the other that he stayed in school twelve years and is being let out for the convenience of the teachers.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

A bill which would prohibit unions from organizing members of the military services was unanimously endorsed by the Senate Armed Services Committee, on which I serve.

The vote was taken after extensive hearings, which I believe established without much doubt that unions in the military would be a definite threat to our national security. The committee also learned from the hearings that there is a very real threat that efforts will be made to organize the military and the members felt that legislation to prevent this was necessary.

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown has expressed the opinion that such a step is not necessary at this time and he wants to delay any such legislation for several months while the Defense Department seeks to deal with the matter by departmental directives. I don't agree with him and neither did the other members of the Armed Forces Committee.

Departmental directives seem to me to be an ineffective way to deal with union efforts and I joined the other committee members in voting for prohibiting legislation.

The bill, which will now be considered by the full Senate, seeks to deal with all aspects of the union issue. It defines a "labor organization" as any organization that seeks to negotiate with the government on terms and conditions of military service or represent service members in grievance proceedings, or strike, picket or engage in other concerted actions against the government.

The legislation includes active or reserve military members and civilian employees of the Department of Defense in their

relationship with the government. That is what the legislation is all about -- the prevention of unions dealing with the government on behalf of our soldiers, sailors, marines or airmen.

This does not mean that a member of a labor union cannot retain his membership in that union while serving his country, but his union membership would have no influence on his military service.

I think the dangers of the possibility of unions speaking for military members are obvious. Discipline and loyalty are essential to any military organization, and to place the concept of collective bargaining between a commander and his forces -- for any purpose -- can only result in decreased military effectiveness.

There cannot be two masters or two loyalties for the members of the country's Armed Forces, and this is what the Senators on the committee were declaring when they unanimously endorsed the bill.

Labor, itself, is far from supportive of the concept of a unionized military, and some of the nation's largest unions have declared opposition to the idea. There is certainly a place in this nation for organized labor. Historically, unions have secured better wages and working conditions in many industries. But unions have no place, in my opinion, in areas where they can harm public safety or imperil lives and property. Only this past week striking firemen in another state refused to fight a factory fire and allowed it to burn unchecked.

Unions also have no place in our Armed Forces, where discipline and loyalty are perhaps the two most necessary ingredients to the security of this country.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



MUNICIPAL ELECTION -- Within two months the municipal elections throughout the state will have been held and over.

Municipal elections can often give rise to budding candidates for county and district offices. It's a good way for would be candidates for higher office to get their feet wet in politics and start learning the ways of government.

CARTER TO N.C.? -- President Carter will have a niece getting married in Fayetteville this fall which may well bring him to the Old North State for a visit!

BRIGHT SPOT -- According to an editorial in the Laurinburg Exchange "last year's federal budget was underspent by \$14 billion."

We feel this is much better than "over-spending" which sometimes takes place and gets people in "dutch" head over heels!

MALCOM P. McLEAN -- The Roanoke Beacon in Plymouth reports that a deal is on between First Colony Farms which consists of 375,000 acres owned by Malcom P. McLean, in Dare, Hyde, Terrell and Washington counties for the sale of its large hog operation, headquarters facility and grain elevators, and some 10,000 acres of land to Tyson Foods based in Arkansas which is the third largest chicken processor in the United States.

Horace Greeley said "Go West, Young Man." It now looks like some of our big adventurers are looking eastward!

When I think of the development which is taking place in these eastern counties, I think of the fine men I served with in the General Assembly in by-gone years, men like the late Dr. J.M. Phelps and Carl Bailey, Jr., of Washington; P.D. Midgett, Jr., Charles Cohoon and Lewis L. Combs of Tyrrell; W.J. Lupton, the late Dick O'Neal of Hyde; Keith Fearing, Moncie Daniels and the late R. Bruce Ethridge of Dare.

CHAPEL HILL -- Chapel Hill, the one-time country town where few students had autos of their own and those who did were the envy of the others. Today, the worm has changed.

Nudy James, Montgomery Herald editor writes: "Entering freshmen are told, in plain English, that they are not allowed to bring cars. They have a good reason for this order: There are only 9,000 parking spaces on campus, with 15,000 cars vying for these spots. Everybody would be better off walking!"

McKNIGHT -- Some of the writers seem to put Dave McKnight near the bottom of the list in the race for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate to oppose Jesse Helms in 1978. However, on issues McKnight comes through pretty clear. He places himself squarely in opposition to the proposal for tax-payers dollars to be used to finance congressional elections. McKnight says: "It's simply not fair for any taxpayer to have to contribute involuntarily to my Senate campaign or anybody else's."

WELFARE -- Editor Gene Smith of the Havelock Progress, in closing an editorial on "Welfare Reform -- Again" writes: "We have created a monster which was too big for Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Ford, and it will be a monster too big for Carter. The end result will be the same as has happened in past administrations. Efforts to improve the program and cut out inequities will result in ever greater expanded benefits to ever greater expanded ranks of those benefitting."

The part about the Carter welfare program is that to begin with it will cost annually some two billion dollars more than the present system with all its waste. Unless Carter starts, and soon, recommending less, instead of more for programs like welfare which is filled with waste and corruption, how can he ever expect to fulfill his promise of a "balanced budget?"

WEATHER -- It was Mark Twain who said: "Everybody talks about the weather but no one does anything about it."

These were words well spoken -- or written, and how great it is that individuals are unable to change the seasons and the weather?

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