

# The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER  
 Free Press  
 A Day  
 NNA SUSTAINING  
 MEMBER - 1976

North Carolina  
 PRESS  
 ASSOCIATION

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, SEPTEMBER 29, 1977

## The family fights back

A number of recent nationwide studies have stressed the continuing importance of the American family as an institution, calling the family the most potent weapon the United States has in its long, sometimes dormant "war" on poverty. It is encouraging to see scholarly researchers and top government officials, including President Carter, now acknowledging that too many federal and state policies have tended to divide and weaken families, rather than encourage their members to remain together to tackle economic and social problems.

The latest such report, issued by the Carnegie Corporation's Council on Children, concludes five years of research with a ringing call for a "national family policy" aimed at preserving and strengthening family life.

The Carnegie council's rather radical recommendations that the federal government guarantee a job for every family breadwinner understandably may raise some eyebrows. But the council makes clear that it recommends such investment because the family as an institution is being pressured on many sides by a changing society -- but shows no signs of disintegrating completely. However, the doubling number of divorces is scarcely reason for complacency.

The Carnegie study concludes that "the greatest single harm to children is poverty" and proposes setting a minimum income level for all families and replacing the present welfare structure with a system of refundable tax credits. The inflationary impact of such drastic economic measures needs to be carefully weighed; however, as President Carter has indicated in his plan for revamping the welfare system, able-bodied parents capable of working should be given an opportunity and encouragement to do so.

The Carter administration is right in proposing a revised welfare program that does not offer economic encouragement to fathers to desert their families. And as the President suggested in a recent interview, tax laws should be changed to give married working couples the same tax benefits now accorded single working people who live together.

Certainly such governmental efforts to strengthen the family are to be applauded. But perhaps even more worthy of commendation is the growing stress Americans themselves are placing on their family ties. The resurgence of family reunions, new attempts to trace family "roots," and the increased efforts of churches, family counselors, and civic groups to keep families together in the face of changing mores and attitudes -- these, perhaps, are encouraging indications that the family will remain the pillar of American society. *Christi in Science Monitor*

## Neglected farmers

Farmers frequently wonder who is working for them. Certainly not the USDA, which they suspect should be re-named the U.S. Department of Consumerism.

This suspicion gains strength when a top USDA official comes out with a statement cheering for the abundant 1977 harvests, on grounds they will keep food prices down.

Howard Hjort, the department's chief economist, cited a near-record corn crop, good wheat and soybean yields as barometers for holding consumer prices in line.

The harvests, he said, "should mean relatively low food inflation." He predicts a 6 percent rise in 1977, and less than 6 percent in 1978.

This is strange talk for an economist, particularly one from the USDA.

He knows, probably better than most, that harvest yields the past three years have had only marginal effect on prices at the supermarkets. Consumer food prices soared in the period following our record wheat harvests and big corn yields, while the prices paid to farmers went into steady decline.

Perhaps the worst impact of such a statement is that it reinforces the consumer conception of how their prices for bread and steak and chickens are determined. The grain harvests have not been much of a factor in recent years, and won't be in the coming two years.

But the USDA is concerned about consumers. It would be gratifying to know that it exercised some concern about farmers. Both are important in the food world. -- *Hutchinson News (Kansas)*

## Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, September 25, 1952  
 At 2:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon the first drawing of the Bonus Department will be held in front of the courthouse.

Benny "The Kid" McLeod and overegerness on the part of the visitors proved too much for the Mt. Olive eleven last Friday night as the Hoke Bucks posted a 14-12 victory in Armory Park.

H.R. McLean, district game protector, reports that the first half of a split dove season will open Oct. 1 and close on Oct. 15.

### 15 years ago

Thursday, September 27, 1962  
 An important public hearing will be held at the Courthouse tonight (Thursday) at 8 p.m. for the Raeford Planning Board's presentation of the central business district study prepared by expert planners of the state's Department of Conservation and Development.

The paltry sum of \$3,500 is all that stands in the way between Raeford and a spanking new community building that will serve as a center for innumerable local activities.

'Well, we could try propping it up again ...'



The Christian Science Monitor

by Marty Vega

## Baloney For Lunch And For Breakfast

This month's C.U.S.S. Award will be shared by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the Hoke County Superintendent of Schools (not to be confused with the Supt. of Silliness).

The C.U.S.S. Award is presented by Citizens trying to Understand Senseless Stupidity.

It is given to recognize outstanding achievement by public officials in the area of confusing the taxpayers and making them mad all in one swoop.

This month's winning entry was "Notification to Parent: Dear Parent or Guardian" which was sent home with the pupils.

The message stated that the child's application had been approved for (a) free lunch (b) free breakfast (c) reduced lunch (d) reduced breakfast.

The appropriate box (or boxes) was checked. Or it wasn't checked, which meant you had to go down to

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

A lot of people had rather worry about a problem than try to solve it.

Take the surplus of grain. The country's got so much of it we've about run out of space to store the stuff and farmers have about gone broke raising it.

Experts have been wracking their brains trying to figure out what to do. A few years ago they tried lending Russia money to buy wheat from us at a cheap price and it worked for a while till Russia's note came due.

I have a better idea. There are about 215 million people in the United States. If each one would gain 20 pounds mostly from eating more bread, that'd put a 12,900,000,000-pound dent in the wheat surplus, figuring it'd take about 3 pounds of bread to put one pound of weight on a person. I don't know exactly what the conversion rate is, it hasn't been figured for humans, only for cattle, chickens and hogs.

As the wheat surplus is eaten away, the price of wheat goes up and wheat farmers can start breaking even. Next would come corn. I don't have time to calculate this, but it ought to be a snap for the Department of Agriculture statisticians to figure out how much cornbread we'd have to eat to swing it.

I'd like to point out that having everybody gain 20 pounds would have far-reaching effects on the entire economy, not just on agriculture. The clothing industry would boom naturally -- nobody's present clothes would fit. That in turn would increase the consumption and therefore the price of cotton, buttons, zippers, belts, etc.

Moreover, after all this got the economy roaring ahead, the dieting industry would boom as everybody started reducing, which in turn would again boost the clothing industry when clothes once more wouldn't fit.

Repeated periodically, fattening up and then slimming down, we'd have the key to endless prosperity. Forget about gas guzzling and concentrate on food guzzling.

However, there's one flaw in this. Doctors will tell you that being too fat is dangerous to your health and they ought to know -- so many of them are over-weight themselves.

Yours faithfully,  
 J.A.

the bottom of the page and read the part about "application has been denied" and the accompanying choices of reasons.

Of course, not many parents bothered to read all the way to the end, as the first reaction any sane person would have to this would be something like %&%%#!

Weeks ago it was announced that school lunches would be free to all children, the old program was being scrapped.

So why wasn't the old form scrapped, too? Why weren't new forms printed up explaining to the parents that the "application" was now strictly a formality and to disregard it if the reduced meal was checked?

We put these questions to the Superintendent. He agreed that the old form is now "utterly stupid", but he put the blame on the Department of Public Instruction. The Department insisted on using the old forms, despite the fact that they would make no sense at all to parents.

Still, the award should be shared by the Superintendent, as arrangements could have been made to have a cover letter go out with the form to explain away the ensuing confusion.

So, he will be entitled to receive a lifelike reproduction of the gleaming Edsel handsomely embroidered on Tris-reinforced needlepoint, suitable for display in home or office.

As for the so-called educators in Raleigh, they should be made to stay after school and write 100 times "I shall not confuse parents or guardians anymore with such baloney."



Read 2 Timothy 2:8-13

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him." (2 Timothy 2:12)

The French artist Renoir was so pain-wracked with rheumatism that every stroke of his brush brought perspiration to his anguished face. Being unable to stand, he sat in a chair.

Despite his suffering, Renoir painted enduring masterpieces of great beauty. One day a friend asked, "Why do you continue to torture yourself?" Renoir replied, "The pain passes, but the beauty remains."

This is the way it is with anything of lasting value and enduring beauty. Many times it is manifested through deep sorrow and pain. To make the best use of our abilities we must pass through the press.

Many want to enjoy the comforts Christ has provided for us in heaven, but few are willing to walk through the valleys of suffering and sorrow. If we are living for God, our lives will not be all flowery beds of ease. No, because the godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. Yet in view of what Christ suffered for us, how can we complain about our feather-light afflictions?

PRAYER: Father, cause us to take up our cross and follow Jesus all the way. Amen

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:  
 When we are willing to suffer, we are able to live.

--copyright--  
 THE UPPER ROOM  
 --Nina M. Sandel  
 (Florien, Louisiana)



## Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

One section of the Energy Conservation Bill, which I sought to strike out, gives too much power to the nation's utility companies and once again reveals our automatic belief in bigness and regulation of people's private affairs.

The bill provides that the utility company must notify its customers as to the benefits and costs of weatherization, and offer to make an inspection, for a fee, of the customer's home.

But the bill goes further and says that the utility company then may select an insulation contractor, from an "approved list," arrange for the work to be done, arrange to finance it with a lending institution and collect the cost on the utility bill over a period of not less than three years. It is reasonable to expect the homeowner will want to depend on the utility's expertise, and say "Go ahead and do it."

This puts entirely too much power in the hands of the utilities. What is being done is to give the utility, which already has a monopoly providing energy to the home, inordinate control over the insulation business.

The fact that the utility will draw up a list of approved contractors makes the utility the judge of a contractor's competence -- and the source of his customers.

We talk about defending free enterprise, but here is another case where we are crippling it. By making it easy for the utility, after determining the home's needs, to say that it will arrange for the work and the financing, we are denying other contractors a chance. And who can say how fairly the utilities will apportion the work?

## CLIFF BLUE ...

## People & Issues



BUDGET AMENDMENT... Proposed Amendment No. 5 to the State Constitution is known as the "Balanced Budget" Amendment. In State law a balanced budget has long been required which accounts to a large degree for the Triple-A bond rating which the state has, which is unsurpassed by no other state.

The North Carolina Executive Budget Act was adopted in 1925 under the administration of the late Governor Angus Wilton McLean of Robeson County. This law is mandatory upon the governor to keep the government finances in balance. If the General Assembly appropriates more money than comes in under the revenue laws, it becomes mandatory that the governor who is director of the budget to reduce spending, including salaries across the board to bring the budget into balance. In recent years salaries have not had to be cut but back in the depression days of the 1930's salaries were cut drastically to conform with incoming revenue.

While this law is now set forth in statute, it is not in the State Constitution and could be changed by any General Assembly to permit the State to embark on deficit spending just like the Federal Government in Washington and municipal governments like New York City.

For this reason we feel it would be in the interest of sound government in North Carolina to remove the law from possible whims of a General Assembly in some future time and write into the State Constitution the proposed amendment to safeguard fiscal integrity in the North Carolina system of government.

FOR WASHINGTON...For many years we have wondered why our North Carolina congressional delegation in Washington has not promoted the idea in Federal Government. In the Federal government it would be just as easy to operate on a balanced budget as it is in North Carolina. Of course in the Federal law exceptions could be made in time of war and dire emergencies approved by two-thirds of the members of the house and senate.

OVER-DRAFTING ...Speaking of budgets and deficit spending "overdrafting" has a pretty close connotation with deficit spending. Now to quote from an editorial in the Nashville Graphic under the heading of "Congress Guilty of Overdrafting, Too:" If Congress is going to condemn Mr. Lance for over drafting his bank account,

And another provision of the bill is even more disturbing. The utility may opt not to do the inspection itself, but may turn it over to the approved contractor himself. Thus, when a homeowner calls a utility company and asks for an inspection, the person who may arrive at the doorstep to determine what needs doing is the very contractor who wants to write the order.

What should be done, to be fair, would be for the utility to give the customer a list of his needs and then let the customer go into the marketplace to hire someone to do the work. This would give everyone a chance, and not restrict his choice to an "approved" list furnished by the power company.

I offered an amendment to correct this and it was supported by 34 other senators, more than I expected in view of the tendency to follow the recommendations of the committee which had studied the bill.

The dangers in this section of the bill, in addition to the peril in which it places thousands of small insulation firms, disturb me. Although we constantly decry the growing concentration of regulatory power in the country, we are handing the utilities almost total power over thousands of small contractors, and their market.

Originally, the Administration's proposal would have had the utilities themselves actually install and finance the weatherization. The Senate softened that, but it did not go far enough. Some utilities are involved in weatherization voluntarily, and that is fine. But we have no business making them the clearinghouse for the insulation industry.

however, maybe it ought to take a look at its own record of overdrafting on the American taxpayer. Year end and year out Congress approves a budget that calls for expenditures far in excess of tax revenues. That practice is nothing more than overdrafting on a mammoth scale. Instead of overdrafting on a bank, however, Congress is overdrafting on the future earnings of all taxpayers in the country.

HOSPITALS...We are pleased to note that the North Carolina hospitals are being challenged by the Hospital Financial Management Association to develop new approaches to cost control. Frankly, we can't think of anything that needs more cost control attention than the unabated rise in hospital and medical costs. Gerald N. Hewitt, president of the association's North Carolina Chapter said the contest was developed not only as a means of encouraging innovative approaches to cost control but also to promote the sharing of ideas among hospitals which should result in continuing efforts to keep hospital costs as low as possible while maintaining high quality patient care. Entries will be judged on the basis of cost impact, duration of impact on costs of innovative approach. Deadline for entries is Dec. 15 with winner of the contest to be announced January 26, 1978.

FIRST COLONY FARMS...The huge First Colony Farms comprising 375,000 acres of land in Washington, Tyrrell, Hyde, and Dare counties appears not to have succeeded as planned. The Sept. 21 issue of *The Roanoke Beacon* published in Plymouth, N.C., reports: "First Colony Farms, the superfarm of farms, is on its way out of the farming business." A spokesman for First Colony, largely owned by Malcolm McLean, Robeson County native, was reported as saying the company feels that corporate farming is no longer feasible and will sell or lease its cropland.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,  
 White's Cabinet Shop would like to express its appreciation to the Hillcrest Volunteer Fire Department for their prompt and speedy actions at the recent fire we had. Volunteers of this type are a definite asset to our community.  
 Mrs. Richard White