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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1977

Lessons in lawbreaking?

What lessons can a youngster learn from a schoolteacher incarcerated in jail for purposely violating the law? This is the sad question that must be asked of striking teachers in the little southeastern Massachusetts town of Franklin. Fortunately, the great majority of teacher-school board disputes are resolved without teachers going to jail, and Franklin's 42 jailed teachers were to be released on Wednesday.

But teacher strikes have proliferated nationwide in recent years. They have become an almost routine part of school openings each fall. And as long as they are illegal, they are to be condemned.

It can be argued that selective civil disobedience has righted social wrongs in the past, but it is a potentially destructive means of protest and should be contemplated in only the most extreme circumstances.

While we can sympathize with the plight of public schoolteachers, who traditionally have been grossly underpaid for the many years of schooling required of them — in some cities receiving paychecks smaller than those of unskilled sanitation workers — we cannot condone lawbreaking, especially by educators expected to exemplify the highest standards of good citizenship and public responsibility for youngsters who will be tomorrow's leaders.

The number of teacher strikes this fall have been fewer than in years past; the National Education Association thus far has reported 72 walkouts in 11 states, as compared with 80 at this time last year. And only rarely — in no more than communities — have teachers been jailed for refusing to return to classrooms.

Teachers union leaders say they do not want to strike; they would prefer compulsory arbitration as a means of settling labor disputes. However, they, like other public employees, complain understandably that too few school committees and administrators want such arbitration. They say they are left with no other "weapon" than the strike to gain leverage in collective bargaining. Teachers unions currently are seeking to push through Congress a collective bargaining bill that would give all public employees the right to strike. However, the sad spectacle not long ago of striking firemen in Dayton, Ohio, standing by while houses burned appears reason enough to urge extreme caution in considering such legislation.

At the heart of the teachers' quandary is the growing inability of local property taxes to support rising education costs, the bulk of which goes to teacher salaries. Increasingly educators are saying some other funding source must be found for the schools, and most feel it is inevitable that the federal and state governments must assume a greater share of the school burden than they have to date. The federal government currently provides less than 7 percent, the states about 50 percent, and local property taxes the remainder of school expenses. Some educators would like to see each level of government — federal, state, and local — provide a third, thereby relieving some of the pressure on local governments to constantly increase property taxes — pressure taxpayers are increasingly resisting.

Some teachers hope a sympathetic Congress may be inclined to pump more federal dollars — funds, not controls, they stress — into local school coffers; they also hope to convince President Carter to keep his campaign promise to establish a new Cabinet-level education post.

But in the meantime, teacher-school board conflicts are likely to continue. If teachers hope to retain the respect of the communities they serve and the youngsters they teach, they should obey the law and return to their classrooms. —*Christian Science Monitor*

Browsing in the files

of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, October 2, 1952

Between 210 and 215 kids journeyed to Pope Field last Saturday morning as the guests of the Air Force in conjunction with the first National Kids Day.

The Hoke High Bucks suffered their first loss of the still young football season last Friday night as they were defeated by a strong Yellow Jacket team at Elizabethtown, 7-0.

From Poole's Medley:

This writer remembers the changes which have taken place since the 1860's, and he learned full well some necessary lessons from poverty and rotten government.

James M. Williams, certified public accountant of the firm of Williams and Wall, of Raleigh, completed an audit of the books of the town of Raeford for the year ending June 30, 1952, recently, and last week he appeared before the town board and gave a summary of the results of this audit and commended the mayor and board for their fine work in getting two financial affairs of the town in good shape.

15 years ago

Thursday, October 4, 1962

Long weeks of work by Chamber of Commerce leaders head into a showdown meeting Tuesday night at the courthouse at 8 p.m. when the stock sale plans for the Raeford Turkey Farms cold storage unit will be presented.

The Elk Restaurant, and early morning landmark for the bearded coffee set, has been sold. The new owner is Charlie Daramus, who purchased the popular restaurant from ailing Tony Drake.

The Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce moves this weekend to new offices in the building next door to the Raeford Theater, premises formerly occupied by Western Auto.

From Rockfish News:

We the people of Rockfish, don't claim that liquor still that was taken some miles from here last week.

Raeford Lions, with the help of Scout Troop 403, will sponsor a Bicycle Rodeo at the Hoke High athletic field a week from Saturday, October 13.



by Marty Vega

Postman Blinks Twice At This Address

The Post Office has a rough time of it these days.

People complaining about not getting their mail, other people chopping down trees, even a picket line not too long ago.

The postal business is like the newspaper business. You never get any praise, only gripes. But the Post Office has been very cooperative to this customer and I want it publicly known that it is appreciated.

Since my recent move to Harris Avenue, figuring how I was going to get my mail delivered was like banging my head against a brick wall.

After two weeks, though, I stopped banging my head on the brick and hung a mailbox on it instead.

However, I'm getting ahead in the story, and the reader may be left dangling, as is the mailbox, without some explanation.

The reason for the Great Mail Delivery Predicament was two-fold. First, the quarters I am occupying had no official house number. That's very important to the Post

Office. They were very cooperative to my request and immediately assigned me my very own number.

The second part of the problem was not so easy to solve. Putting up a mailbox.

Now, if you go to the hardware store and buy yourself a mailbox, you will get two little screws with it. The idea, I am sure, is to put the screws through the little holes on the back of your mailbox and attach the whole thing to the wall. I'm almost positive of this.

Yet, there is a flaw here. If you have nothing to hang your mailbox on but a brick wall, then you have a problem.

Now, the nice man at the hardware store did give me two nails which he said are special nails designed to be driven through brick. Just like that. He didn't ask to see any proof of age, or identification, or a permit to buy. He just put them in my hand.

I kept them for about a week, thinking all the time. Then I finally threw them off the bridge into the creek.

And thus, my landlord was surely saved from the spectacle of at least the mid-section of this lovely 6 foot wall being crumbled.

The solution? Since this whole area is secluded from the street and public view, I was pleasantly surprised to discover how handy an old broken electrical extension cord and ordinary household string can be. I may even write a column on that.

The cord goes through the space between the bricks. You make a knot. The string goes through the little holes on the mailbox and then you tie that to the cord.

Tacky? Maybe. But the Post Office is understanding. They hang in there, too.

Letter To The Editor

To The Editor:

The voters will decide this November whether or not to allow a Governor to succeed himself.

There is reason for concern in this proposed amendment. Our present system of electing Governors has worked even if we have had a number of weak and inefficient leaders. As it now stands, a Governor can be re-elected after a four year lapse of time.

Some feel that if this succession bill is passed, the possibility of machine politics will be increased. Others feel that it could result in more political corruption. We have seen the unfortunate results of machine politics in a number of northern cities and states.

This amendment, already described by some as a "power grab," needs to be thoroughly considered between now and November 8.

Bobby Simpson
 Newton Grove



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

The President's Energy Bill, which has occupied the Senate for the past 10 days, contained one provision that is extremely important in North Carolina. That is the deregulation of the price of natural gas. This is vital because it affects every household which heats or cooks with gas, and the thousands of farms and businesses which use it in their operations. It could hurt many of our citizens where it hurts — in the pocketbook.

This deregulation is a tricky business but I'd like to explain what is involved here and what it means to thousands of North Carolinians.

The President wanted to do these things:

1. End the distinction between the price of gas shipped interstate and that sold in the state where it is produced.

2. Increase the price of newly discovered natural gas and make it available to all states under federal controls.

3. Tie the price of gas to the price of oil.

The President's program ran squarely into a proposal by Senator Bentsen of Texas and Senator Pearson of Kansas which calls for the complete deregulation of prices of recently discovered gas. I voted to table this bill.

I feel the President is right in wanting to end the distinction between gas sold in the interstate market and that sold in the producing state. This has been discriminatory.

Tying the price of gas to the price of oil would cause uncertainty, because oil prices have been very erratic during the past few years. And although the price increase the President has recommended is an attempt to provide more exploration, there is no guarantee that this would be so.

The Bentsen - Pearson Bill, in my opinion, is less than satisfactory, too. It has not been proved that increasing the price of gas will cause the oil and gas companies to seek more gas in the ground. It hasn't done so in the past and its only sure effect would be on the consumer. I don't know if the country could bear the increase in prices following a sudden, total deregulation.

I think we need to look at the record.

In the past the price of regulated gas in this country has been kept well above world prices and the gas companies seemed happy. But with unregulated intrastate gas going higher than regulated gas, you can't find a gas company supporting price regulation. They say they need the increase that deregulation would bring so that they can explore, although they failed to step up exploration significantly between 1969 and 1977, when the price of regulated gas went up 700 percent. It seems clear the incentives were there, yet supplies have not grown. The value of exploration is still a widely debated matter.

I wanted a compromise. Natural gas is vital to the economy and it should be distributed fairly and certainly. Companies seeking new gas should get some reward. But phasing out price regulation over a period of time would be better than sudden decontrol.

I offered amendments which would allow North Carolina industry which needs gas, to return to the producing fields, as they did last winter, to purchase their needs; and although the Bentsen-Pearson Bill is retroactive to the first of 1977, I want it made sure that consumers could not be charged for gas they had used from that time until now.

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



GENE ANDERSON... Some seem to think that some of those favorable to the proposed amendment to the State Constitution to permit a governor to succeed himself are glad to see the opposition leadership appearing to be Gene Anderson, who doesn't seem to be a favorite of all the Republican leaders to say nothing of the Democrats, blossom forth as the leader of those opposing the proposed amendment. Anderson says he has been active at the request of a couple or so of Democratic leaders. Could it be that Anderson is just holding a finger in the air, seeking to determine which way and how strong the breeze may be blowing? Or, do the succession proponents feel that Anderson's position will help carry the Amendment?

might well be a Republican to keep your eye on for bigger game.

LESS MONEY, MORE STUDENTS -- The Southeastern Times published in Bladen County used this streamer headline in its Sept. 28, 1977 issue: "Tech: Less Money, More Students."

Across the state this fall the Times headline seems to tell the story of most of the community colleges and technical institutes. Something went wrong in the General Assembly when with other educational institutions being voted more money per student and the community colleges and technical institutes -- most of them at least, seem to have increased enrollments with less money for this year's operation!

55-MILE SPEED LIMIT -- If Governor Hunt felt a little nerved when he ordered strict enforcement of the 55-mile per hour speed limit a few weeks ago he can now rest in peace for the reaction has been quite favorable. Personally, my driving speed has decreased and I think that of most other people also has decreased. A few weeks ago we ran an opinion poll in our two newspapers and found strong sentiment for strict enforcement of the 55-mile limit. According to J. Phil Carlton, Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, highway facilities have decreased 23.5 percent since the strict enforcement went into effect on August 15.

OTHER ENFORCEMENT -- Adding to our comment on the 55-mile speed enforcement in the above paragraph we suspect that most people in North Carolina and the nation would be glad to see far stricter uniform enforcement of criminal laws. We would certainly like to see it tried.

TEX RITTER -- Some day ago, a cousin, Buddy Blue of Raeford who is steeped in family history stopped by for a chat. Buddy mentioned the late Tex Ritter, the great cowboy in earlier day movies, saying he was a descendant of Moore County Ritters in North Carolina, that his father or a fore-father went from Moore County to Tennessee, and later to Texas, and that Carthage, Texas got its name from Carthage, North Carolina.

By the way, a township in Moore County is named Ritters, which undoubtedly for some of Tex's kinsmen.

RICHARD PETTY -- Richard Petty of Randolph County is a nationally known champion in the auto racing field. Now he is being urged to run for county commissioner on the Republican ticket, and should he run and win, he