

The News - Journal



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1977

A warning to hijackers

International terrorists bent on disrupting society and threatening innocent people and governments with violence and killings should get an important message from the courageous actions taken by West German and Somali officials in ending the five-day hijacking of the Lufthansa airline with 86 hostages aboard: clearly, in 1977, such acts of terrorism are increasingly futile and self-defeating. The close cooperation between the two governments in planning and staging the dramatic post-midnight raid at Mogadishu airport offers encouraging evidence that nations working together can successfully thwart terrorist operations.

"Somali cooperation made the operation possible," according to several European accounts. This was in striking contrast to the similar Israeli commando raid at Entebbe airport, where Uganda's President Idi Amin assisted the hijackers, rather than the invading rescuers. Increasingly nations, including those from the third world, are becoming reluctant to accept terrorists or provide them places of refuge.

While nations appear to be learning better how to cope with such situations, there remains a deplorable lack of progress in establishing and enforcing international agreements to further discourage terrorism.

It is to be hoped that this latest instance of naked violence will jog the United Nations into considering a languishing West German proposal for an agreement on the handling of hostages and stir debate on the whole problem of terrorism. Airline pilots' demands that security be tightened at airports around the world also deserve attention.

The West Germany raid also underscores again the need for extreme sensitivity on the part of the news media in reporting on terrorist activities. Early reports indicate that some wire services put out news of the arrival of the commandos in Mogadishu despite the urging of West German officials that this not be publicized. Others drew back their reports. Surely the press has a responsibility in cooperating with authorities when lives are at stake. -- *Christian Science Monitor*

Remembering 'Bing'

It was 40 years ago last month that Bing Crosby recorded "Remember Me?" The question is as unnecessary now as it was then. Even some teen-agers whom we queried after the weekend news of his passing were able to tick off more than the celebrated singing of "White Christmas" by the most famous crooner of their grandfather's generation.

They had seen old movies like "High Society" and "Pennies from Heaven." And they knew the Crosby of the '70s from his Christmas TV show and orange juice commercials. For the decades of amiable entertainment Mr. Crosby gave the world, he was fully entitled to the eulogies by admirers such as sidekick Bob Hope -- with whom he was about to play in another of their patented "Road to..." movie comedies.

Part of Mr. Crosby's charm lay in the difficult trick of making his skilled show-biz labors seem easy. Except for some notable acting in serious roles, he had the rare knack of seeming to be himself on stage as much as off.

There was the pose of laziness, not letting work interfere too much with his golf game. Yet when he sang about laziness he could get away with a sentiment like escaping "with a great big valiseful of books to read where it's peaceful." Unlike so much of today's lowest-common-denominator humor, his patter had a literacy that complimented the intelligence of the audience while kidding itself enough not to lose the common touch.

Bing never lost a beat when he elaborated on the lyrics. His rhythmic sense was one of the talents that enhanced his pop singing and kept him comfortable not only with studio orchestras but jazz musicians such as Woody Herman, Jimmy Dorsey, Duke Ellington, Eddie Heywood, or his own brother Bob's Bobcats. He said he thought people liked him because they knew they could sing as well as he could, especially in the shower. Not quite. -- *Christian Science Monitor*

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, October 23, 1952
The Hoke High Bucks showed considerable improvement Friday night as they came from behind to tie Hope Mills 6-6.

At a called meeting Friday the Hoke County board of health adopted an ordinance prohibiting the selling of fish from house to house in any manner in the county.

In a recent letter to V.W. Chase, telephone engineer of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, J.F. Havens, vice-president of the

Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, gave the status of several telephone projects which the company has in the planning stage for some time for rural Hoke County.

From Poole's Medley:
It is a pity any of us would let a dumb brute show more gratitude for kind treatment than we do. But a dog seems to appreciate any and all kindness.

The Stonewall Ruritan Club has taken for one of its projects for this year the building up of enrollment at the Mildouson school so that an additional teacher may be gained for next year.

'Looks like our winter fuel problems are solved -- we're all gonna be burning dead energy legislation'



Cartoonist Le Palle is on vacation

by Marty Vega

Don't Let This Slip By

Before we begin this week's column we need to mention something of some importance.

It may have gone unnoticed by some of you but this week marks the 161st column (consecutive) published by this writer.

One hundred and sixty one columns. You may be wondering, what is significant about this number?

Nothing whatsoever.

It has caused some curiosity when the new street lights went up on Main St. recently. We can explain this for those of you who are still in the dark. The new lights are identifiable by the amber or pinkish glow they cast.

The new lights are sodium vapor lights, which are supposed to give more illumination and use less power. The catch, of course, is that they cost more than the old lights, which are mercury vapor lights.

(If you can't understand why sodium is more than vapor, go to a pharmacy and tell the druggist you would like to check prices on a bottle of sodium and a bottle of mercury.)

For those of you who are uninformed, we will backtrack a moment and explain the history of sodium vapor lights.

They came into popularity in the 1960's in the large metropolitan areas because it was believed they would help reduce street crime.

Although they were touted as a weapon in the battle against crime, they did not enjoy quite the success expected. Street muggings did decline a bit, but they still occurred, and policemen became quite frustrated.

It seems a number of cases were lost because when the victim attempted to describe the assailant all he could say was, "It was an orangey-pink man!" That was not good enough.

The three lights now on Main St. are just being tried out on an experimental basis, though. If the city doesn't like them, they can take them back and get their money back.

It is the civic duty of each and every citizen to help the city decide about these lights. The city can't

It is the civic duty of each and every citizen to help the city decide about these lights. The city can't afford to hire an expensive, independent testing bureau to

come down here and make an evaluation, so ordinary citizens must do the job.

The city needs four groups: Group A will be people walking dogs. Group B will be young couples out for a stroll. Group C will be muggers. Group D will be the control group.

This should take care of all categories of people who would be out on the streets at night. All of the groups will go out and walk up and down under the lights. Reactions will be scientifically recorded, except for the control group, which won't go out at all. That is why it is the control group.

Now, where will the city get the right volunteers for this test? It can use anyone seen reading the 162nd column written here.

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

I understand Congress is considering allowing its sessions to be televised but has postponed a vote on it till after the first of the year, on the grounds I suppose that a bill that's not worth postponing is not worth passing.

Some Congressmen are violently opposed to having sessions televised, contending it'll damage Congress' image. My contention has been that it won't damage Congress but it might kill television.

I have read the Congressional Record, which prints every word spoken in the House every day, and I can tell you that with a script like that the TV audience will drop almost to zero. A fourth re-run of a movie that flopped would draw a bigger audience. It just takes too long for some Congressmen to say nothing. And Congress has so many complex parliamentary rules that by the time a member learns them all he's been there so long he's become chairman of a powerful committee and it's too late for the country to do anything about him.

But there is a part of Congress that'd make good television fare. If you would get the cameras into the cloak rooms and the private offices of members, where the deals are made, the arms twisted, the votes swapped and the real business transacted, daytime soap operas would be in for some stiff competition.

Nonetheless it'd be interesting for a while at least to see Congress televised. There couldn't possibly be a single member as boring as Howard Cosell on Monday night football. When Mr. Cosell says "I'll tell you one thing," get set for fifteen or twenty. There's nothing to the report, is there, that he's going to run for Congress?

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

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Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

Over the years, the media have often made reference to something called the "Southern filibuster." A filibuster is a venerable institution in the Senate, and all it means is that a minority, lacking the votes to defeat a bill, will use every procedural device it can to delay passage.

Because the minority in the Senate has so long been on the conservative side, and because Southern Senators have participated in filibusters, the tactic has been associated with the Southern membership.

But recently an instructive thing happened. On the natural gas deregulation bill, we saw a full-fledged, no-holds-barred filibuster by Senators who were both Northern and liberal. And it wasn't all that unusual. The fact of the matter is that any minority will use the filibuster, and the notion that it is as Southern as fried chicken is just a myth.

The second myth that ought to be dispelled is that a filibuster is always a bull-headed, narrow-minded attempt to thwart progress. In fact, it is a useful parliamentary device which frequently has beneficial effects recognizable by the most progressive spirit.

A filibuster does several things: it slows down the rush of an otherwise unstoppable majority, and gives us time to examine what we are doing. It forces compromise, and it allows interested constituents to hear about amendments which may be crucial.

The natural gas deregulation filibuster was instructive. Those favoring deregulation had a solid 54 votes. They would have been able, without the filibuster, to pass a bill which would have had a tremendously inflationary impact

on the economy. Even those of us who favor eventual deregulation of natural gas prices were upset by the bill, which went too far, too fast.

Because of the filibuster, there was compromise. The majority agreed to soften the impact on people trying to heat and cook with gas -- many of them poor or elderly. And there was time, and reason, to reconsider the wisdom of what we were about to do. Senators arguing for deregulation finally admitted they did not know, for sure, how high prices might go. And they agreed to put a temporary ceiling on prices for two years.

Debate and compromise are nothing more than the means the founding fathers gave us to resolve differences concerning public policy. And sometimes the filibuster is all that keeps the possibility of compromise alive.

Often, constituents favoring a piece of legislation urge me to vote to end a filibuster which temporarily has the bill stopped, and -- this is important -- they equate a vote on the filibuster with a vote on the bill itself. The fact is, even though I may favor a bill, I hesitate to cut off debate on it, as a matter of philosophy. Because I have seen the positive effects of the filibuster, I am reluctant to vote to stop debate.

I have been on both sides of filibusters, and have felt the temporary frustration they cause. Eventually, the majority will prevail. But the wisdom of a majority is not so perfect it cannot stand the examination of extended debate.

The deregulation filibuster was broken by bending the rules. Running its course, it might have gone on three or four more days. But what is that in the life of the Senate or in consideration of far reaching legislation?

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



SUN BELT AHEAD?...Is Alabama Richer than New York? This is the title of an article printed by the First Union National Bank of Chicago which was called to our attention by W.D. Stedman, President of the Stedman Corporation of Asheville. The article is truly enlightening.

From the lead paragraph in the article, we quote: "Regional disparities in per capita income have provided a major justification for channeling federal tax dollars from the relatively wealthy states in the Northeast and Midwest to the apparently poorer residents of southern states. When statistics are adjusted for regional differences in living costs and taxes, however, the residents of supposedly affluent northern states are often left with lower real after-tax incomes than their southern neighbors."

Let's take Alabama and New York for instance. The unadjusted per capita income for New York in 1975 was \$6,564. The adjusted disposable income per capita was \$4,518. The New York state and local taxes per capita were \$1,025 leaving a net adjusted disposable income per capita of \$3,493. In Alabama the unadjusted per capita income was \$4,643. The adjusted disposable income per capita was \$3,981. The Alabama state and local taxes per capita amounted to \$415 leaving a net adjusted disposable income of \$3,566 per capita.

Now let's compare North Carolina and Massachusetts. Massachusetts had an unadjusted per capita income of \$6,114. Its adjusted disposable income per capita was \$3,980. State and local taxes per capita were \$814, leaving the net adjusted disposable income per capita at \$3,166. North Carolina's unadjusted per capita income was \$4,952 with an adjusted disposable income per capita being \$4,223. State and local taxes per capita were \$485, leaving the net adjusted disposable income per capita at \$3,738.

Several other Snowbelt and Sunbelt states were listed with similar results.

Writers and politicians frequently comment on the low wages in the South as compared with other areas but there are other vital factors to be considered in determining the accuracy of wage comparisons between the Snowbelt and the Sunbelt. Frankly, we feel that all things being considered the Sunbelt is a mighty good place to live and work, and that the opportunities here are as good as any place in the world.

SUCCESSION...At a late date foes of gubernatorial succession are beginning to raise their heads under the leadership of State Rep. John Ed Davenport of Nashville. Davenport, speaking of the State Constitution, says: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it, and our constitution is not 'broke' ". A number of prominent Democrats and Republicans were listed as members of "Carolians Opposed to Succession" committee which will oppose the proposed amendment to the North Carolina Constitution which would allow the Governor and Lieutenant Governor to run for consecutive terms of office.

PANAMA CANAL...U.S. Senator Ernest F. Hollings of South Carolina who before President Carter's recent meeting with Omar Torrijos, Panama dictator, was a stout supporter of the treaty has back-tracked quite a bit. The South Carolina Senator was quoted in the newspapers as saying that now he will not support the treaty until the statement made by General Torrijos and President Carter regarding the rights of the United States in the Panama Canal are first made a part of the treaty, which presently, they are not.

Treaties should say what they are supposed to say and not leave major parts to a "gentlemen's agreement." President Carter or General Torrijos may not be around come the year 2000. Senator Hollings is quite right in withholding support until the treaty is altered from a "gentlemen's agreement" to a signed treaty in plain and unqualified language.

PLAIN TALK FROM BILLY... At Old Timers Day in Manchester, Tenn. recently, Billy Carter, the President's brother, told the press that he just didn't turn out for Democratic candidates, saying, "I'm working for just two fellas, George Wallace and Strom Thurmond." When asked what was wrong with the Democrats, he answered, "Nothing, except I guess I'm not really a Democrat."

