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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1977

TV's influence on sports and other things

Would that big sports event have happened even if there were no TV? This is a simplified version of the questions a House subcommittee will be considering this week in hearings on the networks' influence over sports. Such questions go far beyond athletics to the whole question of TV's interaction with "real life."

It might be a simple thing like repeating the presenting of an award for the convenience of the cameras. It might be persuading the participants in a news event to do something a little different or at a different time. Or it might be -- in any realm -- whatever has been happening in sports to raise a key question for the subcommittee chairman: "Is the public seeing an independent event covered by electronic journalists or an event staged for and controlled by television?"

Certainly a lot of sports still goes on in the United States without the lucrative presence of TV. But sports coverage is one of the things TV does best, and most people would not cut back on the events that do get televised. The fun can only be enhanced by the restoration of any lost authenticity discovered in the hearings.

TV is a two-way street, of course. If it uses the real world for its purposes, the real world in turn tries to manipulate TV. Politicians and other public-relations men quickly learn to time what they want the public to know for maximum exposure on the network news -- and to bury other items by slipping them out after deadlines or during weekends.

Columnist William Safire, demon follower of the Bert Lance affair, gives this as one of the reasons for Mr. Lance's "apparent triumph" in his climactic Senate hearings: "The decision of committee Democrats, on the advice of Lance lawyer Clark Clifford, to postpone the most devastating questioning about the tax-free use of the bank aircraft until 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon was inspired. The picture of Lance at his worst, defending tax-deducted trips to football games and the Mardi Gras, was not on TV's evening news, and was generally too late for the news magazines and most editions of Sunday newspapers."

Clearly it is not only TV but other channels of communication that interact with the content of their stories. Newspapers have been known to shape the news, and would-be newsmakers to manipulate the papers.

The opportunity for distortion is always there. Everyone in the media has a responsibility to preserve the authenticity of events. The hearings on TV and sports will be worth it if they encourage this responsibility and the public demand for it. --*Christian Science Monitor*

Congress's treats

Remember the revelations from Washington about congressmen hiring, at the taxpayers' expense, young and pretty secretaries who didn't know how to type? One good effect of those disclosures is this year's new regulation which requires members of the House of Representatives to make public itemized reports on how they have been spending their annual \$2,000 official business expense allowances.

The representatives in the House are allowed to make up their own minds about which expense items should be considered legitimate and therefore chargeable to us taxpayers. Certainly there can be no argument about such items as electric light and telephone bills for local district offices, or travel between Washington and their districts.

But how about some of the other "official" expenses, made public this year for the first time, such as \$146.50 for a Little League baseball players luncheon or the \$332.50 for 35 engraved "Congressional Medals of Merit" awarded by New York's Congressman John Wylder to outstanding school students in his district? Another New York Representative, Elizabeth Holtzman, billed the taxpayers \$1291 for catering and \$106.14 for drinks served at her inauguration day party. And one congressman billed the government \$17.50 for a tuxedo rented for a Saint Patrick's Day parade that was rained out.

It might be well for us to keep an eye on these expense accounts, which are published in reports by the Clerk of the House of Representatives at our expense. When the padding seems to be a little too thick, let your congressman know about it. --*The Boston Herald American*

Jimmy and me

Some say President Carter's attention to detail could be a drag on his larger presidential responsibilities. But surely he is providing a proper example to the populace -- no small part of a chief executive's job -- when he tries to keep aides up to the mark in syntax, spelling and arithmetic. If the President doesn't care, who will?

He reportedly indicates corrections on memos. And recently he sent a handwritten memo on a "matter of grammar" noting a persistent problem "for Susan and me (not Susan and I)." Susan Clough is Mr. Carter's secretary, and the error was obviously that familiar one affecting people trying to avoid the childhood no-no of saying, "Susan and me went to the movies."

See, you don't use "me" as the subject of the verb ("went"). But you do use "me" as the object of the preposition ("for"). Our object in raising this subject is simply to wish Mr. Carter well in trying to correct the things that can be so easily corrected while he continues to work on the hard ones. --*Christian Science Monitor*

Is it going to be Halloween all year 'round?



Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, November 6, 1952

Incomplete unofficial returns from Tuesday's voting over the nation yesterday indicated that General Dwight D. Eisenhower had received majorities in 38 of the 48 states for a total of 431 electoral votes and would become the next President.

The Hoke High Bucks finally broke their non-winning streak last Friday afternoon with a resounding 26-7 victory over Erwin. McLeod and Wilcox starred for the Bucks.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

I'm sure that by now you are aware that President Jimmy Carter is actively engaged in a massive public relations campaign designed to win Senate approval of the Administration's Panama Canal treaties that Ambassadors Bunker and Linowitz recently negotiated with the Panamanians. Did you know that certain members of the United States House of Representatives have filed suit in Federal Court challenging the constitutionality of the new treaties?

The suit, if I understand it correctly, was filed because these Congressmen feel that if the "give-away" of our canal is to be judged legal, if the transaction is to be final, valid, and binding, the treaties must receive approval from both the Senate and the house of Representatives.

This really does concern the Generals and the Admirals, because they are afraid to oppose the treaties, because they are afraid of their jobs, but many of the former top Brass have retired; consequently most of them have now testified before the Senate committee in opposition to the treaties, and after all this does concern mostly the Navy. The Generals and the Admirals of the Reserve Officers Association who were polled concerning the treaty....14 said they were in favor of the treaty; however, 302 said they were opposed to the treaties and to the giveaway of the Canal.

The United States of America, does not, in reality, have a two Ocean Navy, and even if we did, would it be enough for our 5 Ocean responsibility? Could we cover the 5 Oceans adequately without the priority passage through the canal now afforded to the United States Naval Ships? Why this Canal saves about 8,000 miles and up to 30 days in moving cargos from one coast to the other. If the Navy needed Air Support and needed it in a hurry for Naval Operations in that area, the Canal Zone offers the only land-based aircraft in the area. The Canal Zone has the only ship repair facility within 1,600 miles on the Atlantic side, and 2,500 miles on the Pacific side.

Our U.S. Navy has only 12 ships that are too large to pass through the canal; however 450 ships can use the Canal that belongs to our Navy.

Please write to your Congressman and to both Senators and ask them to vote against this giveaway of the Panama Canal.

Sincerely,
Bill Williamson

the Bucks.

Airman 3C Neil A. McNeill arrived here last week from Lowry AFB, Colorado, where he has been stationed for some time.

Josephine Hall, Hoke County Home Demonstration Agent, has just received notice from the Crosley Corporation of Cincinnati, Ohio, that she is one of the ten winners in the Crosley Better Homemaking Contest for September.

After skipping a week there was a full day of work for the county recorder's court Tuesday. Judge Harry Greene held court all day and called a special session for this morning in order to clear the docket of more cases before Superior Court next week.

15 years ago

Thursday, November 8, 1962

Coach Jim Hickey, the hard-pressed character builder at the University of North Carolina, has accepted an invitation to speak at the annual Booster Club Awards banquet, to be held this year December 3 at the McLauchlin School.

Spurred on by a tremendous showing in the Industrial Division, the Hoke United Fund headed into the last week of its campaign for \$17,900 with a grand total of \$16,072.82 reported.

The chairman of the Hoke ABC Board, veteran school man K.A. MacDonald has submitted his resignation "to take effect immediately upon the appointment and qualification of my successor."

There will be another test of the Civil Defense siren this Friday at noon, C.D. Director Alfred Cole announced.

In record numbers for an off-year election, Hoke voters Tuesday approved all six constitutional amendments and piled up, 1,000 vote margins for Democratic nominees.

Only the Newspaper



Only the newspaper gives so much attention to the activities of youth -- with more than 57 per cent of responding newspapers printing special youth sections, pages or columns.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

Probably no issue of recent times has had more emotional impact on people generally than the attempt by our government to agree upon Panama Canal Treaties. My office received literally thousands of pieces of mail, mostly postcards which are the result of an organized campaign, protesting the signing of any treaty which would cause us to lose control of the Canal.

Let me say as plainly as I can that I will not lend my name to any agreement that reduces the ability of the United States to defend the Canal or which reduces our right to use the Canal in times of peace or war. But having been to Panama and seen the situation there in person, I am convinced that we need to make some changes there, whether it be done by treaty or some other method.

A treaty agreement, of course, is a two-way street. I will have to be convinced that the treaties, in the form in which the Senate finally considers them, will be in the best interests of the United States as well as Panama before I will vote for it.

The last four Presidents--Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter--have felt that these changes should be included in a treaty that would be fair to the interests of both Panama and the United States.

What we have in Panama is a ten-mile strip of land which divides the country and which is inhabited by Americans whose manicured lawns and country club life is in stark contrast to the living conditions of the Panamanians who live outside the Canal Zone. The natives there enter the Zone as lowly paid servants of Americans or for low-level jobs on the Canal. They resent this disparity, just as we would resent any such situation in our country.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



MURPHY TO MANTEO... Across our littered desk comes *The Cherokee Scout* from Murphy and *The Coastland Times* from Manteo. In recent issues of the two newspapers we scanned to note the problems in the two counties more than 500 miles apart.

On October 25 a "Governor's Conference" was held in Murphy to ferret out and determine the wants and needs in that area. The message came out pretty loud and clear -- the completion of the four-lane road from Murphy to Asheville.

Cherokee Scout Editor Wally Avett may have keynoted the meeting when he said: "I don't think we want a Detroit here, or another Gatlingburg, but I think that reasonable industrial growth and tourism will be encouraged by completion of the four-lane between here and Asheville. Go back and tell the Governor we need the new highway more than anything else."

At the Manteo meeting, held one week later, the term "balanced economy" surfaced and re-surfaced throughout the meeting. Nelson Bortz contended that a year-round population is a key to stable economy and that emphasis should be put on planning and development of year-round services and facilities.

Jim Hardin felt that a good community college would encourage a steady Dare population, saying, "Our young people are our greatest asset, but they leave the area for college and never return."

Dr. E. Elton Jones, an East Carolina University economist said: "I think Dare County is going to get its problems solved whether the state helps or not."

COURT CANDIDATES... Associate Justices Dan K. Moore and I. Beverly Lake will be retiring from the North Carolina Supreme Court at the end of their present terms in January, 1979 due to the mandatory retirement age for Supreme Court justices.

It appears that their seats will not go begging for the lack of candidates from the State Appeals Court across the street facing capitol square.

Three of the nine Court of Appeals Judges have already let it be known that they will be candidates for an opening on the State Supreme Court.

Court of Appeals Judge David H. Britt has been advising friends for several weeks that he will be a candidate for Justice Lake's seat on the Supreme Court.

The fact is that we are in an untenable position there and we simply can't perpetuate a life style created back in 1903 when we were able to use gunboat diplomacy on our neighbors to the south. History just doesn't stand still.

We are faced with three options in Panama. We can pull out and leave a vacuum, which is unthinkable; we can try to maintain our present position and probably have another Vietnam on our hands, or we can negotiate a sensible agreement with Panama that will let us use and defend the Canal while allowing the people of Panama the dignity we ourselves would demand in our own land.

New treaties have been negotiated, and overwhelmingly ratified by the Panamanians, despite opposition by the Panamanian Communist Party. It now falls to the Senate to determine whether the treaties preserve our own interest well enough.

This issue, which concerns not just the treaties but our whole worldwide foreign policy, is too important to be solved by slogans or emotional outbursts. The whole world is going to be watching as America wrestles with its conscience on this difficult issue.

My record on national defense will bear any scrutiny. I supported the B-1 bomber and want us to keep our troops in Korea. I oppose resuming relationships with Cuba and I don't want us to abandon the Chinese on Taiwan. I voted for a strong national defense budget.

And I say as earnestly as I can that we must make some changes in Panama. It is the right and the just course of action. The question now is whether the new treaties strike that difficult balance between our strategic interest, and our interest in being good neighbors.

Appeals Court Judge Robert M. Martin Jr. has been writing letters to friends over the state saying that he will be a candidate for one of the seats being vacated on the Supreme Court, but did not say which.

Chief Court of Appeals Judge Walter E. Brock, a native of Wadesboro, has let it be known that he plans to run for one of the seats being vacated on the Supreme Court.

While Britt has staked out the Lake seat, Brock and Martin have not designated which of the two seats being vacated they will seek. With Britt staking the Lake seat to try for, it puts either Brock or Martin having to choose which Appeals Court colleague to challenge -- not exactly an ideal vantage-point from which to launch a campaign.

The field is wide-open for other judges, lawyers and laymen over the state to run for Supreme Court seats, and no doubt others will feel the call between now and filing deadline next year.

Birth dates of the Supreme Court justices are: Chief Justice Susie Sharp, July 7, 1907; Justice Lake, August 29, 1906; Justice Moore, April 2, 1906; Justice Joe Branch, July 5, 1916; Justice Frank Huskins, Feb. 10, 1911; Justice J. William Copeland, June 16, 1914; Justice James G. Exum, Jr., Sept. 14, 1935.

INFLATION...It looks like we have cancerous inflation, resembling Topsy's growth in fairytale. The latest monthly report showed wholesale prices up 0.8 percent in October which translated into 9.6 percent annual rate, it being the biggest rise in the wholesale market since the 1.1 percent increase in April. If President Carter has any hidden way to halt inflation he had better make use of it before the run-away train is out-of-sight. Practically ever major piece of legislation enacted this year tends to fan the embers of inflation.

NATIONAL FARM-CITY WEEK, NOV. 18-24

FARM AND CITY



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