

The News - Journal



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Protecting the press

A landmark decision handed down by a federal appeals court in New York this week provides badly needed support for the besieged principle of freedom of the press. The three-judge panel ruled, in effect, that the U.S. Constitution protects a journalist's thought process -- the questioning, debating, and probing of hypotheses and alternatives -- that go into the preparation of a news story.

The 2-to-1 decision, overturning a lower court ruling, involved a libel suit filed against the Columbia Broadcasting System, and a CBS producer's refusal to divulge his thoughts and opinions in preparing a 1973 "60 Minutes" program. Former Lt. Col. Anthony Herbert charged the program had maliciously maligned him by casting doubt on his charges that American troops in Vietnam had covered up atrocities. The appeals court, however, wisely detected that the question went to the very heart of the editorial process. If the producer were forced to disclose his opinions while preparing the program, a potentially dangerous precedent would have been set -- one that could have the effect of discouraging reporters and editors from tackling controversial subjects, aware that their thoughts might later have to be justified in court.

This welcome decision comes at a time when freedom of the press has been under severe attack, particularly by trial judges following the now almost common practice of issuing "gag orders" that prohibit the news media from publishing or reporting on developments in trials. The protection of a defendant's right to a fair trial and the right of the public to have access to information affecting the community welfare have come into frequent conflict, with the unfortunate resultant reliance on "gag orders."

However, three proposals included in legislation before Congress to revise the U.S. criminal code would help lift some restrictions on press freedom. Under these, the media would be freed from the threat of criminal contempt charges if they defy a gag order later found to be invalid -- i.e., a judge found to have gone beyond his authority. Possession of government documents for purposes of making them public would become a valid defense against charges of attempt to defraud the government. And newspapers would be provided with a defense against charges of receiving stolen property if they could show their intent was to make it public.

These measures deserve support. The Founding Fathers signaled the importance they placed on freedom of the press by ensuring it in the very First Amendment in the Constitution's Bill of Rights. With press freedom, of course, come the implicit responsibility of the news media to act responsibly. This free flow and exchange of ideas is crucial to the success and preservation of a democratic society. --
Christian Science Monitor

Filling a four-day week

A new study of the four-day work week confirms our instinct that a person can take only so much leisure. Scholars found that four-day and five-day workers gave about equal time to recreation. Part of the reason the four-day workers didn't play more was that they worked longer hours each day. But they apparently also tended to find three-day weekends too long for just fun and games -- and they gave more time to things like taking care of the children and volunteer work.

Ain't it the truth? As deadlines approach we become regularly convinced that Parkinson's Law was right in specifying that work expands to fill the time available. But now we know that recreation does not do the same thing. After a little fun comes a feeling that there are things that need doing. As technology releases people for even more free time in the future, the old GI concept of flat-out R and R (rest and recreation) will probably give way to a mixed bag of self-imposed tasks and diversions. Continued learning will be part of it, and perhaps various approaches to improving homes and communities. The borders between work and play will become less defined.

Yes, cynics may contradict such prospects with visions of bread-and-circuses-of-the-tube-conquers-all. But we prefer the clues from the four-day workers who already are resisting such a future. --
Christain Science Monitor

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, November 13, 1952
At their meeting on November 3 the town commissioners of Raeford heard M.R. Mills of the county health department explained a proposed rat control program for the town.

Cpl. Leonard Ellis has returned to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Ellis after 18 months of service in Korea.

From Poole's Medley:
We do not appreciate the apples, grapes, oranges and other fruit we have the year round. We used to make persimmon beer, or at least we called it beer. It might have tasted worse, but I don't know how.

15 years ago

Thursday, November 15, 1962
Final and official election returns showed popular Clerk of Court Ed Smith bading all candidates on the county ballot with 1,216 votes.

Rockfish leader Gilbert M. Ray a retired U.S. Army Major, is the new appointee to the Hoke ABC Board.

Just like the boll weevil in the famous song, Raeford's crack Scout Troop 403 is "lookin' for a home."

The United Fund drive is over the top!

'There was a breakdown out in the Sozinskiy factory. Remind me to call Detroit'



The Christian Science Monitor

HOKUM

By Charles Blackburn

Not long ago I attended a meeting of a governmental agency in my hometown to learn the latest words from Washington. For years the bureaucratic Sanhedrin has maintained a list of its ten most popular words, a list that is indispensable when doing business in Washington.

Escalate, viable, hopefully, and stonewall were once at the top of the chart. Some words linger for months; an asterisk appears beside up-and-comers. Others drop from the Top Ten and find work only among the lowliest of civil servants and journalists, who don't know any better.

In official circles the list is called "The Cardinal Number Between Nine and Eleven Speech Sounds Most Often Articulated and Most Widely Perceived Auditorily Along the Banks of the Potomac."

When I heard that the Regional Director, just back from the Capital, was going to speak at the Holiday Inn, I knew he would be bringing the "words" with him. He wouldn't give out all of them, but he'd drop a few to boost morale among the troops.

The director was a pro in this word game. If he came for a visit, he wouldn't say you had a nice house. He'd say you had a nice single-family-dwelling-unit. I took a seat on the back row next to a friend who worked in the agency.

In no time I had three of the "words": under-inclusive (not enough), over-inclusive (too many), and accessed, as in "we have been accessed certain hold-harmless funds." In a former life, *access* was a noun.

These three were mere teasers, though. You could tell he was working up to something. Then the director held up a spiral notebook and said, with emphasis, that it was the latest "raw-data-resource-document" from the head office.



Read Proverbs 3:13-15

"Happy he who has found wisdom, and the man who has acquired understanding." (Proverbs 3:13 NEB)

Many years ago, I began my teaching career in a high school. I listened carefully as the superintendent discussed the various courses of study for the new school year. A new course was to be introduced that year called "Developing Character." A new teacher asked, "Is this a semester course for beginning freshmen?" "Indeed not," replied the superintendent. "We will teach it all four years. You can't build good character in one semester."

Often this thought has come back to me, especially in this push-button age in which we find ourselves. It is important to remember that the factors in our society to which we give our highest value demand time and dedication to be achieved. Olympic medal winners do not learn their skills in ten easy lessons, nor by pushing some buttons. Years of steady practice and determination to do one's best preceded every medal. Does not our growth as Christian disciples happen in the same way?

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
Christian maturity is a daily process.

***copyright--
THE UPPER ROOM --Marie Bale
(Redlands, California)

He took a long count to let it sink in. A hush fell over the room. The only sound was the scratching of pencil lead on paper as everyone took down the latest word. It was a plum. It had to be in the top five, maybe even number three. The director beamed at his men. They knew he loved them.

I was close to tears myself. Raw-data-resource-document had a certain beauty to it. The boys in Washington were building impressive things with words. Only, like Stonehenge, you had to wonder what it meant.

"What did he say it was, John?" I asked.

"It's a report," my friend translated, looking sadder but wiser.

I had to take out my handkerchief. There wasn't a dry eye in the dwelling-unit.

For a number of years there has been talk of making the District of Columbia a state. Under-clusive. If we make it a nation, perhaps we can conquer it. Even if we lose the war, the terms of our surrender would stand to be an improvement.

Puppy Creek

Philosopher

Dear editor:
People who think everybody -- not just kids but everybody -- is watching too much television these days have been greatly encouraged by the latest figures on the size of the audience the tube is now attracting.

According to a survey just released, since March of this year both day and night TV viewing has dropped 3.4 per cent per month. The anti-TV people are elated.

This got me to thinking. What are the people who've cut down on the TV viewing now doing with their time? Has it improved them any?

I can't tell any difference.

I know they say it's more ennobling at the close of day to watch a sunset than Walter Cronkite, but while there's been no survey made, I doubt if sunset watching has gone up as TV watching has come down. Furthermore, if some more are watching sunsets, despite the fact it may lead to nothing more than bad poetry, is it any less irksome to have the view interrupted by an incoming jet than it is to have Walter Cronkite interrupted by a commercial for false teeth? Not to mention some of the more outrageous ads.

On the other hand, it may be that TV watching has come down because lots of sets have blown a tube and the owners are saving their money to apply on their utility bills.

Still other people say TV watching has come down because the programs have gotten worse. I doubt it. Programs already were as bad as they could get. It's said that TV producers design shows to appeal to the minds of 12-year-olds. This is wrong. TV shows are produced by people with 12-year-old minds.

Finally, other anti-TV people say cutting down on TV watching gives us a chance to enjoy the pleasures of the lost art of conversation.

I have listened to some of that conversation. Turn on the set. Let's see what's on tonight.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

Last week the Senate passed a bill that is supposed to solve the financial troubles of the Social Security system, which everyone agrees must be kept solvent. I voted against the bill because I don't believe it will work.

Because the Senate bill differs from the one passed by the House, neither will be sent to the President to sign into law until the differences have been resolved. A conference committee is now trying to do that.

We were told during debate that the Social Security system was headed for a \$90 billion deficit through 1985. It was my feeling that we in the Senate should have tackled the problem head on, found ways to raise the necessary money and made sure that the system's rising costs were checked. Instead, the Senate voted to increase costs even more and failed to provide for anywhere near enough money.

I believe that within the next five years we will have the problem before us once again, and I'm not the only member who feels that way. Not a single Senator from those states with the highest percentage of retired people voted for the bill.

Those favoring the bill came armed with some predictions that I would like to see happen, but which I'm not sure will. They assumed that unemployment would drop to five percent, inflation to four percent and that real wages (after accounting for inflation) would rise two percent each year. That seems to me to be real wishful thinking. They predicted the birth rate would be 2.1 children for each family. Well, the birth rate now is 1.7, and it has been declining. The lower birth rate means less workers and less money to finance the system. I doubt that it will rise simply because Congress passed a bill.

The Senate bill, unlike the House bill, increases the maximum income that can be taxed for employ-

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



POST ELECTION REVIEW...
The Nov. 8 elections in North Carolina and throughout the country are worthy of far more than passing remarks.

There were major upsets along with the predictable.

In two of the large cities in North Carolina, major upsets took place in the election of mayors -- Charlotte and Raleigh.

In Charlotte Democrat Jim Whittington, a long-time council member was pitted against Ken Harris. Until the last days it looked like a run-away for Whittington, but the vote tally was quite a surprise: Whittington, 19,484 to Harris' 30,786. While Mecklenburg is a highly-registered Democrat county, it must be remembered that it has a history of independent voting. For many years Mecklenburg voted for Charlie Jones for Congress over the Democrat candidates.

An early poll showed Whittington with a substantial lead, but the wind began to change, ending up with a smashing victory for Harris.

In Raleigh former State Senator and House member Jyles Coggins was slated to win re-election, but things began to change as the campaign neared the end with the black caucus switching to Mrs. Isabella W. Cannon, a 73-year-old retired library administrator who won by a vote of 14,508 to 13,315 for Coggins.

In Gastonia, T. Jeffers, 66-year-old black man who had been appointed by the council to fill the unexpired term of the late mayor, won big, with 3,570 votes, to 1,675 for a two-term council member, Paul Avert, and 498 for Paul Stewart, a Gastonia contractor.

In Belmont, Sister Mary Barbara Sullivan, a nun at Sacred Heart Convent, was elected to the City Council. In Chadbourn, Mrs. Ruby Rabon became the first woman in history to be elected to the Chadbourn town council.

In Southern Pines, Councilman Emanuel Douglass, the council's only black member, led the field, receiving the highest number of votes, 1032 to 1,000 for Mrs. Hope Brogden, the only woman member of the council.

LOW VOTE... Martin Donsky of the Raleigh News and Observer has figured that just 25 per cent of North Carolina's 2.3 million registered voters participated in the Nov. 8 election in the referendum on gubernatorial succession. The low turnout and close vote on the issue means the decision to allow N.C. governors and lieutenant

governors more than three times that for employees. One Senator said during debate that this won't hurt employers -- they will pass it on in higher cost to consumers. That worries me, because higher costs are hurting people on fixed incomes more than anything else now, and this is just asking for more inflation.

Through amendments, the Senate voted to allow general revenue funds to find their way into the system. I feel this is a mistake, because Social Security was founded on the principle that it would be self-supporting. Using general revenues brings it into the same category as welfare.

Another point on which I found myself in the minority was in dealing with earned income. Now a person is penalized by having his benefits reduced if he or she earns over \$3,000 a year. An amendment to abolish this limit would have cost money, so a small additional tax increase, only 0.05 percent was offered. The Senate rejected this, but took off all limits at age 70, which will still cost money. But no tax increase to meet the loss was approved. I feel that if we aren't willing to pay taxes to support a program, then we had better not approve it.

The whole approach to the Social Security problem disturbed me. The program will cost \$104 billion this year; \$116 billion next year, and \$130 billion the next, and so on. But there was very little thought or discussion on how to control future costs.

I think we acted too hastily and we will regret it. I tried to get action postponed until early next year and argued on the Senate floor for delay. After all, the bill that passed won't start to raise taxes until 1979, so there wasn't that much urgency.

I think the bill was rushed through and I think it was a mistake.

governors to seek a second consecutive term was made by only 12.2 per cent of the registered voters. Where, oh where, was the silent majority!

ELSEWHERE... In Virginia Charles S. "Chuck" Robb, a son-in-law of the late President Lyndon Johnson was elected lieutenant governor in that conservative state. Virginia, for the second time in a row, elected a conservative Republican, John N. Dalton for governor. He succeeds Mills E. Godwin.

Ohio voters defeated "election-day registration" in a state-wide referendum, an innovation backed by President Carter and Vice President Mondale! Kentucky and New York in the state-wide referendums rejected proposed constitutional conventions.

SENATORIAL... Last week Luther H. Hodges, Jr., an announced candidate for the Democratic U.S. Senatorial nomination to oppose Jesse Helms next year, announced a blue chip, 46-member finance committee with C.D. Spangler, Jr. of Charlotte, and Pat Spangler, of Shelby, heading up the money drive.

Joe Felmet, also a candidate for the Democratic U.S. Senatorial nomination, seems to have hitched his kite to the "Wilmington Ten" by offering to cooperate with two U.S. Representatives who are trying to obtain freedom for the group. Felmet said: "A major part of my campaign for the U.S. Senate is soliciting signatures for your petition to free the Ten."

EDMINSTEN OUT, INGRAM IN? As this column was typed it appeared that Attorney General Rufus Edmisten had definitely decided against entering the race for the U.S. Senatorial nomination, but that his colleague on the Council of State, Insurance Commissioner John Ingram was ready to jump in.

In 1976 John Ingram was opposed for renomination by Joe Johnson and in his campaign had only meagre funds while his opponent was well-financed. But when the votes were counted, Ingram had won big. The 1977 General Assembly trimmed Ingram's powers to deal with the low and middle-income people of North Carolina.

If John Ingram becomes a candidate for U.S. Senator, or most anything else, lots of people say you better not under-estimate him with his vote-getting ability with the masses of people.