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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1977

Secrecy in the voting booth

Until we read the news story from Ann Arbor the other day, it had not occurred to us that you could be sent to jail for refusing to tell how you voted in an election. But a judge did just that recently to Susan R. VanHattum, a 21-year-old student at the University of Michigan. He ordered her to tell him who she had voted for in a city election. She refused, and he sent her to jail for contempt of court. She was released after an hour and a half, but she will be back in court soon to defend herself further against the contempt charge.

The judge's rationale was that he needed to know how 20 people cast their ballots in a city election last spring. They voted illegally -- through no fault of their own but because of a mistake in the voter-registration office -- and the result of the election is being contested. If the judge can find out how these 20 persons voted, he can deduct their votes from the final tallies and resolve a serious election contest without either requiring a new election or putting into office a mayor who may have been chosen by invalid votes.

Now that may well be as good an argument as any that could be made for violating the secrecy of the ballot box. As far as we are concerned, it is not nearly good enough. If voters are to cast their ballots in secret, how they cast them must remain secret unless they choose to tell. The government -- in the form of a President, a state legislature or a judge -- has no business even asking how a particular person voted. The idea that government should put people in jail for refusing to answer that question is alien to the principles on which this nation operates. If a judge can compel a young woman to reveal how she voted for the particular reason advanced in this case, another judge can find another reason for compelling someone else to make a similar revelation. Miss VanHattum ought to get a medal for her willingness to go to jail rather than submit to such an abuse of power. --The Washington Post

So long, Severeid

CBS without Severeid? It's enough to contradict the title of the long-time commentator's most celebrated book, "Not So Wild a Dream." If only it were a dream, and tomorrow night, when we wake up, there would be Eric Severeid on the tube again. TV's answer to antiquity's oracle at Delphi.

Not that Severeid has ever pretended to oracular powers or deific sources. It's just that his formidable gray presence on the screen gives his words the quality of being carved in stone, especially to younger viewers who never knew him any other way.

But to the generation that has followed Severeid through the years, though a bit older or younger than the mandatory retirement age he has just reached, the Severeid story is much more than the void to be left on the CBS evening news. It goes back at least to the call to the young newspaperman from one of the few to leave a comparable gap in broadcasting, Ed Murrow, to join that band of correspondents that adorned radio before World War II.

Always considering himself more of a writer than a performer, Severeid is really an essayist who happens to have gone electronic. He has perfected his own literary form, blending fact and opinion in two minutes that somehow convey more depth than the law of space and time allows.

In recent years, the opinions have sometimes not seemed so clear-cut as in the Severeid of memory. This impression probably reflects what he has said about the increasing complexity of events and issues since the World War II days when right and wrong seemed so much simpler.

What we have seen and been challenged to grow along with is a man trying to apply a consistent devotion to the truth to a time of enormous change and threat to the truth. A clear-cut opinion is not easy in the '70s. Needless to say, we want to see a post-CBS Severeid continue in his quest, as he plans to do, along the lines of a recent speech:

"I have tried to remain objective, always aware, however, that objectivity and neutrality are not the same thing. Objectivity is a way of thinking about an issue, not the summation of the thought."
--Christian Science Monitor

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, December 4, 1952
When called on the telephone Tuesday Congressman C.B. Deane, who was at his home in Rockingham, said that he was more in the dark about what was going on here in Hoke County in the way of a survey by Army Engineers, and to the purpose of the survey.

The Hoke High Bucks opened their 1952-53 basketball schedule with a bang Tuesday night as they took both ends of a doubleheader with Rowland.

From Rockfish News:
A.W. Wood says he will have to

get in some more nails, so there will be seats enough for all the Nail Keg gang if this cold weather continues, so far most people are busy with hog killings.

Most of the plans for the appearance of Santa Claus and the big gala Christmas parade set for next Wednesday afternoon have been completed and indications are that it will be bigger and better than the one last year.

15 years ago

Thursday, December 6, 1962

A wave of fires, almost certainly the work of arsonists, burned over 500 acres of Hoke timber and leveled the Hoke Exchange feed mill Sunday.

'Everyplace is either too hot or too cold'



The Christian Science Monitor

HOKUM

By Charles Blackburn

The first annual Reindeer Hunt was held this past weekend in Anson County by a friend of mine who practices law in Wadesboro. It could just as easily have been a dragon or a unicorn hunt. Bill Capel, hunt organizer, noted that reindeer are seen in the county only one night a year in late December when they power a tiny sleigh for a chubby elf.

The hunt was kind of unusual. No one got up at 5 a.m. to stand around the cold woods. We "hunted" by night. It didn't require a license. You didn't need boots or a flak jacket. No firearms were involved. When it was over, you didn't have to lie about all the shots you'd passed up for humanitarian reasons. The only thing we stalked was a bottle. In fact, the whole unsullied purpose of the hunt was to take a drink. No one even thought about assaulting wildlife.

The Anson County Hunt Club is one of those organizations that sneers at charters and bylaws. It denies absolutely the existence of community spirit. Everyone wanted to be treasurer, for mercenary

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
In these troublesome times, although as far as I can tell nearly all times in the history of the world have been troublesome, there are some things that take priority over others. For example, when the networks interrupted a football game a couple of weeks ago to flash some news about Sadat's trip to Israel, telephone switchboards at TV stations all around the country lit up with protests from sports fans.

You see, the Mid-East will never become fully civilized until it becomes normal for a network to say, "We interrupt this war to bring you the score of the Super Bowl game."

Therefore, recognizing what takes priority, I'd like to plunge right into a grave matter now bothering professional football. It's the matter of penalties.

Players are saying the officials are making some bad calls and missing some good ones. They'll call some holding penalties, especially at crucial times, and miss three-fourths of the others. When a fight breaks out, they'll throw out the wrong guy.

The players are being unreasonable. How can they expect five or six officials to keep up with twenty-two players jumbled up on a football field 100 yards long? And all trying to win by whatever means because their salary depends on it.

But like Congress, most people had rather fuss and fume about something than do something about it.

Actually the solution is simple. Every game should have twenty-two officials, each assigned to just one player with instruction to never take his eyes off of him.

While I realize that on nearly every play yellow flags flying in the air would look like balloons being released at half-time, you've got to admit few rule infractions would go undetected.

At the same time, attendance might drop off disastrously as fans discovered they couldn't see the players for the officials. It'd be like going to a car-racing event and never seeing any smash-ups. I give up. Next week I'll solve the Mid-East problem.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

reasons; but since no one paid any dues, the office lost its attraction. The Hunt Club joins an illustrious group of societies whose goals are as muddled as its members.

Every year, for example, The Man Will Never Fly Society gets together on the outer banks of North Carolina to march in less than precision formation over Jockies Ridge while chanting the society motto: "Birds fly, men drink." The society convenes on the anniversary of the Wright brothers' alleged flight. The top brass from the Air Force and commercial airlines usually show up to denounce aviation as a grand illusion. The meeting lasts for two days and not one item of business is transacted. The president of the society says he began it all because, in the past, there were never enough people on the outer banks in December to have a party.

The Flat Earth Society is no less solemn in its belief. You won't find any of its members booked on around the world cruises. It was thought that the space missions would silence this group forever. On the contrary, they continue to thumb their noses at all scientific intelligence. Pictures of Earth from space show it to be a flat disk, they say, defying anyone to prove otherwise.

In London, the Baker Street Irregulars meet regularly to quiz each other on Sherlock Holmes trivia and to poke their beaks in a glass. The Baker Street Irregulars were those ragtag rowdies that assisted the famous detective in *The Sign of the Four*.

There is even a society of Spartan scholars who claim to have read all of Edmund Spenser's 16th century allegorical epic *The Faerie Queene*. Spencer told his friend Sir Walter Raleigh that he planned to write the poem in 12 books, with another 12 to follow if those were favorably received. English students the world over annually rejoice that he only completed six.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:
Being a former citizen and concerned person of the development and growth of Hoke County, I wanted to take a few minutes to write this letter. I am presently living in South Florida and it's always a thrill to receive your weekly paper. I usually have it sent to me by relatives who still reside in Raeford. During the past Thanksgiving Holidays I was home visiting family and friends when I received your November 24th issue. The one article that caught my eye most was the Editors note in which appeared an editorial written by Peter Young -- Thanks for what? -- Thanks to whom? Raeford is very fortunate because it has things that other cities across this great nation don't have. It has peace among its people, and solitude among its peers. Nowhere have I ever lived that I've had the friends and peace of mind than Hoke County. The people here are warm and friendly, and bias among races and religions are nil.

I would return to Hoke County to live but my job here has a great impact on my life. I guess the saying goes true that once you leave home you can never return.

My heart is with every Hoke County citizen, and every fine worker on this small but excellent paper.

Sincerely,
Franklin R. Collier
Hollywood, Florida



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

Recently there has been much written and said about the impact on our economy of imported goods -- especially imports from Japan.

American steel companies, their profits slipping and one actually recording the largest three-month loss in the nation's industrial history, are calling for restrictions on the steel tonnage imported into the country.

There have been charges that Japan is "dumping" televisions and electronic equipment into the American market. Dumping means sending the goods here to be sold cheaper than they can be purchased in the country of their origin.

One American television manufacturer, Zenith, which has always prided itself on its American workmanship, has announced it is opening its first foreign plant in Taiwan, assertedly because labor is cheaper there.

There is a great temptation for the government, under the pressure of the urgings of American business interests, to place quotas on the amount of foreign steel and manufactured items that are imported.

But as a North Carolinian who was raised on a farm, I am keenly aware that international trade is a two-way street. Of course I am concerned that our steel companies are in trouble, although there is more than a little evidence that a great deal of their ills are the result of their own poor management. But protective tariffs can also be imposed two ways and the nation's, and North Carolina's, farmers could be damaged in the process.

The effect of international sales

has been demonstrated vividly during the past few weeks. The Soviet Union, which had its poorest wheat harvest in recent years, was forced to come to America to buy grain and the demand that this created pushed the price of wheat up almost a dollar a bushel.

International demand for corn has raised the price of that grain sharply during the same period; and farmers, who are having economic problems, to put it mildly, got the advantage of the higher prices.

While North Carolina is not a large grain state, compared to the states in the Midwest, we are the largest tobacco state in the union and every year buyers from foreign countries, Japan included, flock to our markets to bid on the flue-cured leaf. Japan is also one of the countries which buys soybeans, another large North Carolina crop. So large have these international sales become that the loss of any substantial portion of them could have a serious impact on the North Carolina farmer who depends on tobacco and soybeans for his living.

I want our steel companies and our television manufacturers to do well, because our whole economy suffers if they don't.

But, I don't want our government to take any step that could harm those who grow North Carolina's farm crops.

In all of our trade talks with Japan and other countries who have gathered a larger share of the American market during the past few years, I think that we should remember that imposing tariffs or import quotas can react against the nation that does it.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



NCSU...Last Friday I attended a meeting of the Public Relations Advisory Committee of North Carolina State University Development Council in Raleigh with some 20 members in attendance. Chairman of the Committee, former Raleigh Mayor, Travis H. Tomlinson presided. A number of subjects were discussed with NCSU Public Relations Director, Hardy Berry, leading off with remarks on "Hard Tomatoes, Hard Times" Syndrome in which he seemed to decry the thought that the improved variety of tomatoes were not on par with some of the tomatoes grown before modern propagation took place.

Building needs were also discussed, and while we had never given it a thought before, it was pointed out (with one lady present) that more toilet facilities were needed for women than for men per capita.

It seemed that at the Carter Stadium the toilet facilities were equal but that while there was lines of women for the ladies toilets there was not for the men's.

Discussing Title 9 which requires equal facilities for the girls, it was pointed out that for promising young men and women in the athletic fields ample scholarships were available.

The vet hospital was discussed and with only some \$2 million having been appropriated, the realization of a vet school which will initially cost some \$9 million, it seems pretty far from fruition with so many other demands which seem to stand ahead of it.

One encouraging report at the meeting was that the Carter Stadium bonds will be paid off by 1980 instead of the 2004 maturity date for the last bonds!

NCSU Vice Chancellor Rudolph Pate gave an encouraging report on the growth of the Foundation fund which helps to make a great university over an average university.

Chancellor Joab L. Thomas closed the meeting with a discussion of the future needs at NCSU.

TOBACCO...The NCSU Advisory Public Relations Committee discussed the tobacco situation, taking note of the forces working against it. It was pointed out that tobacco is grown in 91 of the 100 counties in the state and that it provides employment for 21,100 persons with annual earnings of over \$300 million with \$43.7 million collected in state sales taxes on cigarettes in 1976 alone.

The NCSU Public Relations Committee urged a strong information program through the Agricultural Experiment Station and Agricultural Extension program in

creating greater public understanding of the vital role that the tobacco economy plays in the state and nation.

MAKE-IT-YOURSELF! We understand that a furniture manufacturer in North Carolina is manufacturing or will manufacture "make-it-yourself" furniture ready to be put together with a screwdriver and the necessary screws included with the items of furniture being offered.

COTTON...Old timers can remember when cotton -- not tobacco was the chief "money crop" in North Carolina. In the October 1 ginning report only three counties were listed, Scotland, Robeson and Halifax. Scotland was first in ginning with 1,318 bales. Robeson was next with 1,162 bales with Halifax third with 683 bales with "all other" counties having a total of 1,572. In the by-gone days people carried their cotton to the gin in the wagon and waited for hours for the cotton in the wagons ahead to be ginned. While waiting the men would talk and gossip, trade knives, and often-times mules and other things, and bring back home the news of the community.

PARTY LOYALTY?...Party loyalty in politics is far from what it used to be 50 years ago. Writing about Lou Holtz supporting Jesse Helms, John Henry Moore of the Laurinburg Exchange says, "...party loyalty isn't going to mean much during next year's big senatorial fight." Our thought is that one thing makes Jesse Helms so popular with many of the people is that he has the courage to vote "no" when he knows there is no money in the treasury to pay the bill.

Only the Newspaper

Only the newspaper gives the thinking man so much to think about as it probes into the background of each day's happenings.

