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THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1978

Lifting Hoover's shadow from the FBI

The Justice Department's accounts of misconduct by former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover and other top-ranking bureau officials came as no big surprise. Most of the incidents of petty corruption had come to light in previous news reports and in congressional testimony. Nevertheless, the first official documentation of the hypocrisy that prevailed among a few top officials of the bureau during the Hoover era cannot help but "cast a shadow over a great institution," as Attorney General Bell put it.

Disillusioning to many Americans, no doubt, was the startling contrast between the high standards of integrity Mr. Hoover required of his agents -- his determination to keep the bureau's public image unspotted and "untouchable" -- and the private laxity he permitted himself and a few of his favorite subordinates.

Although Mr. Bell assured Americans such "improper favoritism," the use of agents to perform personal chores for the director, and the illegal acceptance of government funds have since ceased, the mere fact that these practices persisted after Mr. Hoover's passing and that current FBI director Clarence Kelley also misused bureau funds and personnel (but later reimbursed the bureau for the goods and services) is reason enough for Congress and the Carter administration to continue to maintain a tight rein on the 20,000-member law enforcement agency.

Mr. Bell, in a speech to the National Press Club, said that he perceived a change of attitude among Americans. "I believe we've reached the end of the Watergate syndrome ... the confidence of the American people has been restored in their government, and they are now willing to give those in government an opportunity to perform as public servants in the traditional sense." By this, he meant that public officials are "presumed to be honest ... and the burden of proof is on those contending otherwise."

While Americans can certainly applaud and be gratified by the progress made thus far toward restoring integrity and public confidence to government, clearly the FBI abuses outlined in the Justice Department report underscore the need for constant public vigilance. The so-called "Koreagate" investigation of congressional influence peddling and the recent Bert Lance affair also should serve as reminders that a concerned and watchful citizenry is still a necessary prerequisite for good government. --*Christian Science Monitor*

'Rock' vs sensationalism

A recent article in Rolling Stone magazine about the British "punk rock" group the Sex Pistols carried the headline: "Rock is sick and living in London." Unfortunately the "sick" violence and obscenity the group employs for shock effect -- or more likely to detract from its inability to play in tune, carry a melody, or otherwise communicate meaningfully with young audiences -- has come to the United States. And almost as objectionable as the group's raunchy remarks and performances is the wide public exposure the news media have lavished on the "punk rock" musicians.

Some 40 reporters were on hand for the group's U.S. debut in Atlanta over the weekend. Network television and local radio stations clamored for interviews, which the performers were willing to grant for \$10 apiece. All this for a group that has no album among the top 100 in record sales in the United States; nor has it even released a single on the American side of the Atlantic.

Sheer sensationalism and bad taste appear to be the "punk" group's sole claim to fame. It is too bad the American media did not exercise greater ethical responsibility but succumbed, as did their British counterparts, to the bizarre. There are enough good rock groups around without helping such poor imitations "roll" American youngsters for the sake of a buck. --*Christian Science Monitor*

Browsing in the files of the News-Journal

25 years ago

January 15, 1953

At a meeting of the Raeford Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Monday night Harvey Gobeille, president, announced that the names of those who would participate in the canvass of Raeford to raise the \$2500 which the town is expected to put into the fund to defray expenses of the effort being made to save 50,000 acres of Hoke County land from being taken into the Fort Bragg reservation.

A fence post treating and fence construction demonstration will be held Friday, January 16, at 1:00 p.m. on Carl Riley's farm.

Miss Belle Graham announced this week that she had sold the Graham Gift shop here to Mrs. Herbert McKeithan.

15 years ago

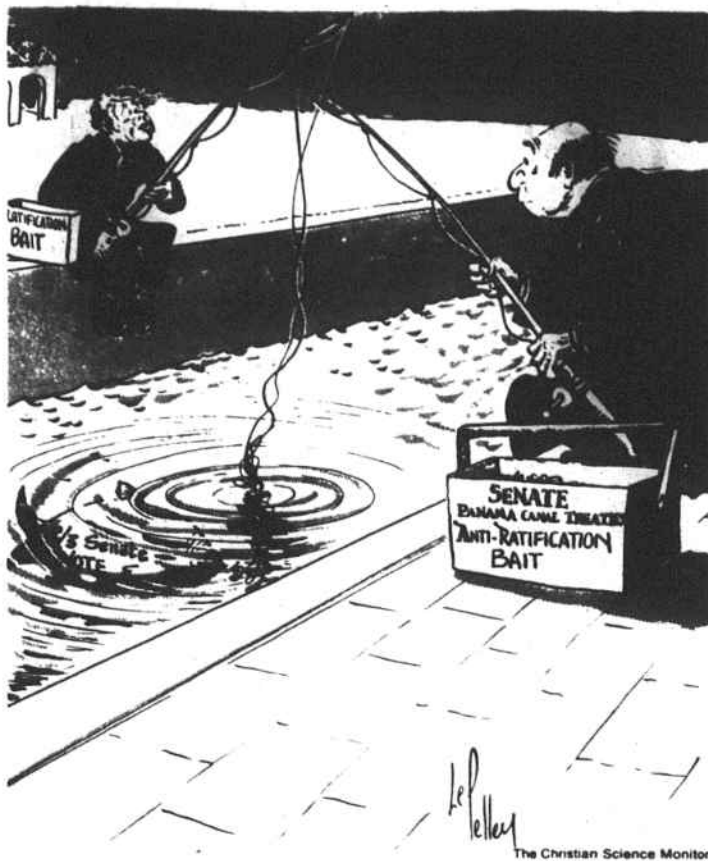
Thursday, January 17, 1963

Upchurch Milling's electronic feed mill will be formally opened Friday by N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture L.Y. (Stag) Ballentine.

Raeford's favorite folk - singing group - Peter, Paul and Sam - journeyed to Chapel Hill today (Thursday) for a brief television appearance tonight on Channel 4 at 7:30 with Governor Terry Sanford, who will present the annual awards of the N.C. Press Association.

A flu epidemic is not yet here, but local doctors say "it's coming." School officials report "no appreciable rise" in absent rate as yet.

Sheriff's deputies smashed a 300-gallon still Friday in Antioch Township near Hodgkin's Pond.



HOKUM

By Charles Blackburn

More fanfare preceded the Super Bowl this year than is likely to attend the Second Coming, and, as in the past, the pre-game hoopla was more entertaining than the sacred event itself.

Television crews used more electronic equipment than was required to land a man on the moon so that millions of Americans could see the contest three times, via instant replay, in one sitting. And what they saw looked remarkably like a variation of "The Emperor's New Clothes."

In that classic story, a con man posing as a tailor tells the king that his new threads will appear invisible to fools. After his fitting, the king checks himself out in the mirror and, sure enough, it looks just like a birthday suit. But he isn't about to admit that he can't see the outfit. On the contrary, he tells the tailor how pleased he is with his new clothes and pays him handsomely. And as he parades along the boulevard, naked as a jaybird, his subjects, likewise, admire his costume.

In the case of the Super Bowl, Madison Avenue is the tailor. For

years, what is just another football game has been clothed in sequins and spangles by promoters and sold at an outrageous price to a dotting public.

The game has never been the spectacle its advertisers promise. We can see the trappings, alright, but where's the king?

H.L. Mencken claimed that nobody ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public, and as if to prove that dictum, a Texan is reported to have offered \$1,500 for two Super Bowl tickets and a place to sleep. (No doubt he had spent several exhaustive days on Bourbon Street before submitting his bid.)

The promoters knew that, in New Orleans, the fans would drink themselves into a state of euphoria and would be amazed by anything they saw on the playing field. Meanwhile, the electronic wizards hypnotized us with a variety of special effects, including computer art and a new kind of instant replay that gave us all multiple vision (a technique developed in the French Quarter). But none of it helped Denver hold onto the ball.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Sir:

As director of the Hoke County Children's Center, a developmental program for handicapped children, I often come in contact with people who remind me of what love is all about. Love is many things, but mainly love to me is giving.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the many people in this county who have shown love to "our" children, particularly during the Christmas season. We had a wonderful Christmas party, made possible by so many people.

Thank you Mr. Sam Morris for giving us so many articles in your paper; if it wasn't for you, many people wouldn't know the Center existed.

Thank you Charles Blackburn; being a reporter and photographer for *The News-Journal*. You've taken time from your busy schedule on numerous occasions to come to the Center at my request. You take excellent pictures and write excellent articles.

Mr. Pete Canady, you practically made our Christmas party possible with your generous donation, which was used to buy toys for our children. I only wish you could have been there to see the looks of joy on their faces as they opened their presents. A sincere thanks for your unselfishness and generosity.

Thank you Mr. J.R. Kennedy, also, for your generous contribution to us for our party. Our children love coming by your store to get treats, but as if that's not enough, you also showed them love by your donation. Not only that, but your attendance at the party was great because you are always such joy; We love you!

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Hunt, your bags of fruit and candy were greatly appreciated as they have been in the past, and Mr. Hunt, we were so glad you took the time to come to the party. We have quite a few photographs of you that will always remind us of how much you care.

Dan Powers, I am very grateful for the gift boxes from Moores. We used them for the children's toys and they had a ball opening them. We really needed these boxes; half the fun of getting toys is getting a pretty package, knowing there is a surprise inside.

Many, many thanks go to you, John Blanchard. Most of our toys came from the Family Dollar Store. As manager, you were very helpful to me in the selection of toys. Thank you so much for the loan of the Santa suit. We couldn't have had the party without your help.

Thank you, House of Raeford, for the large stockings filled with toys. This was certainly an added surprise for the children.

Thank you, the Raeford Church of God for your bags of fruit and candy.

Mr. Wayne Tedder, you often bring smiles to our children's faces. As custodian of the First Baptist Church, our children have become very familiar with you and your whistling down the hall. Thanks so much for being at the party! We love you, too!

Warren Pate, you're the best Santa Claus ever!

Thanks so much to all of you for giving our children, my staff, and myself the best Christmas ever.

Sincerely
Judy Covington Hendrix
Director, Hoke County
Children's Center

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

All the hassel about trying to pick the Number One college football team in the nation reminds me of the old story about the folks who held a Fourth of July contest to pick the prettiest girl in town and had to call it off because they couldn't find one. Since every team in the country got beat at least once, some of the leaders by each other, the thing to do should have been to call the voting off, fire all the coaches, and wait till next year.

That's enough of football. I'm more worried about the country. According to an article I read in a newspaper somebody had used as stuffing to protect a gift - wrapped plate that arrived broken -- you'd think *The Fayetteville Observer* could put out a paper that'd cushion better than that -- an outfit in California is now in business advising clients how to spend their leisure time. For a fee of \$45 they'll analyze your loafing time and tell you how to keep from getting bored with it.



Report To The People

by Senator Robert Morgan

It is one of the facts of life that some people have better access to health care than others.

People living in rural areas generally must travel farther to see a doctor because more and more physicians graduating from medical schools tend to become specialists and start practice in metropolitan areas where populations are denser and which offer more leisure and cultural activities.

When I was campaigning for the Senate in 1974, I brought this subject up and said that I favored spreading health care around so that it would be more accessible to a greater number of people.

During the session of Congress which ended in December, one accomplishment was to take a step in that direction. For the first time, the Federal Government acted to take a comprehensive approach to health care in rural areas where there are no doctors.

To meet some of the health needs of rural areas, there have been established rural health clinics in various parts of North Carolina, and other states, where there are no doctors to treat routine medical needs. Instead, these clinics are staffed by physician assistants and nurse practitioners who had had special medical training. Doctors from nearby cities and towns give the clinics supervision but are not generally present on a day - to - day basis.

Under terms of a Senate bill, which I strongly supported, these clinics will now be eligible for Medicare reimbursement so that elderly persons who are under the

Medicare program can now receive treatment closer to their homes.

Before this legislation was passed, Medicare would pay for treatment that was administered only when a doctor was present. This had the effect of making Medicare patients who live in rural communities travel all the way to the nearest doctor, sometimes requiring a trip of several miles. As a matter of fact, rural residents were being discriminated against under a government program to which they contribute on the same basis as those who live in town where they can walk from their homes to their doctor's office.

The action by the Congress, in addition to providing health care on a more equitable basis, will also help many of these rural clinics survive economically. Many have had a hard time paying their bills because they were denied the right to Medicare reimbursement that hospitals and clinics that have doctors available have been eligible to receive.

I believe the action will have another good effect.

Every table of statistics that I have seen shows that medical costs are going up faster than the costs in any other category. These rural clinics, which offer very good medical care, provide it much cheaper than do the hospitals where the daily rate on rooms has risen almost beyond belief.

So, if rural patients can be taken care of near their homes, rather than having to travel to a hospital or large clinic, it will have the effect of holding down the overall cost of health care in this country.

CLIFF BLUE ...

People & Issues



BOB SCOTT -- We have been reading in the state press that Bob Scott may not be too happy with his \$50,000 a year job as co-director of the Appalachian Regional Commission and has a hankering to return to North Carolina for another try at public office -- probably that of lieutenant governor where he cut his eye - teeth in politics before moving on up to be governor four years later in 1968.

Trouble with Scott may be that he started too high, too soon and now finds himself still in the prime of life without an inviting opportunity to regain a strong foothold in the state political arena.

Talk is that he may start out again by retracing his beginning by running again for lieutenant governor which he first attained in 1964 when he was a few months short of 40 years of age.

Bob's dad, the late Governor W. Kerr Scott gave thought to running for lieutenant governor as his term for governor neared the end. However, he did not, but two years after leaving the governor's office, ran for the United States Senate, defeating Senator Alton Lennon who had been appointed to the office upon the death of U.S. Senator J. Melville Broughton in 1953.

William Shakespeare, the great 16th century English writer had this to say about opportunity:

"There is a tide in the affair of men
Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune:

Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries."

Of course it is quite natural for any ambitious person to want to start as high as possible, and lots of times if you don't take the opportunity when it is there, it may not pass your way again.

BOB & JESSIE RAE -- In the Presbyterian News -- official publication of the Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina, we note that a column has been started by Bob & Jessie Rae Scott. It's a Question and Answer column captioned "Glad You Asked." Questions are asked and Bob and Jessie Rae give the answers.

JUDGE WOOD -- Superior Court Judge William Z. Wood is a very fine gentleman. It was my privilege to serve in the General Assembly with him several years ago. Judge Wood, a Presbyterian layman, opens his court with prayer, but before doing so each day announces that anyone who wishes may step outside the courtroom briefly while he leads the court in prayer.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE -- We note with approval the action taken by the Wake County School superintendent who is clamping down on pupil lawlessness within the schools and that suspensions from a few days to permanent suspension for the school year are set to be put into effect.

When the young ruffians molest their fellow pupils and the teachers, they are not in school to learn and should not be allowed to disobey and disrupt the orderly conduct of classes. We say more power to the Wake and other school authorities who let one and all know that school is for learning and not for lawlessness.

CANAL DEBATE -- I thoroughly enjoyed the Reagan - Buckley debate on the Panama Canal Treaty Friday evening which was presented over Channel 4 and National Public Radio. Our own former U.S. Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., moderated the debate as Ronald Reagan, former governor of California, and William F. Buckley, Jr. renowned syndicated writer, argued the pros and cons of the proposed controversial treaty.

Surrounded by able assistants the debate was both entertaining and enlightening. While Reagan came through with many strong points, Buckley in closing challenged Reagan's argument that we should not give in under pressure, saying that our freedom was won under pressure from Great Britain in our war for independence.