

The News - Journal

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
 PUBLISHED 1888
 FREE PRESS
 NMA SUSTAINING MEMBER - 1976

North Carolina PRESS ASSOCIATION

Published Every Thursday at Raeford, N.C. 28376
 119 W. Elwood Avenue

Subscription Rates In Advance
 Per Year—\$8.00 6 Months—\$4.25 3 Months—\$2.25

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Second Class Postage at Raeford, N.C.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1978

No merit in selection

It is reported that Gov. Hunt will propose a constitutional amendment calling for the selection of state judges by a merit system when the General Assembly convenes in January.

In a nutshell, the proposal would set up a selection committee to review the qualifications of judicial candidates and make several recommendations to the governor, who would make the final choice.

After one term, the appointed judge would have to receive a vote of confidence from the electorate, and if he didn't get a certain percentage of the vote, he would be replaced. The merit selection committee would nominate other candidates to the governor, and the process would begin anew.

Those who favor merit selection argue that it would remove politics from the bench, but in fact the infighting would become more concentrated than ever and would be potentially devastating to our system of justice.

Who would serve on the selection committee, and who would appoint them to serve? The truth of the matter is, merit selection would place a great deal of power in the hands of a very few.

The idea of having judges selected by whoever happens to be in power in Raleigh is disturbing. We would rather not have our courts become the political arm of the governor.

The whole idea of the merit system rests on the assumption that the voters don't know good judicial material when they see it. And perhaps a few judges have been elected who aren't qualified to serve, but at least the voters are allowed to make their own mistakes through the electoral process, rather than having the mistakes of a committee forced on them.

As it now stands, the ballot box haunts every judge who dispenses uneven justice. The merit system would largely remove this restraint, a restraint which the voters ought to have.

Mideast peace talks

With Mideast peace talks to begin in earnest next week, and in light of the Israeli parliament's endorsement of the Camp David accords, 30 years of warfare in that troubled part of the world could be coming to an end.

When President Carter announced that Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had reached an agreement at Camp David, skeptics saw it as a paper victory, one that would be torn to shreds by the respective governments.

But last Thursday the Israeli parliament voted overwhelmingly to endorse that agreement, which, among other things, calls for the removal of Jewish settlements in the Sinai Peninsula. And it has been reported that top Saudi Arabian officials have reassessed the Camp David accords and now consider them a "major step forward."

Will the lion and the lamb lie down together at last? Peace has been ever elusive in that part of the world, and so often in the past negotiations have broken down.

But if a settlement between the Arab and Jewish world does come about, it will have been one of the most remarkable feats of diplomacy in recent time, and President Carter will certainly be in line for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:
 It seems that every election campaign produces its share of distortions and clever innuendoes. John Ingram's remarks concerning Senator Jesse Helms' tobacco record, however, appear to win first prize for outrageous political jabber.

Senator Jesse Helms, as a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, succeeded in restoring over \$3 million in tobacco research funds to the agriculture budget. This \$3 million investment in the future of tobacco came under heavy fire from anti-tobacco forces. On the floor of the Senate, Jesse Helms led the fight to keep it in the budget.

After insuring the survival of funds for the Oxford, North Carolina and other tobacco research stations, Senator Helms cast his vote against the \$23 billion Agriculture Bill. Although John Ingram has failed to mention it, Senator Helms' vote was based on the fact that the overall bill was too costly, appropriating even more money than the President felt could be spent wisely. Apparently, Mr. Ingram does not support President Carter on questions of fiscal responsibility, as Senator Helms does. Among the many provisions, which Mr. Ingram so heartily favored and Senator Helms so valiantly opposed, was a \$6 billion food stamp budget.

Inflation is the Number One threat to the American economy and balancing the federal budget is the only way to fight it. Had the Agriculture Bill been scrapped, the minuscule tobacco research appropriation would have been pro-

ected. The fat, like the \$6 billion food stamp proposal, could have been cut. John Ingram's attack on Senator Helms demonstrates both his lack of legislative knowledge and his lack of concern for hard-pressed taxpayers. While posing as a friend of the working man, John Ingram continues to spout the liberal, welfare line.

Sincerely,
 Bob Harris
 Raleigh

To the Editor:

I'm an inmate presently incarcerated at the London Ohio Correctional Institution. I am 35 years old and without family or friends who are concerned with my health and welfare or to whom I can write. I am writing you this letter as an agent of appeal for correspondence and friendship.

I'm aware that there are inmates seeking communication with the outside world and some may have come to you as I. However, come to you with a sincere heart hoping that you will be kind enough to publish my letter in your paper in any way that you may see fit.

In a desperate effort to emerge from this internal prison of lost hopes, I'm writing you this letter in an attempt to reacquaint myself with the outside world and to become associated in a more meaningful strength in the understanding of others as well as myself.

My interests include sports, music, and education. I'm a tailor by trade.

Please write James F. Head #135-798, P.O. Box 69, London, Ohio 43140.

Sincerely,
 James F. Head

A new Aesop's Fable? A camel who doesn't want his nose in the tent?



HOKUM

By Charles Blackburn

It was a rare treat to talk to Professor Jasper Memory about his uncle, John Charles McNeill, the Wagram poet. Professor Memory is a man of considerable vitality who has had a long and illustrious career as an educator, a tennis coach, and as an arbitrator of labor disputes.

But of all his accomplishments, he is most proud of having kept his uncle's poetry alive for half a century.

Professor Memory taught at Wake Forest for 42 years and was chairman of the Education Department there, but before that, he had occasion to work a little closer to us here in Hoke County.

When he was 20, about the time World War One was coming to a close, he served as principal of Philadelphus School in Robeson County. He said all of the teachers and half the senior class there were older than he was.

He mentioned several names familiar to Hoke residents. Frodie Buie, later an elementary school principal, was one of his star students. She and Elizabeth Paul both went on to be tapped into Phi

Beta Kappa, he said. J.R. Poole was county superintendent then. Bud MacArthur was chairman of the school committee, and whenever his wife churned, he invited the young principal by the house. In the winter, "we baked our feet in front of the fire, drank buttermilk, ate black-eyed peas and talked about down-to-earth things."

Sometimes a group of them at the school would come into Raeford and visit Townsend's Drugstore for a "black cow," which was slang for a chocolate milkshake.

Memory went to Marshville for two years and became State High School Supervisor, overseeing 70 schools. Then he spent two years at Columbia University graduate school, joining the faculty at Wake Forest in 1929 as a professor of education.

And there he stayed for 42 years, serving as head of the department. He was director of the summer session, edited the alumni news on the side, helped raise money, and coached the tennis team for 10 years. Working for the federal government, he has arbitrated labor disputes in 12 states and is still called upon to assist in negotiations.

These are some of the facts about him, and if you want to know more, you are invited to turn to the story about his relationship with John Charles McNeill, which appears elsewhere in this week's paper.



Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-9

"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7 RSV)

A project entitled "The Fellowship of the Least Coin" has reached global dimensions. Thousands of women on every continent from the poorest to the wealthiest have shared together in this fellowship. The project began when an Indian woman, in 1956, saw the need of a world fellowship among women. She asked that each woman set aside a penny each month as a symbol of her membership. The project has cut through racial and religious barriers to promote peace and love.

This spring when our local church women's group pooled our "Least Coin" collection, we had \$119.00. Some of the women had given more than a penny a month. The least coin had grown in the hearts of our women.

When Jesus watched the multitudes putting money into the treasury and the poor widow put in a penny. He said to His disciples, "Truly...this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living."

PRAYER: Father, help us to remember that how much we give is not the most important thing, but the spirit in which we give it. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: The least becomes the greatest when given cheerfully to God.

—copyright—THE UPPER ROOM
 —Ruby Bennett Anderson (Partridge, Kansas)

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



INFLATION ... Without a doubt very little is being done by the Federal government to deflate inflation.

With government salaries considerably above that of the average citizen, and with government expenses, including salaries, rising every year, the voice sounds hollow when workers in private enterprises are asked to hold back when their taxes are being used to up the wages of government employees.

If there is to be a fight on inflation the start should be made from within the government and very little sign has been shown where the moves are encouraging.

Frankly, it appears that our government leaders are more concerned about the next election than the best approach to curtailing runaway inflation. While our workers turn out an astonishing one-fourth of all the world's goods and services, unless the "unions" give greater respect for "law and order" in the long run they may pay dearly for disobeying "back to work court orders" and wake up to find themselves under a type of government far less tolerant than the Democracy under which we live.

Workers who flout the law of the land in unlawful strikes, may in days to come wish they had listened to reason and abided by the law as did the railroad workers when ordered to do so by the court last week.

SECRETARY OF STATE ... George Breece of Fayetteville, who unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for Secretary of State in 1976, has been changing his signs across the state to read "1980" rather than "1976". Thad Eure — "the oldest rat in the Democratic barn" says that if his health stays good he plans to run again in 1980.

SECRETARY OF LABOR ... Rumor has been making its rounds about possible opposition to John Brooks, Commissioner of Labor, who was regarded as a rather liberal man when he won the nomination and election in 1976. Brooks seems to have made a reasonable commissioner of labor and his approach has been reasonable in enforcing the much talked about and oftentimes hated OSHA law.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, October 1, 1953
 Twenty-one local boys and scouts will leave Raeford tomorrow to attend the 1953 Round-up Camp - ral Program which will be held this weekend at Fort Caswell.

15 years ago

Thursday, October 3, 1963
 Mrs. J.L. Warner, second grade teacher at J.W. McLaughlin School has been named Raeford's "Teacher of the Year."

A series of tobacco thefts dating back to August 13 has local officers baffled.

The North Carolina and United States Departments of Agriculture, Crop Reporting Service, in Raleigh, last week released a preliminary summary of the January, 1953, Farm Census Survey.

After their performance last Friday night in losing to Elizabethtown 13-0 it is probably a good thing that the Bucks don't have a game scheduled for tomorrow night. It's an even bet that there would be few if any people there to watch it.

Pfc Franklin D. Webb left for overseas duty with the 868th Battalion in Germany.

From Rockfish News:
 Seems as though the days are shorter and news is more scarce since there is no post office at Rockfish.

From Addenda:
 Talk around lately has inclined much commendation for the way Judge T.O. Moses has handled bootleggers in his court lately, giving the repeaters road and jail sentences instead of fines, and ordering them to serve their suspended sentences.

The question of whether the State will issue \$50 million in bonds for the construction of public school buildings will be decided in a called election on October 3.

Appointment of two officials, C.D. Bounds and James A. Sinclair, for Southern National Bank's new office in Raeford was announced this week by J.E. Davis, vice president in charge of the office.

The annual Scout Roundup Day to be held here Saturday with a street parade will continue through the night, John Manuel district scout official, has announced.

Now that efforts of the town of Raeford to collect delinquent water bills is paying off, steps are being taken in another direction to get what is due the city treasury.

Though he is eating better than ever before, the typical American is spending a smaller proportion of his income on food than in years.

An intercepted pass and a circus catch of a bobbed aerial in the end zone gave Clinton a pair of second half touchdowns and a 20-13 victory over Raeford Friday night at Clinton.

Philippi Presbyterian Church, which will celebrate its 75th anniversary Oct. 14, has remained a small but forceful congregation since its organization in 1888.