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THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1980

'Just don't interfere with the government, Billy'



The Christian Science Monitor

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



PRESS CONVENTION... It was our pleasure (Gala and I) to attend the 107th annual convention of the North Carolina Press Association held at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville July 24-26.

Walter D. Phillips, editor of the *Carteret County News-Times* of Morehead City, out-going president of the association presided. Elected to serve as association officers for the coming year were: Frank Daniels, president, of *The Raleigh News & Observer* and *Raleigh Times*; Henry Lee Weathers of the *Shelby Star*, vice president. Directors elected were: Carl F. Worsley, *Rocky Mount Telegram*; Hal Tanner, Jr., *Goldsboro News - Argus*; J.F. Hurley, III, *Salisbury Post*; Rolfe McNeill, *Charlotte Observer*; John E. Staples, *Kernersville News*.

Newspaper meetings are always enjoyable where press people not only discuss newspaper problems but also delve in political gossip.

DUMP CARTER? ...We read with interest an article in the *Charlotte Observer* Saturday morning headlined across the top of the front page: "House Democrat Bloc Would Dump Carter."

This article brings to mind the situation in 1948 when Harry Truman was in pretty "low cotton" as he faced the Democratic convention that year. After having succeeded Franklin D. Roosevelt three years before in 1945. There was considerable talk of denying Truman the nomination as he was pretty low in the polls -- about like Carter's standing today.

U.S. Senator Alben W. Barkley was the Democratic nominee for vice president which he called "cold biscuits," meaning that he had but little chance of being elected.

The writer of this column was president of the North Carolina Young Democratic Club at that time. I remember talking with Jonathan Daniels, editor of the *News and Observer* and Democratic National Committeemen a day or two before the election and his words were not of an optimistic view for a Truman-Barkley victory!

However, North Carolina not only went for Truman in 1948 but

in the nation Truman received 24,179,345 votes to 21,991,291 for Tom Dewey.

ENROUTE... Traveling to the Press convention from Aberdeen we followed 109 from Troy to 49, then to Salisbury and Statesville we followed Highway 40 to Asheville.

Returning home we followed 74 to Chimney Rock, Shelby, Gastonia, Charlotte, etc. If you are in a hurry Super Highway 40 is the route to take, but for scenery and the small towns and hamlets, still operating in the way they did in past years we heartily recommend the Bat Cave, Chimney Rock, Lake Lure, Rutherfordton route on by Shelby, Gastonia and Charlotte.

We feel that a super highway along the Bat Cave, Chimney Rock, Lake Lure route would be to the great disadvantage to the area. You can make time on US 40 but you miss the beautiful scenery that you can enjoy in the winding snake-like road that leads you by Bat Cave, Chimney Rock, Lake Lure, etc.

CENSUS... We hear considerable griping concerning the early census reports. Those griping feel they have been short-changed, and maybe they have.

However, we must remember that the rapid growth in population may be coming to an end. It used to be that many marriages brought forth six or eight children, and maybe more. Now, the flow of children has been greatly reduced. Not many families produce six children today. We suspect that three might be nearer the number marriages produce now than the number which predated World War II.

Another thing that has the local officials concerned is the amount of Federal money that comes in based on the population count.

However, it's natural for a county or city to want to grow. Few like to stand still. However, we feel that the national debt is growing so fast that a halt in spending will necessitate the reduction on Federal funds for local projects in the near future, regardless of population figures.

Bad, though better

The State Employment Security report issued last week showed a grim picture for Hoke County, though far better than it was in 1978 and 1979.

Hoke's unemployment rate rose, the report says, to 8.5 per cent the past June, from 7.1 per cent the previous month and 7.3 in June 1979.

Hoke is one of 92 of the state's 100 counties which showed a rise in unemployment last month. Of those, 36 counties showed conditions worse than Hoke's. In neighboring counties, Cumberland's rate was 10.7, and Robeson's 11.6. The state's highest was Person's, 14.6.

In the past two and a half years, Hoke's unemployment rate exceeded nine per cent in each of eight months, and reached 10 per cent or worse in five of those. The worst record was the rate of 12.2 reached in January 1978-- and even that was better than the rates of six other counties, which included Tyrrell's 20.3, the state's highest for that month.

The county's unemployed need help now, but at least some jobs are in sight in neighboring Scotland County in a new industry being established, at Maxton.

Some parttime (summer) jobs also were provided in agriculture in Hoke County since the ESC compiled figures for its report on June unemployment.

---BL

Acted with dignity

Gov. Jim Hunt acted with dignity in meeting the surprise outburst of shouting of insults and wild accusations at his press conference of July 23 by members of the Communist Workers Party.

The effect of the governor's restraint and recognition of the two CWP people's right to exercise their freedom of speech also was to allow the CWP people to show the television audience and Thursday's newspaper readers what they are -- irrational.

It also appears, as the governor indicated, that they were out merely to obtain publicity for CWP, and in this they succeeded, the display, however, would attract only the mentality already supporting CWP and what it stands for.

Accusing Hunt and President Carter of conspiring to arrange the November 3, 1979, murders by the KKK and American Nazis in Greensboro is, of course, ridiculous. What the CWP protesters ignore is the fact that the victims, whose murders nevertheless were abominations, were knowing participants in a display designed to provoke the equally irrational KKK and Nazis. Historically, as practically everyone including the CWP people know, these groups have been associated with acts of violence.

---BL

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

I sat through most of the Republican Convention, via television, and because justice demands equal punishment for parallel crimes--even though some judges have trouble remembering this -- I'll sit through the Democratic Convention.

It's too late to do anything about it this time, but next time, four years from now if the nation still stands, which it won't if each party is right about its falling if the other party wins, something needs to be done about these shows. A political convention is the world's only sports event where the reporters outnumber the spectators and the star players are mostly ignored.

For instance, here's a prominent politician who's spent weeks rehearsing his speech. His moment of glory arrives, he steps to the podium, faces the microphone and lets loose. Two sentences underway he looks out at the audience and sees a man strolling by eating a hotdog. There's mustard on his chin. The aisles are filled with goofy-hatted delegate milling around and waving to each other. Fourteen TV reporters with antennas sticking out of their ears are interviewing a Governor, each with a microphone jabbed in the guy's face.

Here he's outlining plans to save the nation and reduce interest rates and half his audience is walking around paying no attention. How's a man going to whip inflation if nobody listens?

I have given this problem some thought and have figured out the remedy. In this electronic age it should be fairly easy to equip each chair in the convention hall with a seat belt automatically controlled by a switch manned by the chairman up on the podium. When all delegates are seated, he throws the

switch and every last one of them is looked in place. Naturally he'd let them out to stand for the Star Spangled Banner, but otherwise everybody stays fastened down.

For the most part I believe this would work, insuring an orderly convention, although you've got to remember there are some politicians who can wriggle out of any situation.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

This Is The Law

TENANT'S SECURITY DEPOSITS

Almost everyone who has ever lived in a rented house or apartment is familiar with security deposits. These deposits are usually required by the landlord in order to protect himself against damage to the premises or non-payment of rent.

North Carolina law regulates what the landlord is permitted to do with these deposits.

He must put them in a trust account in a bank or savings institution, or he may protect them with a bond from an insurance company.

The amount of the security deposits is also regulated. They must not exceed two week's rent to week, one and one-half months' rent if the tenancy is month to month, and two months' rent for terms greater than month to month.

Within 30 days after the end of the lease period the landlord must itemize and damages and refund any unused portion of the deposit.

He may not withhold the deposit for conditions that are due to normal wear and tear.

It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

Quotes to think about when there's nothing better to do:

"The only time a dog gets complimented is when he doesn't do anything." --- Snoopy, in "Peanuts."

"They's nuthin' like a day with the lumps took out of it." --- Albert Alligator, in "Pogo Possum."

"We have met the enemy, and they is us." --- Pogo Possum.

"I've got tears in my ears from lying on my back crying over you." --- from a "song" whose title or composer I don't know.

"A woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke." --- Man's reply to his lady friend's declaration he's got to choose between **marrying her and keeping on smoking**, in a poem by Rudyard Kipling.

A farmer tried all kinds of signs and fences to eliminate the traffic of trespassers through his property. Finally, in desperation, he thought of a new sign, and trespassing all but disappeared.

The sign read: "Anyone found on this property today will be found on this property tomorrow."

In the Army Parachute School at Ft. Benning, Ga., the instructors were, and perhaps still are, buck sergeant (three stripes), but their word is law, as far as the students, regardless of their rank, are concerned.

The ground of training areas was carpeted with a thick bed of sawdust, and one of the strict rules prohibited contamination of this bed.

During one training session, a major rode a training gizmo to a bad landing.

In disgust, he committed a mortal sin. He spit in the sawdust.

Immediately, an instructor issued a penalty.

The major had to gather the "contaminated" sawdust in both hands, then holding the pile in front of him, he had to run around the training area five times, saying, over and over: "I am a bad major. I will not spit in the sawdust."

Speaking of paratroopers recalls this story from World War II. An American paratrooper wounded in action went to Paris on leave after being discharged from the hospital and joined a tour which took him to Napoleon's tomb.

There the guide said: "And here lies the greatest soldier the world has ever known."

To this the paratrooper asked skeptically: "Oh, yeah? How many

The boo-boo in newspapers and on television at the Republican national convention this month you can blame on the effects of the pressures of constant working day competition and deadlines, which go with it. The boo-boo was, of course, the report that Ronald Reagan's running mate on the presidential ballot would be ex-President Gerald Ford. The early editions of many daily newspapers across the country carried that story under large headlines on their front pages. The television people came through with the report much

earlier, of course, and corrected it later by action when Reagan introduced George Bush as his choice for the vice presidential nominee.

The explanation of the reason for this and other honors made in other years is no excuse, since the cardinal rule of the news people for over a hundred years has been, "Get it first, but first get it right." This slogan goes with it: "Accuracy ... speed ... accuracy."

The news people at the convention had strong reasons to believe that the deal had been made. Unfortunately, their sources of information were second hand, at best, since the Ford-Reagan talks about the vice presidential spot on the ticket were held in meetings barred to the news people.

The news people, meanwhile, were severely pushed for time and by acute awareness of the competition to get to their newspapers' editors back in the home offices or to their nationwide television audiences the story that was the most important precedent-shattering political event of the century, if not of American political history. If a reporter had serious doubts about the reality of the Ford-Reagan combination, and did not file the story, and if it turned out to be true, he'd be in deep trouble. He'd also be in deep trouble of course if the story turned out to be wrong, which it did, but not in so deep as he would have been if the story had turned out to be true.

Some may have had doubts. But then, too, they had to make a decision in seconds.

Incidentally, does anyone remember a front-page headline on the story about the presidential election of 1948?

It said something about Dewey beating Truman.

And on a smaller scale, the pressure of the first-edition deadline an Asheville Citizen newsman reporting the election of a state senator in a mountain district. He was basing his statement on the totals of votes reported from all but a few of the district's precincts.

The next day he had to write a correction.

The few precincts still unreported when he wrote his story had very large numbers of voters, and most of them had cast their votes for the other guy.

Things like that can happen to the best educated of news people. The author of that error was a graduate of a good school of journalism and, on top of that, had earned a master's degree from one of the nation's best.

The experience illustrates the value of another old rule of news work: "Don't assume anything."

But considering the pressures on the newspeople of the big daily papers and the network television staffs, it's no surprise that a mistake like the Reagan-Ford report was made. What's surprising is many more aren't made, considering the tremendous volume of news that reporters and editors of television and the newspapers must handle every day.

SUPPORT YOUR HOKE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, July 28, 1955

September 3 has been set by Board of Commissioners as date for \$60,000 water bond election.

James Eldridge Chisholm, native and resident of this community before Raeford was here, suffered a heart attack at about 7:30 Monday evening and died in Moore County Hospital at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday morning.

At a special meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners Tuesday night the county general fund budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1956 was given final approval and the overall tax rate for the county was set at \$1.20 for \$100 valuation.

Mrs. Billie McIntyre Postel, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J.B. McIntyre and manager of the Raeford Theatre since her father's death, announces in today's paper that she will close the theatre after the showing of Sunday, July 31.

Mrs. Ernest Campbell received the blue ribbon for her 1926 Cadillac roadster, which was judged best in the 1915 to 1927 class at the conclusion of the horseless carriage tour Saturday at Southern Pines.

15 years ago

Thursday, July 29, 1965

Hoke County's extensive work on a poverty program will not be wasted, even though the county has been merged with three other for the anti-poverty campaign.

Fred Parker Johnson, 74-year-old retired farmer and businessman of Hoke County, died at 4:30 on Wednesday morning in a Fayetteville Nursing Home.

Good Hoke County watermelons are going to the bugs! The melon have developed anthracnose.

A new Raeford business, Hugh's Texaco and Alignment Service, opening on the corner of Main St. and Campus Avenue, will hold grand opening tomorrow and Saturday.

Letter To Editor

Editor, *The News-Journal*

I read your editorial in the July 17th *News-Journal* entitled "UNC-G Women's Status" with much interest inasmuch as I am a graduate of this University. I share the concern expressed in the editorial over the difference in pay of men and women professors at UNC-G when their experience and credentials are the same.

I understand that this has been brought to the attention of the University Administration on several occasions during the past years by the Alumni Board of Trustees of UNC-G, but it seems that they have always been given the run-around by the Administration.

However, the female professors do have a remedy if they feel they have been discriminated against because of their sex both under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Labor Standards Act which includes the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Therefore, the law **does** require equal pay for equal work if a woman is willing to bring this to the attention of her employer. But in lots of cases the woman doesn't want to go to the hassle of trying to convince her supervisor (who the majority of the time is a man) that she is entitled to equal pay of a man doing the same job, because oftentimes she is labeled by those with whom she works (men and women) as a troublemaker. However if she feels she has a strong enough case, she does have a remedy if she wished to take advantage of it.

Sincerely yours,
 Mary B. McBryde
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