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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1981

Needs more work

Sen. Jesse Helms's anti-busing bill sounds like the reply given by the man who claimed to have the perfect way to prevent war. "Get everybody to love everyone else," he declared. "But how do we do that?" asked a man in the audience. "Now, I gave you the idea," the speaker snapped. "It's up to you to work out the details."

Under Helms's "freedom of choice bill," school officials would establish attendance plans: students' parents would be free to choose the school they want their children to attend, without interference from the federal government. The bill would prevent the federal government from withholding financial assistance from any school system by reason of the racial composition of the student body if the school system has a freedom-of-choice plan. The freedom to choose would be available to any student of any race.

A Helms aide, Sam Currin, explains that the legislation is intended to promote neighborhood schools. This, of course, would eliminate busing as a tool for implementing integration.

The bill, however, doesn't say what school officials could do if the freedom of choice overcrowded the more desirable schools and depopulated, in turn, the less desirable.

The bill also wouldn't require transportation be provided for students whose parents enroll them in schools far from home, though within the home school system.

Currin's opinion is that the schools would reflect the composition of their neighborhoods.

One virtue of the bill we can see is it would save school systems tremendous costs of transportation, which would make a blessing in the face of the prospects of federal government withdrawal of financial support of some school programs.

Another is children wouldn't have to spend as much as an hour a day just riding between school and home: the homes of many would be within easy walking distance of school.

There are drawbacks, though. One is that, though many black families have moved into predominantly white neighborhoods in many communities, the Helms bill would return school segregation to many others where neighborhoods are still all black or all white.

Then, too, individual schools in school systems have been reorganized to meet requirements brought by integration law -- for examples, one school has classes for kindergarten and first grade only, another for grades seven through nine, another for grades 10-12. The news report about the bill doesn't say whether the bill would limit freedom of choice to the school containing the grade in which the student wanting to change to that school is enrolled in; or whether the bill would require school systems to reorganize back to the pre-integration arrangements so a first-grader and a high school senior living in the same neighborhood could attend their neighborhood school. The latter obviously would lead to serious complications.

Ironically, the Helms essential "neighborhood school" idea was proposed in 1972 by Congressman Nick Galifianakis of Durham.

Helms won his Senate seat by defeating Democrat Galifianakis in the 1972 general election.

The bill should be returned to Helms with the advice to do more work on it -- much more.

--BL

Government film

One of the many movies made by federal government agencies concerns alcoholism. But at one point, according to one viewer, it says alcoholism is a "middle class problem."

Washington is surrounded by authorities, government and private, on alcoholism, and a local telephone call by the film maker would have provided the information that alcoholism is a perfectly democratic affliction: it strikes the millionaire, the penniless butcher, baker, candlestick maker, doctor, lawyer, Indian chief, also minister of the Gospel, and school kid (it's appeared as early as age 14).

This information, and any other the film makers needed to do their product could have been had free of charge from any Alcoholic Anonymous, right in Washington.

Federal agencies do put out many movies containing information the public needs, and an accurate film about alcoholism is certainly needed. But every film should be made by people who know the subject, as well as by people having the technical skill to put any film together.

Before cutting or eliminating agency budgets, the cutters should learn how the money is being used and whether it is being used to get the most value for the least possible cost.

--BL

Vets Ask

Q--I was born in Poland and fought in the Polish Army during World War II. Am I entitled to any benefits from the Veterans Administration?

A--Hospitalization and outpatient and domiciliary care are available to certain Polish and Czechoslovakian veterans who served against an enemy of the U.S., who have been citizens of the U.S. for at least 10 years. Contact the nearest VA office for information.

Q--I have had Veterans Administration insurance since World War II which I converted to a permanent plan about 10 years ago. Can I

cash the policy in now?

A--You may apply for the cash surrender value of your policy. However, you should consider that once you surrender the policy, you cannot restore it.

Q--I am separated from my wife and am attending school with GI Bill educational assistance. Can my wife get part of my educational allowance without my consent?

A--Yes. If your wife can prove you are not providing for your family, she can request the portion paid you for your dependents and you will receive the rate of a single veteran.

'Are the next 100 days going to be like this?'



Langley
 The Christian Science Monitor

It's a Small World

By Bill Lindau

Bennett Edwards had this story in his "Across The Editor's Desk" editorial-page column in *The Anson Record* of April 23.

Don Wiseman, head of the North Carolina division of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, starts his public speeches by admitting he can't swim but enjoys going to the water and watching other people swimming, fishing, sailing, and boating.

Then he describes an experience he had once at the beach.

He walked to the end of a pier to watch some people fishing, but on his way back, he tripped and fell into the water.

Since he couldn't swim, all he could do was splash around, and scream as loud as he could, hoping to attract someone's attention. It worked.

His activity attracted the attention of three young boys, and they all swam out and rescued him.

Wiseman, relieved and grateful, naturally, told the boys he would like to give each an award, and he asked each what he wanted.

"A bicycle," replied one.

"A skateboard," replied another.

But the third boy replied, "A military funeral?"

"A what?" Wiseman asked.

"A military funeral," the boy repeated.

"Why a military funeral?"

"Well," the boy explained, "my Daddy runs a manufacturing plant, and when he learns that I saved the life of an OSHA inspector, he's gonna kill me."

"Does the family that plays together stay together?" asks a headline over a story the Fayetteville paper of April 26.

When I was in my teens I used to play checkers and a game called "Camelot" with my father, just about every night of the week.

He beat me every time.

Before we started playing, I felt real friendly toward him.

After we played about 40 games, I hated his guts. (I got over it, though. I like happy endings.)

When things get dull on the TV tube, you have a great opportunity to discover new things. The other day, for example, we discovered this record, "Deutcheslands Beste Germany's Best", in our son's collection. It has proven highly entertaining, partly, though, because we remember the 1930s. That was the time Marlene Dietrich, the beautiful German movie star, was making her first hit in the United States.

Marlene sings on "Deutcheslands Beste," a song titled, "Ich Bin von Kopf bis Fuss," which means, "I am from head to foot," which doesn't make sense, but Betsy gave it a loose translation: "Head over heels." In American, the song is "Falling in Love Again." She sang that (I think) in "The Blue Angel," which appeared in about 1934 (and which had an even greater actor from Germany, Emil Jannings).

There's also "Lili Marlene," which was to the German soldier waht "Mademoiselle from Armentiers" was to the American douboy of World War I.

The record also has a comic piece, "Auf dem Schwabacher Eisenbahn" (I think), which means "On the Schwabian railroad." It's got sound imitations also comical,

of a steam engine coming in and out of a station.

Then there is a beautiful, light song, "Das Ist Die Duft von Koeln," -- "That is the fragrance of Cologne."

Then there are the record of singers doing compositions from fairly recent, and not-so-recent Broadway shows. One of the not-so-recent is Ethel Merman's "Everything's Coming Up Roses" from the musical "Gypsy," and Andrea McArdle's "Tomorrow" from "Annie," in which she played the title role.

Then there is the record of Percy Faith's playing compositions from other shows, stage and movies, like "Bryan's Song," the "Love Theme" from the movie, "The Queen of Scots," "Brian's Song" was composed for the movies of the same name, about the life of the Wake Forest and Chicago Bears football star of the '60s, Bryan Piccolo, cut down in his mid-20s by lung cancer. James Caan played the role of Bryan.

"Bryan's Song" was based on the book about Piccolo, written by a woman television reporter, who came to know him in his final years. It's a great book, an inspiration a story well-told, about a great athlete who also was a good man, unaffected and popular with everyone who came to know him.

The same record also has the beautifully wistful "Send in the Clowns," sung by English actress Glynis Johns, and the cheery "Willkommen," sung by Joel Gray, in the musical "Cabaret."

Then for comedy there are Bill Cosby's and Monty Python's records.

With all that lying around, not watching TV can be a real pleasure.



Clumping across the beach towards the water, I noticed how deeply my crutches were burrowing at each step, making progress a challenge. Carefully keeping sand out of an open-toed cast, I was in a dark mood that contrasted sharply to the day's brightness.

I spotted a lone seagull eyeing me with casual interest. Then, scarcely believing my eyes, I saw it. The bird, too, was dragging a useless limb. Of all the gulls, the one that took a liking to me was a fellow sufferer.

Sharing lunch together, the bird and I developed a dialogue. How difficult a bad leg must be in a seagull's competitive world. Yet its fat body, its feathers, and the gleam in its eye spoke that it had adjusted well. Then, when I tossed some bread crumbs into the air, the seagull revealed its secret. Effortlessly soaring above the sand, it lost any hint of handicap. It was not limited by that useless leg; it could rise above it.

The lesson was clear: Either I could choose to allow this condition to drag me down, or, drawing upon other resources, I could rise above it.

PRAYER: Lord, I am waiting. Keep me aware that there are resources available for every need. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Today I will be a skybird. Today I will use my wings.
 --copyright--THE UPPER ROOM
 --Edward W. McRae (California)

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



LAWLESSNESS!...In recent weeks it appears that lawlessness serious lawlessness, is really getting out of hand.

Who is to blame for this increase? Are people just getting meaner? What is the trouble that is breeding in our land?

We believe that much of the blame can be laid on our courts. Recently, I read in the papers about a man who was charged with murdering an aged man. If there was any reason for the killing we never heard a word about it. Just cold blooded murder we presume. In plea-bargaining he pled guilty to second degree murder. You would have thought he would have received 30 or more years. He only received a 15 year sentence, and we wonder how much of that he will have to serve.

Our thought is that if crime is ever to be reduced, the courts must mete out sentences to stifle the crime, and not encourage it with light sentences.

We are told that our prisons are full. What needs to be done is to follow Editor Hoover Adams recommendation -- put them to work and not just house them up. Let them work a full eight hours a day, that is needful work, and not just piddle along. There are many things that need to be done. They could fill that need while confined instead of the state providing rest and recreation for them. An "A" grade prisoner could be assigned work without a guard. Others could be worked under supervision.

A few weeks ago an aged couple in Hoke County were over-powered, tied up and robbed. Now last week, they were robbed again.

Something needs to be done and it seems that the starting place should be in the courts.

ROADS...Roads and how to solve the upkeep is the major issue before the General Assembly. We all want good roads but most people want different ways to pay for the upkeep. We think Gov. Hunt would have made the job

much easier had he called for a two-cents extra tax rather than the three cents. Most people seem to feel that the upkeep of the roads we now have is more important than building new roads. If my recollection is correct I think that North Carolina today keeps up more roads than any other state in the union.

POLL...We took a quick poll last week in regard to Hunt's Road Program and how to finance it. Some of the answers were unclear but of the 18 polled, seven seemed to be for the Hunt program; six against; and five undecided.

WRAL-TV...WRAL-TV has come across with a pretty sound idea about prison sentences. Here is what its spokesman has to say:

"Suppose in two different years, two men commit two different crimes, and are given identical sentences of five years each in prison.

"Suppose the first man goes to prison in 1977. Then, 4 years later, in 1981, he is released one year early simply because the prisons are so overcrowded that the legislature decides to release many prisoners early, to save space, so the first man serves only 4 years.

"But the second man has to serve the full 5 years, because at the time he is in prison, the prisoners are no longer crowded.

"Is that justice, basing a man's sentence on how crowded the prisons happen to be at the time.

"Yet, that's an idea now being kicked around at the legislature.

"Well, we think it ought to be kicked all the way out the door!" says the WRAL-TV spokesman.

ONE OUT OF 10...We are told that one out of every 10 Americans receives food stamps. Even the Federal government admits that the food stamp program is rife with abuse. A recent study by the Government Accounting Office found \$500 million in lost each year through mismanagement, abuse and fraud!

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

When the *Washington Post* got taken in by one of its own reporters who made up a story, got it printed on the front page and won a Pulitzer Prize for it, only to have to give it back, the paper took up over three pages of type explaining and apologizing.

This seems to set a bad precedent. If everybody who ever got taken in by a political promise or a slick salesman used that much space regretting it, no paper would have room for anything else.

I don't know what those editors were thinking about when they let the story appear without checking on it, but obviously they weren't, when they were young, among those of us who were taken in by that ad that said send cents for a magical gadget you could place under your tongue and mystify your friends by throwing your voice. It didn't work and the dime was wasted but it was excellent training for being on the lookout for frauds.

As you can see, lack of a ten-cent

gadget when they were young left those editors unprepared to face the realities of life in the nation's capital.

But the oddest case of being taken in occurred a few weeks ago in Iran. Some international sharpster in Paris convinced the Iranian leaders he had 50 million dollars worth of sophisticated military equipment to sell on the black market, and they shelled out. Then they found out he didn't even have a B-B gun, and they're out 50 million.

Nobody likes to see anybody get taken in, but if you'll recall the televised scenes of those Iranian students parading those blind-folded Americans in front of the embassy and using the American flag to haul trash in and the Ayatollah bragging about rubbing the U.S. nose in the dust, you'll have a hard time keeping from laughing over their buying 50 million dollars worth of nothing.

Yours faithfully,
 J.A.

Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

25 years ago

Thursday, May 3, 1956

Raeford and Hoke County will make an all-out effort this month to see that every car on the streets and highways is in safe operating condition.

Mrs. J.D. Clark, a member of the Raedeen Home Demonstration Club, was the county winner in the essay contest entitled, "Twelve Reasons Why I Should Buy U.S. Savings Bonds."

When Ken Culbreth came home on Dick Hendley's single in the last of the ninth inning of a scheduled seven inning game with Wadesboro here yesterday it made the second time in a row the Hoke High Bucks had come through with victories in their home park.

2nd Lt. Robert B. Alexander, who recently graduated from Aviation Cadet Training and the United States Air Force Aircraft Observer School at Ellington AFB near Houston, Texas, is spending a few weeks with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Alexander.

15 years ago

Thursday, May 5, 1960

A licensed boarding home for children is needed desperately in Hoke County, the county commissioners were told Monday at their regular meeting.

The State Highway Department is ready and anxious to begin work on East Prospect Avenue, Ed Williams, town manager, advised the town board of aldermen, Monday night.

Staff Sergeant Hilton H. Kelly, son of Mrs. Annie Byrd of Rt. one, Raeford, has retired from the U.S. Air Force at McGuire AFB, N.J. after more than 20 years service.

Mike Jordan tied for Medalist in the weekly golf match last week with a 73 at Arabia Golf Course.

Of interest to many in this area who remember the old Peach Belt baseball league is an affair to be held Saturday, May 7 by the Southern Pines Elks at the Southern Pines Country Club.