

**CLIFF BLUE . . .**  
**People & Issues**



**GASOLINE PRICES** ... Gasoline prices are too high, and I hate to mention the subject. However, gasoline prices have been easing down during the last several months, whereas almost everything else has been creeping up and up. Maybe there's hope!

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES**...I have been connected with the Community College since our present system was established in 1963, in one way or another. I was appointed a member of the Sanford Commission on Education Beyond the High School in 1961. It recommended the state-wide system of community colleges and technical institute to the 1963 Session of the N.C. General Assembly. It was my privilege to

serve as House Speaker that year and the community college bill was enacted by the House with one vote against, by Rep. Roger Kiser of Scotland County. Rep. Kiser was a retired school teacher. He voted against it, saying that we were not doing enough for the public schools, and that we should not establish another system of education until we could do more for our present school system.

The community college system has brought education beyond the high school to more boys and girls, and also men and women, than anyone dreamed of 18 years ago.

Not only has the community college system brought education to the high school graduate, but also to the men and women who have

taken advantage of the opportunity after marriage to attend college and learn a trade or profession that they never dreamed about 20 years ago.

**FIVE YEAR PLAN**...What brought all this to mind was a meeting last week at Sandhills Community College where I served as a trustee for nearly 16 years before being elected by the General Assembly to the State Community College Board.

Dr. Raymond Stone is president of Sandhills Community College and has done an outstanding job. He and his assistants have been studying a new "five year plan" as to how best to continue to provide the most in the widening horizon for the Sandhills Area students.

Dr. Stone is right. While most community colleges and technical institutes feel they are doing the best, every few years it is well to stop, look, and plan.

That's what was going on at Sandhills Community College last week. This would be something good for all community colleges and technical institutes to study.

Stop. Look, consider the past, and the opportunities of the future.

**"PUT UP OR SHUT UP"**... When President Reagan was out west last week speaking to Iowa and Indiana lawmakers he used an old phrase, "put up or shut up." This reminds us of some of the late Harry Truman's plain talk in his 1948 campaign for reelection, when he surprised himself and the nation when the election results gave him another victory!

**SHARING JOBS**...Last week I mentioned sharing jobs among the Federal employees. I suggested that three might do the work of four in Washington, but if the fourth person couldn't find work that he or she work on in the same group and that the four be paid what three had been getting.

Come to think of it, it might be more practical to begin with to let one out of ten go, but if the one let go was unable to locate a job, let the ten remain on until someone found a job, while the pay was cut ten percent until one dropped out or did find a job.

This is a compassionate way to face the unbalanced budget without anyone having to go jobless.

I suspect that the average government worker's salary in Washington is right much more than the average Tar Heel worker's in North Carolina, and such a plan would not put anyone in the poor house.

**SENATOR HOLLINGS** ... Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina has come up with a pretty good substitute to President Reagan's proposal towards balancing the Federal budget. He would forgo the 10% tax break due this year, and says his plan would cut Reagan's 1983 deficit in half and produce a surplus in 1985.

**Puppy Creek Philosopher**

Dear editor:

According to a newspaper article I read last night, "Analysts inside and outside government say the economy in the first quarter of 1982 will show a decline, but will show an upturn by the fourth quarter."

In view of the fact there are some people as well as some businesses, including some big ones, that aren't sure they can hold out till the fourth quarter, I think I have a solution.

The economic analysts are using the wrong numbering system and the solution is to change it. They ought to count the four quarters of a year like satellite launchers count for a blast-off. Four, three, two, one.

Thus we'd be in the fourth quarter now, not the first, and the upturn would be at hand. Inflation, interest rates and unemployment would be down and car sales, home construction and farm prices would be up.

To get my mind off terrorists, nuclear bombs, crime and the forthcoming political campaigns I have been keeping tab on economists and their ideas on what causes and cures economic trouble, along with which one I think comes closest to hitting the nail on the head instead of his thumb.

So far I've found only one who seems to know what he's talking about and I don't know who he is. He was being interviewed on television in one of those 30-second glimpses and I didn't get his name. He was asked what caused the current recession and how can we get out of it.

He looked the camera straight in the eye and said: "I don't have the slightest idea."

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.

**Sewing Workshop For Young People Set For Monday**

If you are between the ages of 9 and 19 and are interested in learning how to sew, then the Hoke County 4-H program invites you to sign up for their sewing workshop.

The first workshop will be held on Monday, February 22, at 6 p.m. at the Lester Building (Agricultural Extension Office, South Magnolia Street). The following classes are tentatively scheduled for March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 6-8 p.m. at the Hoke County Library.

Parents are asked to attend the first session to receive information on materials needed for the workshop.

The beginners' sewing workshop will be limited to the first ten people who register. Interested persons should call and register by Friday, February 19 by calling the 4-H office at 875-2162.



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