

**The News - Journal**

MEMBER **NNA**  
NATIONAL NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION

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.  
(USPS 388-260)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1982

## Hoping with Habib

No more complicated and difficult an operation can be imagined than the evacuation of some 6,000 PLO fighters from west Beirut. Yet US special envoy Philip Habib appears to be doing the impossible of putting a plan together and gaining its acceptance by Israel and the Arab countries. If his tireless diplomacy succeeds, he will manage to spare Beirut a final Israeli assault that would take an even higher toll in lives and devastation. He will also restore credibility to United States leadership in the Middle East and put the Reagan administration squarely in the middle of what will be a new urgency to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Everyone must ardently hope and pray that he succeeds. Indeed he has accomplished much already. The Arab states, which have been conspicuous by their lack of support and sympathy for their Palestinian client, have begun to rally around. A number have agreed to provide a refuge to the PLO guerrillas. Israel has accepted the evacuation plan "in principle." So far, so good.

But it is only prudent to recognize the diplomatic pitfalls in the operational details yet to be worked out. The Begin government demands a list of names of the PLO fighters. It also insists that most of the guerrillas pull out before multinational peacekeeping forces take up their positions (so that the latter do not become a shield for the PLO). Either of these issues could easily provide the pretext for unravelling the plan.

Even the countries of destination are not firmly in place. The US would like Egypt to be a participant, clearly because it would be a moderating influence on the PLO and because Egypt would then be closely involved. But President Mubarak reportedly is insisting on a price — linking departure of the PLO with a US commitment to Palestinian self-determination, a demand which is not unreasonable.

Obviously it will take a tremendous amount of good will on all sides to conclude the plan and bring it to fruition. It will take an even greater effort and determination to move forward the peace process if and when the PLO is dispersed. Brute force has prevailed for the moment. There is no doubt that Israel's unrelenting military pressure has persuaded the weakened PLO to agree to leave. (Perhaps quiet US assurances not to drop the Palestinian question also played a role.) But Israeli force will not wipe out Palestinian nationalism, which Israel's invasion of Lebanon can only enhance, nor destroy the Palestinian national movement.

Washington's immediate task is to get the PLO out and save what is left of Beirut. There is now some optimism that that can be accomplished — a tribute to Mr. Habib's skills. The harder task will be to look beyond Beirut with a vision of a larger and permanent peace.

*Christian Science Monitor*

## The Braves will battle back

This has not been the best times for the Atlanta Braves. In less than two weeks, they dropped from first place, nine games ahead of the San Diego Padres and Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League West, to second place. It was one of the most spectacular crashes in the recent history of baseball.

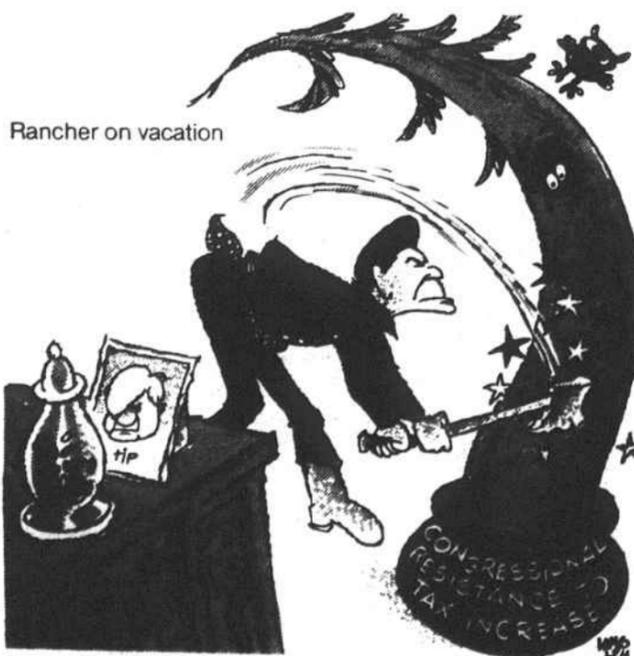
Now, of course, people with 20/20 hindsight are saying it was inevitable. No pitching, they say. The Braves were doing it with mirrors.

But we predict that the collapse will prove temporary. All teams hit their bad streaks, and in baseball, it seems, they are often hard to break. In other sports — particularly football — teams can often charge out of slumps by simply playing harder. But baseball is largely a game of finesse. It can be counterproductive for a batter to swing harder or for a pitcher to try for a little more velocity.

So you try to relax and stave off panic and just allow yourself to find the groove again. The Braves will do it. With Horner and Murphy, Hubbard and Ramirez, steady Chris Chambliss and Neikro and Bedrosian, it's only a matter of time until America's Team battles back.

Depend on it.

*--Charlotte Observer*



## Browsing in the files of The News-Journal

### 25 years ago

Thursday, August 15, 1957

At a called meeting of the board of commissioners of the Town of Raeford on Tuesday the resignation of Robert Weaver was accepted and Charles Morrison was employed to fill the vacancy.

\*\*\*

Arnold Artemus McKay, retired professor and diplomat and accomplished writer, died suddenly Thursday at the home of his sister, Mrs. Etta McKay Gillis, just east of Raeford where he had made his home for several years.

\*\*\*

The strength ceiling which has applied to National Guard units for over two months has been lifted, Captain Edwin D. Newton, commander of Company A, 130th Tank Battalion, said this week.

\*\*\*

From Rockfish News:

The older men need not fear for the future of the Nail Keg Club for there are a lot of youngsters coming on to take their places should they for any reason have to drop out. Harold Brock, Harrison Berry and Larry English were holding a lively session in front of Wood's store Sunday, with crates substituting for Nail Kegs.

\*\*\*

Sheriff D.H. Hodgkin served papers on members of the Hoke County Agricultural and Stabilization Committee yesterday requiring their appearance in Hoke County Superior Court before Judge Malcolm B. Seawell to show cause why relief demanded in a complaint filed by David Garner of Little River Township should not be granted.

## Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:

I've been thinking about the proposed Constitutional Amendment to prohibit the government from having a deficit.

As I understand it, if the Amendment were ratified by the states, it'd thereafter be Unconstitutional for Washington to spend more than it takes in.

However, there's a catch to it. The Amendment says the government couldn't spend more than it takes in unless three-fifths of Congress says it's all right this time. And this time and the next time and the next time.

A second proviso says Congress can over-spend if there's a war on.

This requires some thought. For example, the Viet Nam conflict lasted for years but there never was a formal declaration of war. So, before Congress could finance such an undertaking, would it be necessary to go to the Supreme Court to find out if we were at war? And what if the Court ruled 5 to 4 that we weren't?

Now as for requiring three-fifths

### 15 years ago

Thursday, August 17, 1967

Federal officials have recommended major integration of Hoke County schools if the county is to continue sales - factory compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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The Hoke alligator incident apparently is closed as far as state wildlife officials are concerned, and nobody appears likely to be prosecuted for killing the creature.

\*\*\*

Funeral services for Daniel Martin McKeithan, 10, who drowned Friday near Leland were conducted Sunday at 3 p.m. at Raeford Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Douglas Kelly.

\*\*\*

In less than two weeks another Hoke-Scotland County fair will be in session here. More than \$400 is being offered in prizes by the sponsoring Raeford Jaycees.

\*\*\*

A former Hawk Eye High School baseball star, Durant Cooper, has compiled the best won-lost record of the year in the Class A Midwest League.

\*\*\*

Lightning wreaked havoc in at least two places here last week, striking a church and a home whose owners were away on vacation.

\*\*\*

A new club for horsemen, The Trail Riding Club of Hoke County, has been formed here with about 30 charter members.

'Don't shoot, it's one of ours!'

## CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues



BALANCED BUDGET?...By a vote of 69 to 31 the U.S. Senate passed a proposed Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would call for a balanced budget. However, the U.S. House of Representatives is yet to approve.

First, two thirds of both Houses of Congress shall adopt the proposed constitutional amendment and three-fourths of the several states shall adopt the proposed amendment before it shall become law.

The Amendment faces an uphill battle in the house where it appears to have less support than in the Senate. Even if the bill prevails in the House, supporters and critics doubt that it will be embraced by the necessary 38 states for ratification.

If adopted, the Amendment would require a balanced budget unless three-fifths of both Houses voted for a deficit. The fear is that in time of war or a national calamity, such as the Great Depression of the 1930's a hardship might be created that would force Congress to find ways to avoid obeying the law.

I am strong for a balanced budget, and I am not against the proposed Amendment, but fear it might be easily avoided by law.

Three fifths of both the House and Senate could over-rule the balanced budget provision and continue piling up a great debt for un-born people to pay.

PROPOSAL...I have long advocated a balanced budget unless we have a real crisis such as the great depression of the 1930's or in time of war.

I feel that we need strong citizens in the House and Senate who will face up to a balanced budget. However, I realize that getting the nation on a balanced budget takes much more than barber-shop talk.

I would suggest that Congress reduce all expenditures of the government, where legal to do so, by approximately 20 percent!

You would not need to reduce the government force by 20 percent as we would expect the great majority of government employees to remain on for, as a whole, govern-

## Letter To The Editor

Editor,  
*The News-Journal*

It's time to balance the scales.

The weeping and wailing pumped out by the establishment media regarding innocent victims would cause one to assume that Prime Minister Begin is Atila the Hun reincarnated. Actually, he'd make a fine secretary of defense in President Reagan's cabinet. On the other hand, and come to think of it, I remember when it was known as the secretary of war and we had never lost one. Since it's changed to secretary of defense, we've never won one. Purely coincidental, I suppose. Anyway, it's clear that Begin wants no part of that.

His crime is that he, with the consent of his cabinet, has decided that the primary responsibility of government is to protect the lives of its citizens. After the United Nations and western nations had repeatedly ignored the slaughter of

ment employees receive a higher wage than do most civilian workers. For every government employee who left their job, I would feel that a person of equal ability would be willing to fill the place.

I feel that tax-paying citizens would much prefer this method of providing a balanced budget than raising taxes for the purpose of balancing the budget.

This year the Federal government will be spending more than \$100 billion more dollars than taxpayers pay in.

It is my feeling that if a balanced budget is adopted by the Congress and the necessary number of states, that Congress and the President will find a way to get around the "balanced budget," if the amendment is adopted.

I think that amendment is in reality a "face saving" method for the U.S. Senators and Congressmen to get around balancing the budget during the next few years. I don't think it is a real statesmanship "conscience" that is causing the activity in Washington for a balanced budget.

If it were, they would balance the budget this year rather than load down the budget a hundred billion dollars for future generations to wrestle with.

If they can't face the situation that confronts us this year, how can we expect to meet it head-on in future years?

It is not only Federal government that is weighted down with personnel and generous retirement benefits.

State and county positions don't go vacant for the lack of applicants. We understand that today there is an over-supply of school teachers, ready for assignments.

Federal government jobs on an average can be filled by qualified municipal, county and state personnel without much trouble because the salaries are above those in the private sector.

Unless something is done pretty soon, it will be rather late to think about a balanced budget. Then the nation will find itself in worse shape than when the bottom fell out in FDR's lap in 1933!

scores of innocent Israeli citizens by PLO terrorists. Israel finally decided to take decisive action. It is to be commended for doing so.

Soviet backed PLO criminals clearly do not represent the Palestinian people and understandably no other action will give them sanctuary. Israeli troops were joyously welcomed as liberators when they knifed into Lebanon. They uncovered vast quantities of arms that obviously were designed for offensive purposes. Also found was a highly sophisticated international terrorist training center with target countries listed including the United States.

We had better understand that those tough Israeli troops, under superb leadership, are fighting for our women and children. Terrorist bombs are quite indiscriminate.

Lynn Batson  
5521 Wrightsville Avenue  
Wilmington, N.C. 28403

## The Upper Room

Read Galatians 3:11-14; 23-29  
By grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.  
--Ephesians 2:8 (RSV)

A young woman complained that although she felt challenged to be a Christian, she could not bear the thought of having to live by a set of rules. "I would find that terribly inhibiting," she said. "There would be nothing liberating about it."

That young woman was absolutely right in her fear, but totally wrong in her conception of the Christian life. The Christian life is our human response in word and deed to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

This does not mean that moral codes have no value. They do, but they only tell us how to behave. They offer no power to motivate our behavior.

Paul acknowledged his debt to the moral code in the law of Moses, but he said it had only exposed his moral inadequacy and had driven him to Christ. Christians through the ages have had a similar experience. They have found it true that "the just shall live by faith."  
PRAYER: We give thanks, O God,

for Your gift of newness of life in Christ. By Your grace revealed in Him, the chains that bind can be broken. Amen.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY  
Let us live in the glorious liberty God offers.

Arthur Preston (Australia)



ONLY THE NEWSPAPER brings you complete election news... sidelights, background, issues... the before and after news, complete with tabulations for study on how your favorites won — or lost

Yours faithfully,  
J.A.