

# Opinions



## Recession causes long lines

by Lucien Coleman

When economic recession hits, some lines are bound to form. The lines at employment offices grow longer as people who have lost their jobs try to find work. Many of the same people have to queue up to draw unemployment checks. Wherever governmental agencies offer food stamps, surplus cheese, and other forms of assistance, lines form and lengthen.

What is not so apparent, though, is that standing in line has become a sort of national pastime for all of us. And this, too, is a result of the less-than-bright economic picture.

Let me tell you what I mean. The other day my wife and I took one of our grandchildren shopping for a new pair of shoes. We went to the shoe department of a local department store, sat down, and waited. Fifteen minutes we're still waiting, since a single salesperson was trying to take care of half-a-dozen customers by herself.

### Things That Matter

A few minutes later, I discovered that I had failed to bring my charge card. So I went to the "customer service" counter, where I found very little service. I stood in line as the lady behind the counter wrapped gift packages for two customers who happened to be in front of me.

After waiting several minutes, I went back to the shoe department with a temporary credit authorization in my pocket. And there I waited again, since the salesperson was now helping another customer.

As I waited, it dawned on me that I was spending a lot of time standing in lines nowadays. At the grocery, at discount stores, in fast-food places (I use the term "fast" loosely), the story is always the same.

You wait in line. Not long ago, I finally realized

why I'm standing in line more and enjoying it less.

Some of those people in employment lines used to work in shoe departments, grocery stores, discount stores, and fast-food places.

As the recession has worsened, employers have tried to cope with some of their economic problems by letting workers go.

That's why we often find one salesperson in a shoe department and one waitress trying to take care of a dozen tables.

There just aren't enough employees to go around. So we wait in line.

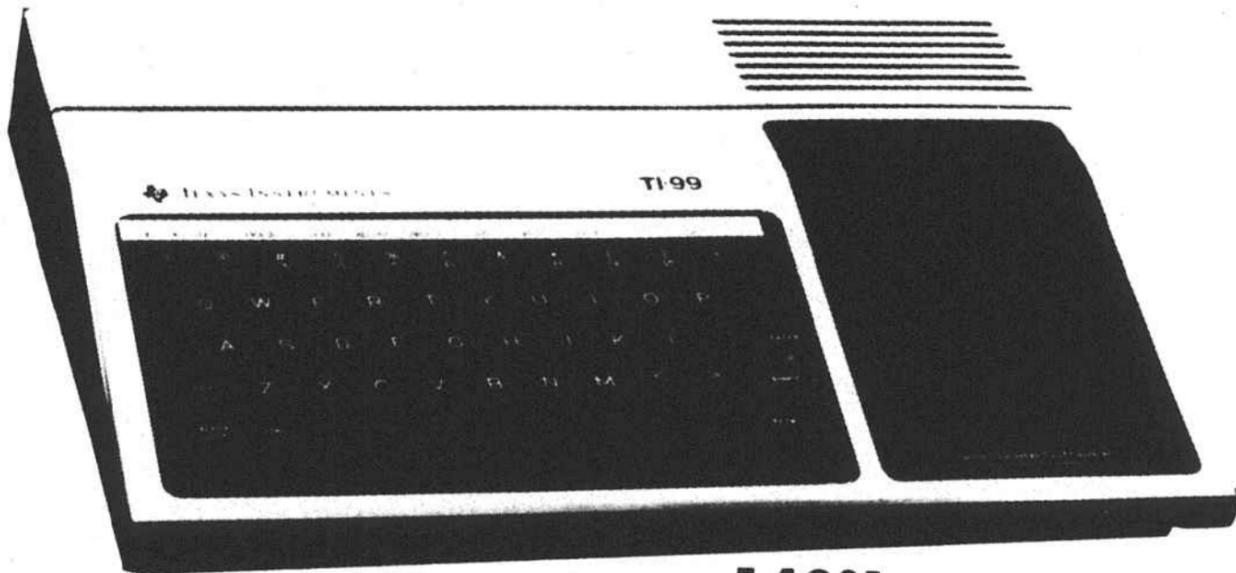
We wait in line to buy auto licenses, buy postage stamps, see the dentist, have the car services or washed, get on airplanes, get off airplanes, board street busses, and get into hospitals.

I just hope the funeral home won't be too busy when I need their services. That would be the last straw.

The very last one.

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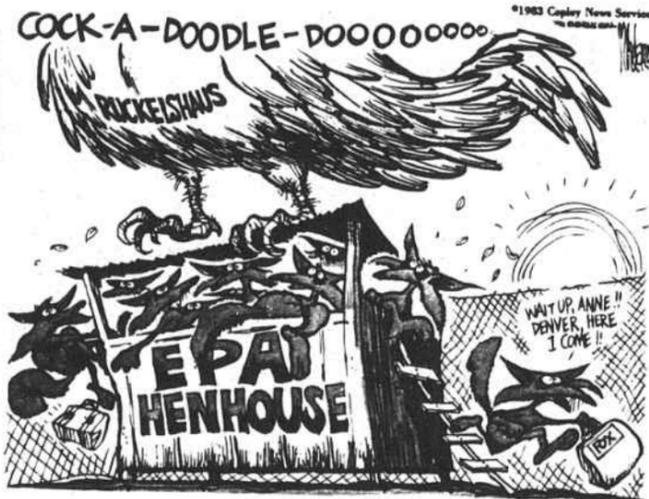
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## Found Bank Bag Sets Precedent

The North Carolina Court of Appeals used the law concerning larceny of found property in a recent North Carolina case.

Three people were standing at a bus stop in front of a drugstore when they discovered a bank bag on the sidewalk.

Without looking in the bag, one of them picked it up and soon boarded a bus with the others.

Later in the day, all three looked into the bag and found that it contained over a thousand dollars in cash plus many checks.

The three divided the money and took it as their own, disposing of the bag and the checks.

The question arose whether larceny had been committed as a result of the finding and taking of the bank bag.

In the case, *State v. Moore*, reported in Volume 46 of the North Carolina Court of Appeals Reports at page 259, the court noted that the old common law providing that lost property could not be the subject of larceny was no longer good in North Carolina.

The court said that whether property is lost or just mislaid, it can now be the subject of larceny in North Carolina.

The court recognized that whether a person who finds and keeps lost property for his own use is guilty of larceny depends upon whether at the time he finds the property he knows or has reason to

### Law For Lappers

know that he can ascertain the owner of the property.

If at the time of finding the property he knows or has reasonable means of knowing or ascertaining the owner, he is guilty of larceny if he keeps the property with the intent to deprive the owner.

In this case, the court looked at the facts to see whether the three people could have discovered the owner of the bag.

The bank bag had printed on the outside of it the name of the bank to which the owner had obviously intended the bag to go so that the cash and checks could be deposited.

In addition, the bag contained numerous checks made out to the order of the drugstore in front of which the people had found the bag.

Considering these facts and the additional fact that the bag was found right outside of the drugstore named on the checks, it appeared that the finders did have reasonable means of ascertaining the owner.

When they did not attempt to find the owner but instead took the money as their own, it was obviously their present intent to deprive the owner of his lost property and convert it to their use.

Thus, larceny of the found property had been committed.

## Gillis Tapped For NC Ed Post

Harold L. Gillis, Director of Vocational Education, was elected as Vice-President of the North Carolina Association of School Administration, beginning July 1, at the Spring Meeting in Raleigh, May 15-17.

NCASA is composed of approximately 2,000 members consisting of principals, assistant principals, superintendents, assistant superintendents, directors, supervisors and coordinators.

The Association, formed in 1976, fundamental goal is to promote and provide quality leadership, by serving the entire team, in the improvement and advancement of public education.

Gillis is a charter member of NCASA. He has previously served a 3-year term (1978-81) on the Executive Committee representing District 4. He also has served on the Special Committee on Associa-

tion Structure, chaired the Budget Committee and a Special Political Action Study Committee.

Gillis has been the Local Director of Vocational Education in Hoke County for over 10 years. He is presently serving a term on the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Council of Local Administrators of Vocational Education. He is a former Chairman of District 4 Local Directors and has chaired the District 4 Vocational Fair at Cross Creek Mall.

Gillis states "he feels it is an honor and privilege to represent this school system's administrators as well as serve as an officer in this state-wide organization."

The typical American spends 40 minutes a day waiting--at stoplights, in lines and restaurants.