

Editorials

Springtime for Reagan

What a difference a recovery makes. A few short months ago, Ronald Reagan was down on his uppers, marked by friends and enemies alike to be the fifth president in a row to get trampled in a stampede for fresh leadership. He was down in the polls. House elections had gone wrong and even some of the lightweights in Congress were yelling, "Let me at him!"

But a subtle change has occurred. The president has just carried off a summit meeting that was a marvel of decorum, goodwill and even commitment to generally sound policies; heads of state, aided by their instincts and the diplomatic grapevine, know whether one of their fellows is up or down, and they treated Mr. Reagan with deference, which means he is up.

In the Senate there are fewer and fewer volunteers available to lead an assault on the president's tax cuts. Even on that thorniest of all issues, Central America, the congressional critics of covert action are less confident than a few weeks ago that they want to be identified with communist efforts to overthrow the government of El Salvador and suppress the rights of the people of Nicaragua. The presidential popularity polls for what they are worth, are looking rosier.

Economic recovery has been central to the president's recovery. The April index of leading economic indicators, made public yesterday, was up again for the 10th month in a row. U.S. industry is gathering steam. The world outlook is brightening as well. Gloriously, the summiteers agreed in principle on trying to achieve the first recovery in ages free of a new outburst of currency inflation, an effort that will certainly benefit from genuine political commitment.

Politicians forget a lot of things but they remember election years; for one thing, they have early campaigns by Messrs. Mondale, Glenn and Cranston to remind them. There is a strong suspicion, reinforced by some remarks the president made to King Hussein and relayed by the king to our Mrs. House some weeks ago, that Mr. Reagan intends to run off reelection.

If he plans to run, that means he plans to campaign, the thoughtful politician reasons. If he plans to campaign, he has the full power of the office backing up what is already a formidable capacity to communicate to the voters. With all that and a robust economy too, does this look like someone I want to slug it out with? I have seriously considered the issues and have solemnly concluded the tax cuts and a stand-up foreign policy are not such a bad idea after all.

None of this means that the president is home free. While the recovery is for real, it remains uncertain how non-inflationary it will be. We have urged him to reappoint Paul Volcker to a new four-year term in August to give himself good odds for warding off a new inflation outburst. In foreign policy, there remain serious threats of a new outbreak in the Mideast that would require adroit handling and of further embarrassments in Central America. Those are among the more predictable dangers.

But being up is always better than being down. Whereas Mr. Reagan was on the defensive last winter, vulnerable to the charge that Reaganomics had gone awry, he now is well-positioned to take the offensive. His policy team has had the seasoning of office and has been strengthened with the addition of George Shultz. He has demonstrated anew that when Reagan acts like Reagan, as he did with his "star wars" and Central America addresses to the nation, he is a powerful political advocate.

He is beginning to take a harder line with Congress, suggesting that he might be inclined to get really tough as the election draws nearer. Now it is the congressional leadership that suddenly looks vulnerable. The economy has recovered despite the congressional incapacity to manage the federal budget, but that incapacity remains glaringly evident, lying exposed for a skillful president to attack as the campaign season heats up. Remember "Give-'em-hell Harry" Truman?"

For a good many years it has been easy to believe that the nation is more fearful of being led astray by presidential hubris than of not being led at all. That fear can never be totally discounted. But again we turn to Mr. Reagan's fellow heads of state at Williamsburg. If our reading is correct, they found the president's new confidence contagious and encouraging to the prospects of the Western alliance. We have to admit that we too find the White House spring refreshing after so many winters of discontent.

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GIVE ME YOUR TOXIC WASTES, YOUR PESTICIDES, YOUR DIOXIN, ACID RAIN, SOLVENTS, NUCLEAR WASTE DUMPS, THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORE....

Letters To The Editor

Ambulance company should pay bills

Dear Editor:
A great deal has been printed concerning the Hoke County Ambulance Service, Inc. in this newspaper. I hope you will tolerate one more letter because something has disturbed me, and I would like to present it for your consideration.

Let me say first, I have nothing personal against anyone connected with the ambulance service company or any of the elected officials who decide on the funds which go to subsidize the ambulance enterprise.

I had some reservations in my mind earlier when it was reported that the company would get nearly \$106,000 of tax dollars, but the owners had already decided to quit at the end of the contract. Maybe there was good reason behind that.

The biggest thing that troubles me is while all that was going on, Mr. Jim Henley, the owner of the Hoke County Ambulance Service, made a point to get the state legislature to pass a law to get people to pay their ambulance bills.

I gathered that our representatives undertook to get this bill pushed through Raleigh on behalf of the Hoke County Ambulance Service because the service was having trouble collecting from people. They succeeded and soon it will be a misdemeanor for anyone to fail to pay an ambulance bill.

My question is this: Is there any way we (citizens) can get a bill passed to compel the Hoke County Ambulance Service to pay their bills? I do not mean this in a sarcastic or derogatory manner, either.

If you will go check the public records in the courthouse you will find several judgements against the Hoke County Ambulance Service taken out by local merchants like myself, who are owed money and unable to collect through other means.

In my case, I obtained a judgement in the amount of \$1,000, plus court costs, for materials bought in the name of the ambulance company. The judgement is still not satisfied, which in court jargon means I still don't have my money.

Raeford Hardware also obtained a judgement against the Hoke County Ambulance Service, but the file on that also indicates "not satisfied."

Little & Pulley Office Machines of Fayetteville took out a \$472 judgement against the Hoke County Ambulance Service. That too is listed as unpaid.

In fact, the only action that the Clerk of Court's office shows has been paid off concerns a lien that the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina obtained in 1982. But then you go to the 1983 file and there's another one taken out by the E.S.C. people against the ambulance

service and it's marked unpaid.

If you want to know how Hoke County collected the delinquent taxes owed by the ambulance company, the tax collector's office has the records. They got their money by having it deducted from the subsidy check the ambulance service gets from the County Manager, James Martin. That avenue is apparently not open to a private individual!

So, again, is it really all that absurd to see if we can get another law passed to make it a misdemeanor for an ambulance service not to pay its bills?

If the ambulance service was having all the financial problems dragged out in the newspaper, then there probably was a genuine need for some sort of "bail out."

I am a businessman, too, and I know the problems of cash flow and taxes etc., and times have been rough. But I feel I have an obligation to myself and my customers to conduct my affairs in a responsible and businesslike manner.

Frankly, I am disgusted and very discouraged that our system of local government allows these abuses.

If my thinking is wrong on this subject, I'll be glad to listen to anyone who has more knowledge about it.

In the meantime, I think I had better start taking more interest in local politics and the next election.

Thank you,
J.R. Kennedy

Society opened

To the Editor:
In order to best meet the needs of the pets and stray animals in our community it is necessary to have as many willing hands and hearts as possible.

To accomplish this, we are opening the Hoke/Raeford Humane Society for general membership so we can continue the work we have started and expand our effort further. It is not our intention to impose on members by making extraordinary demands on them, but ours will be a group effort.

The Hoke/Raeford Humane Society has essentially adopted the By-Laws of the United States Humane Society.

A copy of the By-Laws will be provided at our first meeting. We feel that these By-Laws are comprehensive and fair to all members and in keeping with the Hoke/Raeford Humane Society's views.

Our first and primary concern is the humane and compassionate treatment of the animals in our community.

Upon full consideration of all recommendations the following membership fees have been adopted: Active Members - \$10.00 or more per year, Associate Members - less than \$10.00 per year and children \$1.00 per year. Input from members will always be welcome and we will welcome your suggestions con-

cerning ways to achieve our goals.

Our initial meeting will be June 15th, 1983 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hoke County Library.

Thank you so much for your interest in the animals of Hoke County. With your help we can help those who can't help themselves.

Sincerely,
Sheryl McGinnis, Director
Hoke/Raeford Humane Society

Praise for Lee

To The Editor:
The citizens of Hoke County are aware, I'm sure, of the fine law enforcement staff we have. Mr. R.V. Lee with the State Highway Patrol deserves honorable recognition.

On many occasions he has taken the time to come to Scurlock and talk to my students concerning bicycle and bus safety. Thursday, June 2, he visited us again.

He is sincerely concerned about our children and their welfare. We should be proud to have such a dedicated gentleman serving our area.

Sincerely,
Faye Williams

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
What 998,991,923,919 multiplied by 998,991,923,919 comes to is something I've never thought about. Whatever the answer is, I couldn't find a place for it out here on this farm.

But a computer can give you the answer by the time you punch the last numeral. Scientists, however, aren't satisfied with that. They are now trying to build a computer that can talk and think like a human. They call it "artificial intelligence."

The first step, as I understand it, is to build a computer that talks. Thinking will come later.

Is Congress aware of this? I mean, if scientists build a machine that talks about thinking, won't a bunch of Congressmen wind up no longer needed?

If the scientists' aim is to build a machine equal to a human, the first phase will be adequate, no use spending money going any further, as a machine that talks without thinking seems about as human as you can get.

As for the second step, building a machine that can duplicate human reasoning and do it as fast as it multiplies a two-foot long string of numbers, the question is, whose reasoning will it duplicate? Where will it turn for a model?

With the 10 or 15 best known countries in the world all armed to the teeth on borrowed money and ready to fight, that machine may find that reason is not in great supply nowadays. I know it's not out here on this farm. Every year I reason that what's planted will at harvest time bring a good price. It never does.

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by The News-Journal by noon on the Monday of the publication week.

CLIFF BLUE ... People & Issues

REAGAN AND GLENN ...

President Ronald Reagan appears to have moved up considerably in the polls since the early weeks of the year, as has Senator John Glenn of Ohio, for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

Recent polls showed Reagan and Glenn about even in public approval. But, most anything can happen between now and convention time, and also election time in November 1984!

MIXED BAG...

The President's struggle with Congress over budget deficits is a mixed bag. Reagan, in his press conferences and other public statements, speaks out against big deficits but really doesn't say how they can be reduced.

Now, when Reagan speaks out about balancing the budget three or four years from now, most people pay little attention.

Reagan needs to put more weight in his talk about balancing the budget now while he is president, and not after the election.

As to the Democratic nominee, I would suspect that at this date, more than a year before the National Convention, Mondale and Glenn would be the front runners.

Senator Hollings of South Carolina is regarded as a very able candidate, although he is from the "Deep South." However, Jimmy Carter was also from the "Deep South" and he received the nomination, and was elected in 1976.

Most Democrats have seemed to feel that heretofore, Mondale was out front and the man to beat. Mondale is regarded as more of a liberal than Senator Glenn or Hollings.

At this early date, I would guess that the Democratic nominees for President and Vice President would be among the three, Mondale, Glenn and Hollings, but lots can happen between now and convention time in 1984.

STATE OFFICIALS...

Come to think of it, we have a large number of State Officials to nominate and elect, come November, 1984.

To begin with we have a Governor and Lieut. Governor to nominate and elect.

The Democrats have several candidates for governor, already announced:

- Lt. Governor, Jimmy Green;
- Attorney General Rufus Edmisten of Watauga County;
- Lacy Thornburg of Sylva; and
- State Senator Eddie Knox of Charlotte.

Also considering the governor's race are: Cong. Charles G. Rose III of Fayetteville; Dr. Leo Jenkins of Greenville; D.M. Faircloth of Clinton and possibly others.

For Lieut. Governor, State Senator Bob Jordan of Mt. Gilead, and Carl Stewart, former Speaker of the House, who lost to Jimmy Green in 1976 and others.

Secretary of State, Thad Eure, has announced he will seek another term, having first been elected in 1936 and every four years since.

State Auditor Harland Edward Bowles, first elected in 1976.

Andrew Craig Phillips, first elected in 1968.

Attorney General Rufus Edmisten, first elected in 1974 and a Democratic candidate for Governor, in 1984.

James A. Graham, elected commissioner of Agriculture 1964, and every four years since.

John Charles Brooks, first elected 1976 and again in 1980.

John R. Ingram, first elected in 1972 and each four years since, now a candidate for Governor on the Democratic ticket.

U.S. Senator Jesse Helms, first elected 1972 and again in 1978 on the Republican ticket and a candidate for re-election to the U.S. Senate.

U.S. House of Representatives:
First Cong. District: Walter B. Jones, first elected 1966.

Second Cong. District: I.T. Valentine, elected 1982.

Third Cong. District: Charles O. Whitley, elected 1976.

Fourth Cong. District: Ike F. Andrews, first elected 1972.

Fifth Cong. District: Stephen L. Neal, D., first elected 1974.

Sixth Cong. District: Walter E. Johnson, III, D, elected 1980.

Seventh Cong. District: Charles G. Rose, III, elected 1972.

Eighth Cong. District: W.G. (Bill) Hefner, D, first elected 1974.

Ninth Cong. District: James G. Martin, R, elected 1972.

Tenth Cong. District: James T. Broyhill, R, elected 1962.

Eleventh Cong. District: William M. Hendron, R, elected 1980.