

Editorial Comment

Voters Verdict

The voters have spoken - there will be no local one-cent sales tax in Cherokee County.

Last week we gave editorial endorsement to the tax, admittedly in a lukewarm, half-hearted manner. Our support was not perhaps what it should have been for the very idea goes against human nature. Who can stand up boldly, flags flying and bands playing, and say "Come on boys, let's all march together down to the courthouse and vote a tax on ourselves"?

But maybe we should have. The only people who could see the real need for a local sales tax were the local politicians in this county and politicians are always suspect. They wanted another source of revenue to take the burden off the property owners and many of them will lay their heads on the political chopping block in the future when they raise property taxes, increases which might have been staved off by passage of the local sales tax.

It was not an issue we could preach

about with fervor, proclaiming it as the final cure-all remedy. It is our considered opinion that if local government needs, for example, \$100 from you as a taxpayer, it will get \$100 from you. Your only choice, as we see it, is to say which pocket or pockets the money will come from.

Cherokee County has no liquor stores, as many other counties do, and it has now voted against having a sales tax, which others will have. Its source of revenue will remain the property tax and all support for government will come from one pocket, the whole \$100, as opposed to the \$90-\$10 or \$85-\$15 split which might have been seen with the addition of a sales tax.

A raise in the tax rate will come soon, local officials say it is inevitable. And the raise will be quite visible, a raise in property taxes, more coming out of the one pocket. We think it would have been easier and less painful to pay another penny on the dollar but you voted otherwise. So be it.

Getting The Mails Through

That's perfectly all right about neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom staying the mails, but the real challenge is getting an improved postal service through Congress.

The Nixon Administration and the Johnson Administration agreed on the need for a complete overhaul of the postal operation - specifically the placing of the mails into the care of a government corporation, thereby relieving Congress of the year-to-year worry, and the patronage, and maybe even introducing improved business methods.

But the other day the House Post Office Committee filed by only one vote to dispatch the plan to the House floor.

Actually, the vote was 13 to 13, but committee rules say a tie means defeat.

Postal unions have fought the corporation idea bitterly, fearing a loss of the powers they have with Congress, which is working on postal changes within the framework of the present setup.

Postmaster General Winton M. Blount declared after the defeat of the corporation plan, "I am concerned that some members of the committee continue to ignore the will of the over-whelming majority of the voters in their own districts, as demonstrated in poll after poll."

Neither snow, nor rain, nor Congress. - Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.

More Silly Millimeters

Have you read any good cigarette packs lately? In addition to the health warning now required, Rep. James A. Byrne, D-Pa., wants to compel tobacco companies to put a fire hazard warning on the pack, too. It would read:

"The smoking of cigarettes is a dangerous fire hazard which results in hundreds of deaths and many millions of dollars in damage each year. You are

urged never to smoke in bed or when in a drowsy condition and to be absolutely certain that each cigarette, before it is disposed of, is completely extinguished."

Good advice, but does Congressman Byrne say how all that printing can fit on the present size package? And here we thought cigarettes had gotten about a long as they could.

Roanoke (Va.)Times

Goodnight Chet

World-weary Chet Huntley has looked for some years as though he were ready to lay down his script and contemplate man's folly; as if he were looking at wars and disasters and neighborhood squabbles from the wrong end of a telescope.

His tone and inflection strung the words together for the effect of historic perspective. It seemed to reduce the problems somewhat, for Chet was so weary of them, and so detached, one felt that surely even the newest crisis could not be that final doomsday or else he would be at least a little agitated.

He seemed about the safest thing on television, for he never wavered. He tried to smile or chuckle now and then with David Brinkley, but one could tell it was

forced. He really was too weary with it all. Chet knew that this too would pass, for it had passed before. Worry not, viewers. When he finally lays down his burden, we will miss his tolerant, reassuring goodnight. - Miami (Fla.) Herald

Space Spy

The news dispatches from Moscow say that the Soviets have put three spacecraft into orbit in order to build the first space platform. We wonder. That third spacecraft was probably sent up by the secret police to keep watch on the other two. Winston-Salem Journal

Lightning Rod



Around Capitol Square

By WILLIAM A. SHIRES

RALEIGH - Gov. Bob Scott has changed his mind on the entirely "open door" policy in state government which he promised, as a political candidate, to implement.

Now, as governor since last January, he feels that executive sessions - meetings of certain boards and commissions behind closed doors - are necessary in order to be effective.

Executive sessions, closed meetings, are repugnant to the press which regularly criticizes and castigates the practice.

It was believed, on the basis of Scott's campaign promise, that most if not all of the previously closed doors would be opened to the press and public while public business was being discussed and decided upon. Scott was asked this week whether he felt meetings of the University of North Carolina trustees' executive committee in private were necessary.

"Yes, I do," Scott said. OPEN - The fact is that instead of open doors, there has been more so-called secrecy, more "executive session" activity and less press and public access to government officials, including Scott, than during previous administrations.

The governor has not been as available to the press as his predecessors.

Newsmen covering the state political beat usually were admitted to see Govs. Terry Sanford and Dan Moore in their offices to ask questions

and get private background interviews upon request.

Sanford frequently would invite inquiring reporters to lunch, then light a cigar and answer any range of questions. Dan Moore enjoyed the company of newspapermen on all occasions.

In fairness, so does Bob Scott. If he has been more secluded and "unavailable" it may be because of his aides rather than Scott himself. They have guarded lines of questioning arbitrarily.

The governor's press office in the Capitol has been a relatively idle and infrequently visited place because it produces little if anything of news value.

UNUSUAL - This situation is not really typical of Bob Scott.

As lieutenant governor - and prior to his election - Scott was extremely friendly to the news corps. His doors were open. He would grant spot interviews. He would invite newsmen to accompany him on trips. He would get a group together for lunch at a favorite oyster bar. The rapport was good.

From his close association Scott learned that the chief concern of the newspapermen covering state government was limited, arbitrary access to sources of information and the practice of holding "executive sessions."

CHANGED - What has changed? First, perhaps, Scott does not realize the attitude assumed by his top aides and staff members toward the press.

There have been reports of sharp differences of opinion, dispute and jealousy among those who surround the governor's office. Some of these feel that they have no real authority to answer or to relay questions and if so they are mere figureheads. Others feel they must screen all questions.

Others have decided that the governor usually is too busy to see reporters.

Some of these aides arrange the governor's schedule and have managed to include a press conference on an average of less than one a month since last January.

REASONS - In addition, Scott apparently has accepted the advice of administration aides and other advisors that executive sessions of certain boards and commissions are necessary and advisable.

When asked, Scott said the reasons are that there should

be free discussions of individuals. In the case of the University trustees, he said, they must discuss positions, acquisition and other items which might be entirely restricted or jeopardized by premature publicity.

It appears, at this point, that more and more of these boards and commissions have seized upon these and other reasons to uphold the practice - now becoming a tradition - of closed sessions.

But it all remains the public's business, whether the public knows it or not.

WASHINGTON - Much criticism is being directed at Congress for not acting more swiftly on thirteen regular money bills which fund governmental activities for the fiscal year which began July 1.

This is not at all unusual, since this is the season when those who need Federal funds to operate programs want some assurance about the continued funding of projects. Since only two of the thirteen appropriations bills had reached the President's desk in late October, governmental agencies have been operating on the basis of authority given under a continuing money resolution. This permits activities to continue on the basis of the previous year's appropriations until the regular money bill for the agency can be enacted.

With the current fiscal year about 1/3 completed, the question arises as to why appropriations are not enacted by July 1, the date when the fiscal year began. The most simple answer is that Congress is composed of 100 Senators and 435 Representatives, and when billions of dollars of expenditures and revenues are at stake, it is difficult to achieve prompt agreement.

In 1946, Congress sought to deal with the budget more efficiently under the terms of the Legislative Reorganization Act. That Act directed the House Ways and Means, Senate Finance and both Appropriations Committees to prepare a legislative budget of estimated revenues and expenditures. In 1947, 1948 and 1949, such a budget was prepared but it encountered so many difficulties it was abandoned in the latter year.

The following year, 1950, the Senate and House Appropriations Committees brought out an omnibus appropriation bill embracing all budget expenditures, but that method was abandoned in 1951 due to the problems which it encountered.

Some of the delay arises out

of the fact that before any money can be appropriated, it must be authorized. This requires both the authorizing committees and the appropriating committees of the Senate and the House to review measures involving the expenditure of Federal monies. There is much to be said for this dual check on money expenditures, but it is a fact that in an age when there are hundreds of Federal programs, the process is time consuming.

Another factor in this situation arises from the fact that under the standing procedures government appropriation bills is that such measures must originate in the House. In 1961-1962, former Senator Hayden, then Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, contended that appropriations bills should be permitted to originate in either the Senate or the House. That argument was dropped after a virtual stalemate on money bills occurred and the House practice of originating all

appropriation bills has continued.

This year's appropriation backlog has been compounded by the fact that there was a delay in receiving the views of the Nixon Administration as to money bills. The initial 1970 budget was submitted by President Johnson, but in deference to President Nixon Congress awaited his views on departmental requests. It is understandable that a new Administration would want to review the budget, and so the Committee was later than usual in getting this information.

All of these factors have had a bearing on the current appropriation logjam, but it would expect that the appropriation process will accelerate in the weeks ahead since much of the Committee work has now been completed.

James K. Polk, 11th President of the United States was born in 1795 in a two-room log house in Mecklenburg County.



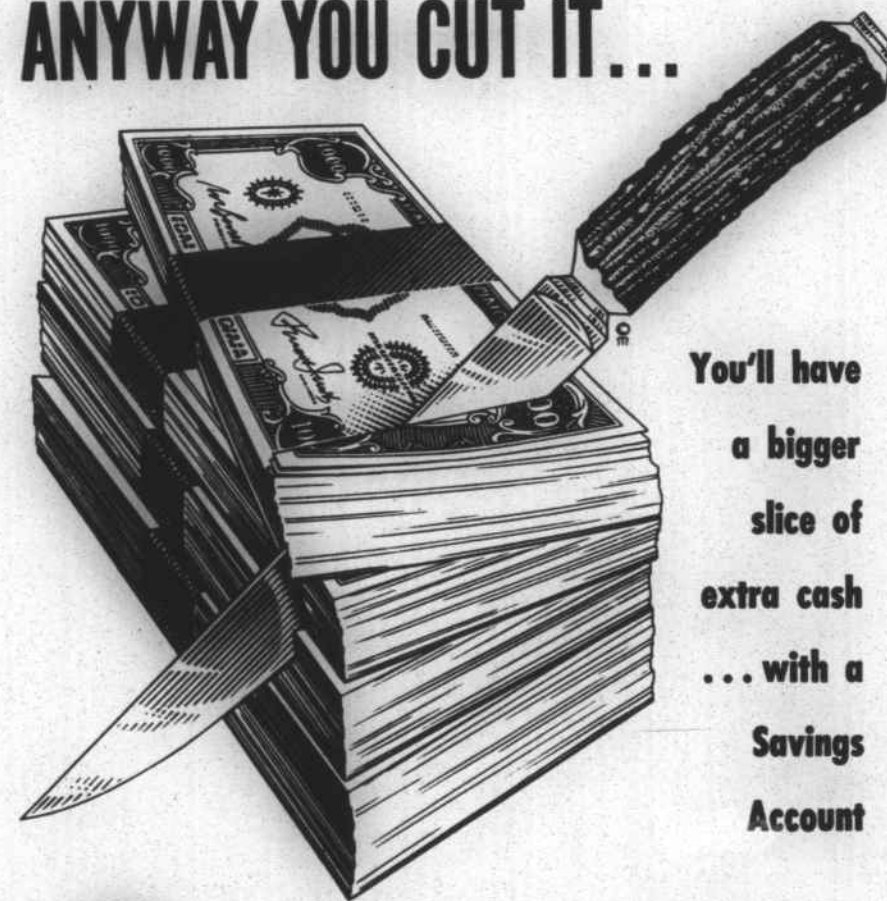
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VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Is it so hard to conceive that God talks to man? Is it not an association born of familiarity in prayer and meditation? Do we not talk to our physical family when we wish to communicate? Then why is it so hard to accept the fact that God, who has all under His control can talk to us?

All He needs is a receptive vehicle, made pure through the desire to perform good works, and to clear this denser dimension with thoughts that will clarify the path to enlightenment. If we follow the teachings of the Bible and interpret them correctly we will in no time begin to live a life conducive to this arrangement. The door of perception, long lain dormant due to misuse, needs to be oiled with the will of action and to be opened with the determination to perform in the manner of righteousness.

It is not only left to the few who develop extra-sensory perception to receive this bounty, it can be accomplished by all who are willing to do that which is necessary in order to be able to accomplish this, and that is study and meditation.

The Cherokee Humane Society meets every third Tuesday of the month at the Power Board Building in Murphy at 7:30p.m. Won't you please join us?