

Rubber Stamp Senator



EDITORIALS

Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinions Of One Man, And He May Be Wrong.

A Need Soon To Be Filled

For many years the need for some diversion of through traffic has bothered highway engineers and city traffic authorities who had the job of coping with this ever-growing problem in the Kinston area. There is a positive sign now that something is soon to be done on that subject.

The vast bulk of Kinston's heavy, through traffic is generated along the major routes, US 70 and US 258 which cross at Kinston. The east-west traffic of US 70 carries a large percentage of the Port of Morehead City truck traffic, while US 258 carries less weight but an almost equal volume of Camp Jepune's north bound Marine Corps traffic. In the summer months the vast stretches of salt and fresh water to the east of Kinston attract millions of vacationers and sportsmen.

These are all very hard facts of highway life. But the problem of dealing with these fantastic traffic problems is much less in the realm of facts. In Kinston, as in every town where a by-pass was ever suggested, there is some opposition to this re-routing. Some small part of the business life of the community feels that sending people around, rather than through Kinston will hurt their businesses.

Unfortunately, this cannot be denied. But the traffic problem is much larger

than the various individual business problems that weigh into this complex situation.

The vast majority of this through traffic does not hesitate in Kinston except for redlights, and some ignore a large part of these roadway beacons.

But a sufficiently large part of this traffic does hesitate, for gas, meals, small shopping items to cause businessmen some concern. This, however, is an inevitable price that must be paid in the name of progress. The gasoline engine and its millions of descendants have forcedly remade the map, the living and business habits of this great land.

The horse, the buggy, the railroad passenger traffic and many more facets of American life have been completely ended or materially altered by this roaring, snorting, fume-emitting family that has brought so much pleasure, so much grief, so much prosperity and so much bankruptcy into our lives.

Some small organized effort has developed in Kinston, as it has in other towns hit by the by-pass problem, to stymie or to kill this step. But such a re-routing must eventually come, and we feel it to be far better to face the problem, make the adjustments and accept in good grace these plans which are soon to be implemented for the Kinston area.

The Simplest Tax Program

The present tax structure of both North Carolina and the nation is a hodge-podge that might very well be described as a "corn plaster" form of taxation. One patch has been stuck here when a few million was needed, another patch over there and so on, until there are many over-leaping patches, much like a pair of Hoover Days overalls. A few areas, such as the seat and the knees, where wear is the most obvious are quilted with taxation patches, while other less obvious and less used areas have no patches that show to the naked eye.

Of course, no area is free from taxes since they get it directly or indirectly, but in a democratic republic each

man ought to be taxed, equitably and directly. He ought to have a physical sense of attachment to his government, and at present a very large segment of the population has no such umbilical cord of taxation.

It seems to us that a much simpler tax system, far easier to collect and much more equitable in its application could be devised. A three-point tax system, including an income tax, a utilities tax and a highway use tax would reach every individual who possibly could and should contribute to the various treasuries.

The income tax presently used by the federal government is an equitable tax—IF IT IS COLLECTED. Too many people

completely ignore or cheat this tax form, but if all of the thousands of other forms of taxation were set aside so that ONLY the income tax had to be enforced, the personnel of the taxing agencies could very quickly and effectively stop most of the holes that now leak billions of legal tax dollars.

The other two taxes — utilities and highway use — involve no problems of collection. Electricity, gas and telephone services would be collectable monthly along with the regular bills. The highway tax could be collected almost as it is at present through the gasoline taxes.

The People Are Cooperating

A very big percentage of those people who have had traffic and child hazard obstructions in front or beside their homes on the strip between the curb and their own property line have very readily cooperated with the city's current effort to clear its property.

The city was at fault in the past for not building sidewalks as it built streets. Home-owners who sought to beautify their homes and their community should not be condemned for making the rather natural mistake of planting and prettying up this void that was left by the city.

It is good to know that very few of those who have had to spend money and a lot of sweat, moving plants and fences have taken it in good grace.

The city was wrong, but the homeowners realize that the safety of children and adults who in many areas have had to walk in the streets because of these obstructions is more important than a shrub or a pretty wall.

Short Snorts..

Don't bet your house rent on this beautiful March weather lasting until the first of April. March has a fiendish way of fooling not only people, but plants as well who deck themselves out in spring finery one beautiful morning only to wind up half frozen by nightfall.

And speaking of weather, which most of us do from time to time, we surely hope that between now and planting time a lot more rain falls in our general area. If the ground gets thoroughly wet in the winter, dry weather in the summer is not nearly so serious. But so far this winter the ground in our area has not gotten that very thorough soaking that it needs. But, March has just begun and April is yet to arrive, so maybe they will bring rain and plenty of it.

During the latter part of March and the first of April another Free Mobile Chest X-ray clinic will be held in every part of Jones and Lenoir counties under the direction of the Public Health Department. Let's hope that the past good records for these chest surveys will be surpassed this time. Plan now to get your chest check when the mobile unit comes to your neighborhood. It takes just a second, you don't have to undress and it might save your life, or at the least many long months or years in a sanatorium bed.

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

All of us from time to time get a little greedy and grab at something we feel to be a bargain. In that habit lies the livelihood of a great many unscrupulous crooks who in various twisted ways prey on that American weakness. That urge to get something for nothing, or something for a lot less than the fellow next door paid for "his" has probably cost Americans billions of dollars and the rackets still prevail.

Currently a positive, all-out effort is being made by the North Carolina General Assembly to plug at least one of the biggest of these holes presently flourishing, to wit; the hospitalization insurance racket. At present practically all types of advertising constantly bombard the bargain hungry citizenry from dozens of directions all beautifully describing the merits, benefits and guaranteed payments of these grab basket operations.

The root of this racket is very simple. None but the wealthiest family can afford the luxury of a prolonged hospitalization. So every breadwinner seeks to build some fragile fence around his particular flock by purchasing one or more of these so-called hospitalization insurance. All too frequently, however, when the times comes for that insurance to give that protection the poor policy holder — who may have paid and paid for years and years — finds a clause, clause or caption in his policy that either limits drastically the policy's liability or, in many cases, completely eliminates all protection.

It is quite apparent that this kind of skulduggery must have reached its ultimate point of suicide since a great percentage of the legislators is in favor of doing something to prevent this racket's continuation. But if Dr. W. D. James, vice chairman of the State Senate Insurance Committee, is correct there is a terrific lobbying effort being expended on the Assemblymen to prevent any changes in the insurance laws aimed at protecting the public from these protection racketeers.

I trust that everyone who has been hit by this kind of legal policy racketeering will voice his or her opinion, in writing to representatives from their county. But hospitalization insurance is not the only sphere in which this "something for next to nothing" urge is extracting money from the gullible, greedy public.

There is no remedy, of course, for this disease. If one sort of confidence game doesn't get the greedy buck, another will crop up to grab it. But few operate in an area such as hospitalization where a person in great physical and financial stress often finds that he has been "taken". There is one way of protecting yourself against this kind of trickery. In buying insurance or anything else, KNOW THE PERSON WITH WHOM YOU ARE DEALING. None of us can be an expert in modern life's many complicated facets. Buy insurance, cars, shirts, shoes, paint medicine, bread, socks, hats, plumbing — in short everything from someone you can trust.

The cheapest thing for sale by any business or professional person is reputation. Yet it's the most important thing in any business. If you buy from a trustworthy person you do not have to worry about the fine print in guarantees, contracts or policies. You may be able to get something cheaper from some character who's passing through with a fast line of gab and a "bargain" but when he's gone on his larcenous way and that "bargain" begins to act up you have no recourse except to prayer. That same gadget purchased from someone you know of integrity in your own community may cost a few dollars, or cents more but it's always worth a little more to feel comfortable when you have made a purchase.

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