

'I Want Him To Know He Can Count On Us'



# EDITORIALS

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

## Government on Faith

Some may argue that to govern on faith is as important as to worship by faith. We can hardly accept this reasoning.

The present session of the North Carolina General Assembly is expected to be "in business" for about four months—not over five months at the most. In that brief time the 170 members of this legislative body are asked to act on no less than 20 major revisions in the pattern of our state government.

No system is so perfect that it does not stand in constant need of revision, but what body—political or individual—is likely to survive so much major surgery in such a brief season?

Without doubt the "attending physicians" who are charged with watching over the "health" of our state government will delay many of these recommended operations.

These recommendations are the result of years of study by sincere men and women, many of whom are also members of the legislature, but the final and major part of these many reorganization suggestions is the handwork of "professionals"; that is the men and women who work in government and who are interested in improvements but also have a vested interest in their own positions.

No where in these dozens of suggestions is one able to find any recommendation for less power or less personnel in any department. True, it is recommended that the Utilities Commission be reduced from five members to three, but at the same time there are provisions for an increase in what we loosely call the career types in this same department.

With few, if any exceptions these recommendations tend toward more centralized power in our state government. On paper these "improvements" look good, but in practice they remove control of government further and further from the people who are most concerned.

Indications from Raleigh are that many of these changes will be made; made by legislators acting on "faith". Faith in the integrity and intentions of those whose names are signed to these many reports.

We beg every law maker to study each of these reorganization plans with one question constantly in mind: Does this mean a greater centralization of power in Raleigh, and less voice over our affairs by the folks back home?

Bureaucrats support bureaucracy. We must depend on the General Assembly to stand between them and those they seek to rule.

## Domestic Constriction

One of the economy recommendations of President Eisenhower that will be dumped by the wayside by Congress is that future borrowing by rural electric cooperatives be done in private money sources, rather than from funds set up for this purpose by Congress.

This paper is as ready as any, and more than some for every sensible kind of economy not only in the federal government but in state, county and city governments as well. However, there are points where governments even as individuals can be "peppy wise and pound foolish".

The Rural Electrification Administration was set up to bring the services of electri-

city to those areas where private power companies refused to extend their lines. The success of this is more than testified to by the fact that when REA came into being less than five per cent of the nation's farms had electricity and today more than 95 per cent enjoy the countless benefits provided by reliable electric power.

President Eisenhower has rationalized his position by saying that REA is, financially speaking "out of the woods", and can now turn to the private money lenders to secure their additional money needs.

Nothing less than figures in the billions can describe the retail business that this extension of electric service generated.

## Whose Ox is Being Gored?

This week Roy Watson of Hobucken, president of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, has issued a plea, calling for defeat of a bill before the General Assembly that would rescind arbitrary rules issued by the Department of Conservation and Development on shrimping, taking oysters and other shell fish.

Last year the C&D board issued an edict forbidding the so-called "weekend shrimper" from taking shrimp between 8 a. m. on Saturday and midnight Sunday. This was a selfish piece of "legislation" badgered out of the C&D by the commercial fishermen of the state.

These commercial fishermen were not content with closing the coastal waters of our state to Sunday taking of shrimp, but hoggishly persuaded the gullible C&D people to cut out both Saturday and Sunday shrimping by individuals. Given an inch, they took a mile and now the legislators from several coastal areas have risen against this greed by offering a bill that would return to the individual some of those "inalienable rights" that were once of so much concern.

How can a millionaire shrimp fleet operator from Hobucken justify with any degree of morality the massive "straining" his fleet can give say to Bogue Sound between midnight Sunday and 8 a. m. Saturday and then piously chant about "conservation" when folks who live on Bogue Sound might want to catch a "mess" on Saturday or Sunday?

If they were so concerned as Watson would have us believe with protecting the public, they could simply have asked for more stringent enforcement of the laws covering the retail or wholesale distribution of these products of the sea.

Or if they were sincerely interested in "conservation", they could have shown it best by offering to sacrifice their "own time" rather than the "time" of those who have no lobby and no association.

The fisheries association has overreached itself and they now shake in their boots for fear that the coastal waters of the state may be returned to the people.

Water pumps, milking machines, freezers, washing machines, refrigerators, radios, TV sets, air-conditioning units, water heaters, ranges, and the dozen and one gadgets powered by electricity that make the modern kitchen hum more easily for Mama Farmer and make the cash register ring more frequently for Mister Businessman; these have been and are still being sold by the thousands to those farm people who such a short time ago wanted these gadgets but had no use for them without electricity.

In the recent past a major portion of the money borrowed by REA cooperatives has been for larger lines to serve the customers already in their system, rather than for extensions to new customers.

If the REA cooperatives are forced into the private money market they will not only immediately have to pay much higher interest rates, but many would be in danger of not being able to market their bonds at all. The reason is simple: They have no tangible collateral more than miles of wire, transformers and a service to sell. The so-called private power companies have not only the monopoly right to serve a given area, but also have power plants, hydroelectric installations and many other more readily acceptable collaterals than the REA co-ops.

But most fundamental is that of all the many-splendored alphabet agencies that have been created in Washington in the past 25 years the REA is one of the very few that has not only paid the taxpayers back on or before due all the money the taxpayers have let them have to go into business, but have also paid sizable chunks of interest on the funds they did borrow.

This dividend, however, is fractional when set beside the continuing volume of trade these REA lines have generated, and in an era when so much lip-service is paid to helping the common man; let us not forget that nothing has ever lightened the heavy load of the farmer and his wife to the degree that electric power has.

The government should not turn this sheep that has given so much "wool" loose in the market place with the wolves of Electric Bond and Share and the other holding companies that dominate the so-called private power interests of our nation.

We don't believe congress will.

So far as we can determine, the great salt water areas of our state are not owned in fee simple by the North Carolina Fisheries Association.

For reasons of hygiene we support completely a strict licensing and supervision of all people and places that fish for commercial distribution, but morality and common sense both combine to deny either the C&D board or the fisheries association the right to deny individuals to fish for their own table and entertainment.

### PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS BY JACK RIDER

Men poke a lot of fun at women, their hats, their weird fashions, their painted toes peeking out of open-toed shoes but the most aggravating sight on the American scene today, to me, is the sloppy, sissy hair cuts that our young "men" are wearing.

Last year Judge Joseph Parker had a gang of local hoodlums in front of him in Lenoir County Superior Court, pleading guilty to the armed robbery and beating of some fellow they had picked up along the highway. Perhaps Judge Parker overstated the case, but there surely was considerable truth in what he said as he gazed down in rich contempt from the bench at one of those boys who had a "duck tail" hairdo and about a quarter's worth of grease to hold his "set" in place.

Judge Parker said, "I reckon I ought not to say it but I will any way. I've never seen a boy that was much good that wore his hair in that 'drake tail' fashion." The judge knew, and everybody else knows that every boy who is foolish enough to wear his hair in these "faggish" patterns is not a criminal. Nor is everybody that wears a regular hairdo a "good fellow". But this does not make these stupid male coiffures any more likable. Crew cuts I can see. They're convenient for the lazy teen-ager, they're practical at sports and they're cool in the summer time. I can't be so charitable about the flat-top, however. Carried to its silly extreme, the flat-top stands shoulder-to-padded-shoulder with the "drake tail".

This may be some form of heresy, to write something of this sort in the month of Washington's Birthday. This reflection comes from recalling the fancy, cumbersome, hot, heavy powdered wigs that were worn for several hundred years by the upper classes of most of the civilized world. History may contain some sensible explanation for that weird fashion, but if it does I have missed it. The lace and satin male fashions may have been an effort of the public to imitate the regal trappings of royalty. Whatever they were, they were utterly stupid and many Americans refused to bow to them; not the least of these being Benjamin Franklin, and there were many others.

Vanity, of course, is an important part of the make up of most of us. There are some among us who have more, and many who have less; but still the continuing concern for appearance is a matter of commercial and sociological concern. Consider for a moment what a sizable chunk of everyday commerce is built around that desire to be presentable.

We immediately think of such trades as  
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