

### Sidewalk Santa Season Is Here



# EDITORIALS

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

## The Christmas Spirit

This year, more than any in the memory of this writer, the leaders of our world seem to be working harder and more intelligently for peace than at anytime in our life.

The Life of Christ, and the stories told after it have many lessons, but none of these is stronger nor more often repeated than the lesson of peace.

As a soldier in World War II it puzzled us greatly and worried us just a little to hear chaplains pray for victory. The invoking of the name of Christ in battle seemed then, and still seems to be a mockery, or an abuse of everything Christ stood for.

Of course, winning a battle, or a game as Jim Tatum said, "is everything". No one wants to lose, no matter what the stake may be, but winning in a crap game or in a war seem, to us, have just this much in common: Nothing to do with Christ or religion.

So if, as we suppose, our leaders, and the leaders of other nations in the world are seriously trying to find the path to a lasting peace with justice and freedom Christianity is not a failure, but is the success of successes.

Mankind's search for freedom and peace is older than recorded history.

Perhaps the search is near its end. We hope so.

## Is Crying A Habit?

In Kinston currently there is a lot—in fact, too damned much blues singing.

To hear a few sad sacks along the main stem talk you'd think we might as well roll up the sidewalks and throw in the sponge. There is nothing tangible to support such pessimism.

Sales volume is up—at least through October which saw \$76,356.44 collected in sales tax by Kinston merchants as compared to \$69,396.06 for October 1958. That's roughly 10 per cent more.

Sure, there are some merchants who are hurting, but pick a day when there wasn't.

A lot of people got in the retail trade during the past 20 years and never knew what "good old American competition" was like. The period of their business experience began with the war boom when all a fellow had to do to be a merchant was rent a building and put merchandise in it.

Today there is a surplus of goods. Now the retailer has to really sharpen his pencil, his wits and his inventory.

The good merchants are doing more business, and that is as it should be.

The cry babies are behind the eight ball, and that is as it every was.

## What Is The Answer?

Education, Enforcement, Engineering... Those are the three "E's" talked of so much when traffic safety is the subject.

Then along comes a moron—and there seems to be a surplus—who hits a speed clock at better than 90 miles an hour, tries to escape the patrol at speeds over 100 miles an hour, crashing heavily travelled intersections, roaring into town and across more dangerous intersections finally to be caught after he picked a deadend street and ran away from his car.

Obviously engineering cannot prevent this kind of stupidity, and a person with that kind of intelligence certainly cannot be educated.

That brings us to enforcement. Enforcement includes apprehension and punishment.

The police or patrol officer can only apprehend and then it becomes the heavy duty of the courts to punish.

Judges must make the choice between being too lenient or too severe.

If they are too severe juries will generally overturn their severities.

If they are too lenient some drivers will take advantage of the leniency and the public will suffer the consequences.

Simple speeding is a serious violation, but it does not meet the full test of being a "hazardous violation".

But those driving infractions that do come within the realm of "hazardous violations" should be dealt with by the courts in such a fashion that the defendant will realize he has not had a slip on the wrist.

A man such as the Unwood Earl Grady

## 'Full Speed Ahead'

Washington sources say no major changes will be made in the federal tax structure until 1961. Now, in the closing days of 1959 this sounds a long way off, but 12 months is a short time to put together all the loose ends and differing points of view into a tax package that will be an improvement over the present mess.

So many years of special privilege and selfish mistakes are now written in the federal tax laws that it would be a major miracle to wave even the most magic legislative wand and suddenly clear the air.

Christian Science Monitor Business Editor Nate White Saturday put the situation in one exceedingly long sentence:

"On one point only do all the 'experts' agree: the basic tax law as it stands today is not balanced nor is it wholly just; it is a compromise, a complex of special contradicting interests; it slows economic growth in some of its provisions; it is burdensome and heavy and hard to interpret; it provides too many loopholes; it permits large-scale erosion of the tax base; it falls heavily on the salaried worker and encourages tax evasion of large groups through legal gadgetry; it disregards the growing heavy burden on individuals and businesses of local taxation, that is the tax needs of states, townships and communities."

White declares, "What is one man's equity is a 'loophole' to another. The United States tax law is a wild complex of special interest exemptions."

White reminds that it is of equal importance to the future of our nation that at the same time inequities are erased from

the tax laws that the government act positively to restore public confidence in the ability of administrators in government to spend this money wisely.

Certainly, every individual knows or at least believes some fantastic story of governmental wastefulness that makes it very easy for him to qualify a few well placed lies when his income tax return is being made.

Collect equitably from everyone, and spend carefully for everything is a perfect prescription for good government.

### PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS BY JACK RIDER

In a year that has been infamous for its publicity over fixed quiz shows on television, boughten song hits from radio and cheating butchers, aldermen and contractors in New York it seems fairly fitting that Kinston's year should end in a bitter wrangle between its merchants over whether to open for business on December 26th.

Some 44 businesses in the downtown area have signed a cooperative ad in the local papers announcing their decision to be closed the day after Christmas to give their employees and themselves an opportunity to be with their families.

## Why Not Luther?

Both major political parties seem to have a sufficiency of eager young men who are willing to seek the presidency, but each is plagued with a scarcity of vice presidential hopefuls.

Although he has not formally said so, North Carolina's Governor Luther Hodges is quietly planning for a grab at the second rung on the Democratic Party ladder, and we say "Why not?"

Anyone in his right political mind knows a Southerner cannot be nominated for president in either party because of the minority controls that prostitute Democrats and Republicans alike. So if the South is eliminated from a crack at the top spot, there is no intelligent reason why we should run from the job that is "only a heart beat away from the presidency."

Hodges has not been North Carolina's worst governor by a long shot. He has rubbed a lot of people the wrong way because he is impatient and wants to get things done. With a big business background he has wanted results, not promises and he has gotten a good many results.

As to his qualifications for vice president, or even the presidency; they may not be the very best, but neither are they the sorriest. Hodges is keenly intelligent, sometimes alarmingly well informed, energetic and ambitious.

Hodges is also sufficiently well-to-do so no rich "underwriters" would be needed to pay his rent in Washington as was done for "Tricky Dicky" Nixon. Hodges has been lucky enough on the explosive racial issue to be acceptable to the socialists who control the labor movement and to such a large degree control the Democratic Party.

referred to above who already had lost his driving license for a previous violation deserves a prison term, and if this kind of editorial prejudices his rights in court we make no apology, and will print no retractions for our concern is with the hundreds of thousands of drivers who try to drive sensibly and safely and whose lives are in constant peril so long as maniacs of this breed are at large.

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Left open, or at least unannounced will be the major chain stores and a few of the biggest department stores. About all I can add to this is, whatever they do it's their own damned business.

The chain stores say they have to do like the home office tells them. The local merchants don't like this home-office decision any more than they like most of the things done by the chain stores.

But conformity is almost an un-American word. America was founded by the non-conformists. The fellow who didn't like what the king or the state religion said do packed his obstinacies, his family and came thousands of miles across uncharted seas to a wilderness. It is a paradox of the season that many of those earliest settlers—including all of the New Englanders—were violently opposed to any celebration of Christ's Birthday anniversary, as practiced in the Anglican Church.

But of course, the Puritans were opposed to nearly everything. They burned witches, jailed frivolous men, banned drinking and made such a mess of religion in general that they drove a big part of the population from the church.

This brings us around to the "Blue Law" question. Any law that attempts to force a "Sabbath" upon another is a blatant infringement of the guaranteed religious freedom that we all refer to so frequently in our Constitution.

Religious freedom is also the right to have no religion, and if a fellow with a different religion or no religion decides that he wants to keep his business open on Sunday and close it on Tuesday—that is HIS business and no damned body else's—if you'll pardon the profanity.

And this business of being closed the day after Christmas falls into exactly the same category. There's nothing wrong with one group opening for business and just as equally there is nothing wrong with another group closing.

There is, however, something quite out of step with the season in the bitter wrangling that has gone on over this very simple decision. The spirit of Christmas should be a happy one, "Peace on earth, Good will among men" and that kind of stuff.

Speaking of Christmas Spirit; did you hear Gertrude Berg's little monologue on Ed Sullivan's TV show Sunday night? In Christmas Tree because all their friends its briefest form; her children wanted a bad one, and no amount of reasoning could make them understand that they were of

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