

'I Can Read It—I Think!'



EDITORIALS

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

Kennedy At His Worst

Candidate John Kennedy in the latest of his debates with Candidate Richard Nixon has stated as bluntly as possible that he will do everything in his power to enforce the orders of the supreme court and will also do everything in his power to enforce existing and to secure new and stronger fair employment practices laws.

Most of us are so emotionally involved in the school integration mess that we lose sight of an even more brutal incursion that has been most incorrectly named "fair employment practices".

Many people hear the first word of this phrase and automatically assume that if it is "fair" it is good, but nothing worse in our system of government is imaginable.

"Fair employment" as supported by Kennedy, and to only a slightly lesser degree by Nixon means that the employer would have no control over the person he would hire for a given position. In effect it would extend the abuses of the civil service system to cover all private employment.

For instance, a business needs a stenographer. How to get one. Call the employ-

ment office and they send one. No matter what the individual's personal attitude might be, if this person is certified as qualified she would have to be employed, and what's worse the power of the federal government would be exerted at no cost to the stenographer to force her employment.

Surely, the obvious reason for such a law is to force private employers to hire people they do not want. Largely it is for negroes in the south, Jews in New York and other strategically located blocs of minority voters all across the nation.

Catering to strategic blocs of voters is nothing new, but political promising has about run out. The government has hired just about all the workers it can make excuses for and now its pork barrel would be extended to all employment. Already companies that have government contracts of any kind are covered by this kind of law. Fortunately the law has not been enforced to any large degree, but it does exist and is a constant club that can be used on any firm doing work for the government that does not conform.

"FEPC" is government at its very meanest.

The Natives Are Restless

After more than three years of continuing abuse by the "un-political" Hodges Highway Regime the natives of Eastern Carolina are beginning to get restless.

The swan song of the Hodges-Babcock Regime—an expensive 15-year plan for the highways of the state—is the straw that broke the aching back of heavily burdened Eastern Carolina.

This projected highway program would not only continue the neglect of Eastern Carolina's existing roadways that has been the hallmark of the current system, but proposes to keep on doing the same damned thing for another 15 years.

The average citizen, and editorial writer neither has the ability nor the time to keep up with such as the day-by-day spending of the state's largest spending department.

But when those figures are totalled for us to be amazed by then we rise in most righteous indignation over what has been done, and is being done to us.

Highway Commission Chairman Melville Broughton has denied that this 15-year plan represents a continuing commercial raping of Eastern Carolina, which only confirms earlier suspicions that Broughton knows little about what's going on in the department he is supposed to head.

That great area east of Highway 301, which includes more than a third of the state's area, over one fifth of its people, and 30 of the state's 100 counties got only a fraction more highway money in the first three full years of the Hodges-Babcock Regime than the single Piedmont County of Forsythe, which includes less than 1000 of

Public Works Project No. 1

Assigning a priority for needed public works projects in North Carolina is certainly a controversial job, but without much fear of successful contradiction we say Project No. 1 should be the stabilization of that great natural resource, our Outer Banks.

The sledge-hammer blows of hurricanes in the past decade, coupled with ignorance on the part of real estate sub-dividers and road builders have put the world's most magnificent strand in jeopardy.

At present the Outer Banks represent an unparalleled vacation and sports paradise, but far more fundamental and important is the protection this narrow strand gives to an estimated six million acres of fertile East Carolina soil.

Arguments against government intervention in this problem are pale beside the pressing need for action. Some ask, "Why should the taxpayers' money be spent to protect a millionaire's beach home?" Such a question might also be extended to ask, "Why spend the taxpayers' money to build a highway for the millionaire's limousine to travel on?"

North Carolina has many assets, but none greater than its fertile Coastal Plain,

which is rapidly becoming a major factor in the feeding of an expanding and diet-changing population. An alarming percentage of this area would be suddenly wiped out if the Outer Banks collapsed.

A second great asset of North Carolina is its justified claim of being a "Variety Vacationland". A good half of this claim would be lost if the Outer Banks were permitted to wash away.

The State of North Carolina frequently complains about having difficulty in finding work for its prison population. Plenty of work for a long time to come can be found for many of these with a long-range program of shore line stabilization.

Every budget of the state should include a sizable allocation for this work, and we should not wait for the horse to be stolen before we lock the stable door.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS BY JACK RIDER

Cannot Stop Now

The effort supported by this paper and many others for consolidation of our rural white high schools in Lenoir County has resulted in a survey that once again recommends three schools—at Deep Run, La Grange and Contentnea—to replace the present fragmented system of seven high schools.

A friend said Monday he thought Richard Nixon was the most revolting thing in American politics until he read the 1960 platform of the Democratic Party. Said he was going to hold his nose and vote for "Tricky Dicky". Wonder how many Democrats are going to stifle their nausea and make the same decision?

This is exactly the same recommendation made 11 years ago when a similar survey was made. County school officials for reasons that apparently seemed intelligent to themselves pigeon-holed the plans of 1949 and we fear they may side-step this issue once again and in the same fashion.

Soon after the county school officials refused to consolidate the rural white high schools they put the finger on the county tax payers for 10 gymnasiums—seven for the white high schools and three for the rural negro high schools.

Fortunately party platforms are "only something to run on" not something to build on, and the chance of "Bush Head Kennedy" implementing his plan to integrate all southern schools by 1963, force FEPC on all employers and force labor unions on every business is remote indeed. Kennedy knows this better than I, because he is a member of that congress which just two months ago refused to go along with the socialistic dreams that are included in the Democratic Party platform.

Sufficient money was lavished—some may say wasted on making Lenoir County the Nation's No. 1 county insofar as gymnasias per capita is concerned to have completed the cryingly need for high school consolidation.

There is one danger, however, that such a socialist-labor sweep might follow Kennedy into office that the next congress would go that far. Norman Thomas, the perpetual candidate for the presidency on the Socialist Party ticket no longer runs. Thomas points out that all the things his party stood for have been either realized or are now supported by both major political parties. Actually the Democratic Party no longer exists as such; today it is the socialist-labor party, and is controlled by such well known state planners as Walter Reuther and Arthur Schlesinger.

Some of our school leaders have asserted that they do not believe the people are ready for consolidation. We might remind them that many backward looking people opposed the original consolidation of the county's schools.

What do they believe? I don't know all of their beliefs, but their major promise is that the public is too stupid, or too selfish to wisely use its money and that the all-wise federal government must take the glut of private wealth and spend it "wisely" in building homes, eradicating slums, super-highways, super-expensive hospitals, palatial schools. There is nothing new about this kind of government. The pseudo-liberals say it is new but nothing could be further from the truth. All-wise governments have existed since the Pharaohs. They knew what was best for their subjects. Caesar, Alexander, Atilla, Napoleon, Franco, Castro and Kennedy all have one thing in common. They knew, or know what is best for their subjects.

Now with the improvement of transportation, better roads and greater demands on our educational system a further consolidation is indicated. Also the sky-rocketing cost of education make it economically as well as educationally desirable that larger schools that can be more cheaply operated are installed.

By refusing to move forward in this direction our school officials are 1. Severely penalizing our rural youth who are not getting really adequate training and 2. Severely penalizing the taxpayer who has to support the present expensive system.

Injury is heaped upon insult with the undeniable fact that the children of Lenoir County who are getting the most expensive education are also getting the sorriest education.

the state's area, and less than one-eightieth of the state's population.

Slavish allocation of roads by traffic count insures that the same roads will always keep the highest traffic count. Engineers argue that roads are not built to generate traffic, but to take care of existing traffic.

We wonder what the first trans-continental railroads were built for?

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This all-wise paternalism sounds good on paper, and in a bee hive. . . . But what about the right to loaf, to be a bum. The right to live in squalor, in a slum. Four walls neither make a home nor a slum. Marble palaces will not prevent some people from living in slums, nor will education. Slums are not houses, but people. An old home is not automatically a slum.

Prisons prevent slums because in them the kind of people who create slums can be forced to keep clean. To eat a proper diet, to take the proper exercise, to sleep the correct number of hours. Even how to correctly vote, I suppose. But somewhere along the line in such a Utopia the individual loses something. Maybe it's no longer precious to the majority of us "freedom loving Americans". We have grown up