

Working Up Quite A Lather



EDITORIALS

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

Course in Ethics?

We trust that every aspect of American education is devoted in principle to the teaching of ethical conduct, but we wonder, in the light of current events if greater stress is not needed in this sphere.

Young men and women coming from college into the main stream of the business community may understandably be puzzled when 29 major corporations plead guilty to grand larceny of millions of dollars from the public.

College students who have attempted to

understand why college athletes are paid to play, while non-athletic scholars must pay their way still find it difficult to understand why a man has to sell his interests in all companies doing business with the government if he enters the executive branch of government, but may—as in the case of Oklahoma Senator Kerr—keep a huge interest in companies that are making millions from government contracts.

Conduct cannot be ethical for one man and un-ethical for another.

Change is Needed

While the North Carolina General Assembly is wrestling with the problem of re-districting congressional and assembly seats it ought to give serious study to a long-needed change in the system of legislative allotment for the state as a whole.

Both houses of the General Assembly are predicated upon population, which certainly should not be. The federal pattern which guarantees each state equal representation in the senate and proportionate representation based on population in the house is

ideal for countless good reasons.

We suggest that each county in North Carolina be allocated one senator and that representation in the house be based on population with one member for each county up to 100,000 population and an additional member for each increment of 100,000 of population.

This system would give Buncombe, Cumberland, Durham, Forsyth, Gaston and Wake counties two representatives, Gullford and Mecklenburg three and all other counties one each.

How to Tax Fairly

Most officials charged with the responsibility of making and putting into practice tax laws believe in the principle of equitable collection, but in the high-pressure cookers where most tax bills are boiled this general principle comes out in ragged condition.

Most wage-earners have now accepted withholding taxes as an easier way to pay income tax than to have to scrape up the money in one wad, but who can argue that it is fair to take the wage-earners' money a year before it is due and not do the same to all other kinds of income?

Why shouldn't the government's slice of

rents, dividends and sales of produce be taken in the same fashion. One man earns \$50 a week in a factory, another man earns \$50 per week by selling produce from his farm. Why shouldn't both pay their taxes the same fashion? Bookkeeping is offered as an excuse, but it seems to be a very weak one when books are already being kept on every mother's son amongst us.

A man has a house in town that cost \$20,000 and it's on the tax books for \$5,000. A man has a farm in the country that cost \$20,000 and it's on the tax books for \$5,000. Is an "ad valorem" tax really a tax "at value"?

Capital Punishment?

Assorted ad-lib-pated aggregations of glib citizens are flitting around the General Assembly in their biennial attempt to do away with capital punishment in North Carolina. Nothing is wrong with capital punishment except that it is not used enough.

If the General Assembly does anything to the laws pertaining to capital punishment it should be to strengthen rather than to weaken or end them.

Several sessions of the Assembly ago an ill-advised exercise in misplaced piety resulted in making it possible for a jury to make recommendations of mercy in capital cases; thus almost ending capital punishment indirectly.

No jury should have any duty in any criminal case except to find innocence or guilt. The present drunken driving law sees over half of the offenders brought to trial turfed loose by juries because the law leaves no discretion in the punishment of a convicted drunken driver. This makes the jury both judge and jury.

A person convicted of premeditated murder, rape or first degree arson should be put to death—not for the effect it will have on society as a whole but for the effect it will have on that particular individual. If he or she is put to death that positively prevents them from doing the same crime again.

To this list of just three crimes that are subject to capital punishment we suggest the addition of one more: The deliberate drugging of an innocent person and taking advantage of that person who is under the drug. Some may say that the present laws pertaining to rape cover this, but an overdose of an aphrodisiac would eliminate the forceful aspect that must be present to sustain the simple rape charge.

Juries should not have the right to recommend mercy. Prosecutors should be given wider latitude in the prosecution of capital charges. Our State Supreme Court, in a moment of utter imbecility has ruled that a solicitor cannot ask for the death penalty in the process of trying a capital charge.

The Veils Are Falling

Campaign oratory from Terry Sanford last year fairly oozed with pious proclamations for the "little man", the underpaid teacher, the small business man and the struggling farmer.

That was last fall, but now the spring rains are washing away some of the white wash that covered the real body of the Sanford "Go Forward" program.

No tax on the big fish who footed the bill for "Terry's Grass Roots Campaign." Tax on the poorest, because they would want to share" in the progress of the state. Tax on food (cynically because everybody has to eat), tax on fertilizer because tobacco farmers have to use so much, tax on cars raised because we have forgotten how to walk, tax on medicine because sickness is inevitable, and expensive, tax on factory machinery because North Carolina is trying to attract new industry and nothing will attract an industry so quickly as a new tax, but of all the stupid and calloused taxation recommendations the most stupid is a sales tax on all supplies purchased by counties, cities and the state government . . .

Taking tax money out of one pocket and stuffing it in another may be good exercise but it's damned poor economics, when one considers the attrition on the poor tax dollar that takes place each time it passes through any level of government.

JONES JOURNAL

JACK RIDER, Publisher

Published Every Thursday by The Lenoir County News Company, Inc., 405 West Vernon Ave., Kinston, N. C., Phone JA 2-2375. Entered as Second Class Matter May 5, 1949, at the Post Office at Trenton North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879. By Mail in First Zone—\$1.50 Per Year. Subscription Rates Payable in Advance.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS BY JACK RIDER

Kinstonians in general and certainly a specific few were shocked Sunday with a front page hatchet-job in the Raleigh News and Observer by a Baptist Boastnik named Sir Jordan. The "specific few" includes a number of Kinstonians whose political slant is just a little to the right of McKinley, and who most particularly see communist skeletons in every political closet.

This archly-conservative Kinston clique has been operating for some years now but blossomed into its most furious activity after a recent visit to the shire by the patron saint of anti-communism, Herbert Philbrick. This young socialist, who spied on the communists for the FBI (and who has made a fortune from his patriotism, getting \$850 for his one-night stand in Kinston) shook the local conservatives as they have not been shaken since the first 100 days of the New Deal.

The News and Observer, of course is at the other end of the political rainbow. It editorializes for instant racial integration, sudden socialism and humble subservience to the all-wise states as represented by Messrs. Kennedy and Sanford. Philbrick is a professional anti-communist. The News and Observer is a professional "Democratic Party organ." Both pick up a pretty penny for their devotion to duty . . .

While the News and Observer represents in principle everything that is reprehensible to a majority of Eastern Carolinians it prays daily to the totem pole of the Democratic Party.

So we come to a head-butting contest . . . Those who hate king-sized government in Kinston have organized an extremely active campaign against all that they suspect of supporting king-sized government—which is simply a synonym for socialism. This Kinston group is getting under the hide of some of the local socialists, and when you goose one socialist all others jump. The News & Observer sends down a young lady lately from Baptist Hollow—sometimes called Wake Forest College, where she had a tendency to make her point, or to have her way by writing "suicide notes" and waddering off into the "wild blue yonder". On one of these flights from reality Miss Jordan landed on cloud nine, which happens to be the news room of the News & Observer. There she was equipped with a standard set of wings for socialist angels and anointed with the proper oils, thus qualifying her to lop off the heads (journalistically speaking) of the heretics among us.

In a single sortie over Kinston she succeeded in 1. Establishing that a big segment of the local branch of the American Medical Association was opposed to the church, the government and, incidentally, to communism.

2. That somehow the coming of Du Pont to Lenoir County was coincidental to this political revolt. Eastern North Carolina has long been viewed by the Democratic Overlords of Tar Heels as a huge feudal fiefdom in which the peasants eat their humble pie, and vote the straight Democratic ticket.

Fanatics at either end of the rainbow are disagreeable to me personally, but when there is a collection of freaks at one end it is a natural law of politics that an opposite breed will be drawn to the other end.

Somewhere between the extremes of Jonathan Daniels and Jim Peale is where we have to live. Some fear that there is no "middle ground" and that we must join one extreme or the other. If either Daniels or Peale had his way I'm sure this would be true. Everybody votes in Russia, but they only have one candidate to vote for in each office. The same is true in Franco's Spain. Neither of these systems appeals to me. I hope, and perhaps believe that we, the people are in the majority and that if nothing else protects us our ignorance is always a shield against the slings and arrows of such outraged commentators as Daniels and/or Peale.