

**That's More Than I Can Say for Myself!**



**EDITORIALS**

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

**Priority Problem**

None but the most brazen meddler in public affairs would dare to list the absolute priority for problems that confront our nation, but none but the most blind can ignore that somewhere high on any priority listing would be the problem of the marginal worker.

Humming industries, mountainous savings deposits and the trillion dollar traffic problem all point unswervingly toward the greatest prosperity for the most people that the world has ever known.

But festering openly on the face of all this surplus plenty is that growing surplus of marginal labor that lacks the physical or mental agility demanded by our automated society.

While this is a national problem, it is much more a local, and a personal problem that needs to be approached from both ends of the line.

The federal government needs to soften

the minimum wage laws, to permit such types to work at less than the wage prescribed for a mentally and physically fit person.

The welfare program should be immediately altered to permit able-bodied persons to engage in public work programs, based upon the need for such work, both by the community and the individual. Leaving an able-bodied man to sit at home and live on a dole is debasing to him, to his family (if any) and aggravatingly so to the taxpayer.

Private and public employers at the local level should seek ways to use these people wherever and whenever they can. This is that spot where the minimum wage laws need relaxing. A print shop, for instance, might be able to pay something for a clean up worker, but not \$1.15 per hour as federal law demands.

Seeking industries of a type that would employ this basically unwanted type of laborer is a fruitless task. There are no such industries today.

**Modern Columbuses**

No doubt the few Spaniards who knew of the plans of Christopher Columbus, and his repeated pleas to the Spanish court for help held much of the same contempt or puzzlement for the venture that many of us today hold for those modern Columbuses called astronauts.

The analogy is not absolute between Columbus and Glenn, Gagarin, Sheppard and Company. Columbus was not venturing alone, yet he had full control of his company's direction, barring mutiny.

The astronaut at this juncture in space travel is alone, yet he has absolutely no control over where he is going. But as far as mission is concerned the 15th century explorer and these 20th century astronauts is the same: Pushing further the knowledge of man.

Some may agree that this may not necessarily be on the asset side of the ledger, but history is a painful record of the price that man has paid for knowledge. Americans, who are the world's most gifted sentiment-

talists will enjoy an ecstatic agony when our first astronaut is killed, and this is just as certain to happen in rockets as it was in airplanes. The only difference — and it's a tremendous one — is the publicity that has been attached to our human guinea pigs on space travel.

The pressure on these men and their families is terrific. The Russians with their oriental devotion to secrecy have only the family and close friends of their sacrifices to be concerned with. They only announce their successes, while we blunder along in the raw glare of live television coverage.

Prepare yourself now in advance for that sad day that is certain to come when one or more of our brave explorers fails to return.

If Astronaut John Glenn does not develop a king-sized set of ulcers none of the rest of us has much right to pains brought on by the tiny frustrations that annoy our less glamorous and dangerous journey through this veil of tears.

**A Dangerous Man**

Internal Revenue Commissioner Mortimer Caplin is a dangerous man.

He is busy, setting up a system to catch the millions of tax dodgers in our free society.

His system is simplicity itself. Give everybody a number. Most of us already have it — our social security number. Then everybody who pays us either salary, rents, dividends, interest, tobacco checks, corn or hog checks is required to turn that information in with our number.

Then that number plus so many dollars is fed into an electronic computer and at the end of the year some robot pushes a number and our card pops out with the whole income story stamped harshly there for the gimlet-eyed tax agent to gaze upon.

The stockholder who has been "forgetting" to report little dividends here and there; the fellow who lets out a little at six per cent interest per week; the farmer who sells a load of chickens or hogs or corn or hay or timber or eggs and "forgets" to report them — all of these and many more will be sitting across a desk in short order trying to explain their absent-mindedness to the man from the internal revenue department.

If there is any further explanation needed to cover the dangers of such a man as Caplin, we can't think of them. You get the point? We did.

**Military Censorship?**

For quite a spell now a debate has been sputtering on the subject of military censorship. Assorted brass from several of the armed forces have complained because some third echelon type has blue-pencilled a momentous speech ghost written for one of these patriots.

This writer was in the armed forces for nearly four years and every letter written from overseas was "censored" by juvenile pilots, who knew no more about censorship than most of these generals and admirals know about foreign policy.

Sauce for the sergeant should be sauce for the general.

Generals and admirals demand instant obedience to their orders, and under our system of government they owe the same instant obedience to their superior, the president.

All of us with the slightest familiarity with the military know beyond doubt that the most basic necessity of an armed force is discipline, and discipline cannot exist at one level if it is ignored at another.

If a general thumbs his nose at the president, privates should not be shot for thumbing their noses at generals.

Perhaps it is academic to remind that the most serious danger that confronts any free system is when military muscle is substituted for free elections. All around the world today we see nations that exist only on the force of arms.

Admitting that this likelihood is a remote one in our own nation, it is still a possibility if not a probability.

In this sense the military brass for its own good should obey orders.

American ingenuity should be able to devise a plan under which a chronic illness would not mean pauperization for the unfortunate sufferer and his family. The doctors have left the solution of this problem to the politician, and now they are frightened and maddened that the politicians propose to answer it in political fashion. The burden of solving socio-medical problems could have been better left to the medical profession. But in their failure, except in isolated instances, they have created a vacuum into which the politician was sucked.

**JONES JOURNAL**

JACK RIDER, Publisher

Published Every Thursday by The Lenoir County News Company, Inc., 403 West Vernon Ave., Kinston, N. C., Phone JA 3-2375. 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 — \$3.00 Per Year. Subscription Rates Payable in Advance. Second Class Postage Paid at Trenton, N. C.



**PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS**

BY JACK RIDER

Last week those interested in education or politics — and the two groups are not necessarily the same — had a rather meaty bone to chew on in the Kinston section. The bone was first mentioned in May of last year when the city school board approved a recommendation from Superintendent Jean Booth that special emphasis on Americanism, versus all other "isms" be included in the social science department in the 1961-62 school year.

Last Tuesday Grainger High School Principal Frank Mock issued a story to the Kinston Free Press, listing five speakers who had been scheduled to make a series of speeches to the student body of Grainger High School, with each speaker appearing before roughly one-fifth of the student body. The list of speakers included Robert Scott Langley, a local attorney; James Peele, Simmons Patricks and Paul Whitaker, local doctors, and Ted Latour, a DuPont executive.

As soon as the speaker list was made public there was an immediate pressure on the school board to cancel the series. The protests were based upon the assertion that the speaking list was heavily stacked on the ultra-conservative side. Knowing each of the men for many years, I certainly agree that four of the five are standing on the foul line in right field, and that Dr. Whitaker is the only one of the five who has a record of open mindedness in the field of education and politics.

After Langley and Patrick had made their speeches the school board voted to cancel the remaining three of the speeches. Although I was not in favor of the series beginning, I felt it a mistake to stop them once they had begun.

Each of these men is a good citizen, and each has every right to air his views on any subject, but I'm rather inclined to deny them such a captive audience as students. I favor experts being called in to speak to students on specific subjects, but I'm satisfied that a teacher of such an inexact science as social science is better equipped to lecture high school students than doctors, lawyers and Dacron chiefs.

The community should have forums for debate in which all sides of important issues could be heard, but a high school classroom does not strike me as the proper forum. Our children should be given an opportunity to study the things that have made our country great, and often bad things about a people contribute as much to their greatness as the good things. I think our students should be taught that Americans are capable of making colossal mistakes, but also capable of rising to unimaginable heights of personal and national sacrifice. As are most other great nations of people.

Only a small percentage of adults is interested in public affairs, so it is not unflattering that even a smaller percentage of students cares which way the political doughnut is perforated.

The editorial page of the daily newspaper has to stand in line for the sports page, comic page, front page, obituary page and society page before it grabs its relatively low percentage of readers. Some papers are able to juggle this reading sequence slightly but the average remains fairly constant. Which may not be a very consoling reminder to our friends who are given to speaking seriously, on alarming subjects of great national peril.

Russia's chance of winning the cold war on short rations may be better than that of we over-stuffed, surplus-bothered Americans. But somebody said some little time ago that armies travel on their stomach. Personally, we prefer to believe that Americans fight most valiantly not because of army chow but despite it. Most of us wanted to get home to "Ma's apple pie."