

'I'm In No Position To Defend Myself'



EDITORIALS

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

Dividend Withholding

This paper believes almost fanatically in the collection of taxes from everyone who is supposed to pay taxes.

This, of course, does not mean that we are in favor of paying taxes, but means, simply, that since taxation seems to be with us to stay, we want every mother's son, and daughter to pay whatever taxes they are legally supposed to pay.

On that principle we, at first blush, supported the effort of the Kennedy Administration to collect income taxes from dividends and interest.

But it seems to us that another bright idea of the Kennedy Administration makes this additional burden on business most unnecessary.

This idea that cancels out the other is the assignment of a taxpayer number to each of us, so that every payment of any nature — whether wages, royalties, interest or dividends would be automatically credited to that pre-assigned number.

With this system installed it will be, at least on paper, electronically simple to push a button on No. 643-567-902 and see at a glance what he reported his income to be, and what it actually was from all sources.

Obviously, when and if the government puts in this electronic auditor some ingenious characters will find a way to beat the system. It is axiomatic, that if man designs it another man can find a way of beating it.

But the most basic wrong with our tax system is, not the illegal evasions — although that is plenty wrong, but is the legal evasion that has been deliberately written into the law by the patch-work efforts of congress.

The entire tax structure needs over-hauling, but every segment of the economy that has, or believes, it has an edge under the existing law is fighting to prevent this major re-design that would be aimed at an equitable levy upon us all, rather than heavy taxes for some and little or no tax upon others.

War On Mekong?

Whether American boys will be killed in Laos, or any of the other tiny jungle countries of Southeast Asia is a question of first importance.

Already some have been killed while on so-called "training missions" but now no official admission has been made that United States' troops were actually in combat.

Obviously some have been in combat, and it is likely that more will be committed to combat in the very near future.

The Mekong River which separates Siam from Laos is the apparent line that our leaders have drawn for communist infiltration of the Malayan Peninsula.

The line HAD to be drawn somewhere, sometime. None of the Gilbert and Sullivan rulers of these tiny countries has the ability to draw such a line, and those jackals such as Nehru, who have the ability lack the courage to call a halt of Chinese imperialism.

So, if it is not war in Laos it will be war at the Siamese border. Strategically this is

smart since the Mekong River is an easily defended frontier, and is the boundary of one of the strongest and most sophisticated of these jungle kingdoms.

Politically, the choice is also good since in Siam, or Thailand if you insist, there has been no communist coup and very little penetration by the propaganda from the north.

The recent history of "line-drawing" tends to support the view that it is far safer than appeasement since in every instance where a line has been drawn — in Greece, Turkey, Iran, Lebanon, Korea, Formosa — the communists have pulled out and begun their probings in another area.

The poverty and political instability of the Malayan Peninsula have made it a natural target, and the great food-producing potential of this area have also made it a badly needed grab for the starving communism of Red China.

But the line must be drawn, and in our view the Mekong River is not a bad place to draw it.

'Estes Bestest'

Estes is the "bestest", sounds like a college cheer more than a jibe at corruption and stupidity.

It is unlikely that all of the story on this Texan with the funny name will ever be told publicly, but if anything moral can come out of the Estes Messes it might be the reminder all of us should get, that big government makes big messes.

If the government were not spending nearly a half billion dollars a year storing grain, for mice and insects to eat Estes would probably still be jerking sodas, or whatever he was doing before he got into the granary.

Certainly the grossest stupidity of our government in the past 18 years has been the mismanagement of the farm surplus that our nation is lucky enough to have.

In a world where malnutrition is the major dietary problem, we Americans are constantly urged to eat less of the glut that nature and our farmers have combined to give us.

Instead of tempting clever young men to cheat this great bounty from our farms should have been and still should be used as a major political weapon in the cold war.

Admittedly there are complex economic problems that would have to be faced before our farm surplus could be given or sold at token prices to the hungry and starving people of the world.

But the basic fact that starvation and near starvation exist in a majority of the nations of the world today, while we are frustrated and embarrassed with mountains of food stuffs that have little use beyond fattening rodents, insects and granary operators.

We can do better, so we ought to do better.

Vote, By All Means

Saturday is Primary Day and we urge you to vote by all means, if you have taken the time to study the candidates and their ability to fill the jobs they are seeking.

But if you're voting simply as in a high school popularity contest, stay home. You'll be doing neither yourself or your government a favor by voting simply for exercise.

Voting is not only a privilege, it is a pressing responsibility.

Voting for a fellow who has a nice smile, or because you know his cousin is all right, if this fellow with the nice smile is equipped to discharge the job he asks to do.

Saying, "Oh, hell he can't do any worse than the crowd in there now," is a lame excuse for supporting a candidate.

Of course, under our system of government you have the right to be just as stupid as you want to, and to vote just exactly as you wish, but you also have the right to fly a jet airplane, but do you have the ability?

And voting is a far more serious business than flying an airplane.

Why, Why, Why?

Why does a fellow with the background of Ellis Harrell do the thing he has done?

Why does an intelligent man believe that he can get away with taking large amounts, or even small amounts of money from employer?

Why does he ruin his name, bankrupt his family?

Why does he believe he can succeed where so many have failed.

Why, Why, Why?

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PERSONAL
PARAGRAPHS
BY
JACK RIDER

Politics has been deceptively quiet here in Lenoir County, while in Jones County in the past six or eight weeks there has hardly been a filling-station or bridge-table conversation that has not had something to do with the red-hot condition of politics.

In Lenoir County there are no issues — personal or impersonal, while in Jones County the "Night of Long Knives" is 24 hours long. In Lenoir a few people are not pleased with Senator Tom White, but he is unopposed so whatever ill feelings they have for him may be taken out on the incumbent board of county commissioners, since he is also county attorney. But this is not expected to have any major bearing on the result of Saturday voting.

In Jones County, however, the issue of county attorney is still very live, and on that point the entire question of the board of county commissioners is revolving.

Two years ago four new members were elected to the Jones board and their first official act was to fire County Attorney George Hughes, and install Donald Brock in his place. Only three of those four candidates are seeking re-election, and their re-election hinges upon how the voters of the county feel about that change of county attorneys.

The 11-way fight in Jones County does include some candidates who are not involved in this attorney squabble but it is safe to say that not less than eight and perhaps nine of the candidates are lined up one way or another on this particular point.

Not only has this county attorney hassle just about dictated the line up of the commissioner race, it has also had a great deal to do with the five-way race for clerk of superior court.

George Nick Noble, whether rightly or wrongly is aligned in the public's mind with the Brock camp. Neither of the other four is specifically tied publicly to the Hughes side of the argument, but family and other considerations seem to allocate a division of this support between Macy Mallard and Walter Henderson.

It is almost a foregone conclusion that a second primary will be necessary in the clerk race, and there is a strong chance that no five of the 11 candidates for the board will be able to secure a clear-cut majority.

This week Attorney Brock wondered if there were not strong political overtones in the re-institution of a 5-year old law suit against him. If anyone knew the answer to Brock's question they were keeping quiet in about five different languages.

It is a typical American paradox that the men over whom most of the political blood is being shed are not candidates themselves.

The first 18 home games of the Kinston Eagles were attended by 37,018 cash customers. More attendance than Raleigh (26,480), Burlington (32,405), Durham (33,235) had in the entire 1961 season. In '61 Wilson had 37,893 attendance, Greensboro 61,071 and Winston-Salem 70,236. In 1955 Kinston's season attendance was 37,843.

If one likes variety, East Carolina weather should suit them. Last year it rained all the spring, and this year we've eat dust since early April.

Kinston's City Council took a big step in the right direction Monday night by giving the newly organized Kinston Parking Authority the old city hall site for the first permanent off-street parking lot in the city.