

# Other Editors Say...

It would be much better all around if Governor Sanford would stop answering questions that have not been asked, and start answering some that have, in his news conferences. We suspect that he might discover that reporters are not so "obnoxious" after all.

The Governor was, for example, asked about a rather interesting rural road recommendation sent forward recently by this district's Highway Commissioner Cliff Benson. Mr. Sanford replied by saying that Mr. Benson was "the straightest man" he knew, or words to that effect. And he added that if Mr. Benson said the recommendation was right, then it was right.

Well, now. If Mr. Benson's integrity has been questioned, we are not aware of it. And we are not prepared to say that Mr. Benson is not, in fact, the straightest man among the Governor's friends and acquaintances. But if the Governor was suggesting that Mr. Benson is impossible of error in his judgments about which rural roads in Wake County should be paved when, then Mr. Sanford's praise of, and loyalty to, Mr. Benson runs the risk of extravagance.

In the first place, Mr. Benson's experience, knowledge and ability in road allocations are — like those of any other politician — subject to question. And, we submit that if Mr. Benson hasn't already made errors of judgment, he has a good many ahead of him before he and Governor Sanford leave office. We might mention, however, that it would be nice to believe that Mr. Benson, or any other office holder participating in the spending of public funds, has achieved the perfection which Governor Sanford assigned to him.

The fact remains that if Governor Sanford would merely bother to study the evidence involved in the controversial road recommendation that led to his defense of Mr. Benson, Mr. Sanford might well temper his blanket endorsement of Mr. Benson's judgment.

We had intended no mention of this particular road matter. Questions are being raised all around about the present operation of the State Highway Department at its upper levels. There may be no more politics than heretofore in the highway department, but apparently there is no less. It may be pure coincidence, but there are a great many instances in which the politically faithful have been getting their roads while farmers with no political connections continue to wait.

Perhaps the Governor is not really aware of what is going on, Jay Jenkins, chief of the Charlotte Observer bureau in Raleigh, and by no means an anti-Sanford re-

porter, wrote on Sunday that Mr. Sanford might be surprised at the difficulty reporters are experiencing in trying to obtain answers to questions asked at the highway department.

Jenkins wrote that he had heard about a claim filed by a contractor in connection with a highway job. Jenkins called the director of highways and got a reply consisting of what Jenkins called "a machine-gun burst of statistics . . . which were devoid of an answer." There was more talk, consisting largely of bureaucratic gobbledegook that made little or no sense. So, Jenkins then visited the chairman of the Highway Commission, Merrill Evans. As Jenkins put it: "(Mr. Evans) was mighty glad to see the reporter, yessir." But, as to the contractor's claim: "Huh? Claim? What claim?"

Jenkins said the buck was passed ever so cleverly. "Well," said Evans, "that's a matter for the assistant state attorney general assigned to the highway department." But the assistant attorney general was out sick, with chicken pox or something. Upon being advised of this Evans referred Jenkins to the assistant to the assistant attorney general. "Just walk down the hall," Evans said, "turn right, and . . ."

Jenkins said that he followed Mr. Evans directions, and as he opened the door to the office of the assistant to the assistant attorney general, the telephone rang. The assistant to the assistant said "Yes, sir, Mr. Evans. Yes,

**SENATOR  
SAM ERVIN  
★ SAYS ★**

Economic problems of the nation have begun to overshadow foreign policy matters in the wake of the worst stock market crash since 1929. No one can judge precisely what course the economy will now take, but the problems bred by a long Cold War, vast assistance given to other nations, a new era of trade, and a long period of overspending federal revenues confront the highest councils of government.

The complexity of financial affairs and the terminology which surrounds them such as "balance of payments," "gold reserves," and "deficit spending" cause many people to consider the whole matter only when it concerns their job or their purse.

"I agree, Mr. Evans," Thus, theorized Reporter Jenkins, the assistant to the assistant was now obviously prepared for the question. And the reply? Well, the claim about which Reporter Jenkins was inquiring had not reached the point at which it could be publicized.

Said Reporter Jenkins: "Those highway folks know how to bypass something besides a city."

And, we might add, so does Governor Sanford.

Cures and remedies by the droves have been suggested to bolster the sagging economy in recent days. Some have suggested that what we are witnessing here in America is occurring throughout the world.

Whatever the causes are, it is my judgment that a good beginning to bolster the American economy would be to return to a few of the existing economic principals which were in effect before Keynes, the British economist, expounded his theories.

In simple language this generation should be encouraged to pay for its own governmental services as it goes along. Confidence in government follows sound fiscal policies.

Perhaps one of the keys to the problem of spending more and paying less than the budget each year lies in the psychology which confronts Congress each year as it is urged to spend more and more billions for foreign aid programs in 97 of the 110 countries of the world.

Confronted by this expenditure for non-Americans, Congress finds it difficult to trim a budget for

American needs.  
Drug Bill  
The so-called Drug Bill has not yet been reported by the Judiciary Committee to the Senate for consideration. Already, however, it has been debated on the Senate Floor to a degree.

The Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly reported a bill to the full Judiciary Committee which was controversial. In the process of considering the bill, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare came to the conclusion that it did not desire to have all the powers given it under the original. I supported the amendments made by the Department.

The original bill would have conferred licensing powers on the Department to exclude people from the manufacture of drugs. The substitute amendment will give the Department the power to protect the public health but does not embrace the licensing of drug and pharmaceutical firms.

I voted for this amendment for the reason that I am fundamentally opposed to excluding people from  
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