

'A Lot Of Shooting—But Nobody'll Get Hurt!'



EDITORIALS

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

The Cuban Decision

The Cuban decision finally reached by President Kennedy this week was inevitable, and our only criticism is that it was postponed for so long.

Of course, we recognize that it was perhaps necessary to prepare world opinion with the warning speech in September, which spelled out the grounds upon which this action of this week would be predicated.

Presidents, fortunately are charged with greater responsibilities than even the wisest editors; and where our action might have been impulsive, that of a president must be deliberate.

Blockade is an act of war, but it is short of war.

Blockade is dangerous.

But leaving Cuba to the tender mercies of the Soviets is even more dangerous.

Our own country has deployed nuclear weapons around the world, but until now we have not turned these weapons over

even to our oldest and most responsible allies. At present there is a national indignation over even the suggestion that we should sell the French an atomic submarine.

Of course, we should assume that the Soviets would still control the trigger of any weapons that they might install in Cuba, but the risk of letting these weapons fall into the hands of paranoid egomaniacs of the Castro breed is much too great to be permitted.

The nation obviously will back President Kennedy in this decision, for in such matters of great importance as this there is no room for partisan politics.

Our only political impulse is to hope that President Kennedy will soon recognize some of the ancient truths about domestic affairs as well as about foreign affairs, and that we can return our federal budget to some degree of fiscal sanity before it is too late.

More About Courts

As the time for voting draws nearer the pressure in support of the court reform amendment to the North Carolina State Constitution grows.

This paper opposes the amendment because: 1. It's not needed, 2. It make those judges who handle the majority of our criminal cases appointive rather than elective, 3. It's almost certain to be more expensive than the present system, 4. It's a substitution for power the General Assembly already has but has refused to exercise, and 5. It would set up a centralized administrative office to supervise the courts.

We strongly favor making bills of court cost uniform in every court in every county, and we favor making justices of peace salaried rather than fee officers.

But the General Assembly already has the complete power to do both of these jobs.

In essence, our opposition is that we will not vote for a package deal that includes some of the good things we want, while imposing upon us bad things which we most certainly do not want.

It is a good but without success to us, that the system of peace would be of

higher caliber than elective justices of peace. If one reaches this illogical assumption we should do away with all elective offices, and make them appointive; since one might presume that the ultimate goal in every branch of government is to get the best qualified person possible for a given job.

We recognize that the elective process is not perfect, but we also know from a casual interest in history that appointments can be just as deplorable as elections.

We prefer the present system of inferior court because local control over these courts insofar as salaries, staff and office space are concerned is complete, and there would be absolutely no local controls over the system of courts this proposal would inaugurate.

The insurance companies are making a lot of propaganda with their hospitalization insurance for people over 65, but this still fails to take care of that group under 65 who have chronic illnesses. It does, however, take full advantage of the fact that the average life span at present is not much more than 65. So they have their propaganda and make money too.

Wishful Thinking

Although it is quite likely that our area will see the biggest local Republican vote in many a long year next month there is still not much chance of the Republicans electing any local officials.

But it is our feeling, frequently stated that the Republicans could never hope to build a party in Eastern Carolina until they began — as they have in Lenoir County this year — to put forward able and respected candidates for local office.

The political intelligence level of the average voter has reached that point where he would be extremely reluctant to vote for a poorly qualified Democrat when a well qualified Republican is standing for the same post.

Of course, there are the blind voters on both the Republican and Democratic side of the fence who refuse to desert the party of their fathers, even when the party has long since deserted them.

This year however, in view of the embarrassing predicament that Lenoir County Democrats put themselves in and with a slate of able candidates from the Republican party for representative and county commissioner there will be more ticket crossing than at anytime in recent years.

Himalayan War

All wars are bad, but the nearest thing to a good war that we can imagine is the boundary dispute between Red China and Yellow India.

Nehru, Menon and Company brandished their "might" when they seized two tiny enclaves belonging to Portugal.

The Red Chinese have been keeping their huge army busy with forays in Korea, Indo-China, Laos, Viet-Nam, Tibet and in keeping peace among their own starving people.

So they each have an "invincible army". So let them fight.

The Red Chinese have little to gain in this undeclared war side from keeping their troops busy, and the Indians have little to lose in a fight over a few frozen mountain peaks.

But the pressure, to a degree, is taken off the relentless cold war that has been going on for 15 years between the United States and Russia.

No doubt President Kennedy took careful note of the Sino-Indian fight in reaching his Cuban blockade decision. For with its two largest neighbors at war Russia cannot be totally concerned about the affairs of Castro's Cuba.

Nehru has been caught in the net of his own pious two-facedness and the Chinese have been stuck on the flypaper of their own awkward belligerence.

So be it.

Problem: Finding It

This note from the American Legion Magazine jokingly explains the problem a lot of us have today:

A young politician who was caught in the "left-right" tug-of-war kept getting urgent telegrams from his old-line politician father, and the latest implored: "Stay in the middle of the road!"

The beleaguered young politician wired back: "Intend to. Got to find it first."

Have you had that feeling recently?

Next week the tobacco selling season comes to an end on the Kinston market, and although the market sold considerably more tobacco this year than last the prices have been disappointing and far too much tobacco has gone into the stabilization pool. The buying companies may kill this stabilization goose if they abuse it too badly.

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS BY JACK RIDER

The Rider Brood made its annual pilgrimage to the mountains over the past weekend and it was a beautiful experience. October in the mountains of North Carolina cannot be surpassed for breath-taking landscapes. And for a switch we wandered out of Tar Heelia, over into the lesser mountains of North Georgia, back across the foothills of Northwestern South Carolina and back through Charlotte to take a look at the Carolinas largest city.

Our trip got off to an extremely pleasant start when we took the advice of Judge John Larkins and stopped in the motor hotel of his friend C. V. Henkel in Statesville, and I recommend this stop to anyone who is in that neighborhood and would like a really pleasant night and delicious food. Henkel has purchased the old Vance Hotel in Statesville and is completely remodeling it into the swankiest small inn you'd like to see. Indoor pool, marble baths (with telephones) and most pleasant of all — really reasonable prices.

So if you're taking off for the mountains and would like to break that long ride with an extremely pleasant stop, make that stop in Statesville. And Statesville is an extremely pleasant community, too. Clean streets, beautiful churches and stores make it a nice place to stop all around.

Asheville, as ever was a disappointment to us all. Perhaps I have a built-in prejudice against Asheville but it is so dirty in comparison with the other mountain cities (except Enka and Cannon where the paper mills stink up and smoke up the atmosphere).

And Asheville was choked with Shriners who were in the process of holding a parade, so we got tangled up in that traffic maze and instead of spending more time we fled westward toward Cherokee.

Maggie's Valley between Asheville and Cherokee was beautiful and the old country store provided a pleasant stop along the way and permitted our children to see a lot of gadgets that they had never seen before; such as a grindstone, bear trap, cracker barrel, cradle churn, stick candy, chestnuts, and a real — but not working — whisky still.

From Cherokee we went to Franklin, where I learned why Weimar Jones prefers to be a country editor rather than editor of a big city paper. And then into Georgia and over into South Carolina. We hit Clemson at a bad time. Saturday afternoon just after Duke walloped the Tigers but this did not detract from the beauty of the campus, although it did make an aggravating contribution to the funeral-like procession of traffic from Clemson to Greenville. Then to Spartanburg where we spent the night and saw their beautiful new court house.

Charlotte on Sunday is better than Charlotte on a weekday. I had never been to Charlotte on Sunday. Traffic is less congested and one has time to drive around — as we did for an hour or so — looking at the downtown section, where a large urban renewal program is underway and where some of the swankiest motels are located that we saw anywhere along the way.

From Charlotte we swung south since none of us had ever been to Monroe, Wadesboro, or Rockingham, each of which is small but well kept. Then to the sleepy beauties of Southern Pines and Pinehurst and across the Fort Bragg reservation to Fayetteville, which has not improved much with the years. Along with Asheville I guess I have a built-in dislike for Fayetteville since there's where the draft board brought me in 1942. Fayetteville has grown too fast, it suffers from either poor planning or just simply no planning and every way that I have ever approached it, Fayetteville just simply has no appeal.