

'Now, Take it Easy, Jack!'



EDITORIALS

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

High Hopes

President Kennedy and his economic theorists may have opened a Pandora's Box with their insistence upon a tax cut, because they have put into focus and at the highest level the feeling of all of us who labor through the long night to get enough money to pay the exorbitant taxes of this era.

But as with other issues of this variety it has come largely to the attention of the President and his advisors that there is still a smattering of intelligence in congress and this legislative logic has risen to meet the demands for a tax cut with the assumption that the only way to cut taxes is by cutting expenditures.

Nothing that has happened to the tyrannical bureaucracy beside the Potomac since Andrew Jackson cleaned the stables with his spoils system has sent such a shock wave through Washington. Monumental collections of men and women dedicated to wasting the taxpayers' money literally cover the Washington, Virginia, and Maryland landscape.

Not one in five of these is concerned with basic national welfare, and the amount of money and man-hours of labor that are poured down the drain of socialistic experimentation is too great and too disgusting to tabulate in a small journal of this size.

Each of these, however, is an instrument of congress, and one of the most pitiful bleats to come from the congress is the repeated plea for the executive to cut spending.

Now comes to the fore that small per cent of congress who knew that the executive never has had the ability to spend one penny that was not first approved by the aforementioned congress.

This is a heady wine that has so belatedly been discovered by so many men and women in congress. Taken in reasonable doses, it might even balance the national budget, reduce that national debt, clean the civil service stables of Washington and return this country to the paths of constitutional law which served it so well for so long.

A Word For TV

Nearly all who take up a typewriter for public writing agree on one thing: The cultural poverty of television. We would like to lift one small voice against this journalistic belaboring of TV.

Culture is a difficult word to define. To one it may be the cutting of excitingly different paper dolls, to another the sculpturing of a massive statue. In the culture of communications it may range from the pie-in-the-face of Skelton to the involuted nuances of an O'Neil drama.

Culture ranges from the tot's sand castles to a Da Vinci masterpiece.

Culture does not have to be unpopular, or something reserved for the pseudo-intellectual snob, and especially that member of this clan who labors at the Underwood.

TV is the first media that has had imposed upon it the impossible job of doing something 18 hours a day, 365 days to the year. If all the culture from cave painting up to and including Jackson Pollock were lavish-

ed upon TV it would hardly provide "culture" for a full month's programming.

At its best — as entertainment or enlightenment — TV takes it places beside all the other media of communication. In the theater in the past five years one can count on the fingers of one hand the lasting contributions and the same can be applied to writing, poetry, painting and architecture and all the lesser fields of cultural endeavor.

The first test of the journalistic culture bug is: Does the public like it? If the public does like it, then it cannot be cultural in their minds.

This is an obsessive ignorance that would be in extremely poor taste if it were not an obsession shared by the majority of those who labor at the critical fonts, and in this age of chain-step conformity even poor-taste can become a social must.

On reviewing our own editorial output we cannot avoid the appalling conclusion that even the best of us are not good all the time.

Great Discovery

This week an enterprising young man, employed as a political reporter with the Raleigh News and Observer, has come up with the startling discovery that two of the major announced candidates for governor are in favor of quality education. One just doesn't see that kind of probing journalism often enough now in this day of the manicured press handout.

This item may earn for this young man and his employers another of the kind of trophies that litter their news room walls and floors.

Such journalistic gems as: "First place for dry editorials written by an habitual toper." "First Place for capitalistic fluffery by an avowed socialist." (Tar Heel of the Week), "First place for editorial on business ethics by a young man who cheated his way through the crisp course of Carolina journalism." "First place for weekly column on the arts by a baldheaded long hair in the men's room."

But enough of such recognition. Our meager circulation cannot give the accolades this honored representative of the trade deserves.

Suffice it to say that in a world tortured by uncertainty — in science, in religion, in politics; it is wholesome to have at least one constant light shining in the bright window of North Carolina.

When all else has bowed to the pressures of time and technology we peasants of the east can look west toward Raleigh, content in the knowledge that the "Old Reliable" is today as it ever was: Without peer among the nation's metropolitan press. It started at the bottom and has remained there with a consistency that is remarkable in these shifting times.

Note To Goldberg

A news release from the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina informs us that Supreme Court Judge Arthur Goldberg is to make three speeches on that school's campus in October. The topics of his speeches will be "Rights Under the Constitution," and will include "Rights of The People," "Rights of the States" and "Rights of the Nation."

Unfortunately our schedule will not permit our attendance to either of these learned discourses, but this early we'd suggest that Goldberg and all the other's who eat the taxpayers bread in Washington would serve their country better if they put more emphasis on "Responsibilities Under The Constitution" and stopped this platitudinous lip-service to "rights."

This mish-mash of sentiment and absurdity that comes out of Washington has confused many to the point where they believe that rights are automatic, rather than earned; that liberty is a divine dispensation, rather than a hard-earned and difficult to keep political commodity.

The very easiest form of government is a dictatorship — whether it is that of the absolute monarchy or of the faceless oligarchy. All decisions are left to the mighty, and those below only have to obey.

The most difficult of all forms of government is a republic, because it imposes upon each of its citizens not only the rights of liberty, but the terrible responsibility of participating in those decisions which either extend or end liberty.

The supreme court in its recent history has been too much concerned with the protection of rights and too little concerned with the imposition of responsibilities.

Currently the judicial mood is that the negro minority can do no wrong; that it can ignore the law, elect to obey or disobey with impunity those laws which it feels are good or bad. This is not a basis for protecting liberty, but is the next egg of anarchy. And the paradox of our judiciary today is that it sanctions anarchy despite its responsibility to uphold law and order.

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PERSONAL

PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

A great many people ask news people questions on subjects that the newsmen is no more qualified to speak upon than the questioner. I suppose because news does consist of such a wide range of items it is logical for the non-newsmen to expect the newsmen to know something about all the items that get in the news. This is far from true.

One of the questions I hear most frequently at present is: "What chance do the Republicans have in 1964 to elect a governor in North Carolina?" I read the papers, study the election returns and have no crystal ball, but my semi-educated guess is that the Republicans have a pretty good chance. In fact the best chance they have had in this century.

Next year will undoubtedly see Kennedy seeking another four years in the White House and no president since Hoover has been held in lower esteem in North Carolina than John F. Kennedy. A very large part of this low esteem has come from the brutal handling the Kennedys have given the South in the negro problem. But there are many factors that have weighed against Kennedy in addition to this major issue.

The deficit, the tax burden, the Cuban bungling, the appearance of too many Kennedys at high official levels in Washington, and still the religious issue burns brightly in some windows, especially with Catholics in the speaker's chair in the house and as majority leader in the senate.

And prosperity, too, is something that has caught up with Kennedy. This is a bitter paradox for the politician to swallow, but it is true that each year a growing number of Democrats have gotten rich enough to begin feeling like Republicans.

More than 63 per cent of the people in the nation now are homeowners, and this automatically makes them more aware of tax problems, because in addition to the usual federal and state income taxes which we all have to pay the homeowner is confronted with such additional taxes as real and personal property taxes, special school district taxes, special fire district taxes, special sewer district taxes and it is the total of all these taxes that has caused a majority of us in this most prosperous time to begin to loudly insist upon reductions in both taxes and in government spending.

All of this accumulated fury that will be vented on the Kennedy Clan next year will also scorch the shirt tails of his camp followers such as Terry Sanford. And the likelihood is that the Republican candidate for governor will be running against the Democrat who gets the Sanford backing in North Carolina. I say this not because North Carolina is so "liberal" as it is painted by some of our soothsayers, but because the conservative elements of North Carolina politics do not have the good sense to get together and back a single candidate as the "liberals" do.

Three able conservatives in 1960: Lake, Larkins and Seawell, either far better equipped philosophically and intellectually to govern North Carolina than Sanford, were all consumed in a bitter first primary which permitted the "liberals" the luxury of selling their boy twice in such a brief period. But in the face of this and with one of the weakest candidates the Republicans ever tossed in a race Sanford came nearer to being defeated than any Democratic candidate in this century.

Sanford won, 735,248-to-613,975 over Gavin but four years earlier Luther Hodges trimmed Kyle Hayes 760,480-to-375,379. In addition to the association with Kennedy that will hurt any Democratic candidate there is the purely home grown dissension in the predominantly Democratic eastern part of the state which has been completely left out of the highway building, industry hunting and higher education picture by both Hodges and Sanford's administrations.