

### The Poor Congo

No one with even a second-hand knowledge of life in the African jungle should be shocked by the savage excesses to which the unbridled passions of its inhabitants go. For nearly a century the fear of the white man's law had been forced upon these people in a mixture of missionary zeal and imperialistic exploitation.

People from the outside attempted to put a thin veneer of the white man's civilization on people who didn't want it and who perhaps were much better off without it.

The white man's civilization has in the current generation seen two of the most savagely brutal wars in history in which tens of millions of people have been killed and trillions of dollars worth of damage done.

Coming from this background the missionary efforts—both political and religious, have been empty indeed to a people whose wars are unimaginably insignificant compared to those we so-called civilized whites have engaged in so frequently and so recently.

Obviously the best thing for the African and the best thing for the world would be for the outside world to leave them to their own unrefined forms of savagery, so that they could lapse back into the simple ways they have followed since long before the dawn of history.

But the world will not leave these savages to their own devices. Politics abhors a vacuum; especially a vacuum that contains great natural resources. So The Congo and assorted other islands of savage simplicity must submit to one kind or another of outside control.

This is a very simple piece of political logic, but one that apparently never occurred to the makers of American foreign policy who presided over and hastened the exit of the Belgians from this troubled sub-continent called The Congo.

Why we pay such homage to the "status quo" in some instances of colonialism and so bitterly oppose others is a question badly in need of an answer in the halls of our American government.

The estimated tourist expenditure in North Carolina last year was more than \$476 million dollars, with more than \$286 million of that coming from out of the state. If our state were not so backward in providing such attractions as racing and other sports of that nature the income would be much higher. Florida finances its government from taxes paid on racing, cigars, whisky and entertainment.

ber One foreign-policy issue of the current presidential campaign.

The Democrats beat the Republicans over the head and at the polls in 1960 with the Cuba situation and since the mess in Cuba can now correctly be called a "bipartisan failure" it is necessary to find a purely Democratic fiasco if much mileage is to be gotten insofar as campaign oratory is concerned.

The Democrats, confronted with a first-class fiasco in the comic-opera war in Viet Nam, recognize that they are vulnerable and that they need a "victory" over there and preferably before the voting sheep march to the polls in November.

The past weekend's shooting match between an American and several North Vietnamese vessels is a prelude to more events, and the additional 5,000 American boys recently sent to that area has boosted our force there beyond the 30,000-mark.

With the military forces now assigned there by our country there is ample grounds to soon expect a "victory," especially when one considers that the whole country is less than half the size of North Carolina.

And there will be a few hundred more empty hearts in American Homes, whose sons have been sacrificed in this political war.

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### PERSONAL

### PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

Every member of the North Carolina delegation in the house of representatives voted for the increase in social security taxes, but when the announcement came out it said they all voted for increases in social security benefits. I cannot avoid wondering how long it is going to take a majority of us to learn that the government does NOT give anybody any benefits.

Already the social security tax is gobbling up nearly 7 per cent of the gross national income and with the "benefits" now about to be voted into law it will run finally to more than 11 per cent of each pay check.

It would be simpler if the congressmen were really interested in helping out the needy to vote the public at large the same kind of retirement program they have for which they contribute no part of their salary. This would remove from the hard-pressed small businessman the need to keep records withhold money and ship it off to be wasted in Washington.

Few of us would object to helping the needy if there were some assurance that the money taken from us was really all going to the needy, rather than being gobbled up by the vast bureaucracy that inhabits the marble jungles of Washington.

At present the social security administration despite an all-time high-employment is not collecting enough money to make its plan actuarially sound. In brief the billions being collected are not enough to cover the billions in "benefits" that a "promising congress" has passed out and continues to pass out. Sound estimates say that as much as a 15 per cent social security tax will ultimately be necessary simply to fund existing "benefits" and each election year congressmen reach deeper into your pocket and mine and pass out more "benefits."

Social security vanishes when the money collected in the name of social security is used for general operating expenses of the government. A much simpler system would be to collect the social security tax and deposit it in a private institution where it could draw interest and be there to the credit of the person who pays it in.

There are all together too many millions of abusive instances in which people pay and pay social security tax and never get the first benefit except a \$250 burial payment to their estate. Each person ought to be assured that either he or his estate would get back every penny that had been paid in by himself and his employer for him. But the smart boys who dreamed up this tax would have no part of any such simple and equitable plan.

The person who pays the tax from his first job until his death at 64 — before drawing a single retirement check — is robbed. There is no other way to describe it. And each time congress turns on its free heartedness with your money and mine they add another few hundred thousand "windfall" cases to the social security burden. People who pay in for a few months at the maximum rate and then turn around and draw the maximum benefit for decades. This "windfall" clause is stuck in to make the dose more palatable to those who are being added to the taxable list.

We are told that the people who need social security most would never engage in a voluntary social security plan. So what; isn't that the kind of system our country was supposed to be founded upon. That each individual has the right to save his money or splurge his money and I can see no morally good reason why those who do save should have to, in turn, help support those who refuse to make plans for the future.

It must be nice to have a job, like a congressman, where all you have to do to get a pay raise is vote it and then vote another law to take the money away from people to finance the pay raise.



# EDITORIALS

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

### Justice?

This paper has lost no love for Jimmy Hoffa and the other thieves who have looted the men they purport to represent and through them the public as a whole.

But there are some serious questions that need to be answered before Hoffa is sent off to a long, if deserved term.

Is Hoffa any more guilty of thievery than the executives of several major companies who conspired to control the prices of electrical generating and transmission equipment?

Is Hoffa any more reprehensible morally than James M. Landis, who wrote the securities and exchange act and who served four different presidents in high capacities and still failed to file an income tax for seven years?

Is Hoffa any more greedy than Bobby Baker, who parlayed his associations in the senate into a considerable fortune?

Is Hoffa any more interested in accumulating a fortune than President Lyndon Johnson, who has risen from a penniless school teacher to a multi-millionaire in 25 years although never holding a job that paid more than \$35,000 a year — before taxes — until President Kennedy was assassinated?

Is Hoffa any more dictatorial than Bobby Kennedy who spent more than five million of the taxpayers' dollars in his personal vendetta with Hoffa?

Admitting that excusing one rascal his crimes because another avoided punishment for his is no way to implement justice, we cannot avoid the conclusion that justice will seriously miscarry if Hoffa is sent to prison for a long term for crimes no more serious than those for which men such as the electric company executives and Landis drew such pats on the wrist as 30-day jail terms.

### Unity?

Right now both of our major political parties are giving a lot of thought to the particular subject of Unity. This is the sincere hope of one citizen that neither party is able to find Unity. And we doubt that either will.

Unity except in time of war is perhaps the worst thing that could happen to a people such as ours. Conformity is for bee hives and socialists states. Unity is not for men with brains and minds of their own.

Political unity is only another name for dictatorship. Unity is the thing Russia and Cuba have.

The recent past has seen American politics drift nearer and nearer to the pitfall of unity. In national campaigns there has not been a cry for real change; only a promise to do the same thing better, or worse.

There has been no desire to change the play, only the actors.

There is every evidence now that the people of the country are far ahead of their "leaders" and that a majority of us really do want a change.

In three more short months we will know if this is right or if the majority of us favor an all-powerful, all-meddlesome, all-everything federal government.

The average voter—us included—is tired of hearing about issues of "grave national importance," and having heard this bleat so much from the podium pounders we hope that it will not be overworked in the months just ahead.

Because it is a certainty, that whether this turn against federal power takes place in November 1964 or not it ultimately will come. We only hope that we don't have to wait another four years for it to take place.

### Political War?

There are straws in the political wind that indicate an acceleration of American activity in Vietnam between now and the November presidential election.

For nearly three years now the American effort in that pint-sized country has largely consisted of using it as a combat training area for guerrilla warfare units and as a

testing ground for new ideas in equipment that are being cooked up by our spending boys in the military department.

But having been caught in the web of Southeast Asian intrigue and having sacrificed nearly a billion dollars and several hundred young Americans this training ground has now percolated into the Num-

