

OTHER EDITORS SAY

WRAL-TV VIEWPOINT

In His Heart, He Knows

It was a simple little paragraph, no more than a sentence really, that seemed so out of place in such a massive declaration of promises of everything to everybody. As the President of the United States reached that point of his State of the Union address, his face lengthened and his eyelids drooped. The air hung heavy with humility, and Lyndon Johnson peered forth through his contact lens, blinked, and intoned: "A President's hardest task is not to do what is right, but to know what is right."

Lyndon Johnson's speech writers had done their job well! Nobody, they surely must have reasoned, will dare fire away at such a splendid covey of promises of peace, prosperity, happiness, good health and freedom. These promises fluttered into the air from the political underbrush that hides the reality that Mr. Johnson carefully neglected to mention — and which the people of the land have clearly demonstrated they do not wish to face.

We have read the complete text of the President's address several times during the past few days, and it becomes a more remarkable document with each reading. It is almost as if a king were talking to his subjects, instead of the chief executive of a representative republic making a report to the people. There was hardly a hint that anything is wrong in the land, or in the world, except those troubles for which the Great Society has already sought and found a solution. That hardest task of both knowing what is right and doing it, the President made clear throughout, has finally found its way to the right shoulders — his own.

But questions persist. Indeed, a Lyndon Johnson of an earlier year might well have asked them following such a barrage of generalities and omissions by another President. Mr. Johnson once expressed very clear apprehensions about the destruction of personal freedoms in his land. There was a day when he knew the difference between civil wrongs and civil rights. And when, as a member of Congress, he supported the Taft-Hartley Law, he had no trouble deciding that it was right to give the American working man the choice of paying dues to a union, or of not joining a union.

Throughout the fabric of his speech last week Mr. Johnson wove threads of his own feelings of guilt, mostly in the form of things he did not say. When he mentioned that he would press for the abolishment of the Right to Work Laws enacted by 20 States, he referred to it only as "Section 14-B" of the Taft-Hartley Law. Union bosses knew what he was talking about,

but the majority of the American people did not.

Except in the vaguest of generalities — that we are in favor of peace, freedom and the enrichment of the life of man — our perilous postures in both Vietnam and the Congo were ignored, as was any reference to the continuation of subversive activities in Latin America that continue to spew daily out of Cuba. We are told that peace is our goal throughout the world and that Communist unity is crumbling. And that was that. It was not, somehow, enough — either as a description of the situation as it actually exists, or as a guideline to a more constructive pursuit of our role as a self-appointed keeper-of-the-peace. If one must judge by Mr. Johnson's outline, we are to continue the indecisiveness that has marked our past relationship with the communist bloc.

Mr. Johnson said something of "moving toward" a balanced budget, but almost every other syllable of his message took us further from it. The \$317 billion national debt was not even mentioned, nor was the other trillion dollars of existing commitments to which he proposes to add additional billions in further debt and commitments.

In a way, we cannot really fault the President for the nature of his State of the Union address. He was, after all, tell-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Route 1
Haw River, N. C.
11 January 1965

Editor:

It is my privilege to serve as Honorary Chairman of the North Carolina Chapter of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation. Arthritis, the nation's greatestcrippler, afflicts some twelve million Americans and over two hundred thousand folks in North Carolina. Our organization supports research seeking the cause or causes of arthritis and a cure. We also conduct programs of public and professional education. All of our work is solely dependent upon public support.

Folks in Trenton and Jones County recently received a let-

ting the people what they wanted — and demanded — to hear. So, in a sense, what Mr. Johnson said in his speech tells at least as much about the American people as it does about the man who delivered it. As Judge Learned Hand said many years ago, liberty lies in the hearts of men and women. And when it dies there, nothing can be done to save it. Mr. Johnson's message was simply a disclosure that the American people are more interested in physical comfort than in personal liberty. In the end, we may find that we have neither.

ter from our local chairman, Mrs. Theron D. Humphrey, asking for contributions to support our work. While most of us in North Carolina cannot give large amounts, most of us can contribute at least a dollar to aid in the fight to STOP ARTHRITIS.

I hope that any of your readers who have not done so will send a contribution to Mrs. Humphrey for the work of our Foundation. Every donation will be appreciated by the folks who suffer from the crippling effects of arthritis.

Mrs. W. Kerr Scott

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

Continued from Page 2
steady job to go to each day the civil rights issue becomes less than academic, because the man who is master of his home and in control of his job doesn't need the tranquilizing opiate of "equality" which he knows does not, has not and cannot exist — not even between two identical twins.

Tearing down an old plant ends an era, arouses many memories and causes a lot of problems to roll across the mind of those who concern themselves about such things.

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