

'And oh don't see any signs of a thaw, honey!'



EDITORIALS

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

Regulating The Regulators

This week an understandably concerned friend asked, "Who regulates the regulators?" and then explained that he was specifically wondering about who controlled the official bureaus that are charged by law with controlling the public utilities and insurance companies. In theory the governor picks the members of the utilities commission, but in practice this vitally important commission is controlled far more by the rich utilities than it is by the governor. In theory the voters of the state elect the insurance commissioner and he, in theory, runs the insurance department, but in practice the rich insurance companies have far more to do with running the insurance department than the noble voter or the elected commissioner. We have recently learned from a Federal Power Commission ruling that Carolina Power & Light Company has been systematically over-charging all the communities that purchase power from it for distribution in their own systems. But we have not yet learned how this same power company goes about milking

the millions it serves who do not have the protection of a municipal electrical distribution system. The figure has to be monstrous in size and design. We are also slowly learning to what extent the insurance companies have been permitted to prey upon the people of North Carolina; and we are sure that the identical abuses existed in every other state in the union. We have seen our insurance department sit stupidly by and watch year after year while a multi-million dollar fraud was worked upon the people who purchased hail insurance. We all have had numerous personal experiences with the endless abuses the public is forced to suffer under our state's compulsory liability insurance laws on motor vehicles. Both of these situations should be major issues in the 1968 governor's race in North Carolina, but we doubt that they will since the utilities and insurance companies are among the major contributors to all sides in every political campaign of any considerable significance.

The Asian Triangle

Public and official sentiment in the United States now seems to be divided into three unequal parts on the issue of our involvement in Southeast Asia. The smallest part of this domestic triangle, which possesses the loudest voice and the cultivated propagandizing of the liberal news media, would have us suddenly surrender on any terms and leave imperialism free to walk across the land as it did in Abyssinia and Manchuria and Austria and Czechoslovakia during the fatal thirties. The next largest segment of this domestic triangle, which possesses control of our government, favors a continuation of the no-win policy now being prosecuted, with the only stated objective of "bringing the war to an end by negotiation". By far the largest segment of the nation, but the weakest insofar as official power and propaganda are concerned is

that majority of us who want to win the war and get it over with at the earliest possible moment. So we have the "Doves" the "Setting Hens" and the "Hawks". We of the "Hawk" feather are pictured in the socialist press as atomic disintegrators who want to push the panic button of nuclear world war. Nothing could be further from the truth. All this particular "Hawk" desires is that we use the non-nuclear arsenal that we maintain at such monstrous cost to do the very simple military chores that can be done without nuclear war that would quickly end the war. These include a total blockade by sea of North Viet Nam, destruction of petroleum, electric generating and transportation centers in North Viet Nam. These chores could be done by the United States Navy and Air Force with

The Garden of Eden

Our modern "Adam" and his lovely "Eve" have now been cast out of their tax-bought "Eden" in the Bahamas. There are many parallels to our 20th Century "Adam" and his Biblical counterpart. Both were given all the flowers and the beasts of the jungle but were forbidden one special fruit. Eve was the gentle persuader who tempted that original Adam to taste the forbidden fruit. And an assortment of "Eves" had a hand in the fall of Harlem's cast aside "Adam". And ever since that original Adam there has been many among us who believe that the laws are made for someone else, and when they are caught they offer the excuse that other's, too, have broken the law. The Negro has had a difficult time finding his place in the American sun and principal among the obstacles he has had to overcome is the arrogant, lecherous swindlers who have ordained themselves as their leaders. Every community has its "Kingfish", whose principal occupation is swindling the people he claims to protect. Most tragically a vast majority of these thieves have hidden beneath the cleric's cloth. There are parallels in history. The long ages of Roman Catholic lechery and thievery that erupted in the Reformation and the entire Protestant movement were the hugest instance of religious politicians debasing their calling as they robbed the people, spiritually and materially. And finally, the saddest commentary on the Adam Clayton Powells in our midst today is not them as individuals — no matter what degree of criminality they stoop to; but is the laughing acceptance of such a thug for so long in such high position. The worst mark in the Powell Affair doesn't go to the representative from Harlem, but goes indelibly against his 434 colleagues in the United States House of Representatives.

Statistical Static

Among the definitions of "static" is "atmospheric electricity which interferes with sending and receiving wireless messages". The message being sent to North Carolinians by an assortment of "wireless" editors is being badly distorted by statistical static on public school education. North Carolina is held up to rich disdain for being "42nd" in the union in rank of teacher pay and 44th in expenditure per pupil. It seems ridiculous to even have to offer corrections and explanations to such absurd "charges". To proclaim California as the model for public school education simply because it spends the most for individual teacher pay and the most for each pupil enrolled is to ignore common sense, and practical experience. And the absurdity is confirmed when we realize that New York State ranks second in this spending spree. Apparently our educators, and some of our educated editors assume that quantity and quality are synonyms. Another set of "learned" statisticians this week reminds us that North Carolina ranks 44th in per capita income, and that is also supposed to be another great calamity. Here again, what idiot would exchange the living conditions of North Carolina's poverty-stricken \$2,041 per capita living for New York's Asphalt Jungles and the lush \$3,278 per capita income its bee-hive inhabitants "enjoy"? To assume that the cost of living is identical in every corner of this wild and wide land is to assume further absurdity. This statistical syndrome is just one more of the specific signs of the social disease our nation suffers, and a principal symptom of which is instant equality a minimum of exertion. Dropping millions of tons of bombs in the swamps of South Viet Nam and shooting up rowboats in the Mekong Delta are cowardly uses of military power that should be used to swiftly end the war and raise American prestige in the world and especially in Southeast Asia where our image is now so bad.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

One day this week I asked County Commissioner Luby Edwards if the hospital board of trustees had let the county board of commissioners in on their thinking about a site for the much-needed hospital that is now in the planning stages. Luby said, no, except generally, that the feeling was that it had to be located somewhere in the tangent bounded on the south by Highway US 70 and on the northeast by the Greenville Highway. And having said this Edwards went on to put himself on record with what I feel to be the most intelligent suggestion I have yet heard on this vitally important subject. Luby said he was in favor of building the new hospital right where the old one is . . . and before I could explode into disbelief he put my hostile fires out and converted me to his cause . . . and he was very ably seconded by Lit Mallard, who threw in, a few wise suggestions of his own to supplement this excellent idea of Edwards'. As those who keep up with local hospital affairs may recall, I wasted the better part of two years in an effort to persuade officials NOT to build the hospital on its present site. But as happens with too many such propositions we were both wrong. I was wrong about the utter inadequacy of the site, and the people then fixing hospital policy were totally wrong about hospital design. There's where Edwards' idea steps into the breach. Very simple. Build a high-rise hospital with built-in parking. Buy the additional triangle of land to the immediate east of the hospital, build the new facility on that corner where the McCoy home did stand. Build it high enough to provide the desired space, and so that it would be expanded. Close that short block of Mitchell Street and eliminate the hazardous tangle at Warren, Mitchell and Heritage streets. Water, sewer and accessibility to the majority of the people in the county would all be included in such a sensible approach. The nursing home and school would still be close, the Health Department's building, the offices of doctors and dentists would still be convenient and no new land would have to be purchased except the small triangle just east of the present property, which could be bought for a fraction of what the more than 50 acres being talked about could be purchased any where around Kinston. With the four-lane improvement of Vernon Avenue, widening of Heritage Street up to the hospital site would not be prohibitively expensive. The existing hospital plant could be put to numerous excellent uses. For extended care, nursing home, isolation treatment, venereal clinics, pre-natal clinics and an expanded school of nursing. Added to all these positive things is the fact that a high-rise hospital can be built for less money than one that is spread out over a great acreage. The ground floors in addition to providing parking at the first several levels could include space for pharmacies and office space for doctors. This latter notion was violently opposed by Mallard, who declared that doctors ought not to be permitted to have an office on the same block with a hospital. He has some good personal reasons for this, but they don't make as much sense as most of Mallard's thinking. Think about this from the standpoint of service and economy and see if you can find any logical reasons why it is not the best suggestion yet made on this subject. In every corner of the land. To pay a North Carolina teacher the same pay as a California or New York teacher would be to grossly underpay the California and New York teacher, since their costs of living are so much higher than that of North Carolina. But the teacher union keeps on trying.

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