



EDITORIALS

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

Dangerous Reading

Reading the Congressional Record is certainly not recommended for those with faint hearts, weak stomach or sensitive souls.

On Friday, September 6th Senator Majority Whip Robert Byrd of West Virginia took the time to tabulate the unbelievable arrogance of the executive branch of government full in the face of an explicit, and recent order of congress.

The matter had to do with grants to an outfit called Youth Pride, Inc. in Washington, D. C., one of eight such groups whose purpose was to "provide work training experience to hard core youths."

What it actually is, is bribery paid lavishly by taxpayers through the Department of Labor in an effort to keep hoodlums from finishing the job they started in April of burning down the nation's capital.

Last year Labor Secretary Willard Wirtz dished out \$291,525 and Senator Byrd learned that a bit of hanky-panky went on with that small chunk of the taxpayer's money. Payroll padding, sloppy bookkeeping and a wide assortment of similar tricks to milk the aforementioned bovine biped Homo Taxuspayerus.

As a result of this information reaching responsible senators a condition was included in the labor department appropriation as of May 28, 1968 ordering Wirtz not to give these hoodlums any more money unless and until they had set up an accounting system satisfactory to the General Accounting Office.

So what did Wirtz do? On September 6, 1968 he called a press conference to announce that he was handing the same hoodlums \$3,772,010 to use as they saw fit during the coming fiscal year. The interested senators learned about this by reading the newspapers, since Wirtz did not bother to let them know that he was thumbing his official nose in the direction of congress.

Read this paragraph from the Washington, D. C. Star report on Wirtz's news conference: "The largest part of the \$1.7 million two-year JOBS contract is being invested in Pride Automotive Center, Inc., at 2600 14th Street North West. This new venture will be based in a gasoline service station leased from the American Oil Company which will provide basic supplies and technical know-how to train 155 youths for 52 weeks. The Labor Department is providing \$726,410 to train managers, automotive diagnosticians, mechanics, technicians, parts men and driveway salesmen."

That's rather expensive education, over \$4,500 per student per year. Senator Byrd's presentation included

one "hard core" youth who has collected for working 53 hours for Pride, while in the same two-week pay period he was on the payroll of the District of Columbia for 80 hours, or collecting for supposedly working 133 hours in two weeks, when there are only 186 hours in a two-week period. Of course, he was kicking back part of his pay to a superior who was keeping him on the Pride payroll while he actually presented his warm body for such labors as the District of Columbia might be able to persuade from him.

All of which, and much more if one cares to read this particular issue of the Congressional Record, prompted the Georgia Senator Richard Russell to declare:

"I can only say that congress has fallen on evil days when it accepts treatment of this kind and in the language of the times, sits down and lets it pass. No wonder congress falls into contempt in the minds of people when it permits itself to be treated in this fashion by one of the heads of an executive department."

Which makes one wonder what Uncle Bob Doughton would have done about such a situation when he was chairman of the house ways and means committee?

But that was in the long ago when congressmen had courage enough to shoulder the responsibilities of their office and to put principle above log-rolling with these bureaucrats from the executive branch of government who bribe use into meek submission with our own damned money.

Same Old Joe Nathan

Raleigh's gift to the literati, Joe Nathan Daniels, editor emeritus of the News and Observer, has thrown up another book. Never one to dodge free publicity that might make him another buck, Joe Nathan recently appeared on a TV show to talk about his latest effort.

TV man Hugh Downs wondered out loud: Why nothing had been said publicly heretofore about FDR stepping out on Eleanor.

Without batting an eye Joe Nathan pointed out that The Roosevelts were not the kind of people who washed their dirty linen in public.

No. They left the cleaning of stables and the spreading of manure to just such low-born opportunists as Joe Nathan.

Blood will tell.

The God of Bigness

No pagan god worshipped by Americans frustrates reason more than the slavishness to the God of Bigness. We do not ask, "How good a town is?" but, "How big is it?"

Churches even operate in this grand name of numbers and seating capacity is as important as the salary of the preacher or the number of the congregation or the size of the budget.

Now this idolatry of size has crept into education. The Good Little School is no longer good, because it cannot attract the big names, or pay the big salaries, or hire the big football team, or build the big gym, or attract the students whose search for anonymity in the crowd is only exceeded by their chase for "security."

And now it comes to the lower echelons of education. Here in Kinston people who ought to know better are propagandizing the population on the subject of a single central high school which is supposed to improve the quality of education and guaranteed to increase the degree of racial integration.

Kinston's school board is not alone in this lockstep down the road toward "excellent bigness". Pittsburgh is in the process of building five super-schools to replace 17 "outdated schools" at a cost of \$120 million. Pittsburgh's great high school plan will cut across pockets of natural and ethnic boundaries to "bring young people of varying cultures to each of the new schools."

One wonders, if one is concerned at all, what an "outdated school" really is. Oxford University, Cambridge and The Sorbonne still manage to turn out a fair product in buildings hundreds of years old, so it must be what is taught, the tools used to teach, the books and the principles that become "outdated" since schools, like prisons, are not made of four walls . . . either old or new.

It would appear that the most serious problem confronting our schools today is not old buildings, old principles or even old teachers but is rather too much of everything, too quickly to be used intelligently or effectively.

National Priorities

The wise assignment of priorities is as fundamental to the success of a nation as to an individual and neither can indulge in fanciful efforts in even the most wonderful direction while leaving first things last without absolute peril.

To us it seems that the failure of a generation of American leaders to establish reasonable priorities is perhaps the biggest cause of our national discontent today in the midst of so much affluence, and effluence.

To spend in a generation \$150 billion federal tax dollars helping every foreign country around the globe, while only spending at home much less than \$1 billion federal tax dollars on cleaning up our rivers and lakes;

To spend this \$150 billion either for good or evil around the world while spending less than a third that amount to rebuild our badly built highways which are killing 50,000 of us each year and wounding another two million;

To spend \$150 billion dollars rebuilding the lands we tore down in an assortment of wars while suffering 12th rank in infant mortality rate here at home;

To spend more in a month in Vietnam than is spent in five years improving our crowded, dangerous commercial airports here at home;

To build one aircraft carrier that cost considerably more than the federal government is spending in an entire year to build hospitals;

To spend five times as much per year on putting a man on the moon as is spent in training doctors and nurses . . . these are just a beginning few of the long list of badly assigned priorities that has our country suffering today from riots, school strikes and the nihilism that has infected such a large part of our youth.

Many of these badly assigned priorities were not planned at all, but were merely mistakes plastered on mistakes because a bureaucracy once set into motion goes on forever until it strikes sufficient resistance to burn it up.

There is a growing feeling that some of these bureaucratic monsters are now nearing that kind of resistance.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

There are several hilarious sides to the George Wallace candidacy for president. First is the twisting and turning, being done all across the South by both Democratic and Republican office seekers, who stand pledged to support the nominees of their party, but who still want to court that huge mass of voters who are going to vote for Wallace.

We have seen the Teaberry Strut done by Bob Scott and Jim Gardner, each of whom freely predicts that Wallace is going to carry North Carolina and by a wide margin. And this gives rise to a lot of "albatross hanging." The Republicans are trying to hang Hubert Horatio Humphrey around Bob Scott's unwilling neck and the Democrats are leaving no stone unturned in their effort to associate Jim Gardner with Nixon's strong civil rights position, and with the federal occupation of Little Rock which was done while Nixon was Ike's "Veep", and to which Nixon gave his loud and repeated Amen!

At a lower level in the First Congressional District this quick switch step is being done, and very adroitly by Walter Jones and Reece Gardner. Jones goes about as far out on a limb as one can get by saying, "If the presidential election is thrown into the House I will vote for the man who get the biggest vote in the First Congressional District." Which he freely predicts will be George Wallace. Gardner hasn't climbed onto this particular limb, but he has made a lot of noise about Jones' confession that he would vote for Humphrey since in order to be a candidate in North Carolina one has to sign a pledge that he will support the nominees of his party. While trying to rub some of the Wallace magic off on his effort Gardner hasn't made too much mention of the fact that he is pledged to vote for Nixon to the same degree Jones is pledged to vote for Humphrey, and both recognize quite clearly that neither of their candidates is going to run first in their bailiwick.

And almost as funny as the reluctance of these Democratic and Republican standard bearers to bear the standards of their party is the almost total lack of humor among the 24-carat Wallace supporter. I did an editorial on the radio, which I thought was pretty funny, talking about the strange help Wallace was getting from such people as Federal Judges Al Butler and John Larkins and nearly every Wallaceite who called me was highly indignant, and rarely was able to see the first damned funny thing about my abortive effort to be funny.

And except, of course on the race issue, Wallace is about as liberal as Southern politicians grow. He believes in big government and practiced big government while he was Governor of Alabama. He likes to levy taxes and "help people" with their own money. The arch-conservatives are calling Wallace a "Populist," which is, or was a turn-of-the-century type politician who favored taking a lot of things away from the "haves" and giving them to the "have-nots."

But the average modern voter has enough difficulty trying to figure out what a "liberal" and a "conservative" are without looking backward into history for any other confusing political label. And so it goes, and no doubt will continue to go right down to the wire on November 5th, when all of this confusion will come to a head and old John Q. Public will hide behind that minicurtain and do his duty as he "seen it."

Every indicator turns in the direction of a landslide victory for Nixon, but here in the South the True-Blue Wallaceite refuses to accept the unalterable proposition that Wallace cannot possibly get enough votes outside the South to college the electoral vote in any state. They dream their time away with that magic number: 34 per cent, which can be a majority in any state, but is predicated upon the unlikely proposition that the other two candidates will wind up with exactly 33 per cent each, which ain't likely to happen, but it would be real nice if it did, if George had the 34 per cent.

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