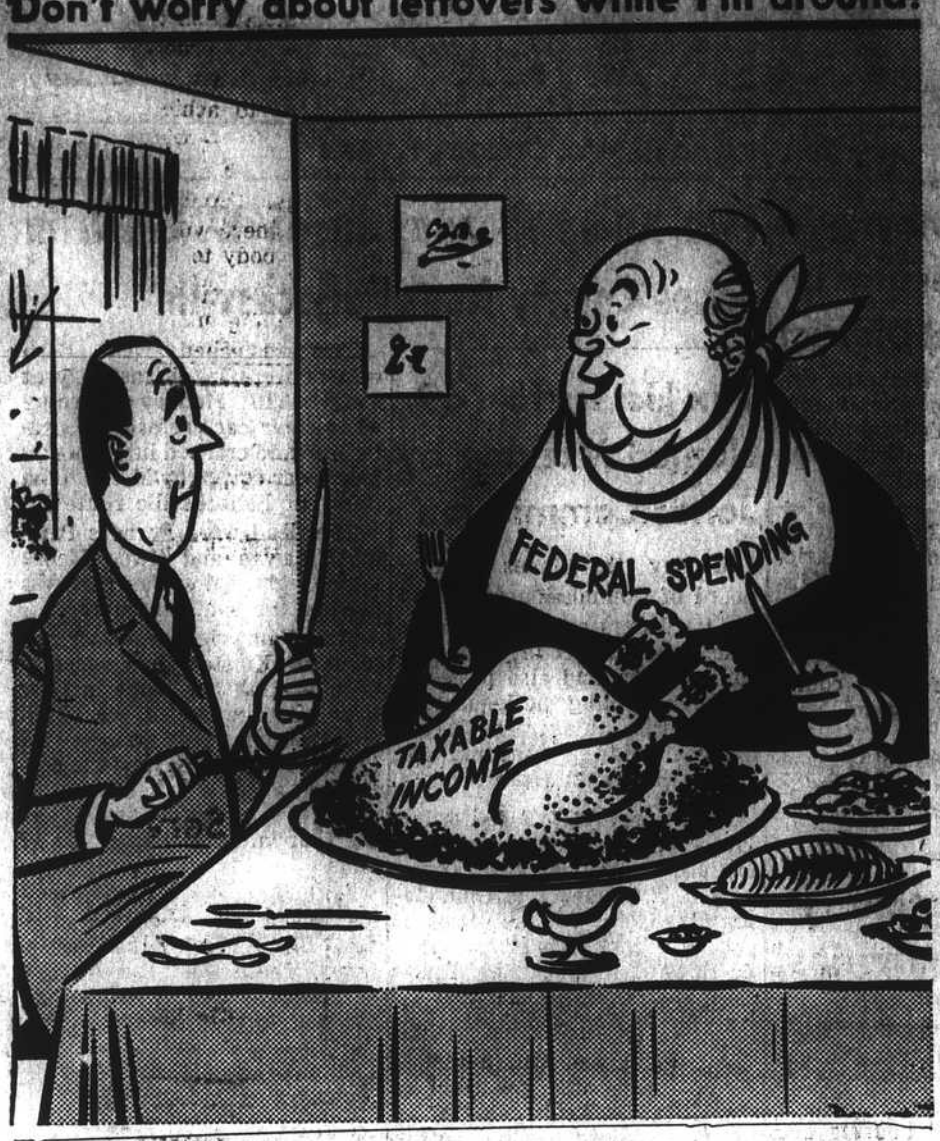

EDITORIALS

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

No Surprise

The report of the federal flunkies on the Chicago fiasco outside the Democratic convention comes as no surprise: These moles have labored on a mountain top and have given birth to the view that it was all the fault of the Chicago Police. Which is about like blaming San Francisco for being in the path of an earthquake.

This filthy mob of hired anarchists had announced from every garbage pail lid across the land that they were going to gather in Chicago to disrupt the Democratic convention, which richly deserved such disruption by such tattered batallions because the permissive pig-headedness of the recent Washington administration is both mother and father to such eerie bunches of nihilists.

And they kept their word. They went to Chicago; armed with a plan that is beyond belief in its crafty filthiness, and but for the good work of the Chicago police they would have done what they had announced they were going to do.

They were contained and a few noses and heads were bloodied, but not a single one was critically injured and no one was killed in a climate that was provoked in the most obscenely vulgar manner of any in the long history of anarchy.

And the "Blue Ribbon" report alleges and avers that Chicago police with malice aforethought took a few heavy licks at the "gentlemen of the press"; which also comes under the heading of what used to be pitched out of stables every morning.

It is the press . . . very largely the television press . . . that provokes the mess we are in today by goading these demonstrators into putting on some real live action shots for the national boob tube.

If the press is a party to mob action, if it cultivates the lowest instincts of the kinds of people it very well deserves to have a few hard licks on the head. Because if this irresponsible segment of the press is not very soon taught a lesson or two all freedom of the press and of every other kind will be ended under martial law, because martial law is far better than no law at all.

Some Camel

The 497-page special report of the North Carolina Board of Higher Education is some camel, and it not only has it's head stuck under the tent of North Carolina's effort in this field, but has crawled in hide, hair and hoof. In fact it nearly fills up the whole damned tent and is rapidly trying to freeze everybody else out of the program.

What it is, is a big play for a lot of loot. Sifting the very fine ashes of this huge report one comes up with a single conclusion, which is a single board that would have total control over every aspect of higher education in Fair Tar Heelia.

This is not good. No board is so smart. No one board can even hope to be impartial. To keep higher education viable competition, not monopoly is needed. If the American Story is anything it is the tale of fierce competition, and any facet of American society that forgets this is flirting with disaster.

The continuing merger into ever-enlargening commercial monopolies, the absurdly wrong notion that an expert in Washington can run schools, or dig ditches or pave roads better than an expert at home, and the worst possible place for monopoly controls is higher education. The lower echelons of education are concerned with provoking the student to think, and it is at the college and university level that he should begin thinking and quit memorizing tables and ancient poetry.

And even if the current collapse of so much of the nation's largest educational monopoly in California were not freshly before us we ought to realize from experiences of our own that size and quality are not an automatic relationship. If so, what happened to the dinosaurs?

And to erect an educational dinosaur with its tail in the ocean and its head in the Great Smokies is to invite collapse from its own weight. Even the arguments of economy won't wash, since in every instance consolidation has proven more costly.

Finally, the best reason for not approving this 497-page recommendation is that it would place too many academicians too far from the vulgar hot breath of the lonely little peasants who pay their salary.

Time for Change

As it was, perhaps, in the beginning it was not so very bad for a very wealthy man to try to hold onto his money after death with the gimmick called a foundation, which is a device set up for noble purposes but to primarily keep the government from getting its legal slice of such huge estates.

Buck Duke did it for Trinity College, hospitals, orphanages, retired Methodist ministers and one or two other higher education factories in the two Carolinas. To which trust there has never been a political taint.

But the Ford Foundation, which must have old Man Henry spinning in his grave like the crank of a Model T, is nine parts political and one very small part charitable in its none-too-subtle abuse of the tax system and the public.

Although the Duke Foundation is the nation's third largest, it is small by comparison to the Ford Foundation, but its good works far outshine the political efforts of the Ford money.

Duke's $691,963,000 is able to spend about $15 million per year for its specific programs. But Ford's $2,428,550,000 book value permits it to spend an average of more than $350 million per year on its assorted programs..

If this money were spent for good works, rather than with specific political intent in mind its continuation could very well be justified.

But a randon sampling of the kind of revolutionary projects sponsored by the Ford Foundation places the entire fund under serious suspicion.

Albert Shanker, president of the New York City teachers' union, claims that a very large part of the trouble in that troubled system can be traced to the handiwork of Ford Foundation projects.

What justification is there for spending tax exempted money in the amount of $131,069 which Ford Foundation recently contributed to eight aides of the late Robert Kennedy? How does this serve the public best interest?

The University of Virginia was refused a Ford grant after a department head of that great school has casually admitted that he still believed in the free enterprise system. The Ford Foundation, in refusing the grant to a school with a "particular point of view" agreed to reconsider if the university would add some men to its faculty with views more nearly socialist, as is the Ford Foundation's.

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

I suppose there are some good lessons one might learn from studying the enormous figures of government, and some of the most enormous came in last week from the commerce department which reported that in fiscal 1966-67 all kinds of government collected in taxes and other fees $253.1 billion and spent $258.5 billion. Collections were up $27.6 billion, but spending went up by $33.7 billion over the preceding year.

The debt of all governments, state, city, county, district and federal amounted to $440.8 at the end of this fiscal period. Federal debt accounted for $326.2 of that total — up $6.3 from the previous year, and state and local debts rose by $7.6 billion.

North Carolina ranked 43rd among the 50 states in the per capita tax collected and ranked 46th in per capita debt. The most heavily taxed people in the nation live in New York where the per capita is $457.84 for all kinds of state taxes. At the bottom of this state tax poll is Sunny Alabama where the per capita state tax bite is only $192.05. In North Carolina the figure was $223.80.

Strangely enough the heaviest per capita debt of any state is in Delaware, something one might have thought the DuPonts would never have stood for. But in tiny Delaware the state debt per person at the end of fiscal '66-'67 was $1,197.76. Thinly populated South Dakota was the nearest debt free state, and each of its few citizens was in state debt for only $148.21. The Tar Heel per capita state debt was $323.47.

These are just a few figures I've pulled out from the many of this report from the commerce department, but like so many figures they don't mean a thing unless one is able to put some other figures along with them. Such as the city and county debts. Some state governments assume more obligations for governmental services than others. But anyway it is sliced, it is fairly apparent that North Carolinians are pretty well off insofar as taxes and government debt are concerned.

Which gives rise to some serious considerations that the 1969 session of the North Carolina General Assembly ought to have; such as whether it is not wise for the state in its excellent financial condition to loosen up a trifle in some specified areas in which considerable chunks of money are badly needed.

Air and water pollution are problems that will not grow less until total effort is made to correct and control the pollution sources. It would bankrupt many private businesses to be forced to install all of the necessary equipment to install all of the necessary equipment to prevent continued pollution of an industrial nature. Long-term loans, and possible tax credits for such companies on a strictly audited basis are a thought worth consideration. Further heavy expansions in the realm of community colleges is an investment that will save huge amounts of money on the other end of the higher education rainbow and also make a lasting contribution to the overall productivity of the state's labor force.

Show me a company that's completely out of debt and I'll show you one that is going backwards, and it is the same with governments, and I am no Keynesian disciple either, but stimulation of both private and public activities is only possible with large transfusions of borrowed blood, or money, if you prefer to remain literal about the whole thing.