

How Firm a Foundation?



EDITORIALS

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

'Caesar's Wife'

When government pre-empts a special area of commerce, or uses its powers to bestow rich monopolies on private corporations the need to be completely above reproach, or as "Caesar's Wife" is more important than usual.

Every aspect of government should be above reproach, just as every aspect of private business, simply on the grounds of morality; but unfortunately this is not always true in government or in business.

The governmental monopoly over the sale of legal whisky in North Carolina is a constant area of trouble, since the government by its own blind greed creates a situation in which there is room for fantastic illegal profits.

It costs about 50 cents to make a gallon of whisky, and to the legal whisky the government adds close to \$14 in taxes. The smuggler, rumrunner, bootlegger, blind tiger operator all find room for comfortable profits under that kind of governmental stupidity.

Now the Lenoir County ABC Board is under scrutiny because a fired worker has "blown the whistle" on illegal practices which he alleges have been committed by employees of the local monopoly.

Perhaps even more damaging by far than the actual charges made by this canned truck driver are the things left unsaid; the charges not made.

He accuses the supervisor of selling more than the one-gallon limit of legal whisky to individual customers, of accepting free whisky from salesmen, of taking monetary gifts from salesmen and of receiving part of money paid for sugar confiscated by ABC officers.

Left uncharged, and unanswered, are

accusations that arise from the large number of huge whisky stills that have been destroyed recently in Lenoir County; some of which have been in operation for great lengths of time.

Further is the refusal of federal whisky agents to work with or cooperate in any fashion with local officers. The local officers say this is the fault of the federal agents. The federal agents tell it differently.

At any rate because of a soreheaded truck driver who was fired for cause this bastard child is now on the county's doorsteps and it must be cared for since, directly or indirectly, it is the child of us all because of our failure to keep this "Caesar's wife" above reproach.

More on ABC

Now that the good name of Lenoir County has been dragged into the gutter by a fired truck driver for the local ABC whisky stores there is no alternative but to prosecute this matter to its end, which will result in somebody being indicted. If the charges are frivolous, unfounded, malicious the person making the charges should be indicted and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. If he can prove the charges then those he has accused should be indicted and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Visiting Experts

There are various vulgar and often profane descriptions of "experts" but none seems to fit the "school expert" who comes to a county or city to tell its citizens how they should spend their money and how they should at-

About Fluoridation

This paper has from the very inception of the idea been flatly opposed to introducing fluorides into public water supplies in order to reduce tooth decay in children during those years when they are experiencing their greatest rates of growth.

Our opposition was based upon the fact that there are far simpler methods of giving children in this age group this benefit without exposing the entire population to the dangers of prolonged exposure to a very deadly accumulative poison.

But in many cities across the land emotional considerations far outweighed scientific evidence and a great many public water supplies in our nation now include what are supposed to be carefully controlled percentages of fluoride.

Since 1965 there has existed proven scientific evidence that such water supplies are extremely dangerous for any person with a serious kidney ailment. But in spite of this carefully compiled scientific evidence the United States Public Health Service with its commitment to the fluoride program has refused to re-examine its position or to subsidize large scale studies to determine if there are other accumulative side effects from the use of fluorides that may be crippling or killing the public in vast numbers.

This is one further example of the bureaucratic blindness which sets in when a large group becomes emotionally convinced that it is right. The history of science is largely a chronicle of the resistance by such groups to new discoveries, which completely disprove long held principles.

Certainly none of us, in any field, should easily surrender our principles, but none except the complete idiot should insist on clinging to even the most precious principles when that principle has been proved wrong.

The discoveries of damage to kidney patients by fluoridated water are not an absolute contradiction of the fluoridation principle but they do raise such serious doubts as to demand full scale and immediate restudy of the entire matter.

tempt to educate their children. The presumption of such "experts" is generally only exceeded by their ignorance of all things that lie beyond the narrow scope of their petty path. Presently "school experts" after fighting against the big school concept for generations have suddenly recanted and find that the single big high school is the only answer for education, and, one might add, for total forced racial integration.

Lucky Thirteenth

Not all but a major section of Vernon Park Mall will open for business on March 13th, and this is a lucky day for the Kinston Trade Area, since it opens a third major shopping center in Kinston, which will offer the public a much greater opportunity than ever before to see a wide selection of fine merchandise and at competitive prices. Fringe benefits include jobs for several hundred people and big additions to the tax listed valuations of the county and Kinston.

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

There is an old saying among country boys: "A blind hog will pick up an acorn once in a while!" so I'm sure that country-boy Governor Bob Scott will appreciate it when applied to him. After suffering one of the worst cases of "hoof-in-mouth-disease" ever seen in political science he finally found an acorn last week when he issued his statement about disorders on campuses.

Although there has been a rumor creeping out of Raleigh that the statement sounded far more like Bob Morgan than Bob Scott it was still made by Scott and he gets the full credit, or blame for it, depending on one's point of view. So far as I'm concerned, it is the only creditable thing Scott has said since he took the oath of office.

Even before he got his name on the payroll, he was running off at the mouth about aldermen and county commissioners not having any guts, as if he had cornered the market on that commodity, or has mistaken brass for courage.

And then he climbed onto the podium and called the tobacco economy of North Carolina a "myth," which was about as politic as showing up at a WCTU convention with nine Martinis under one's shirt. But now he has gotten back a lot of what he deliberately threw away by really talking sense about controlling anarchy on college campuses.

Scott is young. He doesn't have the experience his Daddy had when he became governor, but he still has a chance of overcoming his ignorance and making a good governor. One sure way he can recoup some of his lost prestige is to climb down off that wild tax horse somebody built for him and begin to talk sense about a statewide sales tax increase that would be divided on a per capita basis with the city and county governments of our state.

There is not a single city or county government in the state that is not badly in need of greatly expanded revenues to merely keep pace with the rate of inflation and without providing new or expanded services that the public wants. But the point of diminishing returns has set in so far as ad valorem taxes are concerned and the statewide sales tax increase of one cent is the fairest and easiest way to solve this problem.

Scott painted himself into a very tight corner by going off less than half cocked on this subject. All he needs to do now is to talk to some of the mayors and county commissioners of the state and listen less to the bright little coterie of bureaucrats surrounding him in Raleigh, and from whom he has gotten at least a good child's part of the mistaken notions he has spoken of in regards to the guts of local officials and economic myths.

A little crow carefully chewed and thoroughly digested is one of the few known cures for "hoof-in-mouth-disease."