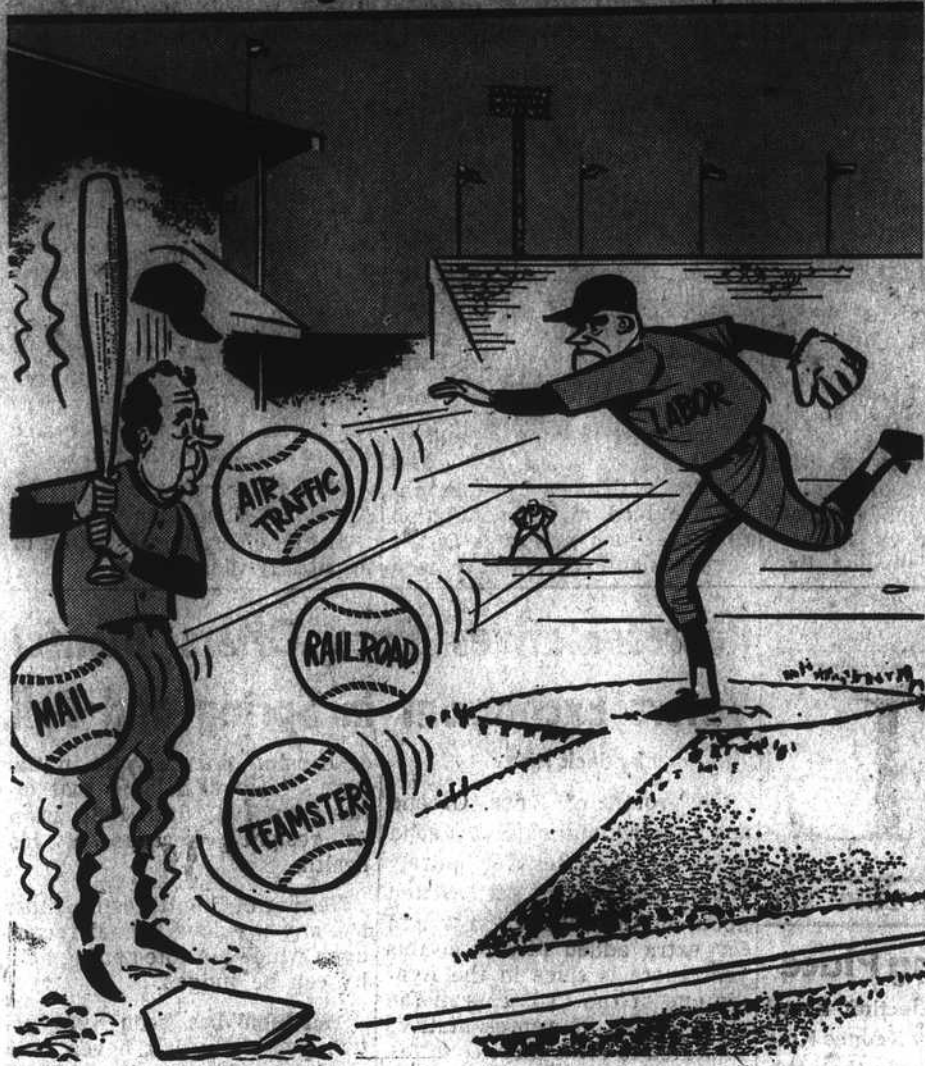


Right in the strike zone!



EDITORIALS

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

Which Direction

Congressman L. H. Fountain this week takes a lengthy and specific objection to the welfare reform bill that was approved in the house last week. Much of Fountain's objections is extremely well based. Our only question is: If not in this direction, Which direction?

Fountain and everyone else with the remotest knowledge of the welfare program as it presently exists knows that it has failed in the very first instance: Which is to get able-bodied people off welfare, rather than making welfare a way of life. Families are now into the fourth generation, who have known nothing but the slender debilitating existence that lies at the end of a welfare check.

The Nixon proposal includes some seed in the direction of taking people off welfare. The catch is that the plan would add a great many more before taking any off welfare. Those who object say there are far too many loopholes in the plan, and that those who didn't want to work could escape work by a number of tactics and still remain eligible for the "guaranteed income."

Of course the basic cleavage is philosophical: On the one side there is the professional sociologist's point of view which holds that welfare aid is a right, and recent supreme court decisions tend to support this socialistic promise; while on the other hand there are those, such as ourselves, who refuse to accept the ugly premise that any able-bodied person has a right to the earnings of another, who in many instances may not be nearly as able to work as the recipient, who lacks pride and guts and determina-

tion. When every major newspaper in the United States is filled every day of every week with endless listings of job availabilities there is no excuse for any able-bodied person holding his hand out and expecting to have it filled with tax money taken from people who are willing to work.

Of course many people would have to move in order to fill these jobs, and they may have to do work they feel beneath their dignity and ability, but that is their decision. They may either starve with their dignity or eat with an honorable, well-paying job.

Congress to Blame

When any individual or group of individuals abdicates its responsibility in serious affairs it cannot blame others for taking action — even the wrong action. This is eternally true in the long, tragic bloodletting in Southeast Asia for which congress is to blame.

We are now learning seven and even eight years after the fact that American troops have been committed to action in which more than 200 have been killed in Laos. This has resulted from congressional abdication of its control over the executive branch of government.

Congress has dodged its duty in many areas but in no area has this been more painful, at home and abroad, than in that tortured corner of the world.

Some say that Congress is an outmoded arm of government in the pace the world moves today. But this is not true, or certainly it need not be true, because

Sorry Argument

There is a widespread feeling in areas where public schools are under racial integration fire that those people who are interested in building and operating private schools, and whose children are in private schools should keep their mouths tightly shut on every aspect of public schools. This is a very sorry argument.

Because every citizen, whether he has children or not, whether he is involved in private schools or not, whether he approves or disapproves of what is happening to our public schools, has a huge vested interest in those public schools.

Over 70 per cent of every local and state tax dollar every citizen pays goes to the public schools, and with each passing year an increasingly large per cent of the federal tax taken is being diverted into the same channels.

Our friend Luke Blanchard pointed out last week in the Hertford County Herald that his paper's editor got lost on this same deadend argument, to which Blanchard said argument was about like saying prisoners should be the only persons to have a say in the affairs of prisons.

This is not a really new attitude of the educator, nor of most others who labor in the taxpayers' vineyard. Their general attitude is that the taxpayer is to their project about like the cow is to the dairy industry: An animal to be milked regularly and bred just often enough to keep the milk flowing freely.

It has always been, and it will always be a matter of irritation to public employees when the public asks questions or makes suggestions about the use of public money. These bureaucrats feel about the kicking taxpayer the same way a dairyman feels about the kicking cow, and if these bureaucrats had their way they'd lock the kicking taxpayer in an anti-kick frame while they stripped him of his last drop of money milk.

They have several designs on the drawing boards for these anti-kicking devices but so far none has been perfected, which causes at least some of these bureaucrats to forget the old story about the fellow who killed the goose that laid the golden eggs.

Congress has the ability to create its own sources of information upon which it makes decisions and it does not have to accept the lies, half-truths and damned lies that are cooked up by executives who are living in the gilded cage of almost total isolation that falls upon that unlucky occupant of the White House.

Congress is closer to the people than either the judiciary or the executive branch of government, and as such it owes it to the public as well as to itself to be as modern as necessary to keep pace with these other isolated arms of the federal government.

There is a great deal of evidence to support the view that congress is out of step with the times and unable to keep up with the pace of events. Perhaps it is totally correct to say that a modern nation cannot be ruled by committees; that the strong executive is an absolute requisite in this nuclear age. But if one accepts this premise, autocracy from which our ancestors fled is just around a few more election corners.

We say Congress has the ability, the authority and the duty — all it lacks is the courage.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

In addition to saddling North Carolina unnecessarily with the most highly taxed gasoline in the nation the 1969 session of the General Assembly unanimously suffered another fit of supreme gullibility. This was unanimously passing a constitutional referendum that is to be voted on in November calling for a so-called reorganization of the state government.

This stepchild has been hanging around Raleigh, growing a beard and smelling a little worse with each passing session, but last year somehow somebody dressed this red-headed brat up and it was adopted by this not much lamented legislative aggregation. On paper this child may sound fairly handsome, but it cannot stand close, intelligent examination.

It calls for the reduction of specific units of the state government from what its protectors claim to be 317 state agencies to 25 or less agencies. This is the first place where this child's breath begins to take the paint off the wall, and curl the wall paper.

The plain truth is that there are only 59 departments of record in the state government. That 317 figure was conjured up by the propagandists by adding up all of the crossroads cowdery societies we have such as the Arts Council, the Richard Caswell Memorial Commission, the Edenton Historical Commission, the Frying Pan Lightship Marine Museum Commission, The Good Neighbor Council, the Coordinating Council on Aging, the Historic Bath Commission, the Historic Hillsborough Commission, the Historic Murfreesboro Commission, the Historic Swansboro Commission, and on and on and on.

The next aspect of this stepchild that cannot stand close scrutiny is the promised saving of \$50 million dollars per year. This is an outright lie. Instead, it will add several million dollars per year to the cost of government . . . since if the voters buy this pig in this poke it will give the governor another dozen or so highly priced cabinet level appointees and each of these will come equipped with a high-priced office, high-priced staff and all the other appurtenances of high political office.

But the silliest of all the reasons for the General Assembly adopting such a catch-all of nonsense is that every one of these many governmental agencies — whether you use the flim-flam figure of 317 or the real figure of 59 — every one of these with the exception of the seven council of state positions is a creation of the general assembly and anyone or all of them may be merged, abolished, or expanded at the will of the general assembly.

There is no earthly intelligent reason for this constitutional amendment, and that perhaps is why the 1969 general assembly unanimously embraced it as it embraced a great many more unnecessary things such as cigarette taxes, soft drink taxes, and giving our state the most highly taxed gasoline in the United States.

JONES COUNTY JOURNAL
Jack Rider, Publisher

Published every Thursday by the LENOX COUNTY NEWS COMPANY, INC., 605 North Heritage Street, Kinston, N. C. 28501, Phone JA 3-2375. Entered as Second Class Matter, May 5, 1949, at Post Office at Trenton, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879. By mail first class \$3.00 per year plus 5 per cent North Carolina Sales Tax. Subscription rates payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Trenton, N. C.