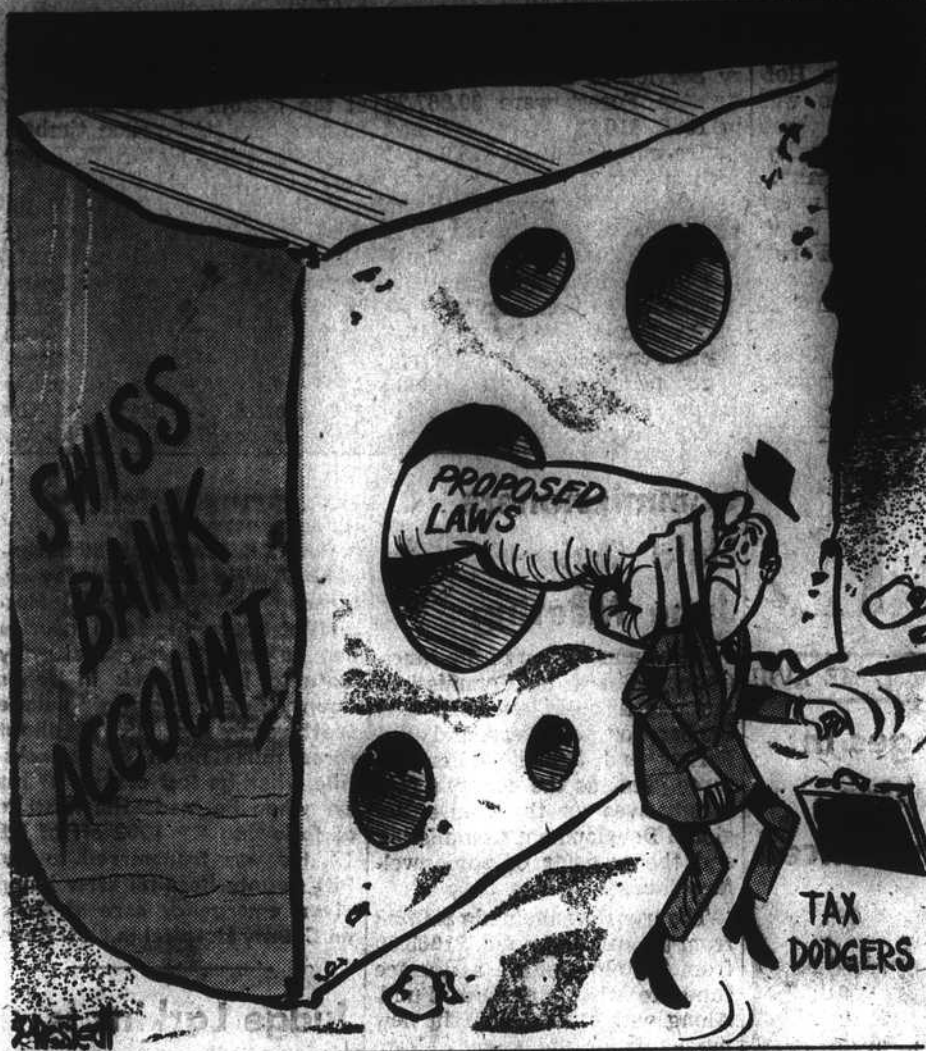


Swiss cheese, maybe?



EDITORIALS

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

Note to Republicans

We can't avoid wondering which walls the local Republicans climbed yesterday when they heard out-going Republican HEW Secretary Robert Finch tell a senate committee that the Republican Nixon administration is in the process of revamping its position on private schools and is expected to come out in a few days with a plan to lift the tax-exemption that the vast majority of these private schools must have in order to survive.

The voters of Lenoir County elected three Republicans to the county school board last month because the Republicans promised that they would keep Freedom of Choice for the local school system. But we have not heard a great deal out of these three new Republican school board members since they went to Raleigh last week and got the word from the Republican Nixon Administration about what kind of wood is to be used to make school house shingles.

Of course all of us who watch the political pot brew accept the premise that it's perfectly fair to make a few promises in order to get elected, but experience teaches us that things generally look different from the inside than from the outside.

The Kinston and Lenoir County School boards held out longer than any others in Eastern Carolina on this federal domination, waiting as long as they possibly could in the hope that the national drift of school affairs would change.

Nixon promised when he was trying to get Southern votes that he would support Freedom of Choice, but now Nixon is inside the White House and he and his Republican HEW helpers have brought about more racial integration of the public schools in a year and a half than poor old flop-eared Lyndon did in his more than five years in office.

And to the best of our recollection Johnson, whose children attended select

private schools, never made any noises about taking away the tax-exempt status of private schools.

When November rolls around local Republicans may be still flogging this school integration horse. . . and they have just as much right to flog a dead horse as anybody else, but they will never beat any life into that battered old hulk until there is a total change in the attitude of the United States supreme court and the Presidency and as of this moment Nixon and his Republican court appointees are still completely backing the mess first created by Republican Judge Earl Warren.

About Wallace

George Wallace has been re-elected governor of Alabama, but he burned up whatever national stature he had acquired in the past three years in getting elected.

This is not a new stance because shortly after the 1968 presidential election, when his ears were still roaring from the noises of that hectic campaign Wallace said his next effort to apply pressure to the national political scene would be as a regional candidate and not as a national candidate.

Assuming that this November '68 attitude has not altered the kind of campaign Wallace just concluded in Alabama may have more currency than some of the national pundits expect.

By '72 with the continued degeneration of the public schools in those areas where there is a considerable percentage of colored population the platitudes of Nixon and the promises of Agnew may sound rather empty to those who have recently applauded these platitudes and promises.

Viewed in that light Wallace may be able to deny Nixon those electoral votes he so badly needs in the South in order to put together a winning combination.

Educational Edsels?

One of the unexpected campus problems this spring has been the sudden drop in job offerings to graduates. This does not mean, of course, that freshly graduated college boys and girls will have to go directly to the welfare office for their first subsistence, but it does mean that although there are job offerings the students have not had the huge assortment of jobs to pick and cull among that has been the recent rule.

And paradoxically enough the more educated the graduate is the less job offerings there are available. The Ph.D. has generally narrowed the field of employment by specializing to such a very fine degree in furthering his education. The average large corporation prefers to take the straight B.A. or B.S. graduate and then apply his talents where they best fit their particular company.

The Ph. D. almost has to be hired for a specific slot, and with the curtailment of space and aviation research industry is the place to which the majority of the graduates are now having to turn.

No longer can the Ph. D. automatically expect to get himself a lush teaching job in a select college or university by merely waving his doctoral degree in front of university trustees. And when the academic seats are found full, and when government hiring of Ph. D. graduates is severely cut the complications are automatic.

This spring has even seen Ph. D. graduates from the less prestigious colleges forced to accept such lowly employment as teaching in public schools and this is about half — in dollars and cents — of what such educated young people could expect in prior years.

Nobody is yet saying it loudly, but there is just a possibility that industry is tired of being kicked around by academic types and this lowering of the boom may be just a not-too-subtle way of reminding the academic community that there is something to be said for the profit motive.

Certainly corporate management could not be blamed for tightening its research and personnel belt ever so slightly in view of the unreasonable attitude many campuses have exhibited toward business.

There is, of course, the other side of the coin; which is simply that there is just the possibility that the campus, like Detroit may over-produce some years. The educational Edsel is both a possibility and a probability.

From the local point of view total racial integration of the schools will not arrive until this fall and the pressures that this will generate cannot be reflected politically until '72 on the national scene, although local office seekers may very well be singed by this heat in this year's general elections in November.

Wallace is a canny campaigner. He did not deliberately burn bridges behind him without having some fence-mending plans just ahead.

If the degeneration of the public schools is added to continuation of the Vietnamese bloodletting Wallace may have two strings on his political banjo to accompany his composition about "Ten Cents Difference".

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY
JACK RIDER

I have a very high regard for the intelligence of Governor Bob Scott so I know perfectly well that he is not stupid enough to swallow all the hog wash he is being handed in the name of this reorganization of the state government. Which all the more adds to my consternation when Scott keeps repeating the half-truth about there being 317 separate agencies of the state government.

This week once more he added his total support to this constitutional amendment to be voted on in November which authorizes the governor and the general assembly to reduce the number of state agencies from this mythical "317" to something less than 25. First, let it be categorically stated that there are not 317 agencies unless one includes such things as the USS Battleship North Carolina Commission, The Historical Murfreesboro Commission and dozens more of the same breed. There are 59 departments of record in the state government. Scott very well knows this and it adds nothing to his character to keep on mouthing the 317 half-truth.

Secondly, although Scott's service in state government is limited and his legislative experience is not lengthy he cannot avoid knowing that every agency of the state government except the Council of State which is authorized by the constitution is a creation of the General Assembly, and it is axiomatic that the same hand which creates can also "de-create". So if there is a burdensome collection of these governmental baubles, bangles and beads it is the duty of the governor to recommend to the General Assembly which is useful and which is an impediment to efficient operation of the executive side of the state government.

So, whether one uses the half-truth 317 figure or the more rational 59 figure there is absolutely no need to tie the hands of future governments with this 25-or-less limitation of this ill-considered amendment to the state constitution.

Finally, it is a gross inaccuracy to attempt to persuade the people to believe that this additional bureaucratic layer of cabinet level politicians is going to save 50 million, or add to the efficiency of government. It will assuredly do neither. Because every branch of the state government has been totally assured that this reorganization does not mean any curtailment of its activities, or its funding.

But this pig-in-the-poke has been presented to the public in such a shining manner that the gullible public is likely to swallow it head, hoof and wiggling tail, and then find it awfully difficult to digest, and about as expensive as the great court reform program, which has simply tripled the cost of operating the courts without adding one iota to court efficiency or to the prompt and effective protection of personal and property rights. Court reform was sold to the public in the same half-truth fashion, and the public, having been saddled with it, is now stuck with it forever and anon.