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Editorial . . .
The Needy

It is the custom in many parts of the country for news-papers to call attention to the plight of the community's needy at Christmas time.

This is a worthwhile undertaking and it is appropriate to make a special effort at Christmas to see that every child, especially, is remembered in some way.

It is true, as some point out, that the needy deserve attention year-round. But there is also nothing wrong with a special effort, one that perhaps cannot be duplicated every week of the year-at Christmas.

If there are nearby families in distress, if there are children likely to have little to be happy about Christmas morning, those with the means can make their Christmas a satisfying one by doing something about it. Parties, good food and expensive presents are less fulfilling, inwardly.

Letter To
The Editor

They say that sometimes, you can't see the trees for the forest. Here in Perquimans County that seems true at times, regarding our famous marching unit.

Thus, this letter!
It's from the Chamber of Commerce, whose job it is to publicize the county we represent, a job being shared by the marching unit who manage to bring so much good will to this county.

Unless they were already committed to another event, they have never turned down an invitation to participate in events in their own county or elsewhere.

I have heard the highest praise from many in neighboring Pasquotank County concerning not only the girls participation but their contribution to the parades and so on.

Unfortunately, Perquimans has been unable to receive any cooperation from the local school's band over the past several years but appreciation must go to Elizabeth City State University and the John A. Holmes High School Band, for their participation in many of our events.

But this letter is meant as praise to the Perquimans County Marching Unit - and just to let the girls and their leaders know that we, as a Chamber, will continue to back them up, work with them and appreciate them.

They're an asset to the county - they're a great group!!
Frank M. Roberts, Manager
Perquimans County
Chamber of Commerce

Card Of Thanks

I wish to express my appreciation for the many cards, visits, gifts and other thoughtful expressions of interest and concern while I was a patient in the Albemarle Hospital and since my release from the hospital.
Harry Broughton

EDITORIAL

SAM ERVIN

★ SAYS ★

WASHINGTON -- It is paradoxical that at the very time when many American educators are advocating greater academic freedom a new battle looms over the insistent demands of some religious groups that church school activities be financed out of the public treasury.

Indeed, in his March 3rd Education Message to Congress, the President seemed to sanction this idea and urge that Federal monies be used to finance the parochial school system.

This challenge to the principle of separation of church and state should not be lightly dismissed, because Federal funding of church-owned or church-controlled educational institutions has a "money" appeal to many parents who send their children to sectarian schools and who are chafing at rising educational costs. Many feel that a "little Federal money" would do no harm, and might help the educational system meet the financial crisis of this age. Those who accept such arguments, however, ignore the danger that when religious activities become state-supported, religion suffers a mortal blow. Moreover, State support of a church and its activities is bad because it violates the First Amendment to the Constitution. The church that depends upon tax money for the support of its endeavors - rather than upon the voluntary gifts of its adherents - loses spiritual strength, and what begins as governmental aid ultimately runs the full cycle of governmental control.

During my service in the Senate, I have strenuously opposed the use of tax money for the support of religious institutions and their activities. As a matter of fact, I have secured Senate passage of a proposal on four occasions - twice in the form of amendments to education bills and twice in the

form of separate bills - to make it certain that Federal courts should have jurisdiction to determine the constitutionality of grants and loans of Federal tax money to religious institutions. Regrettably, the proposal never did get through the House because the Judiciary Committee of that body chose not to act upon it.

After I waged these battles, however, the matter went to the United States Supreme Court and in its Flast decision (1968), the Court laid down the principle that as far as the First Amendment is concerned, a private taxpayer can bring suit in a Federal court to challenge the validity of grants and loans of Federal tax money to religious denominations. So the Court ruling has now gone beyond my proposed bill in support of the principle of separation of church and state.

The fact that the President has recently urged Congress to reconsider the use of tax funds to finance parochial schools indicates that the battle is not over.

In saying this, I wish to make it abundantly clear that I believe that religious education ought to be encouraged. This should be done through private contributions and not tax contributions.

I would hope that for the good of our churches and our country that Congress and the Administration will not embark upon a new Federal aid program for the support of religious institutions and their educational activities. To do so is certain to stir up much dissension and strife throughout this nation, and raises the prospect that our nation will become embroiled in quarrels among religious denominations seeking to get their "hand in the public till."

Veteran's Administration

W. R. Phillips, Director of the Winston-Salem Veterans Administration Regional Office, today described ways that North Carolina servicemen and veterans - especially high school "dropouts" - can continue their education.

One, the Predischarge Education Program (PREP), helps servicemen on active military duty earn high school diplomas or prepare for higher education or vocational training.

Another program, Phillips said, provides tutorial assistance above the high school level for veterans and servicemen who study under the GI Bill.

Phillips noted VA pays servicemen in PREP up to \$175 monthly for the regular costs of tuition, fees, books and supplies.

The serviceman receives a lump sum payment when he enrolls in remedial, refresher, deficiency makeup or other courses required for educational programs above high school level.

Phillips explained that servicemen must have at least 181 consecutive days of active duty after January 31, 1965, to be eligible for PREP, and pointed out that this benefit is not chargeable to GI Bill time earned during military service.

Phillips urged servicemen interested in PREP to discuss the program with their base education officers.

Under the tutorial program, VA will pay up to \$50 monthly in tutoring fees for a maximum of nine months to prevent eligible veterans and servicemen from failing in a subject essential in courses of study. Tutorial costs are not chargeable to veterans' educational eligibility.

Veterans and servicemen interested in tutorial assistance were advised to get VA application forms from their school, base education officer or nearest VA office. When completed, it should be mailed to the VA office maintaining their educational records.

For Your Information

Dear friends,

Often the death of a dear one is so shocking that the next of kin is stunned and unable to immediately make decisions on burial arrangements. Nevertheless, close relatives or friends should not offer to assume decisions, such as the choice of a funeral director and clergyman.

To avoid later dismay and resentments, it is imperative that the next of kin make the burial decisions.

Respectfully,

Marion Swindell



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CORRECTION

Last week's ad stated our Business Office number was changing from 335-9921 to 335-0581. That's right . . . for Elizabeth City - but your Hertford Business Office number will remain

426-5600

(Please! - No Jokes About Wrong Numbers!)

The Norfolk
& Carolina Telephone
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Let's Go To Church Sunday
Make Church Going
A Habit

VIRTUOSO

You wouldn't believe your ears if your baby were suddenly to play a Beethoven sonata.

But, of course, no one expects a baby to do more than "play at" a piano. It takes years of study and preparation and a "bushel" of talent to become an accomplished pianist. In fact, to become any kind of success in this life takes hard work and experience. If this boy is to make his mark in the world - whether

as a pianist, engineer, doctor or lawyer - he must be trained and guided.

The challenges that confront him in later years will not only be concerned with his occupation but will also involve his spiritual growth. In a world growing ever more complex, basic precepts of religion and faith will have to be cultivated. Through the Church give your child and yourself the opportunity to acquire faith for the future.



Scriptures selected by the American Bible Society



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Sunday
Isaiah 25:1-9
Monday
1 Peter 1:1-9
Tuesday
Psalms 90:1-17
Wednesday
Psalms 111:1-10
Thursday
Proverbs 2:1-9
Friday
Proverbs 8:1-11
Saturday
Proverbs 8:32-36

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THE DEMANDS OF THE COMMITTED LIFE

International Sunday School Lesson for December 13, 1970
MEMORY SELECTION: "It is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well-doing, than for evil-doing." - (1 Peter 3:17)
LESSON TEXT: Matthew 19: 16-22; Luke 9:57-62; John 15: 12-20; 1 Peter 3:13-17.

It has too often been said of a Christian: "He is no different from others who are the so-called 'unsaved'." All too often, there is a great deal of truth in that statement, for - let's face it - there are an awful lot of "lukewarm" Christians in the world! What everybody tends to overlook is the fact that acceptance of Christianity, in its purest sense, calls for commitment - total commitment!

And an unashamed display of this total commitment all too often subjects the motivated Christian to ridicule. . . most especially in this day and time, when it is fashionable to be blasé and often derogatory towards "old-fashioned" tenets. Indeed, persecution is not entirely the precept of "bygone days"! Some present-day Christians have found their dedication to the Lord to be extremely costly!

To be a truly committed Christian calls for an amazing staunchness of spirit, a driving sense of responsibility; and, upon reflection, these are attitudes which do not come as easily to us in our present day, relatively soft environment, as they did to our founding fathers in a more difficult and often dangerous era!

Christ was a gentle man, an understanding teacher; but He was a committed man. When a convert applied to Him to be admitted to the fold, the applicant had to measure up to the rigors demanded by the Christian faith. In the matter of spirit, Christ would not be gained, or easily fooled. God must be first and foremost in the new life He offered. Anything of the flesh - comforts, possessions, wealth - must be put on one side, and put on one side cheerfully! Man's heart and his interests could not be divided.

Perhaps the most telling phrase is: "Ye are my friends, if . . . Christ demanded more than lip service; He demanded action. His offer of kinship, however, was not intended to carry strings; rather, it was intended to uplift man to the heights of which he was capable. In this process man was to grow, spiritually, and his fellowmen would benefit from this individual growth.

Christ promised His followers no easy path, and in so doing He was being selective. Christianity needed people of strong spirit, of dogged will, of over-reaching faith. Only thus could the doctrines of Christianity envelop the world. In presenting His case fairly He called the wheat from the chaff.

Christ offered freedom from sin, but that offer also entailed a deep-rooted sense of responsibility. It still does. If we have accepted Christ's death on the cross as absolution of our sins, then we have accepted the great debt that it entails. We are constrained to pattern ourselves after His exemplary life on earth; we are constrained to prove our worthiness regarding inheritance of the Kingdom He promised would be ours!

Our religious beliefs must be our staff as we journey through the pitfalls of mortal life; it must help us over the rough spots, and give us strength to bear the burden of those weaker than ourselves. It must provide the inner fire, the inner hope, without which we are, indeed, lost.

(These comments are based on outlines of International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission.)

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