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Editor  
Court House Square  
HERTFORD, N. C.  
Entered as second class matter  
November 15th, 1934, at Post  
Office in Hertford, North Caro-  
lina 27944.

Advertising Rates Furnished By  
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
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**The Guides**

A new book recalling a much criticized New Deal project of the 1930's, the Federal Writers' Project, reminds us that writers at that time, paid by the government in an anti-depression effort, produced an interesting series of guide books to the various sections of America.

The series then was called the American Guide series. It has been largely neglected since its completion (the Writer's Project died in 1939) but the books offer those who want to rediscover America—and especially the America of that time—a chance to do so.

**Old Birds**

In October more than forty American fighter pilots from the First World War revisited France and placed a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier. They also visited monuments erected to the memory of their flying comrades lost in action.

Asked about his accomplishments, Raymond Brooks of Summit, N.J., one of the flyers, said modestly: "I wasn't a very good flyer. I was just lucky enough to get my planes back."

This honest admission accounts for the survival of most pilots. Only a few become almost invincible, and even then luck, fortune or mechanical failure could bring them down.

Elihu Kelton, of Palmer-ton, Pa., said he was one of a flying class of 48, only eight of whom survived the war. And today's youngsters think they have it tough!

**Not Really**

Offhand can you think of anything more impartial than a traffic light?

**Defined**

Broad mindedness has been described as high-mindedness that was flattened by experience.

**Staged News**

The Federal Communications Commission has asked the three giant networks which dominate U.S. television to submit comments on a number of staged events transmitted as news to the public between 1968 and 1971.

The FCC, notoriously timid in regulating the networks, was prodded by chairman Harley Staggers of a House Commerce subcommittee. In asking the networks for comment, the FCC almost apologized for its action, issuing a statement, arguing that the "real criterion" in this case is "whether the public is deceived about a matter of major significance."

This is not the real criterion, which is whether television newsmen are faking the news. It is not whether the fakery involved a story of major significance—who is to decide this?—but whether news is being faked, this is the fundamental, disturbing question.

In keeping with its apologetic attitude, the FCC statement also claimed that "no government agency can authenticate the news, or try to do so." This again is not the question; the question is whether the FCC properly supervises news telecasts in the public interest to prevent fakery. Rather than issuing so many alibis for what it's not doing (or won't do), the FCC should get on with the job of protecting the public interest, a job long neglected.

**People Defeated**

Congress' decision to shelve enactment of any welfare reform this year is a blow to many Americans and an example of Washington failing to govern effectively.

For three years now various House and Senate committees have debated various reform bills, including the President's.

For a variety of reasons, none of the bills was acceptable to enough of the Senate and House, or the President. The result—the present system remaining in effect at least until 1977—is disappointing to all who had hoped for effective reform.

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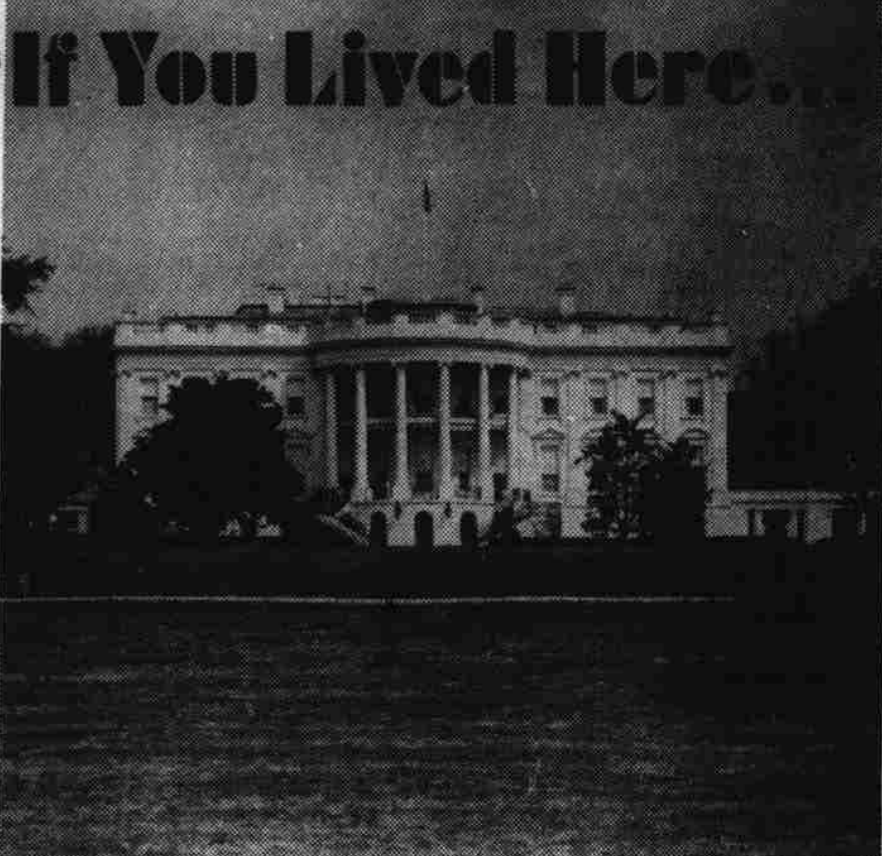
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... how would that affect the state of the nation, and the course of history?

We should thank God for the responsibilities we DON'T HAVE, and then seek His strength in fulfilling those we have.

It may be the by-product of democracy, but we often become too engrossed in the responsibilities of others—not enough in our own!

If I have a home and a family, it is part of a community, and my community part of a nation, and my nation part of a world. Then, for my abilities, my task may be as great as that of the President of the United States.

It was a president who said he had been driven to his knees many times by the knowledge that his strength was insufficient for the day.

We all have days like that—most of the time!

Scriptures selected by the American Bible Society  
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- Sunday  
Colossians  
1:17-23
- Monday  
Matthew  
18:15-20
- Tuesday  
Matthew  
20:1-16
- Wednesday  
Acts  
10:25-43
- Thursday  
1 Corinthians  
1:10-18
- Friday  
Galatians  
4:22-29
- Saturday  
Galatians  
6:10-18

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