

# The governor's original (?) concept

TOM McINTYRE



I read an editorial from the Winston-Salem Sentinel recently and I had to laugh. I laughed because the content of that editorial brought home to me again how lopsided things can become when politics are involved.

The editorial concerned Gov. Jim Hunt's sudden interest in creating an atmosphere of courtship to woo the world's film makers to North Carolina.

According to the editorial: "The governor got the idea of promoting the state as a location for movies last year, after a talk with Thom Mount, a Durham native who is now an executive with Universal Studios. And the idea is certainly not far-fetched. North Carolina's diverse terrain and moderate cost of living, as Hunt said, should make the state an attractive site for movie makers..."

The editorial continues: "...Hunt suggests setting up a fulltime, permanent office to lure the movie moguls to the state. People within the Division of Travel and Tourism are already at work on the project, exploring its potential, compiling lists of possible sites for filming, hotel accommodations available and other needs of a traveling film crew. It seems the travel and tourism division could get the promotional job done just as well as a separate office, by hiring an agent wise enough to movie makers' ways and able to sell the state as filming location."

Of course Gov. Hunt hasn't overlooked

what movie making has done for the State of Georgia financially. That pioneer state in wooing filmmakers to its shores now rakes in about \$75 million annually from the film business.

Even South Carolina has an active film commission and has had for some years.

It might be a surprise to Gov. Hunt to learn this, but not to people in this area, that North Carolina already has an active film industry and it didn't come from Hollywood.

A native Tar Heel named Earl Owensby created the industry here. Oh, there were other productions done in the state prior to his entering the field, but those productions were co-op deals. Local money and outside film makers.

Only Owensby has gone into film making as a business in the state. His 44-acre tract on the old Boiling Springs Rd. outside Shelby houses millions of dollars worth of structures and equipment to produce commercial films - and he is adding to that inventory all the time.

Even now Owensby, with Arthur Smith of Charlotte, is negotiating to bring Allied Artists distribution to Cleveland County. Not the biggest distribution outfit in the business by a long shot, but still a known entity, Allied Artists contacts can help the local film industry get its product into the main stream.

It may also surprise the governor that for several years Owensby has gone about quietly talking with state legislators about the potential of creating just such a com-

mission in North Carolina as the chief executive is now touting. The problem has been that legislators either were not interested or lacked the imagination to see the potential.

But, politics being what they are, I suppose now that the governor has suddenly come up with the idea, all the legislators will come to life and shout "What an original idea. Why didn't I think of that?"

The EO product may not be as slick in all areas as the Hollywood product, but then

H'wood has been at it for over 75 years. And the inverse snobbery EO has been fighting (if it was done locally it couldn't possibly be good) at times has been heartbreaking. But, you have to give Owensby credit for creating a state industry that gives state talents an opportunity to work at a vocation they might never be able to without leaving North Carolina.

I am all in favor of the governor's proposal. It would be good for the state, but let's don't go falling all over ourselves in the

rush to enshrine him in the Hall of Fame when other homegrown talents are still going unrecognized.

## Guest column

### five o'clock shadow



By CHARLES H. DEAL

The egg man, a cornbread and buttermilk gent with more than a little common sense, bristles when someone blames health problems on eggs. A more basic individual than the scientist, the egg man has some theories of his own about health.

Cholesterol be hanged, he says, in a more common language.

Years ago, long before the advent of all today's modern medicine, it was not uncommon for people to live into the high 80s.

And they ate eggs, sidemeat, souse, pork and all the other food which some people blame for high blood pressure and other ailments.

So why are people today less healthy? As you would expect, the egg man has an answer for that too.

"There's too much sitting on the backsides," he adds with a flair that any man of science would appreciate.

Boredom may be another ailment of man, he suspects.

Some of that boredom may be translatable into other problems.

"I see a high number of ladies in their 40s going into the ABC store early in the day," he allows.

He doesn't add a postscript to that. The egg man lets you draw your own conclusions.

After some few years of photographing groups of people, I long ago decided something.

People in our part of the world are afraid to touch.

Standing in their own space, the Americanized human, supposedly one of the best bred creatures on two legs, doesn't

want to touch and doesn't want his life complicated by too much nearness.

Europeans don't have that hangup and (normal) men in many countries dance together as a part of their folk heritage.

Two people of the same sex dancing in this part of the world will generate raised eyebrows and sometimes off-color remarks.

Another uncomfortable circumstance for the male, I learned first hand recently, is being offered an armload of flowers.

A man with a load of flowers, his masculinity compromised, has all the poise of a cow eating briars.

Thinking back to that wonderful day in a schoolroom with 80-odd bronze children with dazzling smiles, I felt foolish.

The men in our group were being shown high appreciation and considerable honor. And we weren't smart enough to really enjoy it.

Our macho was showing.

## Poets Corner



### HIS BLOOD

His blood can wash you like the ground that's covered by the fallen snow. So the heart that's black with sin can a whiteness know. Yes, we know the heart of man is cluttered up with sin, but the blood of Christ can make it oh so pure within unlike the snow that's destined to melt away. His blood will linger in the heart to cleanse it day by day. If your heart is black with sin I'd like to know, if you'll only trust his blood, he'll wash it white as snow

CALVIN WRIGHT

### SKETCHES

His arms are always open To welcome one and all He brings us peace and comfort When ever given call Our station doesn't matter We can be rich or poor The Lord regards us equal And helps us all endure Whenever life hangs heavy And friends are hard to find He never will forsake us — This friend of all mankind.

God reaches for the weary And gives them faith to fight He guides the wayward travelers throughout The darkest night God makes the weak souls strong again With hope when hope is gone. From His caress the sick derive the Will to struggle on. His arms are always open To ease the pains of sin God's sweet embrace awaits all those Who seek to enter in.

MYRTLE M. GOFORTH Selections

## EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

### Poor people will be glad to hear statistics

We bet the poor people are glad to hear the latest news from the N.C. Department of Human Resources.

According to that agencies statistics the number of poor people in the state decreased by 20.6 percent in just five years (1970-75).

In 1970 there were 992,900 poor persons in the state, about 20.2 percent of the population. By 1975 that number had dropped to 788,000 persons or 14.7 percent of the total population.

During the same period nationwide the decrease in poor status was only 6.0 percent.

What constituted a poor person in 1970

According to the stats, the poverty threshold was \$1,840 for an individual not living on a farm and \$1,569 for one living on a farm. For a family of four the amount was \$3,743 non-farm and \$3,195 farm. In 1975 the amount was \$2,724 for non-farm and \$2,305 farm for individuals. Non-farm families of four, the total was \$5,500 and \$4,695.

There, you have it. It actually costs more to be poor in the city than it does to live on a farm.

But this brings up another question—

With inflation creeping upward and the value of the dollar steadily declining - how long will it be before those in the comfortable middle-income group sink into the poor person category

# Government—human rights conflict

BY GLORIA JONES  
Special To Mirror-Herald

"If we believe government that governs leasts governs best, then the implementation of human rights is taking us on a contrary course," says a philosopher at North Carolina State University.

Dr. Iredell Jenkins, visiting philosopher at NCSU, says that human rights become legal rights and their implementation leads to the expansion of government regulation.

Jenkins has conducted in-depth studies of the law and individual rights under a grant from the National Science Foundation. He has written a book on law, order and justice, and now is writing another on the law and human rights.

He also has taught and written about philosophy and the law at the University of Alabama and at Yale and Tulane Universities.

### Limiting Government

Jenkins believes that tax revolt is a sub-conscious effort to place limits on what government can do.

Jenkins says tax revolts would be unlikely if Americans could go back to the old values, if individuals could be instilled with a larger measure of responsibility, and if family, church, school, unions and corporations could take over some of the responsibilities that have been abdicated to government.

He points out that emphasis on human rights implies that individuals are entitled to benefits of services that someone else has the duty to provide. Government is there to make sure they are provided.

Human rights, such as the right to a minimum income and decent housing, are

positive and beneficial. Anyone would be foolish to protest these rights, Jenkins says. "But," he adds, "I am concerned with the conflict between human rights and constitutional rights."

He emphasizes that the Constitution is protective of individual rights and restrictive of government. The Constitution states what the government "shall not" do to infringe on individual rights, he says. For example, the government "shall not deny due process of law."

On the other hand, laws dealing with human rights expand the role of government, stating what government "shall do."

### Freedom of Choice

The Constitution guarantees the individual's freedom of choice and opportunity. If human rights are to be implemented, the government has to be able to muster the resources of people and direct their use, thus intruding upon the individual, Jenkins says.

"I am concerned that the radical shift in the vision of our society is being accompanied by something very important," he continues.

"It seems easier for people to move with the tide, and allow government institutions to take over their responsibilities."

In studying cases of law, Jenkins has explored some of the problems which arise in the conflict of human rights with individual rights. An example is privileged admission, in which universities set aside a certain number of places for minority admissions.

### Equal Protection

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