



Strike Is Over?

An apparent lack of communication between the city and striking sanitation workers has resulted in a state of contradiction and confusion.

We felt that the workers had some legitimate grievances, and the increase in salary they requested was not only within reason, but well deserved. Certainly city officials cannot really believe that \$65 per week take home is adequate for the jobs some of these men perform. The workers reported to work Monday morning and were presented with a statement issued by the board of commissioners stating in effect that since the men had walked off their jobs, they were considered fired.

Later Monday, the men converged on city hall, and a representative met with the mayor. At that time the mayor agreed to bring the demands before the board of commissioners again, Monday afternoon and would report back with their decision. No meeting of the board took place Monday, and Tuesday night Roscoe Wooten told the MIRROR that as far as he's concerned the strike is over, and that he has a full crew of new replacements. Miles Myers, spokesman for the strikers, contradicted this Tuesday, saying he and the men are still waiting for an answer from the city regarding their requests.

Such confusion and double-talk serve no useful purpose. It's up to the city to take decisive action, and if it is the decision of the city to replace the striking workers, they should be told in a forthright manner, leaving no room for compromise or doubt. Apparently the men have been told to hang on for an answer, and in the meantime have lost their jobs.

The striking sanitation men at least deserve an authoritative final explanation of the city's position.

Party Maverick Says No

Will Voters Buy State GOP Conservative Package In November

By JOHN KILGO
KQ SYNDICATE

Republican Party maverick Jimmy Johnson of Concord, who ran unsuccessfully against Jesse Helms in the U.S. Senate Primary, will not be actively supporting Helms or gubernatorial nominee Jim Holshouser in the fall election.

As a matter of fact, reports are making the Tar Heel political circuit that Johnson will support Nick Galifianakis for the Senate and Skipper Bowles for Governor -- and soon change his registration to the Democratic Party.

Johnson isn't ready to go that far, at least he wasn't in an interview with me, but he does say candidly:

"The fathers of North Carolina Republican Party have made it clear that they do not want me, (Jim) Holshouser had been to Concord four or five times and didn't even call me. He doesn't want me in a 10-acre field with him and that's all right. I guess I'm more of an independent now than anything else."

Will Johnson support Jesse Helms in the Senate race? "If Helms comes to Cabarrus County, I will introduce him around," Johnson said. "But if Galifianakis comes here, I'll introduce him around also."

Johnson believes the North Carolina Republican Party is about to package a conservative philosophy that Tar Heel voters won't buy in November.

"The Democrats tried I Beverly Lake and lost," Johnson said. "In 1964 we tried in our - heart - we - know - he's - right Goldwater and got clobbered. Wallace lost here in 1968 and the only reason he won here this time was because the people were voting against Terry Sanford. And now the Republicans are running Jesse Helms, who is the most conservative candidate to ever come down the road."

Surprisingly, Johnson believes that defeated gubernatorial candidate Jim Gardner is a moderate compared to nominee Holshouser.

"Gardner was a sincere candidate this time," Johnson said, "and if he had not had the legacy of the 1968 campaign to live down, he'd have won."

Johnson says Tar Heel Democrats have been smart to move to the moderate viewpoint.

"Skipper Bowles is a dynamic individual," Johnson says, "he knocked heads with the internal part of his party and won. Pat Taylor ran a traditional campaign and lost. There's no doubt in my mind that Galifianakis is in tune with the average North Carolina voter. (Jesse) Helms isn't going to get the labor vote, the Negro vote, the young vote, or the intellectual vote. I even think some big business people will look at some of his statements and turn away from his candidacy."

In his race for the Senate, Johnson was snubbed by many

GOP regulars. He considered it a slap in the face and says he owes no more obligation to the Party.

Johnson says most of his campaign contributions in his fight against Helms came from Democrats. He says: "I know I'm in the wrong place. I've gone as far as I can possibly go in the Republican Party. The Republican Party is controlled by the regulars. The general leadership of the Republican Party and I are not in the same dance hall."

All of this sounds as if Johnson has made up his mind to change to the Democratic Party. But he insists that he has not made that decision. "I guess you can say I've decided to call it a day in politics," Johnson told me. "I'm an elder statesman at 37."

Some people will cheer that statement. Others will view it as a sad occurrence. But few politicians will ignore it. Jimmy Johnson isn't the kind of man politicians ignore.

Is Third Party Likely?

Chances appear good Governor George Wallace of Alabama won't accept the Democratic Party platform recently adopted at Miami Beach. No doubt Wallace supporters will carefully analyze the G.O.P. platform also. (Most Wallace delegates left the Democratic convention disgusted with Senator George McGovern's platform and delegates.)

If Wallace and his supporters can't live with the Republican platform, either, after close analysis, the prospect may be another third-party effort, Wallace's health permitting.

In 1964 Wallace refrained from campaigning because of his respect for Senator Barry Goldwater and his political philosophy. No doubt Wallace will find much in the G.O.P. platform more to his liking than that which emerged from the Democratic convention, though the economic proposals of Senator George McGovern contain something of certain Wallace themes.

To wield any decisive power in November, however, Wallace will have to have electoral votes; the only way he can get them is to run as a third candidate. Thus the chance of that remains.

LURIE'S GRAPHIC OPINION



"SOME PIECES JUST DON'T FIT"

Reflections

by Rodney Dodson



Another borrowed item, hot from the news desk... Mrs. J. G. Martin of 620 Mauney Ave. filed a complaint with the police on the 18th. Seems she saw two men fleeing her backyard with one other Rhode Island Red and a Black Hen Chicken. The chicken thieves were later apprehended, and since the birds were returned unharmed, she decided not to press charges against the minors.

I don't think that's what Colonel Sanders meant by the great chicken outfit!

Jay and Elaine went across to city news for snacks. "Nabs!" Elaine exclaimed. What are nabs?" "Ah Ha!" I interrupted, "Only somebody from the northern piedmont would know what nabs are. I used to say nabs all the time, but down here nobody says nabs. Nobody knows what nabs are even."

Jay was raised near Burlington, and I'm from neighboring Stokes County myself. In case you're still wondering, nabs are those little orange packs of cheese crackers.

Another first has to be this tomato (pictured below). Yes friends, this genuine tomato was grown by Charles Houser on Meadowbrook Road, right in his backyard. He says it was one of a kind. I'll go along with that.

Someone asked me Tuesday to see if there would be any interest in starting a chess club in Kings Mountain. I don't play myself, but Jay Ashley our intellectual-in-residence here at the MIRROR plays. In fact he says he and his wife play a lot of nights at home right after the news when there's nothing but a lot of garbage on TV.

If anyone is interested, let me know, OK?

Ashley asked for a pack of nabs the other night when Bec-

I'm glad Home Savings and Loan put up the new time and temperature indicator in front of their building. For one will find it useful when I go to the Post Office every morning, I can look up and see how late I am. It will also be handy to check the temperature so I'll know whether to turn the air conditioning on in the car.... it does look impressive revolving around, and is the first of its kind in KM I believe.

Unbearable
A lot of people who want to carry the world on their shoulders can't even support themselves.

--Telescope, Belleville, Kan.

Average
If at first you don't succeed you're like most other people.

--Spotlight, San Diego.

Perspective

by Jay Ashley



If you think last week's tirade on credit was something, you ain't heard nothing yet. A couple of weeks ago Rodney wrote an article entitled "Who's Attending The Convention." I would like to change that title around a little bit and call this article, "Who's Attending The Sick."

You might think this following story is all fabrication, but you are wrong. It is the absolute truth, pathetically enough.

Last week Barbara decided to get in contact with a doctor in order that we would have someone to call on if we became sick. I'm sure many of you have seen articles in magazines or papers that say people wait until they are sick to get a doctor and then it is too late. Well we didn't want to miss the wagon, so we decided to have our own family doctor.

After the ridiculous run-around we received I am at the conclusion that there are really no doctors in the United States. Those TV doctors are the closest thing to real, and they are only actors!

Since we reside in Gastonia, we had the wild idea that our doctor should be in Gastonia. Since we did not know a doctor, Barbara started with the "a's" in the phone book and proceeded down the list. This is no exaggeration. She called every doctor listed in the book. Each time she was told, "Sorry but the doctor is not taking any new patients." We thought this a bit odd, but still the horrible reality had not hit us. Then she sat down and proceeded to call every doctor in Kings Mountain and was given this line, "There are doctors enough in Gastonia to take care of people in Gastonia, we can't take you."

now I ask you friends, what am I supposed to do if I get sick? Treat myself? Oh sure I could get a doctor. Want to know how? Go to the emer-

gency room at the hospital and by law some doctor would have to take me. Now that's real cool isn't it. Auto accident victims and heart attack patients being wheeled in and here I would sit, "What's wrong with you," they would ask. "I need something for a cold."

I was always educated in the idea that doctors took the Hippocratic Oath promising to heal the sick and afflicted. After the farce last week maybe it should be changed to the hypocritical oath. Maybe the new oath would read:

I promise to help the sick... Except those who get sick between 9 and 5.

I promise to aid the afflicted and wounded... Unless they are from another town.

I promise to go out into the world and save lives... Unless those lives are at home.

You might think these rules are funny and some may think they are harsh, but I think they are pathetically true. At least from my experience. Now don't go off on a tangent and say "Ashley hates doctors." I firmly believe that there are a few non-conformist doctors who actually want to help people. But I'm afraid they are in the minority. It's easy to cruise through life above everyone else, but it takes a real man to look down at those to whom he owes a living.

Since last week did not go well I should have expected this week to be no different.

Monday I went by the Highway Patrol station to check on weekend wrecks. While I was in the office, Trooper Reavis came in and said, "Is that your truck?" pointing to the van owned by the MIRROR. "Yes," I replied, "I'm driving it."

"Inspection sticker is expired." So I received a ticket right there at the Highway Patrol office. Some days it doesn't pay to get up.

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