

# Letters To The Editor

## Greed Increases

Dear Editor:

Ever notice it? The greedy are getting---greedy'er! Seemingly since the federal government has been forwarding funds to the state and local level everyone seems to be trying to get on the Free Will Train. Now don't get me wrong please! I'm for the state and local level being helpful, when help is needed. But for crying out loud! Where's it going to stop? It would and will be a tragedy if some one doesn't wake up shortly. If the trend continues, Kings Mountain, as well as many other towns and cities will be solely owned by the federal government. And those who are so instrumental working to this end will have packed their \$\$\$ bags and will have flown the coop, leaving our cities in a state of indebtedness or even bankrupted. So what is really left is a federalization and centralization of power.

Property owners will have to sell their property at a meager profit if any, who will later have to either rent or buy previous property holdings at a great cost. This isn't good logic much less good horse sense. Neither is it either of the twin. Where a city will not be able to continue its tax structure with the federal government holding a lien, the city will be losing much of the tax revenue no taxed property.

Oh, well, perhaps I've just awoken from a bad dream. If so, please, Doc, give me another shot to get the bad taste and thought out of my mind.

E. H. Pearson

## Expression Of Thanks

Dear Editor:

Finding the words which best express our feelings is difficult. Only six months after the death of our mother, we have now had to give up our father also. Our hearts are saddened and our lives even more empty. We know that many others also feel a loss at his passing, for he had many friends. He appreciated his friends and family and was able to still think of others, even during the long weeks of intense pain.

We wish to express our appreciation to the many friends, relatives, acquaintances, and organizations who have meant so much. We are grateful for your friendship and for your kindnesses to our father and to our family. You have expressed your concern in so many different and unique ways, from monetary gifts to gifts of one's time and services. Each of these kindnesses is remembered and appreciated for the individual way in which it was given. We appreciate, too, the many prayers which have been made on behalf of our parents.

Sincerely,  
Betty and Larry McDaniel  
Shirley England

## The War On Crime

In the last three years indictments of criminal syndicate figures have increased by 63 per cent, according to John Hushen, director of public information in the Department of Justice.

This is a result, Hushen says, of President Nixon's specific instructions to the department--to wage an all-out effort to loosen the grip organized crime has fastened on many parts of the nation.

Henry Petersen, head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, recently agreed the federal government is now winning its war against organized crime.

The beginning of the current major effort dates to 1954 and the effort got into high gear in 1961; the last three years, however, have seen the peak in eighteen-year war, Petersen says. The number of arrests of crime's higher ups is so high today the organization is certain to be depleted if the same toll continues in future years.

The major new weapons in the war are grand juries' power to use court-authorized wiretap evidence, the new authority to grant immunity to implicated individuals who testify and the recently-received power of law officers to compel witnesses to testify (despite the Fifth Amendment) if they are guaranteed such testimony will not be used against them.

The Nixon Administration's concentration on law and order has obviously produced results, which is heartening to most Americans.

## Perspective

by Jay Ashley



Well, Sure and Begorrah there is someone out there in newspaper land that reads my column!

If you remember, last week's flaming commentary concerned my plight to get a family doctor. So you can imagine the feeling of apprehension I experienced last Thursday when Elaine announced, "There's a call for you from the Doctor's office."

"Oh no," I thought, "The A.M.A. is going to sue for group libel." Very carefully I picked up the receiver and answered.

"Is this Mr. Ashley...the one who wrote the column on doctors this week?" said the voice.

"Yes it is."

"Well, we read it here at the office."

"I'm glad you read the paper," was all I could say. "Have you found a doctor yet?"

Negative.

"This is Dr. Adams office and he would like for you to know that he will be glad to care for you and your family."

Well, I guess the only word for the feeling is flabbergasted. Yes, instead of me finding a doctor, one had found me. Thank God for non-conformity. Luckily both Doctor and secretary were jovial about the whole situation. The only thing that bothers me is that they mentioned something about me paying double or something like that.....

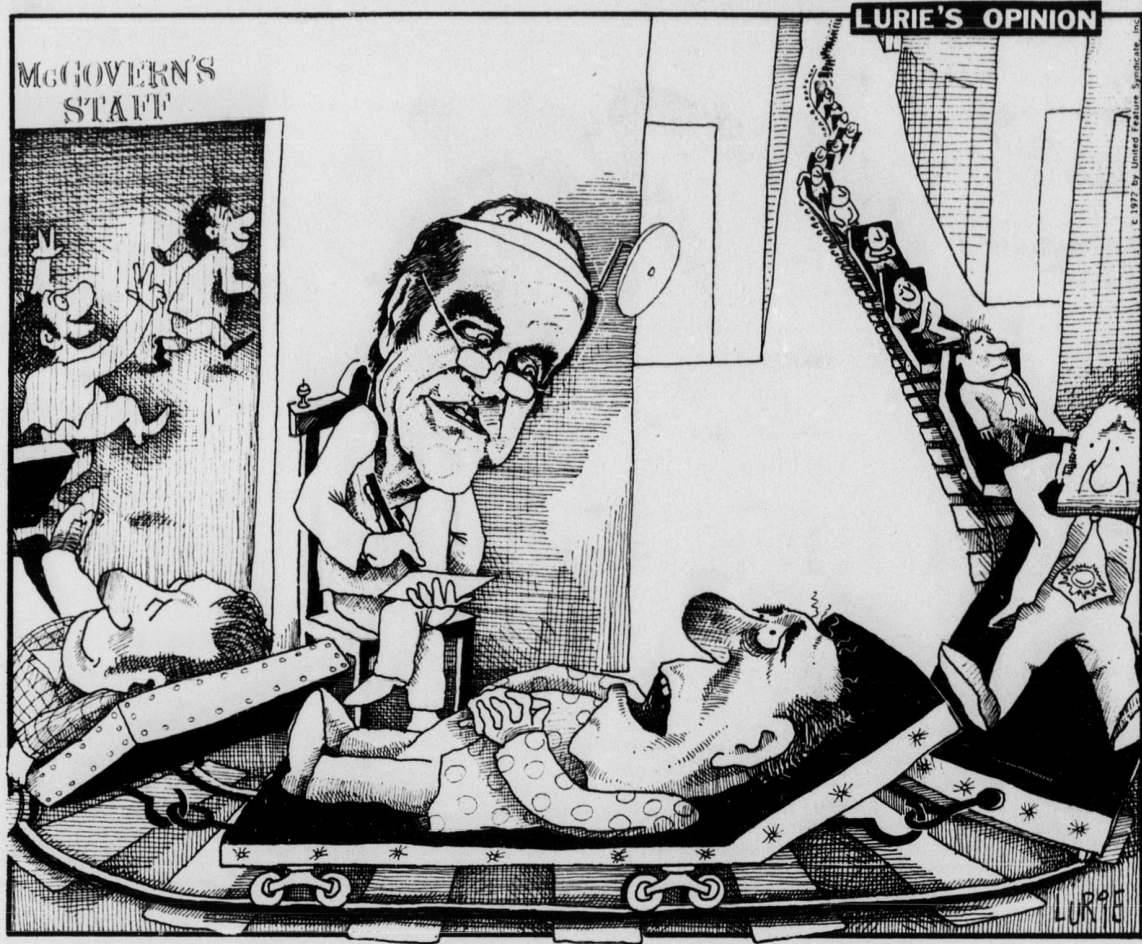
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Further notes on the medi-

cal field. I noticed in the papers that researchers accidentally found that "pot" can be used as a treatment for patients with glaucoma. After studying the effects of marijuana on several willing human guinea pigs at Berkeley, the scientists found that pressure on the eyes was reduced. They then administered the drug to a patient with the high eye pressure, earmarking glaucoma, and found this pressure reduced several units. The only drawback at present is how to administer the drug without having the patient stagger around high!

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Last Thursday I was shopping at a store in Gastonia when someone tapped me on the shoulder. It was a deaf mute. He handed me a card explaining his affliction and then just stood there. It was obvious he was seeking a handout so I decided to talk with him...in sign language. I asked him what he needed. He looked at me oddly and with a gleam of surprise and answered anything I could spare. I had no money on me so I told him so and added that I was sorry I couldn't help. He thanked me and walked off. I later related the story to Barbara and displayed my signs for her. It was then that she told me. "He probably didn't understand you." "Why?" was my immediate response. "Well," she answered, "You spelled 'WHAT' W-H-S-T." Give me a break, it's been a long time.



TAKING NO MORE CHANCES

## N. C. House Speakership Battle Continues

### A "Love Story" Blossoms In N.C. Politics

KQ SYNDICATE  
By JOHN KILGO

Eric Segal, the author of Love Story, should have been at Kinston last week. He would have lapped it up.

The occasion was a barbecue, sponsored by Frank Rouse on behalf of Republican gubernatorial nominee Jim Holshouser. I was unable to attend because of a last minute conflict.

But I talked with Republicans who went and they were impressed with what happened. Rouse, who did his best to help Jim Gardner defeat Holshouser in the primary, is now working like a pack mule for Holshouser.

The purpose of the Kinston rally was to bring a lot of Gardner supporters together and let them see first-hand that Holshouser didn't have horns and carry a pitchfork.

One eastern Republican told me: "A lot of us Gardner people were going to sit this thing out in the fall. Rouse got us down there and talked to us, introduced Holshouser around, and you'd be surprised what a difference it made. Many of those Gardner people went away from there pledged to help Holshouser in the fall."

That was the plus in Rouse retaining his post as chairman. The Gardner people feel like the Republican Party has treated them as second class citizens. Now they can look at the top and see Rouse sitting up there as chairman, and he's one of the good ole boys. It is no secret that Rouse has been busy the past three weeks trying to organize Gardner supporters to get out there in the bushes and go to work for Holshouser.

He has told some close associates that he has been more successful than he figured he would.

Rouse told me: "I've talked with some Gardner support-

ers on Holshouser's behalf and I'm pleased with the response I've received."

A lot of work remains to be done because some sores from the primary are still slow to heal. But Eric Segal would have loved that barbecue supper in Kinston.

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The hearts and roses turn about between Rouse and Holshouser makes us wonder if a similar reconciliation can be made between George McGovern, the Democratic nominee for president, and the octopus-like labor organization.

George Meany has said a firm no to McGovern. Yet, McGovern has begun his soft-sell toward the labor leader by saying Meany is really not a meany. Individual labor groups are beginning to make their own choice.

Politics makes strange bed-fellows. Even when they refuse to go to bed in the beginning.

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Democratic organization meetings in North Carolina on a national basis are slowly taking form. Our suspicion is the men who mould the tempo are awaiting developments from the Republican convention.

The choice of Spiro Agnew by Richard Nixon as his vice president came with all the fanfare of violin music at the dinner hour. It wasn't unexpected; yet, it was announced so softly it hardly created a stir.

Mr. Nixon never makes a move without the calculation of a chess player. The Republican convention has the earmarks of a Sunday school class coming to order.

But don't bet it won't be without at least one firecracker. The Nixon strategy demands noise when it is least expected.

Examples were the trips around the state to talk with Democratic House members.

"The people who are committed to me are strongly committed," Ramsey said. "They will be in my corner with their votes. I'm sure of that."

Ramsey doesn't want to blow the matter out of proportion, but he feels very confident that he's going to be the winner in this race. Quinn, almost without question, has been hurt to some extent by the politics of transition.

Several Democrats who were to line up with Quinn have left the House to be nominated for the State Senate. They are Ken Royal, Jack Rhyne, Harold Hardison and McNeil Smith.

At least two others who were going to vote for Quinn have died, and two more were defeated in primaries this year.

Ramsey is to the point now that he is formulating plans that he would use from the Speaker's podium. He wants to see the Democratic caucus moved from the second week in December to Nov. 17. In other words, he would like to see the House organized faster this year than it was in 1971.

"It was two weeks before I knew where my office was last session," Ramsey said. "It was three weeks before the House was really organized. I would like to see us be organized the first week in Raleigh so the legislature could go to work immediately."

Ramsey said if elected Speaker, he will do what he can to see to it that the state's business is conducted in the open.

Quinn and Ramsey are fighting for the Speaker's position which is presently held by Phil Godwin. Godwin toyed with the idea of running for lieutenant governor but ran for the State Senate instead and won nomination. Godwin does not have opposition in the general election.

Ramsey looks for 92 to 95 Democrats in the House next time and he told me in an interview: "It looks real good for my candidacy. But I plan to continue to work hard."

Ramsey has gone after the Speaker's post with vigor. He has been in touch with House members by phone, letter and has visited them in person. He

## Reflections

by Rodney Dodson



Being on a real movie set was a new experience for me, and to think that it's right here in Kings Mountain makes it even more exciting. If all the doubters and fun makers had driven out Watterson Street behind Mountaineer Pharmacy Monday morning, I'm sure they would have been surprised. A full production crew with trucks and cameras and lighting equipment lined the street in front of the small brick building which is headquarters for Four Fellows Productions.

The building was being used for some of the script's jail interior shots, and the crew was placing lights and reflectors at strategic positions. The film crew was from Studio 1, out of Louisville, Kentucky. It took some time to get all the equipment and props into place before the actors could run through their lines, but the cameras finally began to roll, everyone was instructed to be perfectly quiet, and traffic was held up on Watterson Street during the takes. Mike Muscat, a fine young actor from Gastonia is playing "the town idiot" in this flick (not in reference to any real person I'm sure), and was dressed for the part wearing coveralls, t-shirt, and barefooted, with a ridiculous hat to top it off. Now picture him stationed at the end of the street to turn away oncoming cars.

One lady actually sped up when he darted for her car to stop her. Apparently she didn't want to take any chances

with the character. Everyone was oggling at the pretty girls who were cast for parts in the movie, and someone said they had never seen so much traffic on that street.

Pete Floyd, one of the Four Fellows, expressed his appreciation to the Mirror for our support of their efforts from the beginning. He acknowledged that we were publicizing the movie and keeping the public informed when some other people were laughing at the idea. I appreciate his remarks, and hasten to add that no matter what the outcome of this effort, nobody's laughing now. When a film crew travels 1000 miles with \$100,000 worth of equipment, that's no joke.

The "let's do something... let's make a movie" idea of a small group of enterprising and talented local people has become a reality. I think this is a living testimony of what a little determination and hard work can do. They deserve the support of the townspeople. I'm looking forward to the premier showing.

By the way, one of the production crew almost made off with two of our prize employees Monday morning. Becky and Elaine were just crossing the street for some chicken or something, and were stopped by this guy asking directions to the film location. Apparently noting their star qualities, he asked them if they'd ever considered a movie career, and said he might see them again sometime.... I guess that's the way stars are made.

## Washington Report

by Congressman James T. Broyhill

### A Look At Tax Reform

In this political year, there has been a great deal of talk about the need for tax reform. Charges have been made that our present tax structure favors corporations over the individual taxpayer and that rich people are able to escape taxes through a system of "loopholes" while low and middle income people are bearing the brunt of the tax burden.

There is no doubt that significant changes in the tax structure should and will be made. The present system is far too complicated for the average citizen to understand. In addition, there are loopholes which should be plugged to prevent abuses that now exist.

But much of the debate about the tax reform question has been misleading and aimed more at making political gains than at providing practical and fair suggestions for the reform of our tax structure. Before the Congress acts on tax reform legislation, it would be wise to study the issue more thoroughly and more cautiously, out of the heat of the political arena.

In both 1969 and 1971, legislation revising our tax laws was enacted by the Congress. While some have charged that these two laws favor corporations to the disadvantage of individuals, the facts do not bear out this contention. The U.S. Treasury Department officials estimates show that the combined effect of the 1969 and 1971 tax reform laws has been as follows:

For the four calendar years 1969-1972, they will have-- increased corporate income taxes by \$4.9 billion;-- decreased individual income taxes by \$18.9 billion;-- decreased excise taxes on automobiles and telephones, affecting mainly individuals, by \$3.5 billion.

For the current calendar year 1972, they will have-- decreased corporate income taxes by \$0.4 billion;-- decreased individual income taxes by \$12.0 billion;-- decreased excise taxes by \$2.6 billion. These statistics demonstrate that under the 1969 and 1971 tax changes, substantially all

reductions have gone to individuals.

Attention has also been focused on the fact that for the tax year 1970, 106 persons with incomes in excess of \$200,000 paid no income tax. Some have argued that this handful of cases shows that the system is unfair and that the rich do not pay taxes. However, it should be noted that 15,200 taxpayers in this income category paid an average Federal income tax of \$177,000 each--a total of \$2.7 billion. In addition, all of the 106 cases in which no taxes were paid are under study by the Internal Revenue Service and final settlement has not been made.

A list of so-called "loopholes" has been cited as a cause of inequity of the tax burden and loss of revenues to the Federal government. A closer look, however, reveals that many of these "loopholes" are used by the average, low and middle income citizen to lower his taxes rather than being the exclusive prerogative of the rich. For example, the interest on home mortgages is a "loophole" used by millions of American homeowners. Deductions for medical expenses, children personal expenses, and occupational costs are all available to everyone with any kind of taxable income. They were deliberately written into the tax laws because they serve legitimate social or economic needs. The impact of these deductions is far greater for taxpayers in the low and middle income brackets than for those with high incomes. Any decision to eliminate them should be carefully thought through and the effects on our economy and social institutions should be considered.

It is clear that the subject of tax reform is far from simple. We will be hearing a great deal of rhetoric in this election year about this issue, and many so-called "reform" plans will be offered. Hopefully, the next Congress can weigh the merits of these various proposals in a calmer and more reasonable atmosphere.



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