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Speed Limits: Darkness Is A Hazard

COUNTY Police Chief Joe D. Whitely's proposal for reduced night speed limits on Tar Heel highways is good—as far as it goes.

But the state's safety record might be improved if present legal requirements were observed more conscientiously.

The section on speed restrictions in North Carolina's statute books opens with this sentence: "No person shall drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing."

The statute goes on to point out that the fact that the speed of a vehicle is lower than legal limits does not relieve the driver from the duty to decrease speed when hazards exist. In our book, darkness is a hazard.

The courts have ruled time and time again that the motorist must operate his car in such a manner at night as will enable him to stop "within the range of his lights."

If the General Assembly is asked to set an after-dark limit, however, it should be asked to consider the entire question of speed limits and their effect on accident prevention.

We would suggest that the best available scientific evidence be gathered to assist legislators in setting realistic limits for both day and night travel. We would also suggest that every effort be made to persuade our sister states that uniform motor vehicle laws are desirable (a goal that has existed since

the President's Highway Safety Conference of 1955).

It must be emphasized, however, that the speed limit is no magic wand. It is a guide, not a guarantee of safety. A motorist may kill himself by speeding within speed limits.

Actually, speed is part of a larger, more complicated problem. The basic cause of nighttime accidents is inadequate visibility.

"Regardless of what may be assigned as the ultimate cause of most night accidents, the immediate cause is not seeing the hazard in time," says Dr. A. R. Lauer, director of the Iowa State College Driving Laboratory and one of the nation's leading accident researchers.

Increasing speed cuts down the margin of safety as the motorist runs into defects on the roads, a pedestrian crosses his path, the car ahead comes to a sudden stop, or a tire blows out. The hazards of speed are multiplied by curves, hills and bridges, slick tires and slick pavements, side roads and intersections, holiday crowds and holiday spirit, liquor and narcotic drugs, dazzling lights, one-eyed lights, no lights at all and drivers hurried, worried or tired.

The basic rule for night driving is and should be, "Don't drive beyond your headlights." It is important that you see ahead at least as far as the distance it would take you to stop. A reasonable speed for existing conditions is important—but so are good lights, good brakes, good tires, good vision and good reflexes.

The Split Personality Of Traffic Laws

NORTH Carolina traffic laws suffer from a split personality.

They are blithely unconcerned with key elements of accident prevention, but seldom indeed in penalties after accidents occur.

It is all very well to penalize a driver whose vehicle, because of defective brakes, struck down a pedestrian. But it would be far better to save the penalty and the life by prior requirement that brakes and other operating parts of vehicles be kept in safe condition.

Repeat of a compulsory vehicle inspection program in 1949 doubtless soothed Tar Heels' resentment of poor administration of the program. Repeat just as surely led to bloody highway tragedies that could have been prevented by periodic safety checks. A continuing tragedy are the excuses that because car inspection failed once in North Carolina it should not be tried again. Obviously, it must be tried again if traffic laws are to be seated in any form of logic. The recipe for any vehicle accident prevention program that ignores the condition of the vehicle calls for a large pinch of oversight or ignorance.

Besides logic there are ample statistical arguments for compulsory inspection. A nationwide check of more than a million vehicles found more than a

fourth of them to be unsafe, with improperly serviced brakes the main fault in 97,000 cases. Paradoxically, the manufactured strength of brake systems is better than that of the rest of the car.

Locally the Mecklenburg County Voluntary Vehicle Safety Check last month turned up two major items of significance.

One point was that 33,000 motorists submitted their machines to safety checks suggesting by their number that the General Assembly is safely fearful of protest against re-instituting a compulsory statewide program.

Point two is that mechanical defects were found in 3,000 vehicles voluntarily submitted to checks suggesting a much higher rate of defects in vehicles whose owners shied away from the voluntary check. A man who knows his brakes are bad won't voluntarily stop to be told just that.

The legal means to stop him and tell him to fix 'em are what is needed to have an effective traffic safety program in North Carolina.

There can be no valid substitute for compulsory inspection, nor valid excuses for failure to have it.

Traffic safety takes safe vehicles as well as safe driving, and until Tar Heels take firm steps to assure safe vehicles they will be playing—not working—with the problem of highway death.

Must The Vacuum Rush In Again?

THE President's sudden illness again caught Washington and the nation unprepared. For the second time in ten months a vacuum rushed in to fill the leadership.

It was dangerously apparent last year that America is a headless nation when the President becomes incapacitated.

There was a great deal of talk about designating someone to carry out the duties of his office—nothing was done. Congress disregarded its responsibility. The staff system, headed by White House Assistant Sherman Adams, carried on. Fortunately, the President recovered.

If Mr. Eisenhower's latest illness was less of a challenge it was more of a warning.

It again gave the people a foretaste of the enormous complications that can arise overnight.

For the good of the nation and, as a matter of fact, for the President's own peace of mind, proper steps should be taken to take care of the situation formally—either by joint resolution of the House and Senate or by constitutional amendment, whichever is considered proper.

Mr. Eisenhower himself said last Jan. 19:

"When you are as closely confined to your bed as I was for some time, you think about a lot of things, and this (succession in the event of disability) was one of the foremost in my mind."

"I do believe that there should be some agreement on the exact meaning of the Constitution—who has the authority to act... I think it would be good for the country."

It seems logical that the man to take charge is the vice president—but only, of course, if the president is completely unable to act. Next to the president himself, the vice president holds the nation's most important elective office. He is the one who automatically takes office as chief executive upon the death, resignation or removal of the president. Rep. Celler (D-NY), chairman of the

House Judiciary Committee, is pressing for a law obligating the vice president to take the initiative and perform the duties of acting president when the chief executive is incapacitated. In the event the president recovered the vice president would revert to his former status.

The plan clearly deserves the earnest consideration of Congress. Furthermore, it should be viewed in a strictly nonpartisan light, free of personality associations. As Mr. Celler says, Providence has been patient and benevolent to our government to date. But the enormous, frightening implications of the problem must be faced—and faced now.

A certain small Latin American country goes in heavy for revolutions and for gaudy military apparel. In a period of relative stability last year an American tailor was hired to restyle all army uniforms. Among the ensembles suggested by the country's chief of staff to the tailor was one with a green jacket, blue trousers, red boots and a canvas yellow garrison cap. The tailor's mouth fell open. "I take it," he said, "that this is the uniform for the palace guard of the Emperor. Is that right?" "Oh, not at all, senator," the chief of staff explained. "This one is for the Secret Service." — HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE.

Pretty soon we are going to hear the sad announcement — "The Lucy-Burns show usually heard at that time will not be heard tonight so that Sen. Foghorn can bring you a message in behalf of his candidacy for dog catcher." — KINGSFORD (TENN.) NEWS.

The little girl was given for her birthday a new bank account. At the New Accounts window the mother handed her daughter the application blank and said: "It's your account darling, so you make it out. When the moppet reached the line that read: Name of your former bank, she hesitated and then scrawled "PIGGY." — LAMAR (MO.) DEMOCRAT.

Think more, Fish Less Task For Commission

Charlotte, The News: A Charlotte and Mecklenburg burglar since 1951 I have had many urges to write a letter to the editors of The Charlotte News... I am frustrated because I feel that most of our public servants do pretty well in making the decisions they have to make and in a measurably know more of their subject than the average layman.

This time however I am writing because I feel our Commissioners have over-stepped their bounds in attempting to block the establishment of a \$30,000 plant in a neighboring city. It is hard for me to understand how such an action can be taken by this particular group without sanction of the people they serve. Surely no advance notification of their proposed action was generally known and I doubt if the majority of Mecklenburg people would agree with their stand.

I was surprised and disgusted to read in your newspaper of the action taken by our Commissioners when they voted unanimously to ask Gov. Hodges to see what he could do to see that the proposed Bowater Paper Mill in South Carolina is never built.

Comments: our Sir M. C. Nixon should have stayed home from his fishing trip and done a little investigating before he made his statements. His Raleigh friend who also is so well informed apparently was asleep when the North Carolina Polyp Company built its tremendous mill at Plymouth, North Carolina. He apparently didn't put up much of a fuss when the Halifax Paper Company Inc. built their fine mill at Roanoke Rapids, N. C., either. Maybe he would rather have had this mill located in the vicinity of Raleigh with the two I have just mentioned.

In the first place what right do we have to tell South Carolina or any other state, what they should and what they shouldn't do as to whether or not to build a pulp mill, chemical plant, a bank or a department store might or might not be detrimental to a neighboring state or county? I am certain our Commissioners aren't in position to do so.

The South Carolina House of Representatives met in an extra session and made amendments to their laws to enable Bowater to build. The people of H. Hill, Lancaster and other cities and counties surrounding the proposed site are welcoming Bowater with open arms. You may be sure they investigated and would not have sanctioned anything detrimental to themselves. I really believe they are intelligent people who have noses, too.

The Commissioners state that "Bowater is going to pay a very, very low wage scale." That statement is not only ridiculous but also untrue. The pulp and paper industry pays a good wage scale.

If Charlotte's growth will be runned by a pulp mill in this vicinity, you may be sure they will investigate and would not have sanctioned anything detrimental to themselves. I really believe they are intelligent people who have noses, too.

Modern pulp mills are a great asset to any community, much has been and is being done to overcome any odor problems and I seriously have my doubts that we will ever know Bowater is in our community except from the great good it will bring.

Yes, I own land in South Carolina and I grow some pine trees and I am acquainted with people who will be helped by the building of this mill. I also have friends in Mecklenburg County who will be benefited. Chemists, men, power men, material handlers, railroad men, bankers, doctors, lawyers, truckers, bankers, businessmen, farmers, wholesaler, contractors, carpenters and newspaper men. I can assure our Commissioners that a pulp mill is not self-sufficient and is certainly no one-man operation. It will require the services and products of many businesses in its area.

We had better mind our own "Sugar Creek" business and be glad a mill of the size and caliber of Bowater has selected Piedmont Carolina with its abundant labor, water and pine trees as its future base.

If our Commissioners can't stand the smell of progress and maybe a little odor from a southern

pine being made into an important product they are speaking for themselves and not for me. — W. T. BUICE JR.

Noises Of Night Should Be Stilled

Charlotte, The News: WHY should the public have to be troubled by the noise of relief from whistle sounding on the railroads and business establishments. The public does not ask or expect the railroads to cut the signals of the whistle where needed, but they do not feel that it's necessary to sound the whistle for foot paths and street crossings where there are electric signals and boards that go in action before the engines or diesels reach the said crossings.

Why should the whistle be sounded at street crossings? The rule book says, road crossings. Then we say, why should an establishment sound the whistle at 11 p.m. for a length of time sufficient to arouse the people of Charlotte from a peaceful slumber? There is a trading establishment on Dalton Ave. that has a habit of ringing those 10 to 20 whistles for a length of time continuous for hours. Anyone who fails to hear this noise should have their ears examined.

This noise should be reduced to a minimum. We hope the City Council can do this and get a reduction in this unbecoming noise.

U. S. Should Help Israel Gain Peace

Editors, The News: The weak display by the Security Council and the United Nations has given rise to a feeling of a timorous Council allowing four Arab states and the Soviet Union to cut the heart out of the Palestine question and to excise words that may have exercised hope for "a peaceful settlement on a mutually acceptable basis."

Again the Arab states and Russia have shown their obstructive tactics in working for Israeli destruction. Our government cannot rely on the U.S.S.R. as a partner in securing peace in the vital Middle East.

The Secretary General is severely limited and must now be hampered in his efforts to seek an end to killing in the Middle East. There is clear evidence that Israel is now willing to settle for peace. The Arabs, if their spokesmen truly represent the people, should be encouraged to seek peaceful solutions. It appears that the Arabs would bounce on little Israel if given an opportunity.

The administration must put the blame for the leadership behind Israel's efforts to achieve peace. The integrity of the 1949 armistice must be maintained. Arms must be made available to Israel in order to restore the military balance and to associate peace with the security of Israel must be vigorously and clearly guaranteed by a clear statement on our part so that peace will come to the land of the Book. — A. R. SURTIZ

Withold Tax Funds From Mixed Schools

Editor, The News: "THE Desperate Gamble Is In Focus" is the title of your editorial commending the State Supreme Court's ruling that bonds voted for construction of segregated schools may be used for a different purpose, and you interpreted correctly as I see it, the effect of the holding—that the state can't abandon the operation of any public school or other integrated school or other districts of the state so as to get proportionate representation in that body—ignore it completely.

The special session of the General Assembly called for July 23 should now begin consideration of an amendment to the Constitution which will permit the withholding of public funds for the operation of any school ordered integrated, or by being able to do and doing just that is the only chance we have of preserving the racial integrity of the peoples of this country, which is of more significance than the operation of

integrated schools. Yes, the issue is now in focus, and so far as I am concerned, my influence and vote is to preserve the public school insofar only as we can simultaneously preserve the racial integrity of our peoples. The fact that the white man constitutes only one third of the earth's population does not justify his elimination merely because he is in the minority. In the last analysis, I take my stand with the white race, come hell or high water.

We have poured millions upon millions of dollars into our segregated school system upon the faith that the U. S. Supreme Court would have to be reassembled to the people for approval or disapproval. Representative government is as essential at the local as at the national level. —JOHN W. HESTER

What's Your Prognosis For November, Doctor? CAMPAIGN HQ. EMINENT MEDICAL AUTHORITIES TESTIFY: VOTE FOR HERB HOVER

A decision by the President to retire would throw his party into the most painful confusion. A bitter struggle for the nomination would follow. The most likely candidate is Vice President Richard M. Nixon whose popularity in the party, omitting certain strongly anti-Nixon factions in his own California, is undeniable. Nixon is far better known than any Republican on the national horizon, but the polls have shown him running behind Adlai Stevenson.

Second Term Chorus Tunes Up Ike And The Guessing Game

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON: NOT THE least of the unhappy consequences of President Eisenhower's second serious illness is less than nine months is that it has revived the will-be-or-won't-be, should-be-or-shouldn't-be debate. This tends to mute or obscure discussion of vital problems at home and abroad, putting all the stress on the personality and the physique of one individual.

Since only the President can decide whether the second illness has altered his previous decision to seek a second term and with only two months before the nominating conventions, the pressure on him will be strong for an early response. In the view of the associates closest to him, this will almost certainly be in the affirmative.

FAMILY STALE: While the will-be-or-won't-be guessing contest was on following the September heart attack,

LEONARD HALL Likes That Smile

rumors were current in Washington that members of the President's family strongly opposed his risking his health in another four years in the most difficult and demanding office in the world. Specifically, a report persisted that the President's son, Major John Eisenhower, had put his objections in the form of a letter

to his father. Asked about these reports, the President said his family had been perfectly willing to leave the decision to him.

BEST REASON: The President in early January supplied perhaps the best reason why he should not run for a third term. Shortly before he ended a vacation at Key West, Fla., he met with reporters for the first time in five months and told them that his mind had not been made up to the extent that it could not be changed. He cited the "critical," the "rather startling" and "unfathomable" effects of a change in the Presidency in mid-term. He gave as an example the "disturbance" in the stock market at the time of his heart attack. Those who heard him believed he was arguing against seeking another term.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE: The Republicans who led the charge in opposing for a second term regardless of the September heart attack will repeat that performance. From Leonard Hall on down, top Republicans have based their entire campaign on the Eisenhower personality—the President's persuasiveness, his smile, his charm, the good will that he radiates when he goes before ral-

lies of Republicans or the Citizens for Eisenhower who met here recently. Large sums have been committed to the manufacture of hundreds of campaign gadgets stressing the "We Like Ike" theme. These include everything from a wide range of campaign buttons and car stickers to women's history embroidered with "I Like Ike."

CONFUSION: A decision by the President to retire would throw his party into the most painful confusion. A bitter struggle for the nomination would follow. The most likely candidate is Vice President Richard M. Nixon whose popularity in the party, omitting certain strongly anti-Nixon factions in his own California, is undeniable. Nixon is far better known than any Republican on the national horizon, but the polls have shown him running behind Adlai Stevenson.

The dilemma confronting the President is even more acute today than it was in January and February. He must run to save his party, or so he will be told again and again as soon as his condition permits him to talk with the politicians.

in their home... That was the one good thing about Ike's heart attack—they could now retire to Gettysburg. He wouldn't want to run again... After Denver he came back to Gettysburg. But she could see that to her husband Gettysburg seemed humdrum and unexciting after being the center of the world in Washington... George Adams hinted that she had suffered too much, worried over him too much at Gettysburg. But she knew the truth. The truth is that when a man has spent years in an active career it's difficult to stop... And she wondered, looking out at the trees and that long vista of her life full of joy and full of loneliness, whether he would stop now. Or would the politicians once again demand that he go forward?

Paris And Gettysburg: The years in Paris at SHAPE were happier. It was fun picking your own house instead of living in a hotel or some picked for you by a superior officer at any Army post... Then Ike decided to run for President. Things began to get lonesome again... Came the campaign, the whole tour through Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska. She had enjoyed that, on the whole, partly because everyone had made her feel so needed. She was part of it, a very necessary part, politicians said. And when Ike told the crowd: "And now I want you to meet my name," she came out on the platform to be greeted by all those smiling, cheering, friendly people—well it was worth all those years of loneliness.

Life in the White House was different and interesting very different. But sometimes just as lonesome as an Army post. That was why she had so much fun at Gettysburg, planning, buying furniture, and in England, North Africa, Italy... The war was on full blast... in their home... That was the one good thing about Ike's heart attack—they could now retire to Gettysburg. He wouldn't want to run again... After Denver he came back to Gettysburg. But she could see that to her husband Gettysburg seemed humdrum and unexciting after being the center of the world in Washington... George Adams hinted that she had suffered too much, worried over him too much at Gettysburg. But she knew the truth. The truth is that when a man has spent years in an active career it's difficult to stop... And she wondered, looking out at the trees and that long vista of her life full of joy and full of loneliness, whether he would stop now. Or would the politicians once again demand that he go forward?

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Merry-Go-Round Drew Pearson's

WASHINGTON: THE birds wake early in the trees outside Walter Reed Hospital... Happy birds, twittering birds, nothing to worry about, not even worried that a great many by a few feet from the branches in which they roosted.

Memories: It's cool and quiet in the trees around the hospital—quiet except for the birds... But Mamie Eisenhower couldn't find time to sleep... She envied the birds... She had time to look back over long vistas of life with a man twice in the past six months had been quite ill... Memorable vistas of life they were—full of loneliness... An Army wife has to be lonesome.

A Major: She could look back a long way... Washington was pleasant in the Hoover administration. Ike was a major, then, not much of a salary—only about \$3,000 a year. And it seemed as if he would never get promoted. But the dollar went farther then... He had an office on

The President's Wife Also Suffers

the edge of Doug MacArthur's chief of staff headquarters in the old State War and Navy building, that ugly old mausoleum which housed most of the War Department and all of the State Department then.

Times Change: Today her husband's White House staff has taken over the whole mausoleum... How times have changed. MacArthur became commander of the new Philippine Army and Ike went with him to

Separation Of War: Then the rumblings of war. Mamie came home, all the wives came home... "Take good care of Ike" she had told MacArthur, and MacArthur had told her at her last word... Those were the first lonesome months of pre-war period when the White House knew the President's war was coming, but nobody knew when or where... Ike came home from the Philippines. MacArthur sent him home. Something

had happened between them, she never knew exactly what... The went to Louisiana for the maneuvers, made a great record, began to get promoted—rapidly—right up the ladder... Then Ike decided to run for President... The war was on full blast... in their home... That was the one good thing about Ike's heart attack—they could now retire to Gettysburg. He wouldn't want to run again... After Denver he came back to Gettysburg. But she could see that to her husband Gettysburg seemed humdrum and unexciting after being the center of the world in Washington... George Adams hinted that she had suffered too much, worried over him too much at Gettysburg. But she knew the truth. The truth is that when a man has spent years in an active career it's difficult to stop... And she wondered, looking out at the trees and that long vista of her life full of joy and full of loneliness, whether he would stop now. Or would the politicians once again demand that he go forward?

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