

Sun News, The (Myrtle Beach, SC)
September 6, 2006
Section: MONOP
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NORTH VS. SOUTH

Many twisted roads
lead to Interstate 73

In consulting my 2003 road atlas, I find five interstate highways running from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast. If that doesn't meet the linkage essential to the industrial North and the agricultural South, there are no other solutions, save political.

I have often thought that affluent Horry County would have won the Interstate 20 argument with truck-stop Florence. I have heard North Carolina would have loved it if I-20 ended in Wilmington, but it seems Florence County had the politics, leaving North Carolina to rethink Interstate 40 [to include] both the port and the Marine amphibs of Jacksonville. Well it did, and I-40 is becoming the bypass of the city and a fast track to Myrtle Beach.

Good planning would have [had] I-20 interconnect with S.C. 31 and given cause to extend S.C. 31 south to the Charleston ports, doing more for commerce than tourism.

Why is it that long-dead citizens are telling us what we should have done instead of listening to politicians? OK, so the moral of this story is, why I-73?

Jasper Wooten

Conway

WIRETAP ISSUE

Bush acts as dictator

in sidestepping court

The Aug. 24 [Robert Ariail] cartoon showing the president hindered in his use of wiretaps to stop [Osama] bin Laden is very misleading. Your readers should be aware that a judicial authority with the power to approve an administration's requests for wiretaps and other surveillance has been in operation for decades.

This court consists of justices with appropriate security clearance and experience to review applications for sufficient justification and approve the necessary warrants. Until

the current administration, this court, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, has been used to assure the rights of the individuals under suspicion.

An administration that ignores the guarantees of the Constitution is not that of a president, but one of a dictator unwilling to respect the checks and balances of our governmental system.

Bob Ottinger

Pawleys Island

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