

EDITORIALS

A DIFFICULT PROBLEM

It appears at this point that the General Assembly will not authorize a state referendum on the proposition of making the state either all wet or all dry. Of course the refusal of the legislature to permit this referendum will meet with widespread disapproval, and it is arguable that the people of the state as a whole should have the right to pass on the question of whether North Carolina as a state should be officially wet or dry. However it is equally arguable that the present system which permits a decision by each county as to whether it shall allow the sale of wine or beer, one, both or neither, and whether it shall operate ABC stores for the sale of stronger alcoholic beverages, is a more democratic system than deciding those questions for all counties on a statewide basis.

The great trouble under either system of election is that people are not prone to vote on the merits of governmental control of the alcohol problem as against no control. They are much more likely to vote, if drys, against the evils of liquor, and if wets, in favor of the system which will permit them to buy what they want conveniently and at reasonable and controlled prices. Also, the drys are likely to vote their own convictions as to drinking in such a way as impose them on others who do not feel as they feel, and the wets are likely to vote in favor of their personal habits and tastes, with little regard for the patent evils of alcohol and the passionate convictions of those who are acutely aware of those evils.

The issue should be decided on one consideration: Which is the best and fairest way of controlling the liquor problem to the best interests of all the people? That question should be answered with one fact clearly in mind. That fact is that the liquor traffic and the liquor evil are not likely to be abolished by legal prohibition, on either a state or a county basis.

CITY ELECTION IN OFFING

When it turned out that under the particular city council-manager plan of government put into effect in Raleigh two years ago, five of the seven council members elected were from the same precinct, the Raleigh News and Observer, which had supported the adoption of the new form of government, came out for some modification in the manner of electing the council.

The primary, at which 14 candidates will be nominated, and from which 14 seven will later be elected to membership on the council, is only a few weeks away, and the finals occur the first week in May. But nothing has been heard lately from any quarter about a change in the method of selecting the councilmen. Have the people forgotten? Or are they satisfied, after all, with the present system of representations?

It seems to the CAROLINIAN that a change is definitely still in order. It should be possible that either on a geographical or some other basis membership on the policy-making and legislative branch of the city government would be more representative. It may happen that even though the election be held this year on the same unqualified and blanket city-wide basis as it was two years ago it will result in returning a more widely representative group to the council; but there should be some safeguard and guarantee of such a result in the manner of election itself.

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THE YOUNGER GENERATION

We are again reminded of the fact that the younger generation is well in advance of its elders in some of its attitudes. Various recent polls in southern institutions have revealed a much more sane and matter-of-fact attitude on the part of the white college students on the question of admitting Negroes to graduate schools in the South than might have been expected. The white students of a Canadian university recently made a beautiful colored girl queen of their ice carnival.

The divergence in attitudes between the young and their elders may sometimes be accounted for by the superior knowledge, based on experience, of the older generation, but quite often the reason is a different one. The youth has more enthusiasm for the right. The status quo has not yet closed its grip so firmly on him. He has not become so involved in the cross currents of issues that he fails, as his elders so often do, to see principles more clearly than details.

So we read that students at the University of South Carolina threw stench bombs into an assembly of Klansmen in Columbia, and when driven away by the police defending the "right" of the hooded band to hold its meeting, heckled the assemblage from the sidelines.

Whatever one may think of the juvenile method by which these college students expressed their disapproval of the Klan and what it stands for, the fact remains that they did express their disapproval. They showed what they thought of the Klan, and by implication, of the organized adult world which because of sympathy or apathy tolerates such an organization with its known aims and methods.

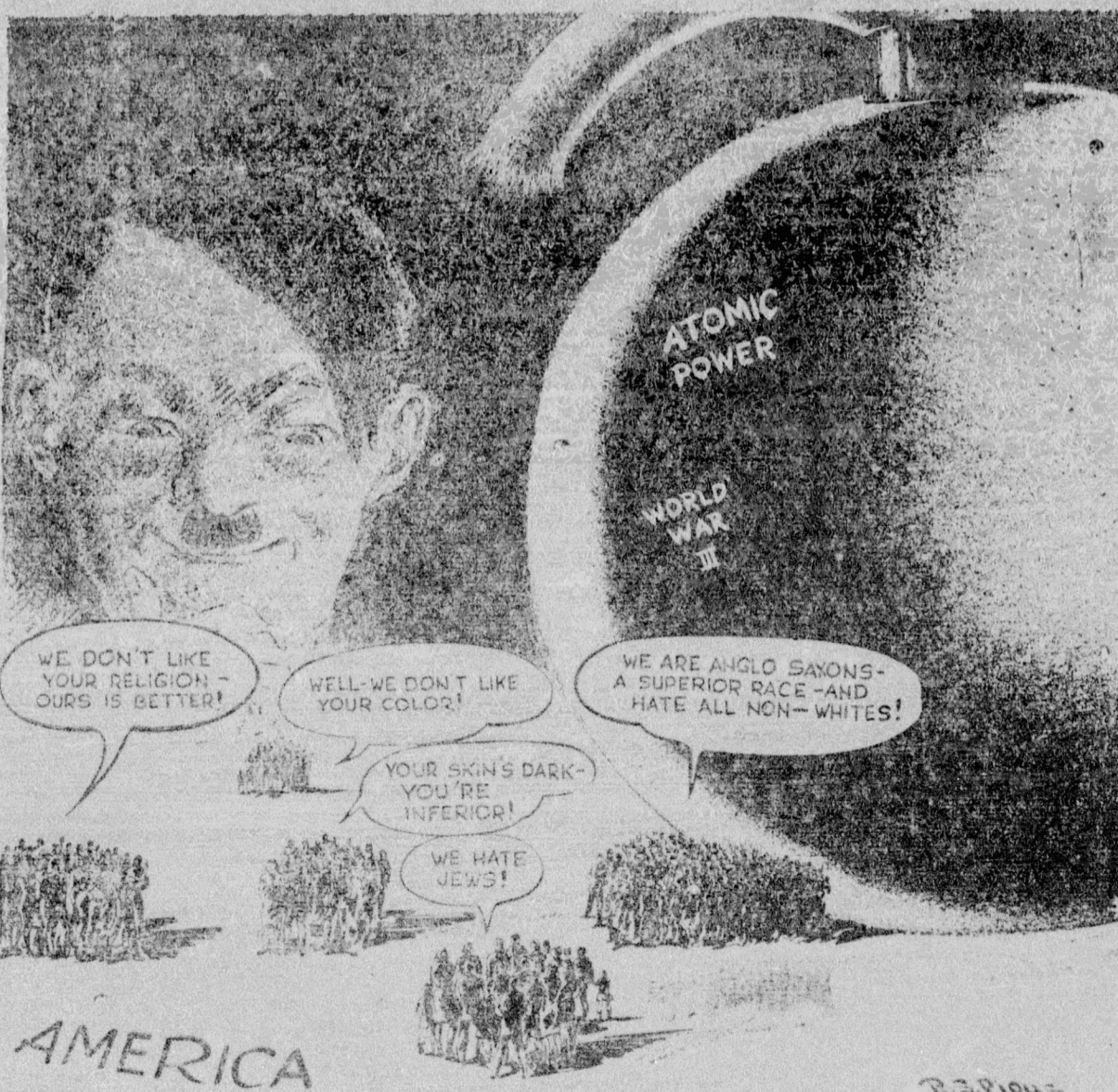
There is hope for South Carolina. It lies in the younger generation.

J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON

J. Melville Broughton was a southerner. He was proud of it and certainly felt no need to apologize for it. But he was a southerner of the better tradition. As a politician he never catered to race prejudice, and as a public servant he served all the people, not neglecting the interests of the Negroes of North Carolina. Moderate in his public utterances, he did not try by words to make a bad cause seem good. He often took a traditional view of racial matters, but there was nothing glib or slick in his approach. He was a good, honest middle-of-the-road statesman and politician, with a strong sense of decency, a love of justice and fairness, and a real if conservative interest in racial and inter-racial progress.

Senator Broughton was scheduled to take his turn the day following his death to register, as other southern senators had and will, his views on the move to scotch the filibuster. One wonders what he would have said. We are sure he was against the rule change, but we are equally certain that his arguments would have been on a high plane, that he would not have descended to demagoguery, and that he would have maintained his personal dignity.

Mr. Broughton was a good governor, and he was going to be a good senator. In the contest against his Republican opponent for the office, who was more Dixiecrat than Republican, Senator Broughton refused to be drawn into making race and the obvious rights of Negro citizens an issue. Negroes gladly supported him, both in the primaries and in the general election. They did not expect him to be a crusader for certain things dear to their hearts, but they knew he would always be honest, straightforward and decent. And that is a lot. If all the politicians and officeholders in North Carolina were as fair and straightforward as Senator Broughton was, North Carolina would come nearer to being the ideal place she is often pictured as being. And North Carolina is a pretty good place, after all, thanks to men like the late Senator Broughton.



America Wake Up. There Is Danger In Such Thinking



Second Thoughts

BY C. D. HALLIBURTON

Two years or so ago a Negro in North Carolina was lucky to save himself his life and the skin of his back by a lynching by the combination of some phenomenal luck and flinching of foot. A short time ago a Negro in Louisiana was saved from a lynching because his would-be-lynchers were casting lots, not for his garments, but for the honor of being the one to plug him with the fatal shot. During the tedious, to the victim, "hot-casting" process, the quiet of honor and sentiment and woe, and jumped into the river, retaining himself through some tang and holding.

But there was a third element in the situation. The law officers, charged with the safety of those awaiting due process of the law, had been apprised of the prisoner's abduction, and they were so close in pursuit of the lynch-minded crew and their intended victim that when the victim escaped the mob could not tarry long in search of him who had had taken to the water. At this writing there has been no explanation offered as to why, if the sheriff's posse was so close on the heels of the mob, they did not capture them. The three alleged abductors of the prisoner from the jail have been arrested, however, and the sheriff promises arrest of the other mobsters.

For a number of years now southern law officers have in many cases been vigorous in the protection of their charges against mob violence. The big problem today is the PENISHMENT OF MOBSTERS who try to get possession of their charges, who do not possess of their charges, and lynch them, and in two cases at least who got men and lost their lives. The law is the primary justice, and now laid against the lynching evil in the South.

The machinery of justice has operated in recent years up to a point in various lynching cases. In many if not most localities, peace officers act to prevent lynchings where they have obvious opportunity to do so. In one notorious Georgia case

no one was ever arrested or indicted; in another Georgia case there was an indictment and a mock trial. In a South Carolina case, and in a North Carolina case of attempted lynchings, the mobsters were identified judicially and brought to trial but freed by the trial jury.

The writer of a letter to the Raleigh News and Observer protests against Federal anti-lynching legislation thus: "To make justice by lynching a Federal offense, while the undisputed record tells us that this law has been broken repeatedly, before this any other law against mobsters in the State and throughout the South." His argument that laws against lynching are the best enforced in the South is based on the fact that the general homicide rate is still high whereas lynchings have decreased almost to the vanishing point.

The letter writer is correct as to the decline in the incidence of lynchings. It is also admittedly true that the use of law enforcement officers in preventing lynchings, and even in apprehending lynchings, has increased greatly in the last quarter century or so, as has the weight of public opinion against lynching as a means of dispensing justice. But it is still true that the incidence of lynchings has not declined to the point where the conviction and punishment of mobsters is so rare as to be phenomenal. Until mobsters can be punished as well as prevented, or apprehended something more is needed for the elimination of the evil of lynching from the conscience of the South and the nation. That evil lynching was attempted while the southern senator waxes in the process of protesting legislation against lynching, and in Louisiana so soon after Senator Ellender of that state was heard in a national broadcast against civil rights legislation, is playing proof that the problem is not yet solved. Experience indicates that the states are not yet ready to solve that part of the problem having to do with adequate punishment of members of lynching mobs.

HERE AND THERE

BY JOE JOHNSON

WASHINGTON (ANP) — That war between the Israelis and the Arabs is not a racial war — the shroud is for control of the Dead Sea in which there is an untold mine in billions of dollars in minerals. (Pet the Jews will get no more gold to prove that you must fight for what you want.)

Now about this civil rights business. If you don't sit down and write your senator a letter, then don't squawk. If the filibusters wash the whole thing down the drain, (or don't you want to be here, June?)

Seems as if Joe Louis means business in his first promotion fight. It is about time that some member of our group get into big-time boxing promotion. Joe ought to know about as much as anybody does in the game, yet?

This column predicts war with Russia within five years unless the Reds change their attitude (which they won't). When the Communists over the world rose up and said they were for the Kremlin first, last and forever, you had your tip right then, folks.

When Cecil Newman, newspaper publisher of Minnesota, was named among the One Hundred Famous Living Minnesotans, the honors fell on deserving shoulders, a more courageous Negro never lived and toiled for human rights (and was sometimes unappreciated by those for whom he fought) — two, ever thus!

As long as we continue to belittle ourselves, don't expect much "uplift" from the white folks. (Personally, I think I'm a burning hell on wheels — how about you, brother?)

Hats off to Louis Lullier, Willkie newspaper award winner. The NNPA, Washington press chief signally deserved the distinction.

There is a mess brewing in Mississippi over the manner in which Negro vets are being victimized by a white syndicate which controls approval of vet training schools. Watch this closely — it, more than anything else, the public can determine just how much abuse the Federal government will take from Dixiecrat states. (Which reminds me, chuck, who DID win the election, Truman or Thurmond?)

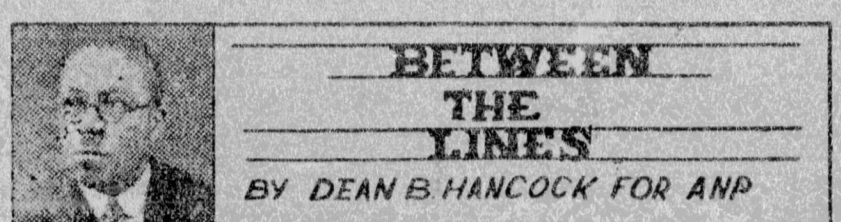
Quit kidding ourselves: white folks are not going to fight another civil war for Negroes. If we win this fight, we will win it ourselves, with the help of all those going our way. BUT WE MUST TAKE THE LEAD. And bye the bye, have you joined the NAACP yet? Which is more important, a fifth of whiskey or a ticket to freedom?

Weekly lesson: BE MORE QUIET. A loud mouth is the token of an empty head.

At least eight communities plan to enter the Nash County Fann and Home Improvement Contest during 1949. A total of \$1500 in prizes will be awarded to the winning communities.

Approximately 200 farmers in North Carolina will grow Turkish tobacco this year. All of these are located in mountain and foothill counties in the western part of the State.

Penicillin is being tried experimentally by some research institutions as a possible means of combating some plant diseases.



OUR AMERICAN ARMAGEDDON

The congressional blunder that is now under way, this great nation is standing at its Armageddon. President Truman was wise in asking for a show-down for the postponement of the vital issues involved. These issues must be fought to a finish, sooner or later and the sooner the better. And so the fight is on, and may God help the cause of right-ness! Fortunately, for the nation the issue has been dragged out into full view of the nation and the world, and can be accordingly appraised.

There is thus far an air of decency even about the rabid southerners' masked attempt to eternalize the subjugation of the Negro. They are making it a matter of state rights instead of making it an outright Negro issue. Even these rabid southerners would be decent in their attempt to hold the Negro down. When they become ashamed to declare their wicked purpose, we have signs of moral gains.

There was a time when the issue would have been launched upon a strictly anti-Negro grounds but the evacuation of those distasteful premises is a subtle sign of progress. The country has expressed itself on the grave issue of civil rights and now it is up to congress to express itself on these same issues. This writer has more than once declared that the greatest trouble with the south and north is not its fellowship but its leadership. If the unhappy south had a few more stalwarts who were willing to stand up and be counted, there would be no problem to find those to follow them. As often as it is given a chance, the younger white south always expresses itself as unmistakably ready for moral advance.

This nation is standing at its moral Armageddon fighting for its life. If these civil rights issues fail, it will be a national failure and not the failure of the Negro race. If these issues fail we shall weaken our position in the eyes of the world, whose eyes in the long run are all important.

The south has at present experts writing a report on the progress of the Negroes of the south and this report is to say

the south's race in its challenge to the rising tide of righteousness. When the south ceases to belittle and deny its position on the Negro and resorts to apologetics which the current study will exemplify, we are certainly coming upon a new day in the history of race relations in the south and nation.

No intelligent man would deny the south the right to "justify" itself in this matter, for its case could stand a lot of "justification." And when we speak of the south, care must be exercised lest we lump the whites of the south which would a great injustice to thousands of nobly intentioned whites who are pained at the turn events are taking. But they like Negroes cannot stem the temporary tide that is flowing today in a course that gives the south some unpleasant advertising.

But the sooner these issues are thrashed out the better for the cause in race relations. But we very much fear that the "explanation" of the south's position will be worse than its declaration. The case for a man in the wrong is never concluded and so the old south that has carried its fight into a congressional Armageddon will be hereafter on the defensive. Its position will become more and more untenable even as did that of the slave-holding south a century ago.

We fervently hope that the forthcoming "study" that is designed to "justify" the south will be full of fact and not full of fancies; and the fear that it may not hinge about Congressman Stennis' release on the partial report. He sets forth the advance the Negro has made in education but he does not say that such advance stems from the things made possible by northern philanthropy.

He makes no mention of the stubborn fight it took to even make the south face the matter of salary equalization, which equalization even today is far from an accomplished fact. Honorable Stennis of Mississippi makes no reference to the exponential differentials between the per capita white pupil and the per capita Negro pupil. The honorable gentleman should tell the whole story. At any rate in American Armageddon is joined.



Editor's Note — Submit your problems for publication to ABBE WALLACE, in care of this newspaper. Give your full name, address and birthdate. For a "private reply" send Abbe a stamped envelope and twenty-five cents for one of his new and inspiring LESSONS FOR HAPPIER LIVING. Your letters will be treated confidentially. Send 25 cents in coin, stamps or money order. Address your letter to: THE ABBE WALLACE SERVICE, in care of,

X. C. M. — My boy friend is at Chicago U. school of Religion. He loves me and I love him. He wants to be near me and I want to be near him. We would like very much to marry but both want to finish school. I am going to Chicago and want to enter the school of Interior Decorating which is a two year course. Will I be able to make it financially?

Ans: You'll have to work your way through Decorating School. The first thing for you to do in Chicago is to find a decent paying job. It will mean attending Night School, no doubt — and there will be little time for conducting your love affair.

J. P. F. — My husband was in service when we married. Since he has gotten out, he won't do anything. I'm disgusted with him.

Ans: The guy is disillusioned. He can't seem to get a toe-hold on life. If you let him down now, it certainly won't help his cause. You owe it to him to encourage him to enter a trade school and re-establish himself. It would be a boon to him. After that, if you still have no love for him — you can make a change.

F. C. — I am suffering from the want of a girl. The girls just don't like me any more. I wear nice clothes, work every day, go clean and look as good as other boys but the girls strive to keep away from me and I am kind to them. They won't let me take them to the movies or to dances. What must I do?

Ans: The girls are leary of you — they think you're a little "too prissy." I believe you'd have more success winning friends among the fair sex through your church affiliations rather than mere bulls. You will be more likely to meet the kind of girl you want for a wife in church circles.

R. C. — I am dissatisfied and want to make a change. I own two homes, property and am secure. My husband and I live in one place and the other has been rented out. I am planning to give one place to my husband and keep one for myself and then we can go our way. Is this the change that will make me happy?

Ans: The lady is no way responsible for your listlessness. Looks like you're just looking for an excuse to goof-off. If you feel as low as you claim — then see a medical doctor and let him check you over. If there is anything wrong physically — he'll put his finger on your trouble. I would like to have you send for a Guide. The price is \$1. Be sure to include your birthdate when ordering.

C. T. — I want one of your Guides for this year. Here is my problem. I don't have a mind to clean my house up or do anything like fix my clothes. Some years ago I had a lady staying with me and she didn't like to do much either and I want to know if she is the cause of me being this way now? What must I do?

Ans: The lady is no way responsible for your listlessness. Looks like you're just looking for an excuse to goof-off. If you feel as low as you claim — then see a medical doctor and let him check you over. If there is anything wrong physically — he'll put his finger on your trouble. I would like to have you send for a Guide. The price is \$1. Be sure to include your birthdate when ordering.

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Your Social Security tax amounts to 1 per cent of your total wages up to \$3,900 in any one year. This amount is deducted from your salary each payday by your employer.

Attention Employers! Secure the complete name, account numbers and addresses of all your employees so that your reports to the Collector of Internal Revenue will be complete.

Tell your wife now to contact the nearest Social Security Administration field office in case of your death. She may be entitled to survivor's benefits.

If you have been paid wages of more than \$4000 under Social Security this year, from more than one employer, contact the Collector of Internal Revenue regarding a tax refund.

Sheep numbers in the United States are at an all-time low.

THEY'LL NEVER DIE By Elton Fax

THIS SUPERB ARTIST, BORN 1855 IN GEORGIA, WAS ORPHANED AT AN EARLY AGE. AFTER HE LEARNED TO READ AND WRITE HE BEGAN TO TRAVEL VISITING NEW YORK, PARIS, AND LONDON. ARNEAU RETURNED AS AN ENTERTAINER AT THE OLD GLOBE THEATER IN N.Y., AND AT 29 HE MADE HIS DEBUT AS LEAD AT THE BROOKLYN ATHLETICUM. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY RICHARD LE FOR WHICH HE WON THE N.Y. SUN GOLD AWARD/MR. ARNEAU FORMED THE FIRST TROUPE OF COLORED SINGERS, DEBUTING AT THE ASTOR PLACE THEATRE COMPANY.

JEAN A. ARNEAU
SHAKESPEAREAN ACTOR AND EDITOR
Continental Realties