

REGISTERING AND VOTING IN N. C. - III

Political Organization At The Precinct Level

The form of political parties of any given government is, of necessity, determined by the type of that government because to be effective, the structure of political parties must be adjusted to the type of government they seek to influence.

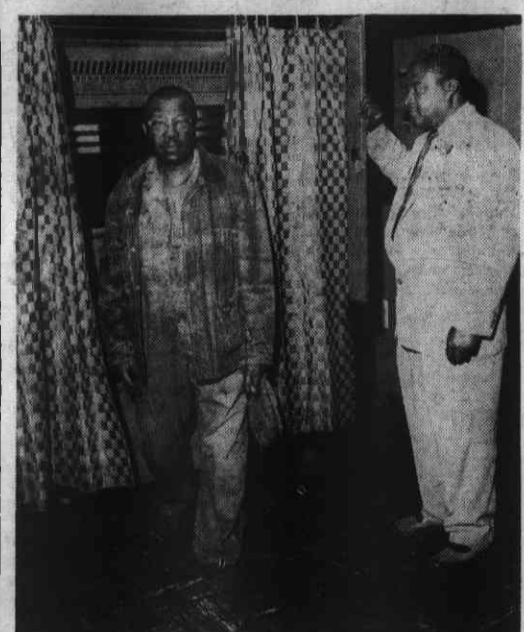
Because the form of all political parties in North Carolina are the same, and because the Democratic party is the only party in the state that has a state-wide organization, the Republican party organization existing in certain sections only and none other being existent, this article will deal only with the structure of the Democratic party in the state and one can substitute the word Republican if he wishes.

The primary, fundamental and most important unit of all political organizations, not only of North Carolina but also of America, is the lowly "precinct." A precinct is a continuous geographical area in which all of the voters of that area register and vote.

here and to be beaten must be beaten here, for the precinct is the place where all elections are won or lost. The precinct is the common denominator to all political power.

Two incidents in my experience illustrate this:

When I was in college I pastored a rural church with a road that was impassable in rainy weather. The church sent me to the authorities to request a new or improved road.



The "lowly precinct" is the most fundamental and important unit of all political organization. Here, a voter leaves the automatic voting machine in a Durham County precinct after having cast his ballot.

man leaned over to the next member of the commission and said:

"Those colored people in Hawkinstown have asked for a road too. We had better look after them first; they vote. You cannot blame a person for looking out for himself can you?"

I told my congregation what had transpired. Hawkinstown got a paved road. We did not.

Years later, when on the faculty of one of our schools of religion, I again was pastor of a rural church. Registering and voting was one of the things I had the church adopt as a part of my program.

and one-half mile road paved that passed the church. The church accepted. There was a run-off between a new comer and the 25 year-old machine repeater. Our deacons contacted the new candidate concerning the road. He agreed to give his support if we would give him the votes. The people did. He was elected. That was during November elections. The road was completed the next August.

II. The Precinct Organization

The state sets the boundaries of the precincts (of which 2047 were reported in last primary), arranges for the registering and voting of the qualified citizens in the precinct, for the counting, recording, certifying and reporting the results of the ballots cast. Beyond that, so far as the state is concerned, except to specify that the two election judges shall come from differ-

ent parties, it is up to the citizens or the party.

The party now takes over, and the Democratic party organization on the precinct level is as follows:

1. Membership. All voters in the precinct registered as Democrats are members, per se, of the Democratic organization for that precinct. They have a right to attend, speak and vote in all of the precinct's meetings. And this they should do. Negro election judges and registrars have manned the 16th and 20th precincts in Raleigh for nearly fifteen years because they participated on the precinct level. Incidentally, the white election officials from the very beginning have cooperated nicely. There are scores of precincts where liberal local white people would cooperate, if the Negro would attend the precinct meet-

FACING THE ISSUE

By DR. A. H. GORDON



STEVENSON, MAN FOR PEACE

In a previous column we referred to President Eisenhower as a "War-Monger". Many of our friends thought the designation unjustified because the President and his supporters have never tired of talking about their love of peace and their propaganda to the effect that the President was serving the cause of the prevention of war by keeping our country militarily strong including the numerous exhibitions of our progress in the manufacture and explosion of various sizes and kinds of "A" and "H" Bombs. We called attention to the fact at the time of this former writing that we considered the President a promoter of war, in spite of his talk about peace, because his actions have been such as to give the world the impression that under his leadership this country depends upon a show of force to frighten other countries, Russia in particular, away from the idea of attacking us or our "democratic" allies throughout the world.

no uncertain terms his firm belief that these actions on our part amount to a threat of war or at least give the world the false impression that the American people are militaristic and depend upon perpetual force, or threat of force, to guarantee permanent world peace. Mr. Stevenson stated that we should at least explore the possibility of discontinuing the expensive universal military training we have now. Mr. Eisenhower's militaristic response to this reasonable proposition was that it was foolish and dangerous, even too dangerous to discuss this matter of an early discontinuing of this enormous burden upon the tax-payers of this country. Eisenhower has even stated that he refuses to even discuss the matter any further. This means that if Eisenhower is re-elected we are definitely saddled with militarism for four more years and there is no hope for any substantial reduction of the unjust and unwise income tax. As long as our Presidency is in the hands of an avowed militarist who believes in his heart that war is still a legitimate and necessary method of settling international differences we are in for a policy leading to economic ruin for this nation and a prostitution of its leadership in world affairs away from peace and prosperity for all the peoples of the world.

THE RIGHT TO REGISTER AND VOTE

The registration books are now open for the national election to be held on November sixth. In many sections of this state especially in eastern North Carolina, qualified Negro citizens are still denied the right to register, which in turn denies them the right to vote. It is our honest opinion that Negro leaders have fooled around with this important question entirely too long and that the time has come when something concrete should be done about it.

tent in the federal courts, and it is our sincere hope that each community will not compromise on such an important issue. To help in this matter we urge our readers to report such cases to this newspaper so that we may aid in seeing to it that those responsible may be prosecuted.

see that justice is done in such matters. To those sections of the state where Negroes have no trouble in registering, we urge that our leaders in all walks of life busy themselves and see to it that a door-to-door canvass is made in every community to register every person whose name is not already on the books. If this is done, many of the injustices suffered in employment, education and other fields will be abolished. No citizen living under a democratic form of government has a right to the enjoyment of its benefits who will not register and vote.

Registrars who deny qualified persons from registering on account of race should be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

NEITHER PRO OR ANTI-CATHOLIC

From its beginning this newspaper has held fast to a belief in the philosophy of government as laid down by the founding fathers of this nation, among which is that of freedom of the press. It is Catholic church which attacked these columns which attacked the Catholic church. About these letters we would like to say here and now that the policy of the Carolina Times is neither pro-Catholic nor anti-Catholic. We surrender the question of who is or who isn't right on the matter of religion to those who have become more fanatical about such matters.

your right to say it." For the past several days we have had repeated telephone calls about letters to the editor appearing in these columns which attacked the Catholic church. About these letters we would like to say here and now that the policy of the Carolina Times is neither pro-Catholic nor anti-Catholic. We surrender the question of who is or who isn't right on the matter of religion to those who have become more fanatical about such matters.

Catholic, we have seen some things that we admire and some we do not. It is our opinion that America is strong enough and big enough to allow freedom of worship to all its people so long as that freedom does not interfere with the other freedoms enjoyed by its citizens. Let it be further said that if and when any person of the Catholic faith desires the use of these columns to reply to any or all letters to the editor or otherwise, he or she will be given the same right as others of our readers, no more and no less.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Honorable D. D. Eisenhower President of the United States 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D. C. Esteemed Sir:

I have read in this morning's paper of your intended appointment of William Joseph Brennan, J., to the United States Supreme Court bench.

I do not doubt that Mr. Brennan is a very fine man and a capable jurist, but there are other things of paramount importance which should be considered in making such an appointment. Ordinarily, and under our great Constitution, a man's religious affiliation should not have any bearing in the matter. But the declared purposes of the Roman Catholic Church, i.e., to rule the world, and her determination to achieve that end without regard to the means used, and her demand and claim to blind and unlimited obedience and first allegiance to her, make me feel as did Abraham Lincoln, when he said, "Till lately I was in favor of the unlimited liberty of conscience as our Constitution gives it to Roman Catholics. But not it seems to me that sooner or later the people will be forced to put a restriction to that clause towards the papists". See cover of The American Sentinel, December, 1929.

W. Thompson, Secretary of the Navy in 1876, called The Papacy's purposes and practices and plans.

Thompson's page 407 quotes from a Catholic historian, Cornenin, vol. 1, page 377, where Cornenin gives a declaration made by the great Pope Gregory VII, as follows: "The pope is the representative of God on earth; he should, then govern the world. To him alone pertain infallibility and universality; all men are submitted to his laws, and he can only be judged by God; he ought to wear imperial ornaments; people and kings should kiss his feet; Christians are irrevocably submitted to his orders; THEY SHOULD MURDER THEIR PRINCES, FATHERS, AND CHILDREN IF HE COMMANDS IT;—finally, no good or evil exists but in what he condemned or approved". The Catholic Encyclopedia says of Gregory VII that "he was one of the greatest of the pontiffs." If Catholics believe these things, and that they should not hesitate to go to these ends for Holy Mother Church, what can we expect in the way of fidelity from any member of that church in a case involving conflict of interests between our people and government, and the Catholic Church? A book called "America's Menace", by C. W. Bibb, (1914), contains on page 115-116, the following quotations from a sermon preached in St. Louis on June 30, 1912, by Priest D. S. Phelan, editor of the well-known Romanist Church paper, The Western Watchman, of that city, "Tell us, in the conflict be-

THE WORLD'S MILLIONS LOOK ON DEMOCRACY IS BEGINNING TO WORK AFTER ALL... THEY'RE DESEGREGATING AND HE HATH MADE FROM ONE EVERY NATION OF MEN TO LIVE ON ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH. — ACTS 17:26

Spiritual Insight "THE MIRE AND THE WATER"

By REVEREND HAROLD ROLAND Pastor, Mount Gilead Baptist Church

"The water has come up to my neck, I sink deep into the mire, there is no foothold." — Psalms 69:1-2

The water and the mire are symbols of the mighty forces that will crush and overwhelm us in life. These powers and forces threaten all of us. They cause many of our fears, anxieties and worries. These forces, seemingly, would crush and swallow us up. Yes, many things threaten to crush us—sickness, pain, loneliness, disappointment, resentment and trouble. The Holy writer had experienced dangers of the waters and the mire. The waters had almost crushed him. He had been almost lost in the mire. But his faith in God had brought him through many dangers. God will bring us through the perils of the water and the mire.

Some of us are overwhelmed by the waters of explosive temper. Our tempers hinder many of us. They make us unhappy. And they make those around us unhappy in the home. A bad temper mars the sweetness and beauty of good and pleasant human relations. It beclouds the mind. It blows out the light of reason. I know a man who was a wonderful and charming person except one thing—an explosive temper. This was his one serious human weakness. A bad temper can defeat some of our greatest hopes and aspirations. Indeed, we can bog down in the mire of a bad temper.

It will crush you. Let us have our minds cleansed from the defiling influence... "I sink deep into the mire, there is no foothold..."

We let troublesome problems crush our spirits. We are overcome by the floodtides in life's stormy scenes. We sink deep in the mire weary from grappling and wrestling with problems. We get lost in the mire of our troubles. Faith in God and the power it gives can help us to live with any problem. With faith in God we can endure any trial. Faith in God becomes solid rock for us to walk through troubled waters and the mire places. We all must pass through dangerous waters. We all must walk through the mire sometimes. Trust God and he will bring you through.

He assures us that God brought him joyously and triumphantly through the dangers of the water and the mire... "The water has come up to my neck, I sink deep into the mire."

Many get bogged down in the dangerous mire of hatred. Nothing is such a threat to the spiritual life and peace of man as hatred. We all are in danger of being lost in the muck and mire of hatred. Then let us for our own soul's sake fight this thing with all of our might. It stifles, cramps, and robs us of spiritual peace and joy. It is dangerous.

Capital Close Up . . .

By CONSTANCE DANIEL

Robinson Scores in CR Debate We felt proud, as William H. Robinson, a GOP member of the Illinois House of Delegates, replied to the questions of his listeners and the challenges of his opposite, Illinois State Senator Henry Smith, in a Civil Rights debate at the monthly forum meeting of the Capital Press Club, here, last week. We always feel proud when the impact of well-directed fact, undorned, scores over cliches and bombast.

Senator Smith, lashing about with more vigor than skill, charged the President, "—a man who spent all his life in the business of killing people—" with misleading the Republicans in 1952, "cashing in on the popularity of a great military personage;" that "Eisenhower announced that his entire cabinet would be made up of millionaires!" Republicans, he charged, "struck at the very heart of 'little men,' by striking down Rent Control," raising rents and making reasonably-priced housing scarce. He questioned whether post-war industrial lay-offs might not have been "a capitalist-Republican plan to lower wages." His off-the-cuff that, "A

platform is to get in on—not to stand on," did nothing for him, even among the many Democratic supporters present.

Delegate Robinson, named "Legislator of the Year" by his colleagues in the Illinois legislature, made his points quietly but forcefully. Unruffled by Smith's roundhouse attack on the President and the GOP, he pointed out that "Ike" had ended the Korean War, and had won worldwide recognition and acclaim as "a quiet designer of peace."

From his background of constant contact with the underprivileged, Robinson reminded that the housing situation has eased with the abolition of con-

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