

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Thursday, November 12, 1964

Let The Commission Handle It

There is a small sized squabble going on between the County Commissioners and the Industrial Development Commission concerning the Commission's right to set salaries of employees of the Commission. The disagreement, while friendly, stems from the fact the Commission saw fit to adjust the salary of their secretary 10% when they reduced the Director's salary 40%, because the Director's work was cut to three days a week. The secretary, under this plan assumed some extra duties and the Commission felt that she should be compensated for the extra work. The point is not the small amount of money involved in the raise for the secretary because that was more than compensated for by the reduction in the salary of the Director. The point is that the Board of Commissioners appointed members of the Development Commission and they picked good men, and they should allow the Commission to operate the Industrial

program.

If the men chosen by the Board itself and serving free of any cost to the county are not allowed to make the decisions pertaining to the Development program, why have them? Certainly, these outstanding citizens who have served their county well in securing two new industries in recent months, should be praised. In our opinion they are perfectly capable of making all decisions pertaining to their office and should be allowed to do so.

Certainly the Commissioners have an obligation to the people to supervise all county departments and well they should, but they should not spend their time in minor matters that are better left to the discretion of the boards appointed by the Commissioners themselves to be in charge of the department.

High caliber people cannot be expected to serve long on such boards or commissions if the Commissioners are to question every move they make.

Who'll Be Number 11?

Ten people have been killed thus far this year on Franklin County highways. Six of these were pedestrians. Of these, five were killed after dark and one was killed early in the morning during a heavy fog. Two were children, one walking and one riding a bike.

There has to be a lesson somewhere in these figures, if we will only look for it. The latest victim Tuesday night near Centerville, was walking a main highway at night wearing dark clothing and not carrying a light. It is impossible to see a pedestrian under these circumstances when meeting an oncoming car. If you don't think so, try to visualize such a situation next time you meet a car at

night.

There are a number of people that do not understand basic traffic safety rules. It might be well if in each community, groups were formed with the purpose of distributing traffic safety information through publications and meetings. It is time for all of us to become greatly concerned with this business of staying alive with today's ever growing highway toll. Simple precautions often mean the difference. We should make sure all our people know these simple rules.

We in Franklin County must make traffic safety an every day affair. We must think it, talk it and practice it. Otherwise any of us can be number 11.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Reading & Writing

More than a billion persons in the world cannot read or write--44 percent of all the earth's people over 15.

India has universal suffrage and yet more than 200 million of its voters are illiterate.

One man--and we can be proud he is an American--has done more about this than any other person. He is Dr. Frank C. Laubach, still aggressively looking to the future at 80.

Back 40 years ago as a missionary to the Moros in the Philippines, he soon found out he could accomplish little as long as all the Moros were illiterate. He came up with an idea that he has spread around the world. That idea is: "Each one teach

one."

Each person taught to read and write pledges to teach one other person.

Based on this simple thought, Laubach and his associates have conducted mass literacy campaigns or prepared materials in 311 languages in 105 countries.

Laubach is on solid ground when he says the problem of illiteracy should be considered in every foreign aid project--public or private.

And he points out there are ten million persons in the U. S. who cannot effectively read or write--in a nation where a relatively few votes have been known to swing a national election.

communist activity. In a land where telling a political joke can be a crime against the state, who knows what the charges are?

Yet the West Germans are right to pay the ransom. In similar peacetime circumstances, we would probably do the same thing, just as we bartered medical supplies for Bay of Pigs survivors in 1962.

The amnesty is being interpreted as a "liberalization" of East German's regime. Perhaps in the Ulbricht view, it is. But only in the Communist world could the sale of human beings be considered an act of good will.

EDUCATION PAYS DIVIDENDS



AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK NOV. 8-14

Viewpoint--

No Political Party Can Be All Things To All People

One day, perhaps, Senator Karl Mundt of South Dakota will be successful in his prolonged efforts to persuade the American people to understand something that should have been obvious to them all along. It cannot be said that the Senator has not tried.

Long before Barry Goldwater first thought of running for the United States Senate, much less the Presidency, Senator Mundt was preaching the doctrine that the voters ought to have a real choice, not an echo, in every election. As long as 1950, Mr. Mundt was promoting a movement to realign the two major political parties in the United States. He was weary, he said repeatedly, of the spectacle of both parties attempting to be all things to all men. Not only is such a performance frustrating, it is degrading to men in public life. And its natural fruit is the deterioration of integrity in government.

No honest observer can survey the current American political picture and then seriously disagree with Senator Mundt's position. The recent Republican convention demonstrated the awkwardness of a political tent presuming to cover such contrasting postures as those of Javits of New York and Goldwater of Arizona. Democrats may smile, if they wish, at the bruises put on display at San Francisco. But, the Democratic Party tent bulges with the ungrudging conflicts between the philosophies of the South versus the North, the Harry Byrds versus the Hubert Humphreys; indeed the basic concept of Jeffersonian Democracy versus the floating vascillations of Lyndon Johnson.

The platitude that either party, or any party, ought to be big enough to embrace such vast divergences of philosophy and principle is nonsense. Such a strained embrace is good neither for a party or for a nation. The simple truth is that the people need and deserve a clear-cut choice.

This is why Senator Mundt makes sense with his plea that a realignment of political parties be attempted. The country is torn between bits and pieces of liberalism and conservatism.

As matters now stand, the voters are confused. Many stay home in disgust on election day. And that, contends Senator Mundt, tends to magnify the authority of professional politicians over private citizens who have grown weary and resentful at being forced to buy a "duke's mixture" of political postures, whether they decide to vote either a Democratic or a Republican ticket.

It is possible that Senator Mundt's idea has been thwarted thus far by the lack of a sufficiently simple method of transition. Some will say, of course, that realignment

already is open avenue for discontented voters. But there is, and probably always will be, a lack of sufficient leadership. The conservative followers of Dan Moore and Beverly Lake in this state's Democratic Party see no percentage in turning over the party which they now obviously control to faction which they have just defeated at the polls. At the same time, any reasonable appraisal of the now dominant faction in the North Carolina

Democratic Party is bound to disclose a pronounced disaffection for Lyndon Johnson and many of the policies of the Democratic Administration in Washington.

The end result, if we will just see it for what it is, is a certain amount of hypocrisy and intellectual dishonesty. America's potential strength, we believe, lies in the opportunity of the people to choose principles instead of personalities. Politics should

Senator Sam says--

Morganton--When the voters indicated their choice for President and Vice President on November 3 they set in motion an indirect system of choosing these officials. The process will not be concluded until the Electors cast their ballots on December 14 and Congress tabulates the votes on January 6. The system renews the quadrennial concern over the manner of electing the President and Vice President. Constitutional provisions which govern the Electoral College have existed for more than 150 years, but time and custom have made changes in its operation. In the first years of our national government, State legislatures picked the electors. Gradually thereafter two significant changes occurred. Each State began to permit the people to select the members of the Electoral College who in turn chose the President and Vice-President. In the mid-1830's State legislatures decided to adopt the concept that the candidate who won the popular vote of a State would also win the entire electoral vote of that State. Since 1836, there have been only two notable exceptions to this rule. In 1876, the Colorado legislature chose the State's electors. In 1892, Michigan's electors were chosen on a district basis.

In recent years Gallup polls have indicated that a majority of the people favor a change in the method of electing our President. The June 15 Supreme Court decision setting

have the untempered enthusiasm of men who themselves believe what they ask others to believe.

In short, people should belong to a political party because they share certain principles; they should not be confronted with even an implied requirement that they share differing principles simply because they belong to a political party.

It may be, then, that this will be a year of encouragement to Senator Mundt's prolonged call for a realignment of parties. The Republican Party has taken a forceful stand on behalf of principles which many Americans in all sincerity do not share. If the Democrats indulge in a minimum of doubletalk and platitudes, and forth-rightly embrace the liberalism of their party's leadership, then a true contrast between the two major parties will be evident to every voter.

forth the "one man, one vote" view in the election of State legislatures also raises questions over the Constitutionally sanctioned Electoral College. Concern over the Electoral College provision is not new. The first Constitutional Amendment offered on this subject came on January 6, 1797. Since then, hardly a Congressional session has gone by without the introduction of Amendments to alter the method of electing a President.

The fact that the present electoral system has elected three Presidents who received less popular votes than their opponents has been of long standing concern. But another major concern arises over the Constitutional permission whereby electors could cast their votes in disregard of the popular will. Admittedly, it is seldom done.

Although there has been considerable dissatisfaction with the Electoral College system, no clear consensus has emerged on how it should be changed. Some members of Congress favor the direct election of the President on the basis of popular vote. Others prefer the preservation of the Electoral College as such with the amendment that electors be chosen on the basis of the popular vote in each district with two State-wide electors chosen in addition thereto. I favor the proportional plan which I introduced as a resolution in 1961. It would measure the State's electoral votes in proportion to the popular votes received by each candidate for the Presidency. A similar plan passed the Senate in 1950 but did not receive House approval.

The proportional plan would do away with the individual electors, but would retain the Federal principles embedded in the Electoral College system whereby each State's vote would reflect its membership in the House and Senate. It would accurately reflect the sentiments of the people in each State to a much greater degree than the present "winner-take-all" concept in electoral voting. The proportional plan also appears to have the best chance of getting the necessary two-thirds consent of the Congress, and the approval by three-fourths of the State legislatures.

Thus far too many cooks have spoiled the hopes of bringing out one recipe to change the present Constitutional provision. Whether a new proposal can get the consensus necessary is still problematical.

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of course, that realignment