

The Journal - Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1934

The German Shakespeare society calls the Bard of Avon "the greatest dramatist of the German race." Next they'll be claiming Babe Ruth, and perhaps make a Teuton hero of Dil-Ringer.—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

The Slot Machine

Licensing of the so-called amusement machines in North Carolina and the various municipalities has been a serious mistake and Charlotte has set a worthy example in refusing such licenses.

The revenue ordinance for that city omitted provisions for licensing these devices and consequently their operation will be barred.

Everybody—and certainly a policeman trained in obtaining clues—knows that slot machines are nothing more than gambling devices with the opportunity to win denied one of the gamblers. A better name would be "robbers," but the generally accepted term is "slot machine."

City commissioners owe it to their constituency all over North Carolina to rid their communities of degrading device. Charlotte got \$3,000 last year by issuing licenses. And many governing bodies are influenced by this monetary return. But our guess is that any city could put in one of these machines on its own hook and take in more in a week than a dozen would pay in license fees in a year.

The sensible thing to do is for all city officials to look the facts squarely in the face and quit kidding themselves that slot machines are "amusement machines" or "for amusement only." Anybody knows that no player is going to keep feeding nickels into a device merely to see the wheels turn around. Of course, that's about all he gets out of it, but he is also entertained with a hope—a hope that is seldom fulfilled—that the jack pot will fall and make him a winner instead of a sucker.

The Roosevelt Philosophy

The latest and perhaps most significant declaration of the Roosevelt philosophy was made a few days ago when the President sent his important message to Congress.

Among other things he said: "It is childish to think of recovery first and reconstruction afterwards . . . Among our objectives I place security of the men, women and children of the nation first. People want decent homes to live in.

"The task thus begun must be pursued for many years to come.

"We are working toward the ultimate objective of making it possible for American families to live as Americans should.

"Above all, I am convinced that social insurance should be national in scope, although several states should meet at least a portion of the cost of management.

"We have sought to put forward the rule of fair play in finance and industry.

"We must dedicate ourselves anew to a recovery of the old and sacred possessive rights for which mankind has constantly struggled—homes, livelihood and individual security."

These are but sentences gleaned from a lengthy message, but surely they point the way to which the Chief Executive is leading us. Ulterior motives may be alleged and some of the President's plans for a higher standard of living and a better plane of business ethics may fall by the wayside, but no one battle won the Revolutionary War, the Civil War or the Great World War. The British surrendered reluctantly at Yorktown only because they had faced for seven years a determined opposition which would not be denied. Lee, with tear-dimmed eyes, lay down arms at Appomattox because the men in grey had been worn down by a relentless army. And many other instances might be pointed out. But these will suffice.

The forces which have battled against the efforts for social betterment cannot be expected to surrender without a fight. Hope lies in waging an eternal struggle.

A Code of Ethics

Whether good or bad, every man has a code of ethics. It is to the everlasting credit of the profession that most newspapers, including both the reporters and editors, have a high sense of their responsibility to their constituency—that is, the reading public.

The American Newspaper Guild adopted the following code of ethics for reporters: "A newspaperman's first duty is to give the public accurate and unbiased news reports.

"The equality of all men before the law should be observed. Newspapermen should not be swayed by political, economic, social, racial or religious prejudices.

"News accounts dealing with persons accused of crime should be in such form as not to mislead or prejudice public opinion.

"Sources of confidential information should not be revealed.

"Guild should work against suppression of news by privileged persons or groups; including advertisers, commercial powers, and friends of newspapermen."

And whether he has ever written them down in this manner, most every newspaperman endeavors to live up to a code similar to this. This is as it should be. No good citizen should find fault with a newspaper reporter who lives up to this code. Neither should a reporter's standard be judged by a single issue. The break may be against an individual in one issue whereas the story may be favorable to him and against another later on.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots have come in for a good deal of criticism, especially from Republicans. However, it appears that Democrats are beginning to revolt against the evident abuse and misuse of a well-intentioned law.

Speaking on the subject, the Winston-Salem Journal says editorially: "There is never a primary or an election in North Carolina that does not reveal flagrant abuse of the absentee ballot law." It then adds: "Our own view long has been that the only remedy for the deplorable conditions so often produced by the absentee ballot is to repeal the law and permit no one to vote who does not appear at the polls."

That has been Republican preaching for years. Perhaps the minority party has exaggerated the extent to which it has been used against their candidates, but at least here is evidence that sentiment is beginning to swing toward their point of view.

Borrowed Comment

OUT FOR ANOTHER FIRST (Greensboro Daily News)

It isn't worth a hill of beans to mention it with any thought that it will restrain the reckless who go about killing and maiming people on the highways through sheer recklessness. But probably it hasn't been called to attention so often that North Carolina is well on the way to another first in the number of killed and injured. Six years ago 675 people were killed and 4,768 injured in one year. At the present rate it is estimated that by the end of June 30, 900 people will have been killed in North Carolina during the fiscal year. The average is said to be about seven injured to one killed. On that basis the injured will number around 6,300 during the year. That is, in six years the number of fatalities will have increased from 675 to 900 and the injured from 4,768 to 6,300.

According to latest statistics available North Carolina ranks 42nd among the states in motor vehicle safety. That is only 8 from the bottom. Take the ratio of increase in six years and make your own estimate as to time required for North Carolina to reach bottom, or the top, if you prefer—topping all the states in the number of killed and injured. Presumably the listing is based on population and the number of motor vehicles operated.

In any event we are running strong for the bottom, for first place in number of maimings and killings on the highway. That won't be a good advertisement for the state but so far as appears there is little concern—the concern that is calculated to get results—about it. Until the public attitude changes the record will not be changed. Formerly we accepted deaths from preventable diseases as "act of God." We seem to regard our highway slaughtering and crippling as something that can't be helped.

Italy also has a brain trust, similar to ours except that there are fewer of him.—Detroit News.

But now the sun never sets on English markets being gobbled up by Japs.—Publishers Syndicate (Chicago).

You can tell China is helpless. A Chinaman is the only person the movies ever use as a villain.—Birmingham News.

In Pennsylvania a policeman was bitten by a dog. This seems an effective way to put teeth in the law.—Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

It's a relief to know that the psittacosis scar will not prove so perilous as had been supposed.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

The gettars who got Gettles have gotten theirs.—Dallas Morning News.

Wakes People Hear Hopkins

Relief Office Force and Several Others Hear National Relief Director

Mrs. G. G. Foster, county relief director, members of her office force and several others from this locality motored to Raleigh Tuesday to hear Harry L. Hopkins, national relief director, Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus, and Hon. Josephus Daniels.

Among those who went to Raleigh to hear the government official were Mrs. Foster, Miss Mary Ella McCreddie, Mrs. A. S. Cassel, Miss Ross Billings, Miss Hazel Foster, Miss Gladys Lomax, Miss Inez Absher, Miss Lucy Stout, Miss Mary Alexander, Miss Margaret Cassel, Miss Clyde Scroggs, Mesdames W. J. Bason, P. E. Brown, and J. H. Alexander, and Messrs. Paul Gregory, Mack Proffit, Harry Dula and Ed Dancy.

Chapel Hill, June 12.—A long-term program of relief for the unemployed, an improved plan for the rural areas as well as the cities, insurance against unemployment, old age and sickness, enormous programs for the control of land, great park and recreation centers, and rebuilding of forests, was visualized here tonight by Harry L. Hopkins, federal emergency relief administrator, in an address at the final graduation exercises of the University of North Carolina's 139th commencement.

Asserting there are 16,000,000 people in America today, one in every seven who receive some part of their livelihood from public relief funds, Mr. Hopkins predicted that even when conditions return to a so-called normalcy there will be 5,000,000 unemployed, as a result of mechanical inventions. Instead of 3,000,000 in 1929.

J. D. Moore To Have Program Kiwanis Meet

J. D. Moore will be the program chairman for the Kiwanis meeting Friday noon. Interest in Kiwanis activities and attendance at club meetings is decidedly on the increase. An interesting program is anticipated by the Kiwanians Friday.

War Debts Discussed

Washington, June 12.—A strongly worded note tonight reminded Great Britain that its own credit standing was involved in its debts to this country and suggested that offers would be considered for readjusting the debt or for payment in goods and services.

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FIRST LADY URGES MUNITIONS CONTROL

Durham, June 11.—The first step for the United States to take toward assuring world peace and disarmament of all nations is to control the manufacture and sale of munitions and then it should abolish all armed forces used primarily for attack, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt asserted here tonight.

After those two practical steps are taken we must then turn to the creation of a public opinion which will demand world peace and when we have led the way other nations may follow, Mrs. Roosevelt said as she addressed

8,000 persons at Duke university's second institute of international relations.

The wife of the President spoke on "Formation of Public Opinion As a Means To World Peace."

Governor Ehringhaus of North Carolina introduced her, saying she had attained her "place of eminence through personal effort, personal gift and personal accomplishment and not because of some accident of birth or marriage," such as enthroned queens. "We should take the lead in the movement for world peace because we are the most secure nation in the world," Mrs. Roosevelt said.



When claims are flying thick and fast,
The wise old owl, in strange contrast,
Says: "Let them boast and brag and shout . . .
I'd rather have you try me out!"

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