

The Sanford Express.

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WHY KEEP PUBLIC MATTERS SECRET?

A correspondent writing from Washington to some of the daily newspapers about the tendency to keep things connected with public matters a secret, says, among other things:

"As soon as a man is called from private life and sworn in as an executive official of the government he almost invariably becomes at once a victim of the secrecy complex.

"No matter how frank and open he may have been by nature as a private citizen, he at once as a public official becomes obsessed with a belief that he has been initiated into some secret order and hoards the scraps of information which come over his desk with the fervor of a new lodge member.

"Information here which has any real justification for rigid secrecy can be classified in a very short list. Almost no one disputes the wisdom of secrecy as regards:

- 1. Technical military and naval information in some instances.
2. Judicial decisions prior to announcement and the quasi-judicial decisions such as those of the Interstate Commerce Commission regarding rate changes and the like.
3. Certain information—mostly gossip—coming into the State Department from its representatives abroad, chiefly tea table gossip and other substantiated chatter which because of its irresponsible character is better left to wither sight unseen.

"That is about all that is necessary to keep secret for the public good. All else is not only information to which the public is entitled but information which in the long run it is to the public interest to have."

This thing obtains not only in Washington, but throughout the country. This tendency to keep matters that should be known to the public—as it is public property—under cover, has taken root in every activity of public life. Failure on the part of public officials to take the public into their confidence in handling matters that concern the people, is calculated to create suspicion and cause trouble. No one knows better than a newspaper man how difficult it is to get information from committees, boards of trustees, boards of directors, municipal, county and State officials, which the public is entitled to know.

OLD BUT UNWILLING TO RETIRE.

The Laurinburg Exchange says editorially: "Four years ago Senator Lee S. Overman said he was an old man, but added facetiously that he was not too old to run again. And again the veteran Senator serves notice upon any who may be entertaining hopes of succeeding him in the Senate that he will run again in 1932.

In view of such an announcement it might be in order to inquire when an officeholder reaches the age of retirement, if ever. At the end of his present term Senator Overman will have served 30 years in the Senate. But he is unwilling to quit.

In some respects Senator Overman is a hold-over from the old order of things in North Carolina. Most of the men who were his contemporaries in public life have passed away. He has to his credit a long and honorable record of public service. But age and experience do not count for everything. There are other men in North Carolina able and well qualified to render distinguished service at Washington. Is it just to them and the party to which they belong to deny them the privilege of seeking such office just because one who is old in years and office does not want to give up. Doubtless Senator Overman argues in his own mind that he was regular in 1928 and after the Simmons defeat sees no reason why he should not be re-elected with a large majority. However, 1932 belongs to the future and the future will take care of itself."

Some years ago when the brilliant John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, got ready to retire from the United States Senate he made the statement that he would rather be a dog and bay the moon than to remain in the Senate longer. At that time Williams was not an old man and he had been in the Senate only two terms, we believe. He could have easily succeeded himself but he had the good sense to retire while retiring was good. How much better it would have been for Senator Simmons had he announced last fall that he would voluntarily retire at the end of his fifth term in the Senate which covers a period of 30 years of fine service. Had the Senator made such announcement he would be able to retire next March without the sting of defeat rankling in his heart. At the end of his present term Senator Overman will have reached his eightieth year

and he will have been in the Senate 30 years. That is a long time to remain in the Senate. In fact, some of the young Turks who compose the fighting element of the Democratic party think it is too long, and if they should retire the Senator he will have no one to blame but himself.

THE PRESS CONVENTION.

The Express, the publishers of which are members of the North Carolina Press Association, was represented at the summer meeting of the association at Blowing Rock last week. The convention met in the Green Park Hotel Wednesday evening, July 23rd, and adjourned Friday morning, July 25th. The opening address was made by President Carey Dowd, of the Charlotte News. Joseph William Bailey, nominee for the United States Senate to succeed Senator Simmons, spoke in the Blowing Rock school building Thursday night by invitation of the editors. Mr. Bailey's talk, which was heard by visitors from the surrounding country as well as from the newspaper folks, was non-political.

Joseph Daniels, the dean of North Carolina journalism, has been attending the meetings of the Association ever since he was a boy. He with Mrs. Daniels was present. Among others present were Beasley of the Monroe Journal, Atkins of the Gastonia Gazette, Braxton of the Kingston Free Press, London of the Rockingham Post-Dispatch, Sherrill of the Concord Tribune, Clark, who writes Clark's column for the Greensboro News, Mrs. W. C. Hammer of the Asheboro Courier and Miss Beatrice Cobb, of the Morganton Herald. Mrs. Hammer edits the Asheboro Courier while her husband is away in Congress, and Miss Cobb is editor of the Morganton Herald. She is the very efficient secretary of the Association.

Thursday afternoon the editors and their wives, through the courtesy of the citizens of Boone, who furnished the cars, made a trip by way of the Yonahlossee road, to Linville, then to Newland, county seat of Avery, and then to Banner Elk and Boone, where they were given a supper. The return to Blowing Rock was made about dark.

On this trip the editors had the pleasure of traveling over some of those wonderful mountain roads and of becoming better acquainted with that section of the State which is one of nature's beauty spots. Nature has done much for the Blowing Rock section and man has not been inactive for he has built on those mountains excellent schools, hotels and residences, which together with the wonderful climate, make the Blowing Rock section an excellent place to live.

Twenty miles from Blowing Rock is Linville, a beautiful place located in a mountain gorge where is found a fine hotel and other features which make the place attractive. It is of interest to note here that the Linville development was made by a man who was born at Carabontin in Lee county. We refer to Hon. Hugh McRae, of Wilmington. It is also of interest to note in this connection that Mr. McRae was assisted in the work by Mr. Ralph M. Shepard, who is also a native of this county. At Banner Elk we were shown over the buildings of the Lees-McRae Institute, an excellent school for girls. Thirty years ago a young preacher came out of Atlanta and located at Banner Elk as teacher and missionary. He established this school which is today doing a great work in educating mountain girls who are unable to pay their way. At Boone is the Appalachian Training School which is now a junior college and which is doing a wonderful work in educating the people of that great mountain section. The State has been generous with this institution and the money is being well spent. Hundreds of boys and girls attend this school, which runs winter and summer. The summer school draws students from this section of the State who like to make a change.

The North Carolina Press Association now holds both summer and winter meetings. The winter meeting is held at Chapel Hill in January, while the summer meeting is held in the mountains or on the seashore. The next meeting will be held at some point on or near the coast, the date and place to be determined by the executive committee of the Association.

"All day last Sunday people drove through Sanford over Federal Highway No. 1 and other roads with their private cars loaded with peaches and watermelons. It was a busy day for the peach and melon growers. Many of these cars were from Virginia and other States. The sales of these peaches and melons represented hundreds of dollars.

GREAT IS NORTH CAROLINA. No State in the Union has made greater changes in its way of life than North Carolina in the last decade. By a system of road building, boldly conceived and efficiently carried out, it has broken down the isolation of the rural communities. The State has really cared for education enough to pay for it and defend the freedom of teaching. The University is a power plant of enlightenment for the whole South, and the gallery of Wake Forest has been an example. North Carolina is going through a profound adjustment in the face of the new industrialism.—New York World.

THE REPUBLICANS ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE

Chance of Democrats Capturing Congress This Fall Looks Good—Real Trouble With Party Now In Power Is That Bottom Has Dropped Out of Everything.

(Editorial Correspondence.) Washington, July 29.—The campaign for the election of members of the seventy-second congress will get into full swing by September 1st, and it now promises to interest the American people no less than the politicians. The economic depression now prevailing throughout the country is turning the public mind to politics in search for a remedy. Twelve months ago when every one who had any spare cash was buying stock in Wall Street and the Republican party was claiming prosperity as "its own creation and perpetuation," the average man felt not much more interest in politics than he did on what might be going on in Mars. But adversity has struck him below the belt and he is now out to punish the party that has brought it on, and unless all present signs are false, the party in power is in for a bad day on the first Tuesday in November next.

Even the most optimistic Republicans will now admit that if they lose both houses of congress they may have to look for a new candidate for President in 1932. Mr. Hoover will be responsible for such a party debacle, and for a party to drop a President after his first term to succeed himself, is to place it on the defensive. But the more sanguine of the party resist the idea that the Democrats can overturn the 100 Republican majority in the house and the 15 Republican majority in the senate. But at least 35 of the districts now held by the Republicans are normally Democratic. They were captured in the Hoover landslide two years ago, and if the election were held right now every one of these districts would almost certainly change party affiliations. That would account for 70 of the Republican majority. Then there are from 15 to 20 other districts that in off years are close between the two parties. These districts are located in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and two or three far western States. According to latest reports Democratic prospects are daily improving.

But it is going to be more difficult to overturn the 15 Republican majority in the Senate. However, Democratic leaders are counting on a change of eight seats in their favor. They will certainly lose one seat in Iowa, and the Republicans have now staged a desperate fight to defeat Senator Walsh in Montana. Of course, some of the important Republican senators are better Democrats than they are Republicans. Senator Norris, of Nebraska, the leader of the Republican Progressives, ought to be seated on the Democratic side. He votes far more often with the Democrats than with his own party. But on the Democratic side there are five senators who ought to be seated on the Republican side. It was the votes of these senators that inflicted the Smoot-Hawley bill on the country.

But evidence that the Republicans fear they will lose the house and possibly the senate is the ugly faces they are making at the Democrats. They are now pouring out the vials of their wrath upon their opponents, denouncing the party as without leadership, cut in two between the sections and utterly incapable of taking charge of the government. Why, they are screaming, should the country entrust its government to a party without policy?, that does not know what it wants and has not the strength to accomplish it if it did know? When you hear the leaders and the press of a party talking that way, you may safely note that the earth is quaking and slipping under its feet.

Truth is, the Republicans are now more disorganized than are the Democrats. For months a fierce internecine war has been going on over the chairmanship of the Republican National committee. The Democrats with all their troubles have never had such a scandal as Chairman Huston has raised by using lobby money to gamble in Wall Street. At last Huston has consented to step down and out but not till the air began to smell of brimstone. Republicans here have within the last week said harder things about Huston than Southern Democrats ever said about Robak.

But the real trouble about the Republicans is that the bottom has dropped out of everything. According to reports coming here from the West, the wheat and corn belts are on the verge of unprecedented disaster. Some of the leaders are boasting that Providence always comes to their help in times like this. This time the protracted drought has cut down the crops in twenty or more States to such an extent that the farmers will get \$1.50 per bushel for their wheat now selling at 60 cents if they can only hold it. But they cannot hold it. In vain have the farmers begged the Hoover farm board to buy one hundred million bushels of wheat and hold it for better prices, but the most disastrous drought the country has ever known cannot move the farm board. In the meantime the wheat and grain gamblers and the farmers are being stripped of their farms and homes by the thousands. But that is not all. There is a slump in prices all along the line and it is hitting the big industries squarely between the eyes. The Smoot-Hawley tariff was passed specifically to take care of the industries by keeping up the prices of clothing, shoes, and all other fabricated goods, but it is not doing it, and the Republicans are becoming alarmed that their old friends may turn on them. If the tariff cannot serve the industries it is good for nothing. It serves nobody and the Republican leaders for the last 18 months had better spend their time fishing. The country could not have been in a worse state if Mr. Hoover had spent all of his time on the Rapidian.

The policy of the Democrats in campaigning, it is understood here, will be not to tell the country what they would have done had they been in power but to draw a vivid picture of the gloom that now darkens the land. It is this picture of darkness that the Democrats are now painting with heavy and painful brushes that so angers the Republicans. That is why they are retorting: "You had nothing to offer. Why should you get on your hind legs and try to paw down what the only constructive party has done?" If the Republicans had done something they were in doubt about or were afraid of they would not talk that way. They would not get angry. They are on the defensive and are in a decidedly bad humor at this hour.

It would be interesting to know the amount of money that has been spent on road signs in Lee county. Signs advertising some kind of business or other activity within a radius of 40 to 50 miles of Sanford can be seen on nearly every tree of any size, and even very small trees along the highways. Travel over Federal Highway No. 1 between Sanford and Lockville and there is hardly a time that you are not able to see half a dozen or more signs. They are almost as thick as the trees along the highway. Some of these are large attractive signs while others are very small and are an eye sore to the traveling public. It is claimed that there are more business signs on this highway in Lee county than are found on almost any other highway in North Carolina. Should the thing keep increasing in a few years' time trees anywhere near the highway will be at a premium on which to place signs. The question of prohibiting signs being put up along the highways has been agitated during the past year or two, but it seems that instead of decreasing they are increasing. Wonder how much business the merchants and other business people get in return for the amount of money they spend for these signs?

...Community Loyalty Campaign...

EDITORIAL.

PROSPERITY.

The advancement of this community is closest to the hearts of the business men in Sanford.

In fact they stand ready to lead us forward in great movement of civic expansion, progress, and prosperity. BUT THIS CALLS FOR COOPERATION ON THE PART OF ALL OUR CITIZENS. The actual putting of our shoulders to the wheel and Boost!! Boost!! Boost!!!

Such cooperation can be extended by indulging in normal business transactions, normal business patronage and by so doing bring about normal business conditions and PROSPERITY FOR EVERYONE CONCERNED.

Conservatism is a good thing on many occasions but when it comes to hoarding your finances, indulging in radical business pessimism or adopting a "scared-to-death" attitude of commerial retrenchment—then you are not only doing yourself an injustice but your own community, its adjacent trading territory and all the people therein. Thus spending your money freely for what you need becomes a heart-to-heart proposition PERMEATED WITH THE SPIRIT OF LIVE AND LET LIVE. An opportunity to serve and serve profitably.

WE ARE ALSO URGING YOU TO KEEP YOUR DOLLARS AT HOME. We are asking your personal support in boosting and buying merchandise SOLD OR MADE IN SANFORD. For truly the financial assets of any community is the gauge used in measuring its prosperity. Increase the assets and prosperity increases. Deplete them and prosperity shrinks. The newcomer in our city; the business man looking for location; the capitalist for investment—ALL INQUIRE FIRST AS TO THE SIZE AND CONDITION OF THE COMMUNITY ASSETS.

The habit of spending your money, folks, for purchases in some other city is not only another form of BANKING THAT MONEY THERE IN THE FUTURE, it can not be used to satisfy the obligations of our people, to transact the commercial life of our city or to be re-invested into improvements that make it more attractive.

If every person living within the confines of Sanford will think this matter over, stop and reason within themselves, PERSONALLY TRACE THE DOLLAR SPENT AWAY FROM HERE, what becomes of it and how it personally affects themselves—they will certainly take a renewed pledge of Loyalty to the Business Men of this community AND STICK WITH IT.

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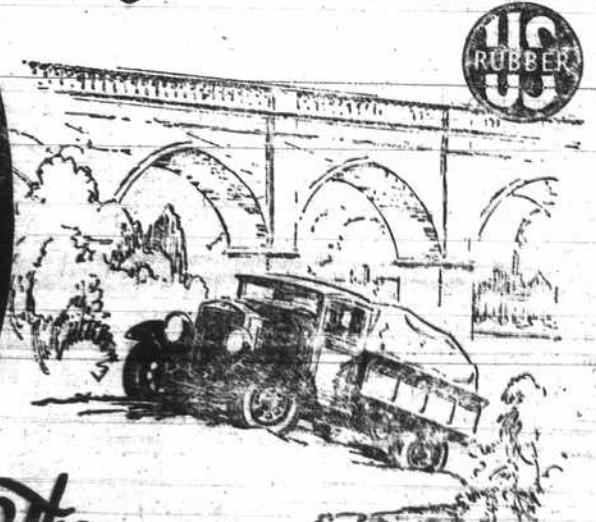
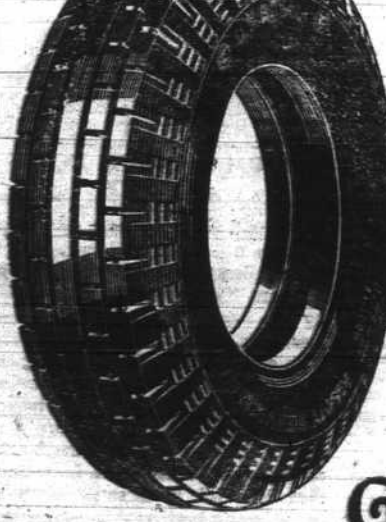
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