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AUGUST 21, 1952

Bad News

The news that the American Federation of Labor (AFL) is about to throw its strength behind one of the Presidential candidates and the party he heads is bad news.

For a quarter of a century the AFL has regarded itself as strictly non-political; has taken the position that it is for each individual, acting as a citizen, to decide how he shall vote.

It is not surprising that the AFL is about to reverse that policy; for its arch rival, the Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO) long has been active politically. Thus the AFL is put in a secondary position, as far as political influence and power are concerned, and it is not surprising that the younger element in the AFL is insisting that the organization take the step that will tend to give it equality with the CIO as a purely political force.

So we are about to have not one, but two, major labor organizations attempting to deliver their members' votes in blocks. That these two organizations, vying for power, will deliver that vote only for a price may be taken for granted.

That is 'bad.

Not because labor is wicked. Group selfishness and vote selling with a labor tag are no worse than when they bear the label of capital or agriculture or the Negro or any other group. But these political sins likewise are no better simply because they are committed in the name of labor.

The outlook for democratic government is far from good when large groups vote, as groups, to obtain selfish group ends.

It is even worse when a few leaders can deliver, as these labor leaders seem to think they can, the votes of the members of their organizations en masse. What, after all, is the difference between a few labor leaders telling their members how to vote and the old disgrace of another tiny minority, the industrialists, telling their employes how to vote?

The whole philosophy of democracy is based upon the conviction that the people, **each man thinking for himself, and voting his own convictions**, usually will reach a wise decision.

When a few think for the many, we have the very antithesis of democracy.

When Can They Dream!

Dreams are the stuff achievement is made of.

Every great achievement, even every small accomplishment, first was a dream.

And most of man's dreaming is done by youth. Youth is the time of dreams; maturity, the period for carrying out those dreams. Thus our achievements of today are the product of, and are great or small in relation to, our dreams of yesterday. And what we achieve tomorrow will be determined by what are the dreams of today's youth.

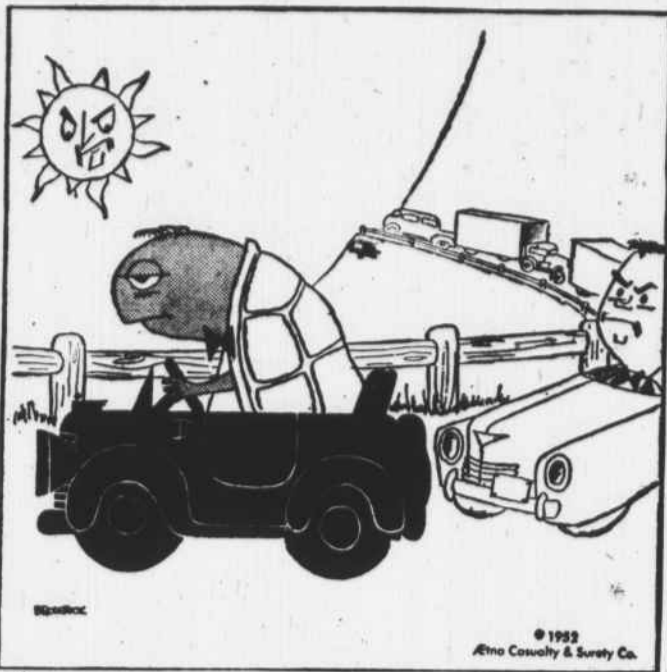
Which raises the question:

When, in today's mad rush, does youth have a chance to dream?

No system is fool-proof that is operated by fools.

And now the Yankees, who 20 years ago poked fun at the South as a land where people went barefoot, have invaded the South—and adopted barefootism as a fetish.

WHO'S ZOO—ON THE HIGHWAY



DON'T BE A TURTLE on the open road. But if you must crawl, allow others room to pass.

A Fundamental Service

Sometime ago this newspaper went on record as opposing the Town of Franklin's new policy of making a charge for sewer service. We took the position that providing sewer service is a basic obligation of a municipality, and that the just way to pay for it is by a property tax.

From several sources has come this reply:

Many people in Franklin do not have sewer service—and are not likely to have it soon. So long as that is the case it is unfair to levy an ad valorem tax, which would apply to all property owners within the town, to provide sewer service for some. Since only a part of the people have sewer service, the just way to finance that service is to make a charge upon those who have it.

That argument is logical.

But has this town, or any other, the right to take property into its corporate limits if it cannot provide the fundamental services that are the whole reason for the creation of a town government? And no municipal service is more fundamental than sewer lines.

'They'

"They" were the talk of the annual Farm and Home tour last Friday.

"They" have transformed Holly Springs and Carson into above-the-average, eye-catching communities.

"They" are uniform white mail boxes—projects of the two communities in the W. N. C. Rural Community Development Contest.

Why not a game of follow-the-leaders in the rest of Macon's communities?

Our American Civilization

Taking out all the life-giving qualities nature put into wheat; paying extra for "enriched" bread.

Printing more and more trivia in our newspapers, magazines, and books; wondering why there is a paper shortage.

Boasting of our American culture and what it does for the individual; finding it ever more unusual to meet an individual who can enjoy his own company.

Other's Opinions

THEY COME BACK

(Kannapolis Independent)

There are two reasons that North Carolina's population is difficult to predict: the State's birth rate is something higher than expected and North Carolinians have a tendency to return home after they have been officially recorded as lost to the State by migration.

AGAINST AUTOS

(Forsyth Motorist)

An extreme example of farmers' antagonism to the motor cars was a determined group reported formed in Pennsylvania around the turn of the century which called itself the "Farmers Anti-Automobile Society" and formulated the following local ordinances:

1. Upon discovering an approaching team of horses, the automobilist must pull his vehicle off to the side of the road and cover it with a blanket to correspond with the scenery.
2. The speed limit on country roads this year will be a secret,

and the penalty for violation will be \$10 for every mile an offender is caught going in excess of it. 3. In case an automobile makes a team run away, the penalty will be \$50 for the first mile, \$100 for the second, \$200 for the third, etc., that the team runs, in addition to the usual damages. 4. On approaching a corner where he cannot command a view of the road ahead, the automobilist must stop not less than 100 yards from the turn, toot his horn, ring a bell, fire a revolver, halloo, and send up three bombs at intervals of five minutes."

Another called for automobilists running on the country road at night to send up red rockets every mile, wait ten minutes for the road to clear, then proceed carefully blowing their horns and shooting off Roman candles. Yet another ordained that in case a horse would not pass an automobile, the motorist should "take the machine apart as rapidly as possible and conceal the parts in the grass."

INSULATION

(Ginny Shankle in Morganton News-Herald)

A young couple sent a friend of theirs—an Australian woman living in this country—a playpen upon the arrival of her fourth child. When her thank-you note arrived, it left them somewhat astonished. "The pen is a perfect god-send," she wrote. "I sit in it every afternoon and read—and the children can't get near me."

Let each man resolve that the right of self government, liberty, and peace, shall in him find a defender.—Robert E. Lee.

No race can succeed permanently that is always moving from place to place. The individual must choose whether he will live in the city, or in the country. But wherever he decides to make his home, let him stay there, and grow with the growth of that community, and have a definite part in its future development.—Booker T. Washington.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

So you think the churches are dying?

You might have changed your mind, had you been present for last week's youth meetings (for young people of both county and town) at the Franklin Methodist church.

The attendance approached the 100-mark; the interest was keen; and there was lots of pep. Incidentally, these young people had a lot of fun, following the worship services and class periods.

If these meetings are indicative, tomorrow's churches will be far livelier than today's.

—SP—

How is it that Franklin can support so many public eating places?

Off hand, I can count eight or nine. That that number is almost phenomenally large, for the size of the town, is suggested by a comparison with other towns and cities. Take Asheville, as an example.

Franklin's eight or nine restaurants mean that we have one for about every 200 population. The same ratio would give Asheville, with its 50,000 population, approximately 250—and it probably hasn't one-fifth that number!

Are we hungrier than the people of most towns? Do a larger proportion of the home-makers here work outside their home, and thus they and their husbands eat out? Do we have a larger influx of rural folk to town for lunch?

One factor is the fact that most Franklin restaurants serve unusually good food—try eating in other small towns, or even cities, if you doubt it. Another is the fact that they have kept their prices moderate.

But that is hardly the whole explanation.

—SP—

We put people in jail for stealing the property of others. Why not for stealing the beauty and cleanliness and order that belong to others?

Instances of such thievery can be found on almost any Western North Carolina highway or public playground.

Few views in Western North Carolina equal that, on the Franklin-Bryson City highway, where the Little Tennessee river forms a horseshoe, against a background of towering mountains that range in shade from brilliant green to purplish-blue. For the convenience of the

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News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

One of the weakest arguments I have heard advanced in a long time is the argument being proposed by Governor Byrnes of South Carolina who says that a third group of electoral college nominees should be placed on the ballot in his state of South Carolina. He says that this is to allow the voters in his state to vote for Eisenhower without voting under the Republican party label. No matter how you sugar coat it or what legal dikes you cut to attempt to hide it, Mr. Byrnes, if you vote for Mr. Eisenhower you are voting Republican. There is nothing wrong with voting for the Republican party if you think it offers the platform and candidate you want to support. But let's not try to claim to be Democrats and vote Republican. If as you say, Mr. Byrnes, you can't stomach the Republican party in your state then use your vast influence to clean up this party if it is the one which most nearly represents your views. But if you feel that through the years gone by and in the years to come the Democratic party is the party you want to support (I do not say Run, Mr. Byrnes) then be a Democrat. But be something instead of wolf in sheep's clothing.

There is something wrong with our county tax collection system—not the officials but the system under which they work. For one thing, year after year many of the same names are listed for delinquent taxes. For example a check of the record in Franklin township showed that of the 388 names listed for taxes 98 of those same names were posted last year. While we did not check it, we feel reasonably sure that you would find more than half of the 98 were listed at least five times in the past 10 years. We noticed also that many of these names are business firms or people who at least appear to be in fairly good circumstances who could pay. Quite frankly we do not understand just exactly how the law works but we feel that if so many people can continue to flaunt it year after year it must not be strong enough. We don't particularly like paying taxes but if we are going to pay ours we want a law strong enough so that the

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
Ex-Governor Robert L. Taylor, of Tennessee, has been invited to be present at the veterans' reunion and deliver an address.

Frank Curtis returned home Friday from Hayesville where he had been working on the Courier for five months.

N. S. Thomas and Co. started their locust pin mill last week.

25 YEARS AGO

Macon county ranks eighty-second among the state's 100 counties as shown by an index of the total buying power of the various counties.

Robert Cansler, mechanic of the Nantahala National forest, has been transferred, temporarily, to the Pisgah forest, where he holds a similar position.

Mr. Nimrod Stiles, of Haines City, Fla., is spending a two-week vacation with his father, Mr. George Stiles.

Miss Olive Patton entertained last Saturday afternoon with bridge in honor of the counselors of Camp Taukeetah.

10 YEARS AGO

They say nothing is impossible. Have you ever tried squeezing shaving cream back into the tube? (Frankie Macon).

W. H. Finley, principal of the Franklin schools, received a wire last Saturday calling him to active service in the army.

OUR GRATITUDE

For the sympathy and many thoughtful acts of kindness of neighbors and friends during our recent bereavement, we wish to express our heart-felt thanks.

Mrs. Robert Fulton
The John Fulton Family.

Mrs. Porter Writes Siler Family History

THE FAMILY OF WEIMAR SILER — 1755-1831. By Leona Cornelia Bryson Porter. Printed by the Stephens Press, Asheville, under sponsorship of a Siler Family publication committee. Distributed by The Franklin Press. Price \$3, postpaid.

Into this volume Mrs. Porter has packed an amazing amount of information, gathered by her over a period of years.

The book is broken up into three parts, 115 pages of text, a genealogical table of the descendants of Weimar Siler, covering 52 pages, and an exhaustive index that adds greatly to the value of this historical work.

While it is devoted to the Siler family, the book contains much material of interest to students of the history of Macon County and Western North Carolina.

An interesting feature is the reproduction of a score of old photographs, several old letters, and a number of documents. The text also includes a dozen old letters, going back as far as 1815, in full, accounts of early family meetings, and articles relating to the early history of the Siler family and of Macon County, where the four sons of Weimar Siler settled.

The book traces the Siler family from 1741, the year Plikard Dederic Siler, father of Weimar Siler, left Germany for America, down to today. Chapters are devoted to the early history of the family; the family of William Siler, one of the four brothers; the family of Jesse Richardson Siler, another; the families of four other children of Weimar Siler, Jacob



MRS. T. W. PORTER

Siler, Margaret Siler Gash, John Siler, and Mary Siler Henley; the families of Col. John Patton and of Caroline Lane; Thomas Swain Siler's story; old letters; and the author's conclusion.

Mrs. Porter this week called the attention of those who already have obtained copies of the book to an error, with the request they correct their copies. On page 148, she said, the year of the marriage of Frances Gertrude Nolen to H. A. Wilhide should read, 1931, not 1934.

Mrs. Porter also asked that persons who discover errors send her corrections, in writing, to be entered in a key copy she will keep. She asked that corrections not be given verbally, since word-of-mouth information often is misunderstood.