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and
The Highlands Maconian

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JULY 12, 1956

Federal Aid To Schools

Once more, a federal-aid-to-education bill has bitten the dust.

Its defeat, in the House last week, must have been a sore disappointment to the thousands of patriotic average citizens who favor federal aid. Perhaps more important, the whole incident surely must have brought bitter disillusionment to honest citizens, whatever their views on this controversial subject, about the standards of intellectual honesty in our national government.

Take the original bill itself, backed by the administration. In the field of education, the only possible excuse for federal aid is the fact that some states have less money and more children, other states more money and fewer children. The only sensible way to bridge that gap would be to take money from the taxes paid by all the people and give it to those states where the need is most acute. Yet this bill, like most of the others that have been seriously considered, would have given federal aid to all states! Its backers seemed to assume that the average citizen hasn't sense enough to know that money that comes from government is money that, first, has to come out of his pocket; that the average citizen is stupid enough to believe that local and state governments get their money from his taxes, but that Uncle Sam is Santa Claus.

Now consider the Powell amendment. Introduced by a Negro congressman fighting for reelection in a Negro district, it would have withheld federal aid from states that failed to comply with the "provisions" of the Supreme Court's ruling against segregation. That amendment was passed by the House by a vote of 224 to 192. Why either propose or oppose such an amendment? For do not even the most rabid segregationists agree that, until it is changed, the Court's decision is law? We have the spectacle of Congress solemnly declaring that the law must be obeyed. (It would make just about as good sense for Congress to write into every appropriation bill the requirement that the money appropriated must not be stolen by public officials!) Incidentally, an interesting sidelight on the consistency of members of Congress on this matter was the failure of the majority to accept the challenge of a Southern Congressman, who suggested the House go "all the way" and require all states to employ a proportionate number of Negro teachers — most non-Southern states do not.

A third exhibition of dishonesty was the adoption of the Powell and other amendments, when everybody knew their adoption would kill the bill. In other words, the majority of Congressmen were both for and against federal aid.

This controversy, since it is only the latest in a long series, seems to suggest we would be wise to take it for granted there is no real probability of a workable federal aid-to-education law — even if federal aid is either desirable or necessary.

Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order, all around, on the growth of the Macon County Building and Loan Association, which recently passed the million-dollar mark in assets.

First of all, of course, to the officers and directors, past and present, for the enthusiasm, the diligence, and the sound judgment they have brought to the direction of the organization. Second, to the thrift of Macon County people, which made possible the phenomenal development of this cooperative association devoted to the upbuilding of Macon County; its assets today represent savings averaging more than sixty dollars for every man, woman, and child in the county. Finally, the growth of the Building and Loan is evidence of the faith of people here in their own community and of their willingness to cooperate toward the building of a better place to live. Worthy of note, too, is the fact that most of the Association's funds have been invested

Rail oddities

Railroads are hard to knock out. In a massive attack Nov. 14, 1940, four hundred German bombers made 122 hits on British rail lines at Coventry. But two days later the lines were back in operation.



American railway troops landing at Naples Oct. 7, 1943 found rail lines to the North completely demolished by the retreating Germans. With the enemy only 15 miles away, they restored the lines and were running supply trains up to the front three days later.



During the Battle of the Bulge in Dec. 1944, artillery ammunition for our forces was delivered by railroad right to the guns.



in homes, indicating the high premium we in this county put on home and home-ownership.

When the Association's assets passed the million-dollar mark, it was but a milestone in a growth that has been consistent since a little group here, with a starting capital of exactly nothing, launched the organization, just 34 years ago.

Political Prediction

Here we go, 'way out on a limb, to make a political prediction — two of 'em, in fact.

Prediction No. 1 (and it takes little courage to make this one): Barring early and unexpected physical complications, Ike's latest illness will not change his decision to run for reelection.

No. 2 (and here's where we take our life as a political prophet in our hands): Before November, Ike will be conducting something closely approaching a whistle-stop campaign. The reason? Ike's health.

We figure it this way: The Democrats are going to make the most of the health issue. Here is a man, they'll argue, who'll be 70 before the end of the next administration, and who has had two critical illnesses, and of a different nature, in less than a year.

The President's health, of course, should be an issue. The people have a right to know, before they vote, how good or bad it is. Mr. Eisenhower, himself, in fact, was honest enough to make it an issue, even before the ileitis operation.

And as the issue becomes hotter and hotter, the people are going to want physical evidence of Ike's fitness; they are going to demand to see him in person — and they're going to be doubtful, if they can't. Thus the Republican high command, which has been assuring both Ike and the nation that a few television appearances will be enough to assure his reelection, will more and more tend to shuttle the President from one end of the nation to the other.

* * *

What will that do to the President's health?

We, of course, don't know the answer; not even the doctors do.

What we do know is we'd hate to have the responsibility somebody's going to have to shoulder, should the strain prove too great.

'Don't You Dare'

"Junior, eat your spinach!"

For decades, that unwelcome command at U. S. dinner tables has brought protests, tears, and plain sulking from American children.

Well, maybe Junior was right; maybe he knew better — at least, as to this particular item of food — what was good for him than his parents. For two physicians at the University of North Carolina recently revealed that gall stones are caused by oxalic acid, and that spinach is a major source of that stone-producing acid.

The announcement was made at a medical meeting, but the word is likely to get around generally; and if it does, we predict the contribution resulting from the doctors' study will be far greater to dinner-time harmony than to medical knowledge.

Now, though, human nature being what it is, parents may create a great childish longing for spinach, by reversing the old command:

"Junior, don't you dare eat that spinach!"

Every dog has a lot of sense unless he belongs to a neighbor.

Others' Opinions

(Opinions expressed in this space are not necessarily those of The Press. Editorials selected for reprinting here, in fact, are chosen with a view to presenting a variety of viewpoints. They are, that is, just what the caption says — OTHERS' Opinions.)

Progress: Zero

(Englewood, Colo., Herald)

In 1903 there were 466 fireworks deaths in the United States. Last year there was only one. Quite a record of progress.

Back in 1903 a rather ridiculous looking machine was just sputtering into being. Last year that machine—evolving from the ungainly horseless carriage into the sleek and powerful modern automobile—claimed 407 lives during the Fourth of July holiday.

Thus the net gain in our efforts to avoid holiday self-destruction seems to be about zero.

Cost Of Our Standard Of Living

(Ashley Montagu in The Saturday Review)

"No man can survive as an island entire of himself. No man wants to be an island. But every human being wants and needs to replenish his resources for being social by having a room of his own, as it were, a sanctuary to which he can retire and in which he can be alone with himself, undisturbed by the rumors and alarms of the outside world . . . In the United States we have achieved the highest standard of living in the world—but it is seldom, if ever, added, it is at the highest cost of ulcers, mental breakdowns, homicide, violent crime, juvenile delinquency, alcoholic, and drug addiction rates, in the entire world."

The Damyantee

(Sanford Herald)

In a little exploration of the word "Yankee," the Chicago Tribune notes that the designation is given all Americans by persons in other lands; that to a Southerner a Northerner is a Yankee; that Northerners say Yankees are from New England states; that people in New England say it is the Vermonters who are Yankee; and that Vermonters reply a Yankee is just someone who eats pie for breakfast.

The Tribune fails (perhaps out of sensitiveness) to examine "Damyantee," a word formerly heard often in these parts. What is a Damyantee?

You may have your own definition. We have ours. To us a Damyantee is a motorist with license plate of Pennsylvania or New York or Connecticut or New Hampshire or any other Northern state, but probably New Jersey, streaking up or down U. S. Highway 1 at 80 miles an hour, contemptuous of all the land separating home and Florida, and prepared to denounce as a racketeer the Highway Patrolman who may arrest him and save his neck.

And, oh yes. He wears his shirt-tail outside his pants.

They Can Have Him

(Greensboro Daily News)

If teen-agers want Elvis Presley, they'll get him, says Tommy Dorsey, the sentimental gentleman of swing.

Mr. Dorsey, who has seen them come and go, from the Black Bottom to Rock 'n' Roll, is right. If the teen-agers want that hip-wiggling, blue-suede-shoe-shod, guitar-strumming hillbilly singer, they can have him.

Presley, presently pulling down \$40,000 a week, belongs to the neolithic age of musical curiosities, along with the grinning pianist Liberace (what ever became of him?), who have a mysterious but unsettling effect on women.

Recently exploring the paleolithic era of musical crazes we unearthed this yellowing clipping from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, entitled "Whinnying For Frankie":

"Shrieks, sighs and whinnies may be expected to greet Frank Sinatra, when the swooner-crooner sings "Old Man River" and other numbers tomorrow night in the Hollywood Bowl. . . .

"A foretaste of what is to come was seen when the boy from Hackensack barged off the train at Pasadena en route to his engagement. He was practically mobbed, and it must be conceded that among those who yelled and ululated a welcome were not only gals in their teens, but 'gray-haired matrons' as well, according to the veracious Associated Press.

"Whether these matrons will join tomorrow night in the whoops and flapdoodle which have become the invariable accompaniment of Sinatra's soulful warbling, remains to be seen. There has been nothing like it, as far as we can recall. The young girls in bobby-socks who sit with glazed eyes on the front row, mooning through binoculars at Frankie 20 feet away, and yelling, "Take me, here I am," when he croons "It Can't Be Wrong," are something new among the social phenomena of the jitter-bug age."

Further research into the Neolithic Age of Bing Crosby and Rudy Vallee will doubtlessly reveal equally interesting accounts of didoes cut by flappers of the roaring '20's and the depression kids of the early '30's.

But for today the surly, baby-faced Elvis Presley is king. And he's got them rocking and rolling in the aisles.

Poetry

Editor
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, North Carolina

SELF SUFFICIENCY

Said the flower to the weed,

"You're an unwanted elf."

Said the weed to the flower,

"I can care for myself."

REV. HOMER CASTO

Weaverville, N. C.

Soil Bank Forms Available Here At A. S. C. Office

Agreement forms for the new Soil Bank Acreage Reserve Program are now available to farmers at the Macon County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation office in the Agricultural Building.

They must be signed not later than July 20 if the farmer wishes to take part in the acreage reserve during the 1956 crop year, according to ASC Chairman Carl Morgan.

The soil bank is a new feature of the national farm program authorized under the farm bill recently enacted. Its objective is to encourage farmers to reduce crop acreages and thus help overcome farm surpluses that are depressing the market.

Of particular concern in this area at this time is the acreage reserve program for tobacco. Even though 1956 tobacco planting is well advanced, producers can make adjustments and earn soil bank payments this year, Mr. Morgan said. He emphasized, however, that no farmer should attempt to comply without checking at the county office and signing an official agreement with the Department of Agriculture. Under the acreage reserve feature of the soil bank, the farmer earns payments by reducing his tobacco acreage below his acreage allotment and holding these acres out of production. The amount placed in reserve is up to the farmer within certain limitations. For the purpose of computing future allotments, the farmer will receive credit for this reserve acreage just as though tobacco had been grown on it.

In future years, land will be placed in the acreage reserve in advance of the planting season and will not be planted to a crop. For this year only, Mr. Morgan said, a farmer may participate by not harvesting acres which suffered from weather damage or by plowing under or clipping a portion of his tobacco acreage not later than July 31. This is a special provision for 1956.

"The 1956 Acreage Reserve program is in many respects a special one with provisions to meet the time limitations this season," Mr. Morgan said. "That is why farmers should come to the county office just as soon as possible to discuss the program and see how they can participate in this nation-wide attack on surpluses and at the same time benefit themselves."

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The Fourth of July passed off very pleasantly at Highlands. About noon on school house hill, in charge of Corporals Peyton and Hyatt Crunkleton, the national salute of 47 guns was fired with dynamite.—Highlands item.

The colored population had a big picnic on the Fourth at St. Cyprian's and every Negro about town attended. Several wagon loads of railroad Negroes came down to enjoy the holiday.

The Fourth of July celebration for the benefit of the public library netted \$127.00, after deducting all expenses, which was a pretty good sum and will be of great benefit to the library.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Curtis returned Tuesday from Portland, Oreg., where they have been living for the past two years.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Henry, of Brevard, were week-end guests here of Mrs. Charlie Grindstaff.

Messrs. Charles, Fred, and Henry Sadler, of Greenville, S. C., formerly of Highlands, were visitors here Sunday. — Highlands item.

10 YEARS AGO

Titus Parrish, of Detroit, Mich., spent the past week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Parris, at their home on Franklin, Route 3.

Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Waterbury, of Herkimer, N. Y., were recent guests of Mrs. Hylda Shepherd and her mother, Mrs. J. B. Stalcup, at their home on Iotla Street.

Mrs. J. A. Massey, of Jacksonville, Fla., former assistant postmaster here, arrived Saturday for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Potts, at Fairview Inn. — Highlands item.