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"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep it as good a paper as Nelson Hyde has made it. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Where there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

Strange Bedfellows

Anyone who doubts that politics makes strange bedfellows should take a look at the trio whose efforts are hampering our China policy. There, side by side in uncomfortable proximity, repose the three pro-Chiang forces: the right wing of the Republican party, the Henry Luce gang, and the gentlemen of the Kremlin working through their Communist Agents.

These people are on the same side for different reasons. Luce is there because this is the policy he has been urging. Stemming from a deep attachment to the land he loves, whose cause he imagines to be bound up in the fortunes of Chiang, his stand could be abandoned only at the cost of serious loss of prestige to his publications. To imagine that Life, Time and Fortune could be wrong would be positively catastrophic.

But while Luce's friend, Senator Styles Bridges, McCarthy and the rest of their colleagues in Congress might be touched by such a catastrophe, their chief reason for backing Chiang is a different one. Party politics is responsible for their stand. They are out to embarrass the Administration as much as possible. The best way to do that is to harp on the China muddle, admittedly the weakest spot in our foreign policy. The danger that such tactics might get us into a war which we could not win apparently does not bother them.

And the Russians? They are eager to force us into support of Chiang because it is the surest way to a Kremlin victory. It would antagonize our Allies; it would raise all of Asia against us; it would absorb all of our power, leaving the rest of the world and our own country defenseless. In Korea we are still fighting desperately against a foe who, in comparison with the experienced and vast armies of Northern China, is weak and untrained. Who can doubt that a war in China would be suicidal? No wonder that the Russians are using every wile to lead us into such a trap. Harder than Henry Luce, harder than Senator Bridges are the leaders of the Soviets, working to embroil us in war in China.

We can't do anything about the Russians' efforts except to stand firm against them, meanwhile earnestly praying that our people may be wiler than they, but the other two in the "help Chiang" corner are definitely our business. It is not possible that they are unaware of the bad company they are keeping. The fact that it does not dampen their enthusiasm casts a lurid light on their patriotism, and should warn us to look sharp.

For there is great danger in this situation and it is time that the public awoke to it. The actions of these two groups have already shown striking results. There is no doubt, for instance, that the decision to fight in Korea was influenced by the knowledge of what political capital would be made of a contrary move. What cries of "appeasement!" and "Communists in high places!" would have gone up from the GOP clan. Many other and more important factors entered in, of course, but political considerations played a part in the speed of the decision. Again, the current encouragement being given to Chiang springs far more, we may be sure, from the desire to win the votes of the pro-Chiang forces for vitally necessary Administration measures than it does from any conviction of the correctness of this course of action.

It is time for the American people to call these two groups to order. It is time to make it unmistakably clear that we will not stand for such dangerous meddling; that neither the opinions of Henry Luce nor party politics shall be allowed to influence the great decisions that face our policy makers. Loss of prestige by the Luce publications or loss of votes by the Republican party should not count, when it comes to the security of this country and the peace of the world.

Closing The County Homes

Among the sweetest sounds to be heard in the land today is the closing of the doors of county homes.

The Johnston County Home was closed last week, as the inmates and potential inmates had become so few, it was found easier and more economical to care for them in other ways.

Moore County's grand jury this month recommended converting the County Home to a boarding home. It contains at present only five old people.

This was also recommended by Dr. Ellen Winston, State Welfare Commissioner, on a visit here some months ago, and by Mrs.

W. B. Cole, county superintendent of public welfare, in a report to the county commissioners. As a boarding home, they said, the institution would be open to old people of several counties, at modest fees to be paid by themselves or their families. In the case of the indigent the county would pay the fee, totaling far less than the costs of maintaining the whole institution at public expense.

Such a boarding home would be run on a self-sustaining basis.

The poor we will have with us in certain measure always, and the old and the ill who cannot fend for themselves must certainly be cared for. However, the decline in their number is a sign their problems are being constructively solved to an appreciable degree.

The proposed "boarding home," supplanting the "poorhouse" of ancient, unhappy connotations, will provide for them something much nearer a real home; and also fill that even greater need of today, a pleasant retreat for those who can pay their way, where they may receive the care and attention they need at the end of their days.

A Wise Man Said . . .

Every man's nature is a sufficient advertisement to him of the character of his fellows. My right and my wrong is their right and their wrong. While I do what is fit for me, and abstain from what is unfit, my neighbor and I shall often agree in our means, and work together for a time to one end. But whenever I find my dominion over myself not sufficient for me, and undertake the direction of him also, I overstep the truth, and come into false relations with him.—Emerson, "On Politics."

Tobacco Comes Next

What is a prohibitionist?

Ask the first ten people you see, and nine of them probably will answer a prohibitionist is a "dry"—one who would prohibit by law the manufacture, sale and use of beer, wine and hard liquor.

But their answer would be only partially right. An all-out prohibitionist would prohibit all of us by law from doing any number of things of which he disapproves. Smoking, for instance.

If you think that is far-fetched, you are wrong. A campaign for the eventual prohibition of the manufacture and sale of tobacco products already is under way in this country. The constitution of at least one national prohibitionist organization is almost as opposed to tobacco as it is to alcoholic beverages. And many another dyed-in-the-wool prohibitionist, who does not belong to that particular organization, feels the same way. Ask some of them.

We hold no brief for cigarettes or beer, cigars or wine, chewing tobacco or hard liquor. Heavy drinking is more harmful than heavy smoking, of course, but both are harmful enough. Most of all, over-indulgence is harmful. Moreover, it is not our intention to get into the argument between doctors as to just how harmful cigarette smoking may be. Maybe there is reason to warn the public, if tobacco does all the harm a few say it does. There also is a reason, we believe, to warn this tobacco-growing, tobacco-manufacturing state of ours that the anti-tobacco campaign—though still quiet, somewhat subtle and half concealed—is already underway. (We refer you, for instance, to the January and April issues of the Readers Digest.)

Not long ago, down in an eastern North Carolina county, they were having an election to decide whether or not to ban beer. One good lady, an active dry and a local leader in one of the national organizations, was very successful in her efforts to persuade the tobacco farmers of that section to vote against beer. We wonder how many of them would have gone along with the lady if they had known that the second goal of her organization was to ban tobacco. We wonder, also, how many people whose money came from the manufacture of tobacco products contributed to this same organization.

To be personally dry, and to preach both abstinence and temperance, is one thing; to be a prohibitionist is another. The same is true of those who believe smoking is seriously harmful. The evils of prohibition, we believe, often are greater than the evil of that which the law seeks to prohibit.

It is time for the tobacco growers, the tobacco manufacturers and the tobacco sellers of North Carolina to realize this fact: Though liquor, wine and beer are the first targets of the all-out prohibitionists, tobacco comes next.

—High Point Enterprise

There are two points worth mentioning in connection with a news item which appeared this week in the Raleigh News and Observer, as follows:

"A big increase in liquor cases in superior courts of the state, from 11,813 to 14,700, shows Mecklenburg and Wake having most crimes with Currituck having the fewest."

The first is that Mecklenburg and Wake are big-population counties containing large cities, while Currituck, on the coast, is mostly swamps and woods.

The other is that this item was in the news of 25 years ago—under National Prohibition.

THE PUBLIC SPEAKING

IN APPRECIATION

To the Pilot.

The summer recreation program is over. As a mother of two little girls, who thoroughly enjoyed and benefited from the opportunities offered, I want to express my appreciation of the program and my sincerest thanks to Mr. Dawson and all those who helped him with the various activities.

The program was well rounded and well planned, to appeal to various interests. My only criticism is that some of the valuable activities came at the same time, i. e., swimming instruction and life saving, and sewing and cooking. My little girls wanted to do them all. I appreciate the point that probably the "overlapping" cases would be few, but it might be worth considering.

The main point of commendation is the fact that all the offered activities were not only fun, but definitely constructive teaching. Certainly swimming for fun, and life saving are most valuable recreational activities. I'm glad that my daughters had that opportunity.

The dancing classes for the youngsters were a wholesome outlet for their energies, and also had the added value of some social training. I would like to suggest that a class in social dancing for these pre-adolescents would be a valuable addition to the program. A qualified teacher of dancing could do much, besides giving technical instruction in correct dancing, to give the children proper standards of social behaviour at such activities.

When my little daughters came home from sewing lessons with dirndl skirts and pretty aprons, and from cooking lessons with apple pies, cinnamon buns and cookies, I again offered thanks for the opportunities for such valuable ways in which to spend their time. That is the keynote of the program, as I see it. Fun, happy and healthful activities, yes, but more . . . a constructive education, and I hope, a growing habit of wholesome recreation. A town SHOULD offer that to its young people. I am proud that Southern Pines is doing such a splendid job. Again, my thanks and appreciation.

GRACE E. THWING

With the following letters received since the county beer-wine vote, The Pilot declares the issue at an end as far as the Public Speaking space is concerned, unless and until it is reopened as matter for public action.

We feel everyone has now had a chance to have his or her fair say. The vote has been held, the issue decided for the present.—Ed.

To the Pilot.

Shout hosannas! The Millennium is here. The solid citizens of Moore county, in all their aroused righteousness and abundant wisdom, have voted the county officially, legally, and, perhaps, irrevocably "DRY."

With the outlawing of all alcoholic beverages (with the exception of whiskey, rum, gin, and brandy, which, of course, do not count) Moore county can become known as a "County Without Sin." Let me offer this suggestion to all merchants in the county who sell yard goods: stock up immediately with all the white cloth you can get, as we good people shall doubtless wish to go about attired in white robes, in keeping with our newly-won saintly status, and in anticipation of the time when we shall sprout wings from our shoulder blades and join the other angels.

Sincerely,

RUSSELL E. POWELL

CHAIRMAN GETS MAIL

To the Pilot.

It is gratifying that Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen voted so overwhelmingly FOR the legal sale of beer and wine, with a majority of 73 per cent. It is also interesting to note that the property owners in this area pay a major portion of the total taxes in Moore county.

In spite of all our efforts to keep the campaign on a high level, the opposition that carried the county is typified by the following excerpts from letters addressed to me:

From Vass: "We find your letter a great insult to all the citizens in Moore County or to the citizens that is something and not like those who try to be something and is not. And this letter of yours brings down the reputation of Southern Pines to have such a citizen (or so-called) citizen in their present. If the County becomes dry the bootleggers will not take as big a hold as you write about. I say again I think the letter was an insult to all the citizens in Moore County that has some respect for the County. As for the

others, they are as common and low down as anyone can possibly get to be, so if you want the decision here we will vote dry. And I think if some of the old bootleggers in Southern Pines would vote dry the County would be in a better fix today and we wouldn't have to be having the election for voting 'wet or dry.'"

From Robbins: "How can you use the word Christian in writing to scores of people trying to get them to vote for something the Bible speaks against; simply this. Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and who so ever is deceived thereby is not wise. Did you know that our colored people skin was colored as an ill effect of Wine. Read Genesis."

From Carthage: "In a letter I received from you this morning you asked some questions that I am going to answer for you. You state that 'we in Moore County have been forced to vote upon an issue dividing sober, thoughtful Christians who should be united.' The only ones that have been divided are sober, thoughtful Christians and the drunkards and beer crowd."

There is obvious evidence of the calibre of the writers of such letters, especially in their abuse of the Scriptures. What can you expect from such an electorate?

Very truly yours,

JOHN S. RUGGLES

Southern Pines.

QUOTES SCRIPTURE

To the Pilot:

Judging from the attacks made upon me by Mr. Ruggles in your paper, it seems that he is out for the scalps of everyone who does not accept his views on Legal Control, including preachers' along with mine. He assumes my stand may just as well be for legal or illegal control on wine and beer, since some people will drink in spite of any law, but he is wrong. I am 100 per cent against drink, legal or illegal. The difference is that with Legal Control, our nation is responsible to God for all who are slain by alcoholic beverages, and that brings punishment for all, while if a person will drink, even if he has to make it, the punishment rests upon him alone.

Mr. Ruggles criticised others who do not take the stand he has, and can't see that he gives no ground whatsoever based upon our highest authority, the Bible, and seemingly expects others to acknowledge he is absolutely right. Since Mr. Ruggles picked my remarks and quotations concerning drink out from all the others, I will confine my present remarks to that field. I will select my quotations from the Bible, my sole source of authority. Mr. Ruggles says he was brought up in the church; so was I. He says he heard the Scriptures explained by experts; so did I, some of them at the very top, and whom I knew well. He claims he has studied the Bible many years and has a "better than average layman's knowledge of the Bible." The latter I could not claim. Though I have studied the Bible daily for 65 years, and taught it many years, I can only claim to be the "amateur" Mr. Ruggles labeled me, nor would I be so presumptuous as to make such a claim were I to study the Scriptures 165 years.

I would appreciate very much a copy of the International Sunday School lesson of which Mr. Ruggles accuses me of copying, since I, myself, have never seen it. I am a shut-in, and seldom see a copy of a Sunday School Quarterly; however, as I quoted with my Bible in front of me, I would assume that the International lessons were taken from the same source. Since Mr. Ruggles does not "glish" my "demanding" that he accept my "own interpretations," I wish to state that he is assuming too much to think that my remarks or quotations were directed at himself any more than anyone whose shoe fits the foot.

Seeing where our nation is heading, legalizing so many things that cause the people to sin, I, like many others, wished to call the people's attention to the danger before it is too late, for God has always punished His people when they kept on in that which He forbade. We have only to read "Chronicles" to see that. Though Mr. Ruggles claims to have more than the average knowledge of the Bible, nowhere have I ever seen anything in it approving drinking, but much condemning it. Although I am just an amateur, I dare to offend Mr. Ruggles by quoting from the Bible. God is Omnipotent, and His Word is true. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and who-so-ever is deceived thereby is not wise." "Woe unto him that putteth drink to his neighbor's lips." "Look not on the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, for in the end it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an addor." "But they also erred through

wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is not a place clean." "If meat causeth thy brother to offend, eat no more meat while the world stands." A tree is known by its fruits.

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