

THE PILOT

Southern Pines

North Carolina

"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep this a good paper. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Wherever 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.

Shortsighted Policy on Indians

As this is written early this week, the Harnett County controversy over admission of a few Indian pupils to schools at Dunn has not been settled—but the refusal of the Harnett school board to admit the Indians had been made known throughout the world.

However the board of education views the matter, most of the nation—not to mention those vast areas of the world which are sensitive to racial conflicts—see the board's attitude as Sanders does in his cartoon on this page today. Even the mayor of Dunn is sympathetic with the Indians in their effort to stop having to make a 70-mile round trip to go to

school each day in another county, because Harnett provides no special facilities for them.

North Carolina Indians for the most part have a record of good citizenship. Their Pembroke College, attended by both white and Indian students, is an institution of some stature. And persons of good will will remember always, with gratitude and amusement, their routing of the Ku Klux Klan in the well-known incident of several years ago.

The shortsighted attitude of the Harnett board of education has created untold, unnecessary disapproval for North Carolina and the United States.

Protection of School Time

Our attention has been called to an editorial from the Salisbury Post, commenting favorably on the "theme for education" adopted by the Rowan County board of education for the county schools there this year: "Protection of School Time for a Quality Curriculum."

The editorial continues:

"Even though this slogan will never catch the public's fancy like the snappy 'Snap Back with Stanback,' its objective should be of utmost concern to all persons interested in a good school system.

"Educators are declaring war on all activities that encroach upon the limited amount of time available for educational purposes.

"Such activities include selling tickets, booster buttons or magazines, Halloween parties, music festivals, photographs for school annuals, miscellaneous announcements, and meetings of organizations that have no educational value.

"This new policy does not mean that there will be no more Halloween parties,

clubs or pictures in the school annual. It does mean that such activities will be done on the student's time, not the time set aside for education.

"With an avalanche of organizations—most of them worthy ones, too—horning in on school time, school officials had to crack down on the intruders. We'd say it was high time they did!"

The Pilot has long advocated such a policy in the local schools and has gone on to urge abolition of the mid-week basketball game which, though not played on school time, cuts a large hunk of study time out of a night that should be one of the main homework nights of the week for high school students.

The Rowan County theme is one on which most parents and educators can agree. In fact, we have the feeling that a great many of the students themselves would like to eliminate activities that interfere with school work. An increasing number of young people, we find, are taking the business of education more and more seriously.

'The Church Is Not the Candidate'

"The church is not the candidate"—thus spoke a Charlotte Baptist pastor, Dr. Claud U. Broach who reasonably suggests that Protestant-Catholic rivalry be taken out of politics and be confined to the realm of theology where it belongs.

"There are many well-founded reasons why Protestants should be on guard against aggressive political ambitions of the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church," said Dr. Broach, "and there are vast differences in our theology. But the church is not the candidate."

Those seven words are ones to remember and ponder as the political campaign progresses this fall.

Sen. John F. Kennedy, the Democratic presidential candidate whose Catholicism makes him not acceptable to some voters, has taken the lead in speaking directly on this controversial matter.

The Pilot reprinted his eloquent words on the subject at the Democratic convention, after his nomination. His subsequent comments on the religious issue have been equally as convincing.

He has noted, for instance, that the First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the separation of church and state. On this very important point (which in our opinion makes the whole controversy superfluous), Senator Kennedy said:

"No church should undertake to impose its views on public agencies; and no public agency should single out for attack any church or church organization. Under the First Amendment, our government cannot—directly or indirectly, carelessly or intentionally—select any religious body for favorable or unfavorable treatment."

At the recent Washington press conference

Congratulations, Cameron

According to a report made to the county commissioners on Monday by the Cameron Volunteer Fire Department, families within a three-mile radius of Cameron will enjoy a cut of about 20 per cent in their fire insurance premiums as a result of establishment of a "fire district" that received its final, official approval August 1.

A news story elsewhere in today's Pilot tells the details of the district's establishment and the vigorous efforts that have been made by the people of Cameron to set up and equip the fire department properly.

Because the people of Cameron, with the help and cooperation of the county commissioners, went about setting up their rural fire department to meet all requirements, the residents of the area will enjoy the insurance advantage, not to mention the security of having fire protection available, for years to come.

We join the county commissioners in commending the Cameron volunteers, and all who helped them, on a job well done.

ence with North Carolina editors, which was attended by some Moore County folks, Kennedy was warmly applauded by Tar Heel editors when he said:

"I cannot believe in 1960 that the American people are going to say I should not be President because I go to . . . I can see people not wanting to vote for me and not wanting to vote for the Democratic party. But to make their decision on this—to say it is all right for me to serve in the Senate, all right for me to serve in the House, all right for me to serve in the Navy, all right for my brother to serve in the Navy and lose his life, but not all right for me to be President—I just can't believe people are going to make that kind of judgment."

T. J. Lassiter, editor of the non-daily Smithfield Herald, a newspaper that is close to the grass roots, asked Kennedy at the press conference: "Although you have made many forthright statements on the religion issue, some Democrats in our state and in my county continue to be disturbed. They question whether you would be a free man as President—that is, free to resist any pressures to come from the Catholic Church. Is there anything you can say to reassure the people who are disturbed by the religion issue?"

Senator Kennedy replied:

"Yes—two things. First, as President of the United States, I would take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, including the principle of church and state separation. The oath is an oath taken before God. If I broke that oath, not only would I be violating the Constitution of the United States, I would be violating the laws of God. Second, the President operates in a goldfish bowl. Everything he does is watched closely. It is inconceivable that a President under such circumstances would attempt to violate the Constitution or do anything that would cause great disunity in this nation."

All three of these statements by the Democratic candidate have a ring of truth about them, truth in their substance—what they say—and truth in their being said by this particular man at this particular time.

Reading the statements carefully, one wonders indeed what the "religion issue" which looms so large in the outlook of some persons can be about after all. What do these persons think that Kennedy could do or would do—against the pressure of the Constitution and a predominantly Protestant public opinion—to endanger or hurt the nation?

We urge readers who have their doubts about Kennedy, on a religious basis, to keep in mind those seven important words: "The church is not the candidate."

"Who Do You Think You Are? Americans Or Something?"



TITANS FACE EACH OTHER

From Manchester (England)
Guardian

The contest now going on between the leaders of the Soviet Union and China is at once awe-inspiring and tortuous. The two groups, it is now clear, are so deeply divided on certain essential matters that they don't mind advertising their differences to the world—though so far only indirectly. The importance of these co-equal Titans and their potential danger to the world needs no emphasis; neither do the consequences of a falling out between them, such as has often been prophesied since the Chinese Communists' victory eleven years ago. Yet the struggle between the leaders of the two sides remains as yet wrapped up in jargon and precautionary measures. Newspaper articles have carried forward the dispute, as have gestures such as the Chinese refusal to attend (of all things) an orientalist's congress in Moscow.

What the dispute is about is clear enough beneath the din of Marxist text-thumping from both contestants. Now, as for years past, the Peking leadership takes a view of home and especially foreign affairs which to the more timorous Mr. Khrushchev seems rash—indeed perilous. Peking not only denies the expediency of seeking local accommodation with the West, keeping up friendships with "bourgeois" Governments in the uncommitted countries, and generally renouncing any notion of forwarding the spread of communism by violent means. It seems at times positively to rejoice in the prospects of a war with the "Imperialists." This, it suggests, is bound to come sometime; better now than later.

It is clear by now that not only Mr. Khrushchev but the temper

of Russia forty-three years after the revolution is set against this kind of apocalyptic faith in victory through world-wide disaster. The Soviet leadership has also shown itself sceptical of China's breakneck expansion at home, especially through the communes, though here Peking too has had second thoughts. The question now is how far the two sides will go in contending for the leadership of the international Communist movement. At the Bucharest meeting in June Mr. Khrushchev seemed to have confirmed Soviet leadership over the lesser parties; since then Soviet propaganda has sought in veiled terms to exact compliance from the Chinese as well. The Chinese have so far, stood their ground; their latest retort to charges of "dogmatism" and "sectarianism" is to suggest

that they would be ready to manage without Soviet economic aid if need be. They still have friends among the Communists in the emergent nations even though their brutal conduct in matters like Tibet and the Indian frontier dispute has lost them credit in the new nations at large. On the face of it both Peking and Moscow would have everything to lose by going as far as an open breach. Each is immensely important to the other's defence. Yet, not even Communist leaders can always follow their material interests. For co-equal Titans to stand together is always difficult. If either side becomes convinced that the other insists on defense policies which must be highly dangerous to both, the two may reach breaking point without having intended it.

The Irony in Voting Rights

From the Bertie Ledger-Dispatch

There is good evidence that millions of Americans are not much interested in their American citizenship. They can, one would think, take it or leave it alone. Many leave it alone on election day, the time when a citizen can most effectively make his influence felt in the conduct of government.

There is a biting irony in this. For while these millions of indifferent citizens fail to exercise the right and privilege and obligation of voting, others are engaged in a struggle to assure this right for themselves.

The irony was pointed up one recent day when various newspapers printed a story about a drive to register an estimated 6,500,000 men and women in Midwestern states who are not registered to vote in the November

elections. On the same day, there was news about the U. S. Civil Right Commission's investigation of complaints by Louisiana Negroes that they have been denied the right to register or have found their names purged from registration lists.

Americans who take lightly the responsibilities of citizenship dishonor the past and taint the future. They show little regard for the sacrifices of those who made tyrants acknowledge the people's right to govern; they show little understanding of a prime fact about self-rule—that it withers away if it is not exercised.

REASON FOR INDUSTRY

"North Carolina is lucky in a sense—you might say fortunate—that it hasn't been over-industrialized. The state failed to get in on the beginning of the First American Industrial Revolution and suffered because it didn't. Yet it may have been just as well.

"For we now have an opportunity of avoiding the mistakes of the earlier revolution—mistakes that brought about crowding and slums and a waste of resources.

"We need to concern ourselves with the avoidance of slum crowding and pollution of our rivers and streams.

"We don't want new industry just so we can point out to a visiting cousin the number of smokestacks we have or to be able to raise the level of the state's industrial statistics in the nation's catalog.

"We are interested in new industry for only one reason—to provide a better living and to be able to enjoy a better living."

—From a speech by Terry Sanford, Democratic candidate for governor of North Carolina

Grains of Sand

Who Are You?

Last year, 9,032 residents of North Carolina turned to the U. S. Bureau of the Census for help in proving they were born. These persons were among an estimated 30 million United States residents who are without proof of age or birth.

Where to Write

Since 1920 the Census Bureau has provided more than three and one-half million persons with copies of their Census records on age, place of birth, citizenship, or kinship. Persons seeking such records of facts about themselves should write to the Personal Census Service Branch, Bureau of the Census, Pittsburgh, Kansas, for a Census Records Search Application Form.

Confidential

The personal information in the records of the 1900 and later Censuses is confidential by law and may be furnished only upon the written request of the person to whom it relates or, for a proper purpose, a legal representative such as guardian or administrator of an estate. Information regarding a child who has not reached legal age may be obtained upon the written request of either parent.

Types of Requests

When the Founding Fathers made constitutional provision for a decennial count of the population to determine allocation of representatives in Congress, they could not have foreseen how the Census would yield a by-product of such direct benefit to many of the people it would count.

Requests for personal census records range from the routine—persons who realize they are without legal proof of birth or age and want to be prepared "if anything comes up," to those of desperation—citizens with plans made for a trip abroad who are suddenly faced with a no-birth-certificate, no-passport situation, old people unable to obtain needed assistance without proof of age; persons unable to claim their rightful shares of estates because of inability to prove relationship.

Records Destroyed

Since it was 1920 before the last State adopted compulsory birth registration, many persons born before that time did not have their births recorded. Even persons who keep orderly records—with or without governmental urging—sometimes find themselves without necessary credentials of existence.

Fire and flood and fate in various other forms have a destructive way with even the best-kept records. Those of the U. S. Census have not been immune. Some of the early census records were burned by the British in 1814 and practically all those of the 1890 Census were destroyed in a government building fire in 1921.

Down through the years, various events in the national life have jolted citizens out of their perhaps reasonable assumption that their physical presence was proof enough that they had been born, and that what their parents told them was sufficient information as to where and when.

Vanishing Job?

Logically, the job of the Census record searcher is one which will eventually work itself out of existence, since birth registration has now been compulsory in all States for nearly 40 years, and as older persons without birth certificates either obtain Census transcripts or die without proper proof that they were ever born.

However, with an estimated 30 million Americans still without legal proof of birth, this possibility does not worry the present staff of searchers. Requests for personal census records have averaged 200,000 a year over recent years.

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Published Every Thursday by
THE PILOT, Incorporated
Southern Pines, North Carolina

1941—JAMES BOYD—1944

Katharine Boyd Editor
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C. G. Council Advertising
Mary Scott Newton Business
Bessie Cameron Smith Society
Composing Room
Dixie B. Ray, Michael Valen, Jasper Swearingen, Thomas Mattocks and James C. Morris.

Subscription Rates:

One Year \$4. 6 mos. \$2. 3 mos. \$1

Entered at the Postoffice at Southern Pines, N. C., as second class mail matter.

Member National Editorial Assn. and N. C. Press Assn.

The Public Speaking

Family Enjoys Stay
In Southern Pines

To the Editor:

Within the next few days, having fulfilled my military obligation at near-by Fort Bragg, my family and I will leave Southern Pines. Our experiences with the town and its people have been predominantly favorable, and our departure is not unaccompanied with a certain regret.

In retrospect, there are a number of things that stand out in our minds. We found here in Southern Pines, the most competent, informed, and helpful pharmacist we have ever come in contact with. We found that this area justifiably boasts of exceptional medical facilities with highly qualified and renowned doctors. We found a progressive municipal administration run by accommodating individuals; a filling station owner who genuinely appre-

ciated our business and who certainly deserved it; a comparatively substantial library; a modern traffic department; and a considerable weekly newspaper with thorough local coverage.

Naturally, there are a few negatives in our recollections; the garageman who tied up my car for a week and did little good for it and still less good to my wallet; the TV repairman who underestimated the value of business courtesy and who overestimated the value of his services, and one or two other such incidents.

But, these, of course, are minor and do not greatly detract from the favorable whole. Southern Pines has been good to us and good for us and we have fully enjoyed our stay. You have a fine and pretty town of which you may well be proud—and we shall miss it.

(NAME WITHHELD
BY REQUEST)