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Elder D. C. Johnson

This Veteran Preacher Says:

"Some time ago a prominent Democrat asked me to tell what it would take to bring me back to the Democratic party. I told him to just show me one thing that the Republicans had done so bad that the Democrats had not been guilty of something just as dirty, and that would bring me back.

"I asked him if the Democrats had ever changed the tax lists after people had listed their taxes, so that the value of the property showed on the records different from the way

it had been given in, and he told me they had.

"I have found by investigation that instead of my taxes having been raised as the Democrats had told me, the Republicans have actually lowered them considerably by reducing the tax rate \$2.00 on each \$1,000.00 worth of property.

This \$85,000.00 reduction in the taxes of the people of Johnston County that the Republicans are giving us this year, is something that we have never enjoyed before in all our lives, and we appreciate it."

WELL KNOWN MINISTER GIVES HIS VIEWS ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION

Well-Known Minister Gives His Views on the Political Situation, Stresses the Need of More Love, Truth and Honesty in Politics—Urges Taxpayers to Stand by Their Friends.

(By REV. D. C. JOHNSON)

Editor Johnstonian-Sun: Please allow me space in your paper in which to express to your many readers some of my views in regard to the present political situation in Johnston County.

I am not a candidate for any office either by election or appointment, and I am not a politician, but as a citizen I desire to see right and justice prevail. I had been a Democrat until 1928, when at the age of 74 years I decided that it was my duty as a citizen and a man who was trying to serve God to make a change. During the last two years a number of things have transpired to cause me to fully realize that I did the right thing when I changed my support from the Democrats to the Republicans. I did not change because I hated the Democrats; I love the old true Democratic principles.

For several years I had realized that the Democratic leaders were straying off from the great principles advocated by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and other great statesmen, which principles I had loved; but I had tried to overlook the many faults of the Democrats until 1928, when they deserted all good things about the party except the name, and then allowed Tammany Hall with its 100 years of crime, theft, and corruption, to take full charge of the name "Democrat" and use it in an effort to put in the Whitehouse as President of the United States a wet Roman Catholic leader of the New York Tammany organization, which organization is looked upon as an agency of the Pope of Rome.

It is year the Tammany following J. W. Bailey as their candidate. U. S. Senator to succeed Bettie Ware,

Senator Simmons. Bailey was manager in North Carolina for Al Smith in 1928, and now the whole Tammany outfit is trying to elect Bailey, and evidently depending on his support in the senate, if he should be elected, to help them in their efforts to gain control of our government.

The Republicans have in Congressman George M. Pritchard, a candidate for Senator who is a Christian gentleman and statesman. I consider him worthy of the vote of every man and woman in the state of North Carolina. I would just as soon vote for Al Smith as Josiah W. Bailey, as they are both working together, and Bailey is indebted to Al Smith, chairman Raskob and the whole Tammany crowd, for the aid they gave him in defeating Senator Simmons in the June primary.

After reading the disgusting stuff that has been printed in the Smithfield Herald lately, and noticing the kind of campaign that the Democratic leaders are conducting in Johnston County this year, I am bound to say that if they have any good principles, or any regard at all for truth and honesty, they have a poor way of showing it.

Last week one Democrat told me that the value of my personal property had been raised since I listed it last April. I made a trip to Smithfield, went into the County Auditor's office, looked at the records and found everything just as I had listed it. Then they told me that my taxes would be much higher this year than in 1929. One Democrat told me that he knew that the taxes would be higher because he had already received his notice showing the amount of his 1930 taxes. I then went to the office of D. W. Parker, county tax collector, and told him what I had heard. Mr. Parker said that nobody in Johnston County had received a tax notice for 1930, because at that time none had been made out; and that they were waiting on superintendent H. B. Marrow who had delayed the work of getting out the tax notices

by failing to furnish the County Commissioners with the tax rates for the special tax school districts of the County, which rates it was his duty to have furnished several months ago. The Democrats were telling the taxpayers that the Republicans were holding back the tax notices, when according to Mr. Parker Mr. Marrow, one of the Democrats, was holding back this work by failing to furnish the rates.

A few days ago a Democrat said to me that if I was going to vote as a Democrat this year he wanted me to help him to get appointed as keeper of the County home. I told him I was going to vote the Republican ticket, and that ended our conversation.

Some time ago a prominent Democrat asked me to tell him what it would take to bring me back to the Democratic party. I told him to just show me one thing that the Republicans had done so bad that the Democrats had not been guilty of something just as dirty, and that would bring me back.

I asked him if the Democrats had ever changed the tax lists after people had listed their taxes, so that the value of the property showed on the records different from the way it had been given in, and he told me they had. There seems to be just a plenty of evidence that the Democrats have made such changes without giving any hearings in the matter. I have found by investigation that instead of my taxes having been raised as the Democrats had told me, the Republicans have actually lowered them considerably by reducing the tax rate \$2.00 on each thousand dollars worth of property, which is a great help in this period of low prices.

This \$85,000.00 reduction in the taxes of the people of Johnston County that the Republicans are giving us this year, is something that we have never enjoyed before in all our lives, and we appreciate it.

The Democrats are now going over the County abusing the Republicans and telling the people that the Republicans have made changes in their tax lists for 1930.

If the Republicans have made changes, why in the name of high heavens is all this stir about it, when it is a well known fact that the Democrats have done the same thing; and likely much more of it, as they have served longer in office.

The laws of our state provide for the County Commissioners to sit as an equalizing board each year for the purpose of equalizing the property values, and it is right that they should be equalized. The right thing is what we should all stand for.

If the Republicans were guilty of everything that the Democrats have charged against them in this campaign, and the sum and substance of the whole thing was set down by the side of the Democratic record for the last 30 years in Johnston County, I think the Republicans would then be fully as well fixed as the Democrats are at this time.

Now my Christian friends and fellow citizens, these things are not pleasant to talk about, or to think about, but when we go back and look at the past records, we have to face the facts as they are.

I came near leaving the Democratic party during the days of the red shirt mobs. My old friend George Wilson was also about to leave and hundreds of others did go over to the Republicans because of the bad things done in the name of democracy.

In 1924 the voters turned the County over to the Republicans and when the records of the former Democratic officials were checked up by the expert accountants, and they reported shortages in the public funds of more than \$160,000.00 in the clerk's office, sheriff's office, and Register of Deeds office, and W. T. Adams, former Register of Deeds, was sent to the state penitentiary, that gave me the greatest political shock of my life, and it caused me to think more seriously than ever before about what my duty was as a Christian and an honest and patriotic citizen.

In 1926 the Democrats came back into office with another batch of fine promises and we surely did expect that they would keep straight for at least two years and try to economize, but they immediately began raising salaries, creating new political jobs and then made a great raise in taxes, some people's taxes being about doubled.

A little later there began to be complaints similar to those that were common several years ago about drunkenness and neglect of duty in connection with the Register of Deeds office, and this grew worse

until a few weeks before the 1928 election when Neil Barnes whose salary had been raised from \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 a year, got out, or was put out, leaving a reported shortage in his marriage license account with the state of North Carolina amounting to about \$1,400.00 and it is understood that about half of this is yet unpaid.

Previous to the 1924 election it had been the boast of the Democratic politicians that no shortage had ever been found in the accounts of any Democratic County officials. The publishers of The Smithfield Herald never tired of repeating this as their glad refrain, and warning the voters against taking any chances on changing their politics for fear of making a mistake. They used that sort of stuff right up to the 1924 election, and the publishers and every Democratic leader in the County must have known of the shortage existing in the various offices, and especially of the hidden report of A. M. Pullen & Co., who had audited the clerk's office, which reports was said to have been hidden away in a vault instead of being published and letting the taxpayers know that there was a shortage in that office of more than \$37,000.00.

Now the question arises, if these Democratic leaders and publishers deceived us then, what reason have we now to trust them or to believe what they are saying about the Republicans? They stand before the public discredited by their own records.

It is not reasonable to expect the Republicans to undo in two years all the mischief that the Democrats had done in 30 years before the Republicans came into office. We were already loaded down with Democratic debts when the Republicans came in.

To every voter I want to say, Consider well the issues before casting your ballot. If you are not satisfied that the Republicans are the friends of the taxpayers, go to the court house as I did and see for yourself what the records there show. Don't listen to this talk about taxes being higher. Go and see about it.

We all know that instead of reducing taxes the Democrats have kept on putting them up higher.

Now that we have in office men who are giving us some real tax reduction, let's not let the Democrats by false and misleading statements divert our minds from the facts or cause us to vote against the best friends that we, as taxpayers, have ever had in the court house. I fear that a great many people will allow themselves to be fooled into voting the Democratic ticket who will later find out that they have voted against their own interest.

We need in politics more love, truth, and honesty.

To the boxholders I wish to say, on the 4th of November give us a fair deal and then you will be able to lift up your heads and number the Republicans among your friends and to taste the pleasure that it will bring, you will then be able to sing,

How happy are they
Who the laws obey
And tongues cannot express the
Sweet comfort and peace of a
Soul in its earliest love.
That sweet comfort is mine
When there favor I find
And fall at his feet
And the sweet story repeat,
That the world is under His feet.

Tax Question Chief Issue

The chief issue in this campaign in the tax question.

If you want higher taxes vote the Democratic ticket, but if you want lower taxes vote the Republican ticket.

The Republicans have this year given us the first tax reduction we ever had.

BE SURE TO VOTE NEXT TUESDAY. VOTE EARLY

The new balloting law will require more time to vote than usual and for that reason you should go to the polls early and cast your ballot in order to get through with it before the day is too far spent. If you wait too long you may not get the chance to vote in this important election.

Who Are Responsible For High Taxes?

The good citizens of Johnston County are discussing among themselves the different issues that the two political parties are bringing before them, and my observations of the whole matter is that our Democratic friends are seeking office, not on their past record in Johnston county, but are raising lots of gossip about taxes. That seems to be the main issue. Well, let's see who is responsible for high taxes in Johnston County. Have you good people in Johnston county forgotten who it was that valued your property in 1927 when tax values took another leap skyward? I ask you good people if the last one of them were not Democrats? Certainly they were. The people in my own township are now, and have been grumbling over high taxes and it has reached the point under such high valuations on real estate that the taxes are more than they can bear. When the valuation on our property was placed there by the Democratic appraisers themselves without consulting we land owners about it. I own a very small portion of real estate to compare with others, I know, but the taxes I pay now have increased over twenty times since 1910, and each time these values have been raised they were raised by Democrats just as has been done in the case of every other tax payer in Johnston county, as the Republicans have never valued our real estate. The Democrats have been in power in Johnston county ever since I can remember with the exception of 1925-26 and from December, 1928 up until the present. When the Republicans came into power in Johnston county in 1924 they found the affairs of our county in the rottenest condition of any county in the state, so far as has been revealed. From the clerk of the court all the way down the line there was shortages in the account of the county officials running up to about \$170,000. I don't blame them to go from house to house, repenting before the people asking the people to give them another trial. I have always stood for a square deal for every man, regardless of his political affiliations, because it has always been a custom in the United States to have two political parties, and it should be the desire of each party when in power to give the people the best service they possibly can, and this the Republican party in Johnston county has tried to do.

The citizens of this county are entitled to good roads and schools, but when we arrive at the point where we can't pay the required amount of taxes to maintain them, what will be the remedy? We see what is happening in Wake county where people's homes are being sold for taxes and will not bring enough to pay the taxes on them.

The Democrats promise to reduce taxes, but they never have, nor never will. The Republicans cut salaries in the administrative offices of Johnston county over which they had absolute authority, but the Democrats refused to co-operate with them in their economy program. The Democrats went before a Democratic legislature and had a law passed fixing their salaries so that no cut could be made by the Republican county commissioners.

As Road Commissioners for the Fourth District I have done my best to see that all sections of my district has had an equal share of these road taxes. I have not discriminated against anyone on account of his or her political affiliations. The employees in my district have discharged their duties remarkably well. Some shifting of employ was made on account of booze, but I didn't think too much booze would meet the approval of our good citizens in the county. I like to see people stay sober when they are drawing a salary from the county.

Mr. Taxpayer, on November 4th, go to the polls and vote for the men you honestly believe will give you the best administration, and if you'll do that, I am sure that Johnston County will remain in the hands of the Republican party.

WALTER BATTEN.
Micro, N. C.



MISS LUMA McLAMB

The above picture is that of Miss Luma McLamb, who is the very efficient Register of Deeds of Johnston County, and who is again running on the Republican ticket for re-election in this coming election. Miss McLamb's work has been very efficient throughout her entire term and at no time has the Register of Deeds office been better kept or prompter service been given through that office than during her term. She states that all papers filed in that office each day are promptly recorded the same day they are received and ready to be returned to the owners of same, which is a record to be envied by any Register of Deeds office, as it would be hard to find another to measure up to this point of high efficiency. Miss McLamb, during the past two years, has begun and has half completed, a new typewritten index system which she says she expects to donate to Johnston County when she retires from that office, if she is retained two more years. Before beginning this work she asked one or two concerns who do indexing as to what they would charge for a system such as she is putting in and was told that it was worth about \$3,300, so it will be seen that if she completes this work and give it to the county free of charge she is rendering a great service to the taxpayers of the county.



W. H. MASSEY

The above is a photograph of William Henry Massey of Princeton, N. C., who is a candidate on the Republican ticket for Clerk of Superior Court of Johnston County.

At the present time Mr. Massey is engaged in farming and practicing law. He was born and raised in Boon Hill Township and still lives there. Having served the County two years, 1925 and 1926 as Solicitor of Recorder's Court he is well known throughout the County. If elected he will of necessity have to move to the County Seat and devote his entire time to the duties of the office. Realizing the fact that the Office of Clerk of Superior Court is one of the most important and busiest of all public offices in the County, and realizing that the office requires efficient and honorable persons to fulfill and discharge the duties of said office, Mr. Massey is highly recommended by those that know him in common, to be capable in every way and deserves the respect and support of the citizens of Johnston County on November 4th when they go to cast their ballots. The confidence and support of the people on election day will be gratefully appreciated by Mr. Massey and he promises if elected, that he will serve the people with the very best of his ability to do so.