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EDITORIAL

CHOOSE YOUR LEADERS

● ● This Saturday, Oct. 19th and next Saturday, Oct. 26th, are the last days you can register to vote, in case you are not now on the County-State registration books. If you desire to exercise your democratic right to vote for the next President and Vice President of the United States and for the next Governor and other State officials of North Carolina, you must be registered in order to vote on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 5th.

Our first interest is that all qualified vote in this most important election. You will not have another chance to vote for a President or a Governor for four years and these next four years are fraught with fearsome possibilities. World conditions today are more chaotic than ever in the recorded history of man.

America and England, lands where folks are still free, stand almost alone as countries where folks can still go and vote without fear or favor for those of their choice. This coming election may decide whether folks in this country can still go to the polls and vote as they wish; or whether as in Germany, you vote for one man or face a firing squad.

Every man and woman in Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County over 21 years of age, who has lived in this county for six months and in this State for 12 months past, should be registered in order to vote on Nov. 5th.

We are not telling you how to vote; we are telling you what you should do in order to vote. If you have not been on the books since the last new county-wide registration, find out who your registrar is, find out where your precinct polling place is, go there this Saturday or next and give your name, age and address to that registrar so you can vote on Nov. 5th.

You say you are a citizen of the United States; you love your country; . . . then be a voter and choose your leaders.

THE EMERGENCY IS HERE

● ● He can "be a very great man in an emergency".

This decided Dorothy Thompson, best known woman columnist in the U. S., last week to come out whole-heartedly for Roosevelt.

Miss Thompson had just lunched with Mr. Wendell Willkie, whom she knows personally, told him she was coming out against him unless he could change her mind. He failed to do so.

Time Magazine reports her Roosevelt reasons: his experience, his prestige in the Democratic world (England, China, South America, Canada, what are left of free peoples in Europe, Asia and Africa). Her belief, also, that he has the confidence of the rank and file. (That's us). Time is of the essence, said Miss Thompson, and Willkie

1940 SACK RACE



does not have the time to win confidence and to gain experience.

Our own personal experience, after visiting various parts of Halifax County, is that some usual staunch Democrats of the upper class, as compared to the rank and file, are a little lukewarm toward the Roosevelt-Wallace ticket. We admit it only to say it makes us want to fight harder, knowing that most of them have prospered well during the past eight years and many of them prospered not so well during the eight years before.

But "the rank and file" are with Roosevelt. He has their confidence. He has proved himself their friend indeed when they were in need. We warn the rank and file only of this: don't take undue advantage of a real friend; like the Negroes in New York did when they issued the kind of stupid political propaganda about Willkie that hits below the belt; Mr. Roosevelt has received more harm from well-meaning but ignorant friends and advisers than he ever has from his political enemies.

A very great man in an emergency is what America needs now more than anything else. Roosevelt is not indispensable but he is best-fitted to handle the international emergency which is at our very doorstep.

SELECTIVE TRAINING

● ● We use no soft-soaping words in defining what many term "the draft" as selective training.

Yesterday, more than 2,000 here in Roanoke Rapids registered for a program of national defense which was the only sane, proper and patriotic way to handle a grave problem. A half million in North Carolina registered. More than 15 million in the U. S. registered.

To those young men, between 21 and 36, we look for our own first line of defense.

If this country is worth living in; if our ideals are worth anything; they are worth defending. Any person who is against that sort of thinking should be placed in Class 5 which is just as far away from active service as can be found. We do not want that kind of person defending anything we have worth anything.

It is a sad thought to many parents and young wives to see their loved ones taking the first step that might mean war. But, having been thru one war when we were totally unprepared, we defy even those persons to advance a reasonable and

unselfish argument to the point that, if America must eventually defend itself and keep its position in world affairs, we must be ready; we must be prepared.

Those who would say that we should not prepare until we are at war may be honest in their convictions; but they are lending almost as much aid to the potential enemies which surround us as if they were actually fighting us. Even Boy Scouts are taught to Be Prepared. That means to be prepared for any emergency.

We predict that if the U. S. goes ahead with the plans now under way and selects its men to be trained as real soldiers with the proper care and equipment, we will do more to stop the further spread of war than any other action we might take.

The dictators never thought we would do it. More than 15 million Americans registered for service yesterday. They were between 21 and 36. There is still a great reserve left between 18 and 21 and between 36 and 50. Another 15 million yet uncalled. Let the dictators pause over that.

They have fought this selective training bill; they have flooded our country with pacifist propaganda; they still think us a soft people.

That registration yesterday has done more than anything under the sun to show them the U. S. is not soft, not weak, not vacillating. It has done more than anything else to throw the fear of the future into them. It has done more to hearten the conquered peoples of the globe and those who face conquest.

America is getting prepared. America means business. How such news must bring tears of happiness to the eyes and hearts of millions of oppressed. How it must throw the dictators into a frenzy of fear.

We are proud to report that in Roanoke Rapids and Halifax County our men went to the registration like men, like Americans. To all of them it was a new, grave experience which they faced with courage. We joke a lot, we Americans, but underneath it all is fortitude and stamina which is all that makes any people worth while. We have stood a lot of bluffing from the would-be dictators of the world, that corporation of masterminds which plans world dominance.

We called their hands yesterday.

HOOPS OF STEEL

● Some guy with a real gift of saying what many of us would like to say once wrote: "Let me live by the side of the road and be a friend to man."

We may have disappointed a lot of folks but we have tried to live something like that. We have found it right hard to do.

We have gloried with those we know when they were happy and sitting on the top of the world. We have gone down in the depths of despair with those who have been in sorrow, failure or remorse.

We have had fair-weather friends. We have lost friends by lending them money. We have had sweet-talking and shoulder-wrapping friends. We have had out-leaving friends.

There is but one true test of real friendship: when clouds are blackest; when the rest of the world turns against you; when it is unpopular and impolitic and bad business to stick by a friend when he needs you most. When you stick, if you can, is the real test. There is no other.

The man who lives by the side of the road must learn to take the bitter with the sweet. True friendship sometimes demands both.

Polonius had a way of saying it; we have only this to say: we stick by our friends. Let our enemies spew their worst.

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