

EDITORIALS

REGISTER AND VOTE

The General Assembly has passed the enabling act permitting an election to decide whether or not the people of Raleigh want to change to the city manager form of government or to keep the present system. The election has already been set for March 18, from March 1 through 8 the books will be open for qualified persons whose names are not enrolled already on the city books to register and make themselves eligible to vote in the special election. If you are already enrolled as a qualified voter for city elections you need not register again; but the fact that you are enrolled as a voter in county, state or national election does not mean that your name is also on the city books. If you are not sure about this, check with your precinct registrar.

Then vote on March 18. If you believe that the city manager system offers you and the city of Raleigh a better opportunity for the kind of administration which should prevail, vote for the change. If you think the present system is the better bet, vote against a change. But vote. Don't neglect to register your choice. And don't let someone else tell you how to vote. Use your own judgment after weighing all the facts and opinions you can get hold of on the subject.

SHAME ON WELDON

The police brutality reported from Weldon in the case of Osburn Long savors of South Carolina rather than the Old North State which Senator Hoey proclaims to be so good to its Negro citizens. Of course what happened to Long might have happened to a white person; but in consideration of various other things which periodically befall Negroes in Eastern North Carolina it is not easy for a Negro citizen of the state to assume that the race of the victim had nothing to do with the brutal way in which his rights as a citizen and a human being evidently were brazenly violated.

Negro citizens should act with complete unanimity in seeking whatever redress is appropriate and available in such cases. No Negro is safe when any Negro can be handled in such a way as to lose his sight and suffer other injuries when arrested for any offense, much less on such a minor charge as being drunk and disorderly. Nor can any white person who happens to be persona non grata to those who "enforce" the law and at the same time poor and unimfluent.

Our municipalities must be made to stop employing as law enforcement officers those who are so ignorant and so vicious as to be unworthy of being trusted with the fundamental rights of the humblest inhabitant of the community. All decent citizens should join in effective protest whenever such a thing happens as happened in Weldon. There is no reason for tolerating such behavior from those employed to keep the peace and insure the safety of the citizenry. If Weldon keeps such men on its law enforcement force then Weldon is in pretty bad shape.

WHY THE SALES TAX

A glance at the figures showing tax collections in North Carolina during the past year will show why the general sales tax, adopted as an "emergency" measure, is likely to continue in force for a long time to come. The tax brought into the state treasury during the past biennium more than \$25,000,000, and the estimated revenue from that source for 1947-1948 is \$38,000,000.

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No more is heard on the subject of repeal of the sales tax, avowedly adopted as a depression emergency, with the promise that it would be repealed as soon as the state could get along without it. It is being retained because it yields a big income, and because if repealed it would have to be replaced by higher levies on property, incomes, franchises or something else. The rich and well-to-do favor the sales tax because it permits shifting a substantial part of the tax burden onto those who are too poor to be reached by any other form of tax. The more sales tax paid by the masses with modest and low incomes, the less the great corporations and rich individuals will have to fork over.

Proponents of the sales tax argue that it affects all alike, which is not true. It is true that all pay it; but the 15 cents a 35 cents an hour laborer has to hand the state when he buys his kid a \$5 pair of shoes (if he can find a pair for \$5) hurts him more than the 75 cents the rich man is taxed on a \$25 pair for his wife.

No tax is a fair which does not take into consideration ability to pay.

CAMP JACKSON ONLY

Whatever considerations finally determined the decision of Army authorities to train all Negro soldiers except those in the air arm at Camp Jackson in South Carolina, the decision was a poor one. Whatever advantages the camp may have in other respects, the experience of the Army with training Negro soldiers in camps in the deep South during the war amply demonstrated that such a policy should be avoided whenever possible. Any advantages the camp may otherwise have are very likely to be more than dissipated by what happens to the minds and spirits and morale of Negro troops who are forced to train and live in a section and a community hostile from the start, and committed to the policy of never letting them forget they are Negroes, in uniform or out. Of course there are actual and real physical hazards also.

The Army has done many things which cannot be accounted for on the basis of common sense. The Gillem report, which was supposed to be the blue print to be followed by the Army in its handling of the Negro soldier, definitely warned against the concentration of colored troops in a few southern camps. Yet that is what the brass hats have elected to do.

So they are to go to and stay in South Carolina, where one of their number was blinded by the beating of a peace officer representing the dignity of South Carolina law. They will be quartered in a state in which Negroes are barred from participation in the only elections which have any bearing on state and local government; where by statute, custom and public policy all persons of their race are officially recognized as of an inferior order of human being, their rights not guaranteed, but granted or withheld in any instance by the whim of the white persons who happen to be involved.

Few communities have welcomed the heartiness, even during the war, and fewer have looked with favor on the presence of numbers of Negro soldiers in the vicinity. But certainly the Army could have found a place for its colored troops where they would have been accepted with more tolerance, less crass and bitter prejudice, more inclination to regard them as American citizens with certain fundamental and inherent rights, privileges and immunities.

The only bright spot in the whole thing is that no one is now being drafted. No Negro youth is compelled to enlist or re-enlist in the Army and go to Camp Jackson. There is always the one alternative of staying out of the Army. The decision of the authorities to make the camp near Sumter the sole training post for colored soldiers will certainly have the effect, desired or not, of curtailing Negro enlistment and re-enlistment.



Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

In the Reader's Digest for February there appeared an article on Booker T. Washington by O. K. Armstrong. The article was apparently written for the Reader's Digest, as there is no indication that it was condensed from any other publication.

What is printed in the Reader's Digest on any subject is important for the simple reason that the magazine has an enormous circulation. It influences its readers as enhanced by the fact that many who read it read no other periodical.

Some of the articles which have appeared in the Digest on the Negro and on race relations have not thrilled me. They have been almost invariably weak and pale, cunning to others and expressing the conventional views of southerners who "know the Negro" or others who take patronizing attitudes.

The article on Booker T. Washington is in many respects a piece with the usual Literary Digest offering on the subject of Negroes, and leaves much to be desired. But the recollection of the

old story about how well Booker T. swept the Hampton classroom still carries a punch for me, even when certain other happenings like his speech at the Atlanta Exposition, leave me cold.

When I first read the story as a boy it made a profound impression on me. You remember how

Washington had arrived at Hampton penniless, but determined to get enrolled in the institution and get an education. While it was being decided whether or not he could be admitted an officer of the institution told him to sweep the room. He swept it three times, not once, and dusted it four times. He was admitted.

How much the young Washington's thoroughness in performing the one assignment given him accounted for his acceptance as a student is open to question. How much his desire to succeed inspired him to try to make an unusual impression on the teacher in this isolated instance is also unknown. But I like to think that the conscientiousness with which

the boy performed the humble task was really the deciding factor in his being allowed to stay instead of being turned away, and I also prefer to believe that it was his habitual thoroughness, rather than the momentary nature of the particular occasion which caused him to do his little job in such a way that anyone would have to pronounce it perfect — not almost, but perfect.

By this interpretation the history of the United States was influenced by the sweeping of a room. For had Washington been turned away from Hampton that day he might have gone back to West Virginia and buried himself in the coal mines from whence he came.

Think of all the alternative reactions that might have been evoked by the presentation of a broom to an applicant for admission to an educational institution. Think of how some of the young people you and I know today — some who are no better off financially than the young Washington — would behave in a similar situation.

Lest We Forget.

By W. L. GREENE

The history of excitement among political and public relations people caused by the reappearance in State daily newspapers last week of an advertisement by the Communist Party deserves our consideration and evaluation. The so-called platform outlined by the Chairman of the Carolina Division is not a communist platform at all. The communist platform is couched in the final paragraph in unimpressive type and bears no relation whatsoever to the issues raised in the headlines of preceding paragraphs which are defined by the communist copy writer as their platform. Let's look at the issues and what they REALLY REPRESENT.

1. Raising the living standards — The American creed, sought by Republicans through protective tariffs, and by the Democrats through liberal measures.
2. Meeting the school crisis — The legislative lack of the organized teaching profession and the progressive leadership in both major political parties.
3. A full citizenship for all — the program of every American civic-social organization which has not been already condemned by the majority of right-thinking citizens in all regions of the country.
4. Land for the working farmer — The special program of the National Farmers' Union and the accepted task of workers in rural education under the cooperative extension services of the local, state, and federal governments.
5. Repeal of the sales tax — The program of a respectable and large minority of voters in North Carolina Democrats who have no sympathy with socialism in any political form.
6. The communist program of SOCIALISM which is the ONLY COMMUNIST ISSUE PRESENTED in the above advertisement.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By Rev. M. W. Williams

Subject: The Good Shepherd — John 10:1-16.

Key Verse: "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." John 10:11.

Jesus upon different occasions has rightly claimed Himself as the Good Shepherd (John 6:35); the Light of the world (John 8:12); and the way the Truth and the Life (John 14:6). Today, in the city of Jerusalem, A. D. 32, we shall study in John's Gospel where he declares himself "The Good Shepherd." There were certain conditions surrounding Jesus, which prompted each claim. The condition which prompted Him to say, He was the Good Shepherd may be traced to the Pharisees casting the man out of the synagogue whom Jesus had given sight. Here was a poor man socially ostracized by the very crowd who should have given him moral and spiritual leadership. May we think too, that Jesus was thinking of that Old Testament scripture from Isaiah describing Christ as the Good Shepherd (Isa. 40:11). Then too, the people in Palestine were familiar with the shepherds and the tender care they gave their sheep so it would be easy to teach them by this parable. The Shepherd and Sheep.

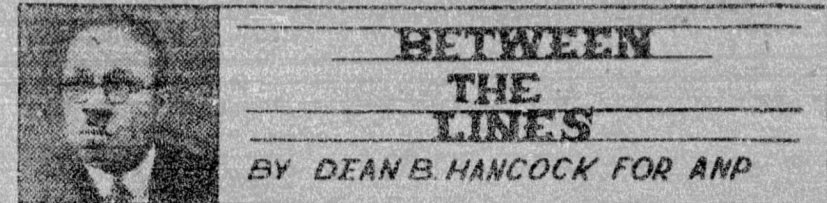
SHEPHERD — SIGNIFICANCE

Jesus in declaring Himself a Shepherd reveals the infinite love of God for man and also reveals that only a Christ can meet the needs of man. We are all cognizant of man's sinful state as a result of Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden. The human family, thrown out of the Kingdom of God, was left outside. We, like sheep, scattered and without a shepherd. Despite the sin of Adam, God still loved us (John 3:16) but we could not qualify or meet the conditions for entrance. Christ, the son of God, took upon Himself (John 10:18) humanities, infirmities, met God's requirements, thereby laying out the plan of salvation. Hence it is only "Christ who can say, 'I am the DOOR.' No man cometh to the Father but by me. (John 10:9. No

only shall all who believe be saved, but shall find pasture (John 10:9). There are other significant facts about the Shepherd, a few of which we shall name. He is sent of God, therefore conscious of his divine mission; he is not an hireling thinking only of his wages, ready to flee when the wolves come — times get hard — people poor, unable to pay; he knows his sheep and his sheep know him; he feeds his sheep with the wholesome food of life; he leads his sheep (Ps. 23) and the sheep follow because they love him. "The love of God constrains us." (1 Cor. 5:14).

EVANGELISTIC

There is a strong evangelistic note in this lesson for the sheep — Christians — Church. "Other Sheep I have" John 10:16. How many of our church members forget during the week to bring "Them In One by One." Have you accepted Christ as your Shepherd? Does He lead, and do you accept his leadership? Are we anxious about the hungry, starving world of human beings who



SAYS RENT CONTROL 'UNFAIR' TO LANDLORDS

This writer has never been able to understand why the United States government chose to make the landlords the scapegoat of war time controls. Every class of citizens profited by the war except the poor landlord. The diligent workers, the shirkers, the jerkers and in some cases even the lowly teachers and preachers profited by the war and its financial flush.

But for reasons unknown, notice was served on the landlord from the beginning that what was to be a fat time for the nation would be a lean time for him, for the reason that rents would be frozen at about pre-war levels. Those landlords who had hearts and who tried to be decent in their transactions with their tenants paid a tremendous price. The Shylock type of landlord got by in line style.

Just why the federal government chose to force the landlord to furnish cheap housing for men and women who were pulling down these high war wages is a matter which needs enlightenment very badly. This penalization of the conscientious landlord was a mistake of the gravest kind. It has come about that everybody profited one way or the other from the war time prosperity except the landlord. Was this just and right and equitable? Whose business is this anyway?

I personally knew a man who had a home in Washington and because he and family are living elsewhere he rented his home to a hard working and apparently worthy woman who seemed to be struggling against fearful odds with children and no husband. Said landlord was most sympathetic and the woman appeared most importune. The rental in ordinary cases would have been \$85 the month but sympathetic landlord was merciful and made it \$55.

At \$55 the rent was frozen and during the flush times of the war years the woman turned the house into a rooming house out of which she made \$120 per month, but paying landlord the sickly \$55. Of course landlord was financially heart-broken but to no avail. The tenant made enough money on her rental proposition to purchase her own home much to the chagrin of her "sympathetic" landlord.

Such are the stories of the evils of rent control. Just why the government made such abuses possible and prevalent is hard to understand. Now that we have had a "cooling off period," things should be set right forthwith; but the mere mention of removing rent controls caused a big stir in Washington and the nation. This writer is especially concerned with the question, Why was the landlord chosen to be the scapegoat of rent controls? Why is he continued in the role of scapegoat? Whose is the business of guarding the interest of the landlord? Or does anybody care?

The United States spokesmen are always voicing a dread of communism. We wonder if they ever think that such flagrant abuse of a particular class of our citizens will do more to win attentive listeners to the sirens of communism than our expression fears can easily effect. Democracy cannot survive unless confidence in it is confirmed and confidence cannot be confirmed unless there is equality and equity in treatment of all classes of citizens.

To grant increased learning to all classes except landlord poses a question that needs serious treatment by somebody in authority. What is even more portentous was the excitement occasion by the mere mention of easing rent controls. If a man earns increased wages with which he pays a higher price for a home in which to live and shelter his family?

Not only by the sheer depreciation of money itself should the landlord have been reimbursed but the sheer shortage of housing made operative the pressure of supply and demand forces which suggested a rise in rents. If renters could pay a higher price for everything else, why not a higher price for rent? This does not mean that the renters should have been turned over bodily for the exploitation of ruthless landlords. It simply meant that a reasonable rent increase would have been just and equitable. Why would the federal government break faith with the its landlords? Landlords left lean!

SENTENCE SERMONS

By REV. FRANK CLARENCE LOWRY FOR ANP

Portal to portal pay is just another way of getting more industrial money for each working day . . . no company feels obligated to assume it, except the company of heaven that serves man to the very limit.

Portal to portal pay in the commonwealth of heaven, starts that very moment of the day a suppliant accepts Christ and promises to trust and obey.

Selish man is just awakening to demand portal pay, but yet doesn't seem fully conscious that heaven's rates were always higher since the break-of-day.

Adam and Eve forfeited this portal pay because they pulled away from God and followed their own way.

They really started from the very portal of heaven and could have drawn excellent pay, but let their appetites get ahead of their reason and for that had to raise more apples and hay.

Adam and Eve started not even from scratch, but dust and portal pay would have been no object, if only God could have enjoyed their implicit trust.

are still without a shepherd in the Christ gave his life for his sheep, political, economical, religious What will you give? and educational areas of life?

