

EDITORIALS

EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS

One of the men appearing at the hearing on the proposed state minimum wage law was a gentleman from Charlotte named Henry Benoit. Mr. Benoit, operator of a laundry or cleaning business, was representing the laundry and dry cleaners association. He gave the usual weak arguments against a law guaranteeing something approaching a living wage for workers in sweated industries, of which laundries and cleaning establishments often are excellent examples.

One of his questioners floored Mr. Benoit with an inquiry as to whether or not the Charlotte man, who had claimed that many workers were too inefficient and unproductive to merit forty cents an hour, had not jumped into the excess profits class during the war because of the large margin of income his business showed over all costs. Mr. Benoit had to answer in the affirmative, but added, "Only slightly!"

Then Senator Lawrence Wallace, of Johnston County, delivered a real haymaker. It seems that Mr. Benoit had also appeared at the hearings on the anti-closed shop bill, naturally in advocacy of its passage. In his arguments against the minimum wage bill the gentleman from Charlotte deplored the interference of government with the operation of business.

"Don't you see any inconsistency in these two stands?" Senator Lawrence inquired of Mr. Benoit. "You are opposed to State interference in any manner with the way an employer conducts his business; and at the same time you are in favor of the State denying labor any security in might have in the closed shop."

Mr. Benoit replied that he didn't see any inconsistency.

Altogether Mr. Benoit had a pretty rough time for a few minutes.

ELECTION IS COMING

Should Raleigh's Negro citizens vote for or against the proposed change to the city manager form of government? That is a question which each voter should answer for himself, on the basis of the best information he can get. The arguments pro and con should be weighed carefully, in the light of this information.

The Negro often has to look twice at issues which other people need to view only once. He looks at an issue first as a citizen, and then he looks at it as a Negro citizen. It is unfortunate that he must take this double look, but it is not his fault. As long as things are as they are, if he is going to be sensible he has no alternative.

Negro citizens can examine how they have fared under the present system of government in Raleigh. Then they should inspect the claims made for what is to be expected under the proposed new form, and evaluate them, still remembering they must look twice.

After that, the Negro citizen should make up his own mind, and on election day vote according to his own best judgment.

AGENTS PROCATEURS

A bill which would prohibit officers of the law from begging and cajoling sometimes innocent but accommodating citizens into procuring liquor for them to be used as evidence to convict the kindly but no too wise procurer, and possibly the rent dealer, has been introduced in the legislature. Many citizens

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who put fair may and sportsmanlike conduct ahead of securing convictions against violators of liquor laws would be glad to see the bill become law.

High officials in the state Alcoholic Beverage Control organization protest that passage of the law would "cut the effectiveness of their undercover men by nearly fifty per cent."

Now there is no harm in trapping a real agent of a bootlegger; but for policemen to act as agents to procure violation of the law in order that they may make an arrest should be outlawed as below the dignity of the state. The means are not justified by the end. There is something extremely ornery and snide about getting someone to do what he considers as a favor to a person, and at that person's specific and insistent request, when the real purpose and result is to get the good-natured and accommodating person into trouble. The state should not be a party to any such doings.

RED CROSS NEEDS STRONG BACKING

In these few years directly after the war there are still two extraordinary tasks for the American Red Cross: the multiple services to veterans which no organization except the Red Cross is authorized to render and which none other could perform so well, and the various types of aid to the people in the still war-stricken areas of Europe and Asia.

As soon as war is over we tend to forget how many thousands of American citizens depend on the Red Cross for their lives, and how many millions in other parts of the world look to it for the second. But the good old Red Cross always shoulders its burdens and tries to perform these jobs, overcoming to the extent that it can the apathy and lack of understanding of the American public, engrossed as that public is in the concerns of peacetime living.

It should not be forgotten, either, that the Red Cross still renders invaluable aid and service to our occupation forces abroad, and that in war or peace it must stand ready to give quick and effective emergency aid in case of disaster caused by flood, fire, earthquake and other unpredictable visitations, at home and abroad.

All this is by way of reminding CAROLINIAN readers that the American Red Cross still needs, and urgently, substantial financial as well as spiritual support from each of YOU.

WELCOME NEWS

It is welcome news that the Army has rescinded its order which would have sent all Negro enlistees and re-enlistees to Camp Jackson, South Carolina, except those assigned to the air services. Well-founded protests from Negro agencies and individuals prevailed with the authorities to make the change in accordance with the original recommendations embodied in the Gillem report. For the present, according to latest information, none of the inductees will be sent to South Carolina for basic training, but to Kentucky and New Jersey instead.

The sensitiveness of the top military administrators to the facts and arguments presented them in opposition to their plans as stated a few weeks ago is a good sign. It is such things which bolster one's faith in the democratic processes. There is tremendous value in the right of free speech, a free press and freedom to protest. As long as those are available, the spirit of democracy may be down but not out.

Americans, even those with real grievances against the imperfections of our system, at bottom realize that this system is infinitely superior to any dictatorship, whether it goes by the name of Fascism, Sovietism, Communism, or what have you. And Americans, in North Carolina or elsewhere, need have no fear that the vast majority of Negroes will turn to communism or any other ism. Negroes probably more than most other Americans devoutly believe in the oft-stated doctrine that what is needed as a cure for the ills of our sometimes woefully imperfect American democratic system is not communism; not less democracy, but more.



Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

An article by Luther A. Townsley for the Associated Negro Press appeared in last week's issue of the CAROLINIAN in which racial discrimination was offered as the chief reason for the high incidence of homicides where both victim and killer are Negroes.

"A Negro may expect to be killed by a white man," says Mr. Townsley. He continues, "That fact will know to Americans in general, particularly those living below the Mason-Dixon line, accounts in large measure for the high homicide rate throughout the nation. Racism supports the theory of white racial superiority, and white supremacy underlies the lives of Negroes."

Certainly there is a lot of validity in the facts given in the above quotations, and just as certainly, the whole pattern of racial discrimination and differentiation contributes to the cheapness with which certain Negroes, especially in the South, regard the lives and persons of other Negroes. In many respects and in varying degrees it is obvious that the attitude of Negroes toward

each other reflect the attitude of the dominant race toward the race in the inferior position. That is natural and human, however undesirable it may be. Also it must be a fact, although not one subject to quantitative measurement, that the Negro's necessity of inhibiting the expression toward white persons of anger and resentment over his treatment by the white world leads him to aggressive and glib outbursts in over-assertive, captious and belligerent behavior within the black world.

But however much light all this may throw on the subject of intra-racial violence, the facts and figures remain unchanged. It would be a serious error to accept in this case explanations as excuses and justifications—the same kind of error we condemn when we find, for instance, the crime of rape being used to excuse and justify lynching.

As has been pointed out by many serious students of Negro life, including recently the well known and astute commentators, Dr. Gordon B. Hancock and Dr. Arthur P. Davis, Negroes themselves must accept their full share of the responsibility for the bent toward intra-

racial violence which is admittedly so characteristic of a certain large segment of our people. For this condition means, whatever other elements enter in, that our Negro-administered churches are failing to teach many of our people, or to reach with their teaching, the fundamentals of the Christian's proper relation to his neighbor, and that they are failing for one or the other of the reasons cited here to get over to our people the Christian doctrine as to the control of the baser passions and emotions.

It means that our schools are failing to teach the very rudiments of good citizenship and group living. It means that the more privileged members of our race are not accepting the burden of helping to raise the standards of behavior of the less privileged masses as much as they should.

Studying the problem and reaching abstract sociological conclusions about it are fine, but not enough. The ANP article recognizes this, and offers some concrete plans for ameliorating the condition. These will be discussed in this space next week.

Lest We Forget.

By W. L. GREENE

Locally we have been concerned about representation in the affairs of government. The home city of N. C. NETWORK NEWS-PAPERS is in the process of devising a change of plan for municipal government. The first round is over. Registration closed on Saturday, March 14th with reasonably good increase in numbers registered. Now, the serious though not the most important phase of the movement is upon us. Under the plan authorized by law for our city, known as "Plan D-Modified," there are to be seven councilmen, elected in a non-partisan and two-phase order involving a direct primary followed by a final choice between fourteen candidates ranking highest in the primary balloting. WHETHER THIS VOTING WILL EVER TAKE PLACE WILL DEPEND UPON THE RESULT OF THE REFERENDUM ON MARCH

18TH. If a majority of the voters favor the present commission form of government, the referendum will end all controversy and establish status quo in plan of government for the State's Capital City. But if the results of the referendum say "Change to the City Manager Form of Municipal Government," the primary and final election will follow. No matter how the turn comes, EVERY PERSON PROPERLY REGISTERED SHOULD VOTE IN EVERY CONTEST which follows the registration just ended. There is a lot of democracy in the pending test of strength between advocates of the City Manager and Commission forms of government. The referendum gives the citizenship an opportunity to approve the record of the incumbent office holders under the present form of operations or to decide for a change to another

form because of the promises its proponents make for it. In the event of decision for a change, the direct primary will follow. The direct primary is more democratic than the party primary. It permits more individuals and groups to offer their services to the government and have the voters check on their proposals. It is true that the direct primary gives an initial advantage to well-organized groups but in an alert community it keeps the way open to wider participation of the public in selecting candidates for public office. We should not become lethargic and resigned at the conclusion of the referendum, if chance is decreed, because there will be a lot of democracy to practice in following up the process of implementing a change with personnel to serve it.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON By Rev. M. W. Williams

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
Subject: Intimate Words With His Disciples. — John 14:18-19.
Printed text, John 14:1-6; 12-18, 25:15; 16:2, 4.
Key Verse: Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. — John 15:14.
In the upper room in Jerusalem, Christ, facing the test of His life, His disciples, "Let not your hearts be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me" (John 14:1). We cannot possibly overlook the truths this lesson is designed to teach. First, the relationship of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost as are the Trinity, the Triune God, the three persons of the Godhead. These divine forces act as one. Second, that not only the disciples, but all true believers in Christ, have at their disposal the aid of the Trinity in this and

terminated; the disciples, not understanding, are very much grieved. Christ, in whom they had believed, assures them of His connection with God the Father and that He will send the comforter (Holy Spirit) and that His going would be for their benefit, and that while they labored in the world they must abide in the vine and the connection which the Father has with them. The earthly fellowship of the disciples is about to be terminated. In short, many of these intimate words with His disciples CHRIST'S FINAL REQUEST.
A TROUBLED WORLD
The nations of the world are very much disturbed over the prospects of World War number Three. They fear the annihilation of mankind, the destruction of the earth, and the

The housing situation has given untold concern to millions during the last two or more years. Thousands of older men and women are today troubled over where they will spend the remaining years of this earthly life. The rich and poor, both have their troubles. Some are troubled because they have lost their jobs, some about their children, some about parents; husband and wives in many instances are having trouble and we might keep on enumerating the troubles — yes, in this world trouble abounds.
THE REMEDY OR THE HELP
When Christ said to the disciples in their hour of sore distress and trouble He says to all of us — yes to the world — "Let not your hearts be troubled" — Have Faith in God. Christ came to reveal God's love to a troubled

Letter To The Editor

ON CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT

To obtain a cross section of thinking on the City Manager form of government which is to be voted on Tuesday, March 18 in Raleigh, the editor wrote numerous citizens of various cities for their comments. Five such letters have been received at press time. They are printed below.

March 8, 1947

Editor of The Carolinian:
Whenever you can find the capable man, I would prefer the managerial form of government. It cuts red tape and you can always deal with an individual better than with a group. This is my personal opinion.
Sincerely yours,
J. E. SHEPARD
President, North Carolina College

March 7, 1947

Editor of The Carolinian:
It is my opinion that the City Manager form of government commends itself to any and all people interested in efficient administration.

While this is not designed to imply that other forms of municipal government are inefficient, it does mean that the careful selection of a man trained in municipal administration to head a city's organization may be expected to be an improvement over assignment of such duties to an untrained man selected solely on the basis of popularity.

Often the difference is as marked as the difference between hiring a specialist and hiring a quack to give necessary medical attention. In these days of complicated financing procedures, social tensions, etc., it is obvious that the services of a specialist are necessary and will prove beneficial.
Sincerely yours,
K. N. HARRIS
Secretary Bankers' Fire Insurance Company, Durham, N. C.

March 9, 1947

Editor of The Carolinian:
Your letter of March 5, received for which I am very grateful and I now take pleasure in attempting the fulfillment of your request.

For a number of years now the city of Wilmington has enjoyed the "City Manager" form of government. As all other forms of popular government this system has its advantages and disadvantages, however, after close association with this type of government I am convinced that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. Wilmington has enjoyed phenomenal growth under its present form of city management. I do not know whether this growth can altogether be attributed to our form of government, but I can definitely say that there has been a minimum of "fumbling" in the present administration. The councilmen of our city government are all business men who are well trained in their respective fields who have been successful in their own rights, hence, it can only be assumed that a man who is successful in the administration of his own personal affairs would be successful in the administration of things entrusted to his vigilant and alert supervision. In the city manager form of government there is opportunity for the election of councilmen who

might come from the various ranks of business and civic and thus the governors will be given an opportunity to know the mind of its people in the several varieties of its community life and to better enabled to administer to the needs of the entire population. I firmly believe that a government can best govern when it enjoys representation from all sections of those governed. The city manager form of government offers this opportunity and when this opportunity is fully grasped by the entire constituency of any municipality the opportunities for growth, development, and harmonious community relationships are both enhanced and accentuated. If your city will fully implement this program of government without reservation or superficial qualifications, as I sincerely hope that ours will eventually do, I predict our qualified success.

D. B. SHAW
Secretary-Treasurer Department of Home Missions, Pensions and Relief, A. M. E. Zion Church, Wilmington, N. C.

March 10, 1947

Editor of The Carolinian:
I am today reading your letter of March 5, 1947 as I have been out of the city and just returned. Enclosed please find the following which I hope isn't too late.

Within my limited scope and experience, I feel that the City Manager form of government keeps the people in direct contact with their representatives who are responsible to the people for anything the City Manager does. This form of government makes for more efficiency, leads to less delays, results in less expenses and red tape. It requires the City Manager to be always on the alert, not only to please his fellow citizens, but he is "Johnny on the Spot" to make the decision, he does away with lengthy official meetings and bottle necks. In this form of government, the City Manager acts; his actions are then the responsibility of the City Council and the members of the City Council become responsible to the citizens who could work for a better alignment.

Yours truly
S. James Gray, M. D.
Wilmington, N. C.

SENTENCE SERMONS

It is easy to go along with the crowd, but not one of them in the end can help you wear your shroud.

Crowds can cloud what other wise would be a clear title to a life richly endowed.

People who have no intentions of going the upright way usually follow the crowds that never pay.

Crowds pull young folks off their feet, and these good things they would accomplish, the ring leaders go in to defeat.

Mob violence and race hate seem to net the highest gate where crowds strike below the belt and the terror of hell is felt.

Paul, Moses, Daniel and Joshua cared not for the noise of the crowd, but only to be true to their God and people were the virtues of which they were proud.

World, He only can give security through the aid of the Holy Spirit. Here you will find peace, joy and even rest for your trouble and weary souls in doing service for Christ. Will you go?
The Church where the word of