

EDITORIALS

SHALL WE CHANGE THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM?

For a long time there has been dissatisfaction in many quarters with the electoral system by which the United States selects its president.

The fundamental objection to the system as it now operates is that the electoral vote does not necessarily reflect the will of the people.

Obviously the electoral system as it at present works does not reflect truly the will of the people. A candidate might carry a state like New York with a plurality of only 1,000 votes over his principal opponent.

Students of the political scene have advocated two different remedies for this situation. One is to abolish the electoral college and let the president be determined by the total national popular vote.

The other proposal, introduced into Congress some time ago as the Lodge-Gossett proposed amendment to the Constitution, would retain the electoral system, but would divide the electoral votes in each in proportion to the popular vote for each candidate.

An interesting news story by Leslie Carpenter, of the News and Observer's Washington bureau appeared recently in the local daily, which told how sentiment among southern congressmen is lining up strongly behind the proposed amendment.

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desperate necessity of carrying these crucial states in which the Negro vote does concededly have the balance of power in close contests.

The matter of changing the election procedure should be considered on its over-all merits, and some change apparently is really needed in the interest of a more fair and accurate reflection of the will of the people in presidential elections.

We prefer the system which would abolish the electoral college altogether and elect the president by a national plurality, but there seems to be little probability that such a measure could be adopted.

Under a system of divided electoral votes, the Negroes in southern states could help resurrect the Republican party if they wished, and their vote would count in every presidential election.

In other words the Negro vote, taking the nation as a whole, might be much more influential under a proportional electoral vote system than it is now.

Incidentally we have still to see in any important publication of general circulation an acknowledgement of the fact that Truman could not have been elected without the Negro vote.

EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES A lot of people have thought of the Ku Klux Klan as being a bigoted group, fostering religious and racial prejudice and guilty of persecution of certain people who differed from its members in color or creed.

We hope all those who have previously harbored misconceptions as to the nature of the organization will please revise their opinions. It is a shame that the most Christian of all organizations should be so misunderstood as to be thought undesirable and unworthy by so many millions of well-meaning but ignorant Americans.

HOLD IT HIGH-TOGETHER!



Courtesy Institute for American Democracy, Inc.



Second Thoughts

By C. D. HALLIBURTON

One of the most interesting and stimulating features of the declaration adopted by a group of southerners at a recent meeting at historic University of Virginia was its statement concerning legislative action in relation to improving the Negroes' status in the South and in the nation.

It is clear that education, tolerance and good will are effective in human relations, and the inter-racial situation in the South and in the nation as a whole needs as much of these measures as can be marshaled day in and day out.

It is a Southern Conference Educational Fund advocated in its declaration, as one measure

to bring American ideals and deeds into closer harmony, (a) repeal of existing laws... that force public distinctions based on color, religion or national origin.

is a great deal of legislation on the books of southern states and municipalities dealing with racial relations, which shows that the South has not been averse to lawmaking on that subject.

Except for an anti-lynching bill here and there, and possibly a few other measures, the southern states have done nothing by legislation to improve the Negro's status as a citizen.

If southern leaders are sincere in their demand to be free from "outside interference" on the ground that they are willing as well as capable of solving

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor: I am writing to express our appreciation to you for an article appearing on the editorial page of the last issue of your good paper.

The particular article had reference to the need for a Stadium for Raleigh and vicinity, and the efforts now being made by the alumni of Shaw University to secure such a Stadium.

The alumni athletic committee is meeting tonight to further study plans and procedures to make our dreams come true for this public need for the Negro citizens of our vicinity.

It was through your suggestion that we distributed 5,000 hand bills at our Thanksgiving game which told the public that we are headed in the right direction.

Again, we express our appreciation to you and your good paper, with blessings of the season, I am

Very sincerely yours, G. E. CREEK President

This Failing Civilization

By RAY LAWRENCE Roving Reporter for Atlas News Service

As one moves about Washington (world center), one gets the feeling that International unity might be achieved, if only the chief Statesmen could find some sort of cure for this diseased world.

The action in the world today reminds me more like a little boy swinging playfully on the branch of an apple tree, fearing to plunge because of the waiting hands of his little pursuers are ready for battle.

But can the basic strain of inherent perceptibility regain that principle of fellowship so necessary if international order is to be maintained; and can a social order endure in a world of confused nations, each having as an objective, a program of selfish interest, wholly out of harmony with the other, smashing as it were, the very fundamental standards of human dignity and idealism.

There is only one reply, and it is purely negative. The Power of Control is so entrenchedly embedded in the hearts of men that it is commonplace for nations to blindly convert their ambitions into aggressive expansion without mutual environmental considerations.

Today, in a modern world where industrialization is the watch word, it has progressed to a point where it nurses on a rapid growing weed of precepts founded on a perfidious idea of an evolutionary advancement, which attempts to prove biologically, that one race of people is inferior to the other.

The best theories for international appeasement are at this moment, limping under a grueling test of criticism, for hypothetical dogmas, coerced by understandings of living throughout the world, cannot help but frustrate peaceful progress.

Only one hope stands ready to head off a catastrophe. It is a course of philosophy embedded in the interior — a focus on the divine apprehension which is fast becoming a tool of materialistic essentials, being perpetrated through a process of atomization.

LIFE AT A GLANCE ST. MATTHEWS

The atomic scientists who met at the University of Chicago last week, brought out clearly that man can control everything he chooses, even the harmful effects of atomic radiation.

George Barnard Shaw says "Marriage is popular merely because it combines the maximum of temptations with the maximum of opportunity. If Mr. Shaw is correct, we may have the solution for divorcees being so popular.

There are 256 Denominations in the Protestant Church. If all of these various opinions of Divinity could ever come together and agree on one accord, the World would be full of peace in three days.

My, My how times have changed. Don't you know that people use to be so afraid of a light in the street, that when some one drew up plans to light the streets of London, Sir Walter Scott remarked "There is a mad man who proposes to set the streets of London on fire."

Since the Divorce racket was exposed in New York City, the question of whether you are married or single, is a mighty difficult thing to answer. And if the lid ever blows off this thing, a guy may not even have a spouse he can call his own, legally.

NEW SOIL MACHINE LEVELS TERRACES Farmers who conserve soil by building level terraces on sloping fields will find a recently patented machine extremely helpful, according to National Patent Council.

Positions of the device's long grader blade are adjusted by hydraulic cylinders controlled by two pairs of levers. A level indicator in front of the operator tells him whether or not the machine is running in a true horizontal position. The tractor engine which moves the unit also powers a pump to work the hydraulic cylinders.

your mind completely about the school and will want to finish the year there. You are just now beginning to find your place among the groups in which you are most interested.

R.B.— I want to know if my wife loves me an why is it we can't get along sometime? Ans: Of course she loves you. Curb your tendency toward jealousy and you will get along better than you do.

Ans: Wait until you are financially able to make this investment alone. It would be best for you, as well as your sister, to own individual homes of your own. Then there would not be any possibility of family conflict.

IN THIS OUR DAY

By C. A. CHICK

THE FUTURE OF NEGRO PRIVATELY OWNED COLLEGES

Anyone writing an impartial history of Negro education in the South, would be compelled to give a large amount of space to the splendid work and accomplishments of the elementary and secondary schools which were formerly owned and supported by various religious denominations.

Those little schools, supported by the "nickies and dimes" from the masses of Negroes, kept the spark of Negro education alive when publicly supported schools for Negroes were at a very low ebb. But, sad to say, in spite of their splendid accomplishments, most of them died an inglorious death.

Why did these schools die an inglorious death? Simply because Negro leadership, and especially those in the field of education, refused or failed to see the "hand writing on the wall." Over a period of years, the South has been gradually improving its Negro schools, and the privately owned elementary and secondary schools

were not able to keep pace with this progress. Instead of giving more money to the privately owned schools, the masses of Negroes wisely and justly gave less, because the need was not as great as formerly.

The question this writer wishes to pose is, will our leaders let the same things happen to the Negro privately owned colleges? They, too, have made an arc at the present time making excellent contributions to Negro higher education. However, those who are genuinely interested in the welfare and progress of the Negro race are compelled to ask the question, are we able to support, and, indeed, do we need, the present number of privately owned Negro colleges?

Let us not forget that within the last twenty-five or thirty years a large number of Negroes has left the South. All indications point toward a larger number leaving within the next twenty-five or thirty years. Further, it should be pointed out Negroes, by and large, do not have but so much money, indeed if any, that they can afford to give away. If the masses of Negroes spent every penny they earn for immediate consumer goods, they still would not approach the American standard of living.

ADVISORY COLUMN

A.J.B.— I follow your column and I think your advice is wonderful. My problem is this, I have a little money saved and I want to invest in a home for my children and I my sister wants me to build with her and her husband. What shall I do? Ans: Wait until you are financially able to make this investment alone. It would be best for you, as well as your sister, to own individual homes of your own.

N.F.C.— I need help in my love problem. I am going with a nice boy whom I care an awful lot for. He says he loves me but every time I see him he is with another girl. So I started with a new boy friend and it seems like he care more for me now than he did before. Tell me does he love me? Ans: He thinks you're a sweet little old girl but he is not in love with you. The other girl with whom he is involved has his child and naturally he is going to do everything that she can to entice

him to marry her. You are using good judgment to make new friends. C.M.— I am 19 years of age, and am in my second year of college. I went to one college for my first year and was very contented there. I changed for my second year and I dislike this new place. Mother has given her consent for me to go back to the first college. Is that the thing to do? Ans: Finish the quarter and get your credits before seriously considering a change. I am inclined to think that you are going to change

Interracial Meet Attracts Fire Dept.

Tampa, Fla. (ANP) — The local fire department was called here recently by a group of citizens who saw Negroes and whites eating together in a white restaurant in Ybor City, the latin quarter.

The incident occurred following a meeting of the progressive party in which plans were made to form community groups that will send representatives to the Florida convention in February.

The firemen surrounded the restaurant but, according to reports, did not drench the place with water instead they attracted a large crowd of onlookers.

R.C.M.— I met a man recently who fell hard at first sight and I seem to have done the same thing. He works late hours and I do not get to see him as often as I would like. He wants me to leave with him Xmas. Answer as soon as you can. Ans: Your friend is MARRIED. Don't make any plans to leave with him. True, he has to work late hours but he also has to spend a good portion of his time with his wife. You realize of course that he evaded the subject of marriage — you don't want to get involved in an affair. His wife is the type to make trouble for you.