

LOCAL EDITORIAL COMMENT

Thursday, October 15, 1964

To Serve The Public

This is National Newspaper Week. Like other weeks designated as reminders of certain things in our lives, it stands to point out the worth of newspapers to us all. Newspapers have one basic function. . . to serve the public. There is no way around it. . . newspapers do just that.

Thomas Jefferson was quick to perceive that representative government couldn't endure in the absence of an informed electorate. He wrote in 1832 that the press was "the best instrument of enlightening the minds of men."

In 1802 he had written: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a govern-

ment I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

The inference is clear. Jefferson believed that for this nation to survive, newspapers were a necessity. To go the American one further, if this nation is to grow and prosper, strong and courageous newspapers are a necessity. We can think of no greater catastrophe that could befall our country than if it should lose its free press.

Newspaper people throughout this nation, this week, are rededicating themselves to the end that this shall never happen. And rededicating themselves, too, to the continual service to the public that has been the trademark of a free press since this country began.

Rotation: Good Or Bad?

Some time ago, after Franklin County was taken out of the Sixth Senatorial District and placed into the Thirteenth, the Executive Committees of the Democratic parties in the three counties got their heads together and made what is called "a rotation agreement."

This is an agreement among Democrats in Franklin, Vance, and Granville counties that each county will, in turn, supply the candidate for the two-year senatorial term to represent the district in the General Assembly. This is basically the same agreement that was held among the counties of the old Sixth District.

Certainly Franklin County supplied an able Senator in Wilbur Jolly and there has been no complaint on Senators from other counties that have represented Franklin in the past, but there is one aspect of the whole thing that is not good. The people of Franklin County and Granville too, for that matter, did not have the opportunity to vote for the Democratic candidate this year because he lives in Vance County. In the past, when Democrats had no opposition, Franklin County would have been represented by a man in the State Legislature without having had the privilege, guaranteed under the constitution, of voting on him.

This year, however, with a strong Republican opponent on the ticket, citizens of Franklin and Granville counties will have the opportunity to vote on the

man that will represent them for the next two years. Vance County brought forth two able men in the primaries in Charles Blackburn, a Henderson attorney, and Fred Royster, Tobacco warehouse official. The voters of Vance County decided that Royster was the best man for the job. This may well be, but it could also well be a mistake. The point is, Vance County voters decided this for the people of Franklin and Granville counties, and any way you turn it, say it or explain it, it isn't right. The Republicans have quickly grasped this fact, and John Adcox, a public relations executive in Henderson, who terms himself a "Conservative Republican," is making a strong bid to upset the Democratic rotation system. There are some observers that believe he will succeed.

The Democrats will hastily point out that the primaries are not elections, but are instead, their way of selecting a candidate. This is true. However, for sixty years in these parts, the voter could hardly tell the difference. The man selected in the primaries was always the winner and the election itself was nothing more than an endorsement of what had already been done.

With the steady advent of the two-party system in North Carolina, and, indeed, in the Thirteenth Senatorial District, the Democrats may want to take another look at the rotation system.



Just One More Million

Senator Stephen Young, Ohio Democrat, has a talent for blowing the whistle on costly nonsense.

Latest example is the senator's fight against a \$1 million-plus dormitory for 76 Congressional page boys, aged 14-16.

The boys are brought to Washington from throughout the nation to run simple errands in the Congressional chambers. They are part of the political patronage system. The latest federal pay bill gives pages \$5,100 a year.

The drive to build them a tax-financed mansion followed testimony that in some of the boarding houses

where they live now, unsupervised page boys tend toward beer drinking, bizarre diets and odd hours.

However, a fine dormitory would do little to change the habits of these youngsters. And the taxpayers shouldn't be required to finance their chaperonage.

The Ohio senator suggests young men 18-23 be employed, so they wouldn't require such close and expensive supervision.

In any event, we applaud Young for his fight against a typical spending program with the usual sentimental appeal.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 15, 1964

TO THE NEWSPAPERS OF AMERICA:

National Newspaper Week affords a welcome opportunity to salute America's free press and to applaud its vital and essential function in the daily life of our democratic society.

The right to know is the natural prerogative of every American citizen and forms a continuous thread in the development of our constitutional freedoms. Newspapers have throughout the years contributed significantly to the preservation and propagation of this cherished right. As spokesmen for the ideals which emanate from our rich heritage, they expand our horizons of knowledge and deepen our understanding of both domestic and foreign affairs.

In serving as guardians of these ideals, our newspapers fortify the ties not only between our own citizens, but also between America and the world community.

I know that all Americans join in this tribute to our newspapers and I am confident that our press will sustain and enhance its indispensable role in the life of our Democracy.

Viewpoint --

Johnson Is Practiced Politician

By JESSE HELMS

President Johnson's appearance in Raleigh this past Tuesday night was the product of the work of a number of skilled craftsmen, none more notable or accomplished than the President himself. Mr. Johnson is a practiced and practicing politician, and the success of his visit to Raleigh should be ample evidence that hard work generally pays off, regardless of the endeavor.

This is not to say that we found the President's message persuasive. Quite to the contrary, what he had to say caused one to yearn for a chance to suggest that Mr. Johnson amplify his generalities and, indeed to document some of his warnings and charges. Still, he deserves the admiration of all who appreciate an adroit political performance, delivered with verve and self-assurance.

Perhaps neither Mr. Johnson nor Mr. Goldwater would like the comparison, but an interesting aspect of the current Presidential campaign is one striking similarity between the two candidates. There is no question, in either case, as to who is in command. One gets the impression that each is a captain in full charge; each makes it clear that he is ultimately the boss in his campaign, and a resolute one, at that.

But from that point the techniques, and certainly the philosophies, of the two men bend apart into a very wide and clearly discernible breach. Mr. Johnson warns that without continued and even expanded dependence upon government, the people of the land will go bankrupt, experience chaos, and even destroy themselves. Mr. Goldwater, on the other hand,

warns that unless this very trend is halted and reversed, the nation will bankrupt itself economically, spiritually and morally. The voters, then, are compelled to decide whether, in their hearts, they know Mr. Goldwater is right or, on the other hand, whether "LBJ for the USA" is more than a catchy political slogan.

Mr. Johnson, in his speech in Raleigh, got by with a good many statements, charges and rhetorical questions that ought to be examined carefully. His message, in large measure, was that even a sick bird in hand is worth the hope that two healthy ones may be fluttering in the bush. In quick phrases, he advanced the conclusion that his opponent is deliberately scheming to break the economic back of America. He quoted some debatable statistics, presented as proof of prosperity in the land, but he avoided like the plague the very apparent evidence that public and private debt is rising at a rate that alarms every economist who can add two and two.

And, in his favorite discourse on love, he attributed to those who disagree with him a reckless spirit of hate and fear. It was a remarkable performance, really. On Mr. Johnson's terms this election is a choice between motherhood and sin, between good health and smallpox.

Not every politician would have been able to pull it off. Many another orator would have been weighted down by the cold arithmetic of the federal government's financial condition, our shortage of gold, the increasing problems of agriculture in general and farmers in particular, the crises

in Southeast Asia and Africa and Cuba, and Bobby Baker.

So, as we have indicated, we admire skill in any man. And not the least of Mr. Johnson's skills is the fact that, by the circumstance of an inexhaustible supply of available workers due to the office he holds, he was able to organize such a remarkable gathering as was assembled in Raleigh.

Obviously it is becoming increasingly difficult to make a dent in the political armor of any man in office. The professionals at swaying and controlling public opinion are clustered at his side, and the opposition seems amateurish by contrast.

So the tinsel and the glitter and the prestige do count. All of this may not serve to provide answers to dramatically important questions. Indeed, it may serve a purpose quite to the contrary. But, at least, there are still substantial numbers of Americans who regard it important to ask questions. They may not, in the few weeks remaining, get answers to them. But, at least, the will to ask them has not yet been entirely lost.

News Report From Washington

Americans For Democratic Action--
Where It Stands--
Socialistic and Extremist--
Target of GOP Charges--

Washington, D. C.--The liberal-thinking Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) has taken on new prominence now that one of its founders and members, Hubert H. Humphrey, is the vice presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket.

Republican candidates Barry Goldwater and William Miller have called the ADA a "radical, left-wing" group teaching "foreign socialistic totalitarianism."

Such accusations have stirred up many questions in the minds of the people. What really is the ADA? Where does it stand? In January, 1949, the group organized to push continuation of the New Deal in the postwar era and to seek a liberal political organization free of communist influence.

Among the group which gathered in Washington to found ADA were James Loeb, now ambassador to Guinea; Reinhold Niebuhr, now professor emeritus at Union Theological Seminary, New York; Joseph Rauh, Jr., Washington attorney; James Wechsler, New York Post editor; Arthur Schlesinger, Harvard historian.

Also, the late Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt; Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., now Under-secretary of Commerce; the late Senator Herbert Lehman (D., N.Y.); Senator Paul Douglas (D., Ill.); J. Kenneth Galbraith, Harvard economist; Chester Bowles, India ambassador and Humphrey.

The ADA membership totals about 50,000, has an annual budget of \$150,000 and a staff of 12. Many of its members serve in the government, some in high places.

Rauh, vice chairman of the group, denies charges that it is "socialistic" and "extreme" in its philosophy.

"We believe in free enterprise," he said. "It's as simple as that. Some large operations, like TVA, are necessary, but we don't believe in government ownership of the means of production."

Rauh also chided those who try to equate the ADA and the John Birch Society.

"The right equation," he contended, "is between the liberals and conservatives, because both believe in the process of law. Neither the communists nor the Birchers believe in the electoral or other democratic processes."

Shortly after World War II, the Communists fought bitterly over foreign policy. The former supported U. S. aid to Europe, Greece and Turkey and the Reds opposed it.

In 1948, ADA backed Harry Truman for the Presidency, while the Communists leaned toward Henry Wallace's Pro-

gressive Party movement. In recent years, however, the ADA and the Communists have been more in agreement than disagreement. For instance, both are dedicated to the defeat of Goldwater in November.

Other issues on which the two agree are these:

Recognition of Red China and its admission to the United Nations--ADA in its 1964 platform calls for recognition of the communist country "not as a gesture of moral approval of its past actions but as a means of establishing the normal channels of international communication."

Neutralization of South Vietnam--ADA urges the Administration to seek a "political solution" to the problem and is opposed to extending the conflict into the north and sending of further arms to southern forces. It calls upon Johnson "to make use of Geneva Conference machinery toward the end of achieving an independent zone in Southeast Asia."

ADA is also on record as opposed to Bible-reading and prayers in the public schools, "sporadic raids" upon Cuban territory and boats in international waters and tax cuts "at the expense of investment in essential public facilities and public services."

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