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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Deception
W. D. Jamieson, former congressman from Iowa and now author of the "Window Seat" column from Washington, D. C., makes the following observations about crookedness:

A metal chemist told me one time he was offered a great big fee if he would work out a formula for steel razor blades that would be very sharp at first but would also be so soft they would not last for more than one shave. Isn't this crooked?

I eat cabbage for supper at \$100 a ton from the grocer. The grower in North Carolina got \$9 a ton. Isn't this crooked?

When I was a kid at Columbus Junction, Iowa, we used to have a store keeper there—old Capt. Jones—who always wore a \$15 black felt hat. Nothing cheaper would do. He went in to Chicago to buy a new one. The clerk showed him several at \$5 to \$7. Nothing doing—too cheap. Finally this clerk picked up the cast-off \$6 hat, handled it tenderly, and told the Capt. he could have this one at the very special price of \$15. Sold! Wasn't this crooked?

What are honest values, anyhow, and how can we get away from crookedness? A good way to start is not to be crooked ourselves.

The installment buying plan may be all right, but isn't it funny how one loses one's enthusiasm for the idea after about six months of paying.

Borrowed Comment
NORTH WILKESBORO TURNING FIFTY

(Greensboro Daily News)
North Wilkesboro will be 50 years old next year, and the passing of this half-century milestone, it is gathered from the North Wilkesboro Journal-Patriot, is to be fittingly celebrated.

Those with only a casual acquaintance with North Wilkesboro will be surprised at the reminder that it is so young a member of the sisterhood of North Carolina cities. It has, as The Journal-Patriot says, grown steadily and continually all its life and it presents the outward and visible signs of trade, industry, and the symbols of both enterprise and cultural attainment that are found in many a municipality of much greater length of years.

And yet, a more than superficial view reveals, there are certain blessings of youthfulness to be observed on the North Wilkesboro scene. If it has not ancient monuments of which to be proud, it also lacks those ancient monuments to be deplored, which all the older towns find that time obliterates all too slowly.

The Journal-Patriot "sincerely hopes hopes that all public-spirited people of the city and surrounding communities will join wholeheartedly in the preparations for the event." It is a community of public-spirited citizens. And their town has a history worth a thorough-going effort in celebration.

PARKWAY SUGGESTION
(Watauga Democrat)

The building of the scenic highway along the crest of the Blue Ridge between two of the great national parks is of paramount interest to this section of the country, and one quite naturally reflects upon the direct benefits which will come to the local populace with the completion of this stupendous undertaking.

Of vital local concern is the question as to how the government will proceed in the development of the area not used by the actual roadway, what concessions will be allowed, and the manner of their operation. In this connection, why wouldn't it be a splendid idea to construct some modern roadside markets along the thoroughfare, where tourists would have the privilege of purchasing articles of food just as they come from the world's finest produce gardens? These markets could, by an arrangement with the county farm agents and home demonstration agents and through the co-operation of departments of agriculture in the high schools, be used by different groups or sections on specific dates, and cooperative arrangements worked out, which it seems could be made to function perfectly.

Such a program would meet with the immediate approval of a vast majority of tourists, and would supply at the same time, a dependable source of income for the people of the rural areas traversed by the highway.

At least we think those in authority could well afford to give a suggestion of this kind serious consideration.

Stimson Urges U. S. to Repeal Neutrality Act

Step Would Give Nation Privilege to Boycott Foreign Aggressors

Washington, April 17.—Former Republican Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson today advocated partial repeal of the neutrality act to free President Roosevelt's hands in curbing the aggression of Germany, Italy and Japan.

He said that the three members of the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis had broken promises and torn up all the treaties standing in the way of their own aggrandizement. The tall, dignified expert on international affairs was the first witness at Senate foreign relations committee hearings on proposals for repeal or revision of the law. Tomorrow, Bernard M. Baruch, financier, presidential adviser, and chairman of the World War Industries board will testify.

Isolationists Object
Stimson quickly drew the fire of Senate isolationists, including Hiram Johnson (R), California, when he voiced an almost blanket endorsement of Mr. Roosevelt's foreign policy and supported the President's theory, now being put into practice, that "there are measures short of war, but stronger and more effective than words," to halt the dictators. Johnson denied Stimson's assertions that the neutrality act is rigidly restrictive and said he would not give the President "discretion to put us in a position where he can take us into war."

"Do you believe in neutrality?" he demanded.

"I am in favor of our country not taking part—or meddling—in a war unless it has some real interest that may be injured by the war," Stimson replied.

Upon further questioning Stimson said that an aggressor should be designated in any war affecting the United States.

"Where do you go from there?" Johnson queried.

He said that the next thing to determine was whether the aggressor was to be aided. He argued that each particular war should be treated as an isolated case.

"Suppose Russia, Great Britain and France take the field," Johnson suggested. "Would you have us enter into an alliance?"

"Not unless the situation becomes dangerous enough to indicate that we would become the next victim," Stimson said. "I would get as many friends on my side as I could, provided they could shoot straight."

C. S. Should Help

He added that if Great Britain and France went to war against the totalitarian powers he thought the United States should help with its resources.

Asked if he meant that this country should enter the war, he said:

"That's exactly what I do not mean."

CLEANING BURNED PANS

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