

LYNN NISBET:

# Around Capitol Square

**WOMEN** — Women have been voting in North Carolina for more than thirty years on basis of equality with men, but they have never demanded or been accorded anything like equal representation in state government or in the several party organizations. No woman has been elected to statewide office, although several have been elected to the general assembly and to numerous county offices. Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, Mrs. Annie K. Bost and Dr. Ellen Winston, have filled the position of state superintendent of public welfare for more than a quarter century and

there have been other top woman appointees. Mrs. J. B. Spillman served on the unemployment compensation commission; Mrs. E. L. McKee and Mrs. R. S. Ferguson have been members of the state board of education, after serving in the state senate. Mrs. Vivian (Stephens) Whitfield has been a member of the state board of agriculture, and Miss Ethel Parker holds that post now. Mrs. R. P. MacClamroch is a member of the board of conservation and development. Judge Susie Sharp is the first woman ever to sit on the superior court bench in this state. Women have been named to various advisory commissions, boards of trustees, and other places, but nothing like pro rata representation.

**CONGRESSWOMAN** — Many North Carolinians are not aware or have forgotten that this state has had an elected congresswoman. Miss Jane Pratt was chosen in a special eighth district election in 1946 to fill out the term of W. O. Burgin, deceased. As your reporter recalls events congress was not in session during her tenure and she never cast a vote. She did not offer for re-election. Miss Pratt's entire service came between sessions, and therefore her name does not appear in the congressional directory nor in the official state manual. But North Carolina did have a full fledged congresswoman for a few months, the highest elective position ever held by a woman in North Carolina.

**IGNORED** — The women have been generally ignored by Democratic party leaders, except around election time. Print-shop service has been paid them, the plan of organization providing for equal number of men and women on the state executive committee, and for either the chairman or vice chairman to be a woman. The national committee also has a man and a woman from each state, but it is of record that frequently the national committee woman in North Carolina does not know what is being done in name of the party until she reads it in the newspapers. A few years ago when W. B. Umstead resigned as state chairman, he told then Governor Gregg Chery he would hold on until a meeting could be called, to select his successor, without considering that the function of the vice chairman



**THE OLD AND NEW** — Monday morning was moving day for 453 pupils of five small Negro schools to the new school at Erwin. They moved from classrooms, typical of that shown in the photo at the top, into new, modernly equipped classrooms such as that shown in the lower photo. In this picture, the seventh grade class of Mrs. A. D. Drane, who appears in the background, is shown in their new classroom. Pupils and faculty alike, are pleased with the new school building. (Daily Record photos by Louis Dearborn).

was to take over under such circumstances. Requirement that the state executive committee be composed of nine men and nine women from each congressional district was forgotten as soon as adopted.

**LOPSIDED** — Eighteen members from each of twelve districts would give 216 members. The 1951 State Manual lists 216, plus a few ex-officio members, but the rational distribution is ignored. According to the Manual the first, third, seventh, eighth, ninth and twelfth districts have nine men and nine women. The second district has ten men and eight women the fourth has nine men and eight women (one member short); the fifth has eleven men and seven women; the sixth has fourteen men and four women; the tenth has ten men and nine women (one member over); the eleventh has thirteen men and five women. That is the total of 216 members required, but the ratio is 121 men and 95 women.

**WHAT MATTER?** — Question is often asked what difference that makes; if the party wants to play that way, why not? It matters because the statutes recognize the party committee as the vehicle for making post-primary nominations for elective office. A little more than a year ago the Democratic committee as presently constituted placed the name of Jeff D. Johnson, Jr. on the ticket for the supreme court and he was elected. Nobody has shown disposition to challenge the procedure.

**RESPONSIBILITY** — Responsibility for this situation and for doing something about it rests squarely upon the womenfolk. It avails the woman citizen nothing to say she didn't want the ballot in the first place. Lots of men don't want that responsibility, either. Both men and women have got it, and must face up to it. A highly cultured woman told our reporter the other day that she resented newspaper quips about there being more evidence of corruption in government since women got the right to vote. Her resentment is understandable, but utterly inexcusable; especially since she added that she had never admitted she reached voting age just in time to participate in the election of 1920 which came a few months after ratification of the suffrage amendment.

**MAJORITY** — The federal cen-

sus shows there are more women than men of voting age in the United States and in North Carolina. The constitutions and the laws agree that women have the same right, privilege and obligation of citizenship as men. Therefore, whatever mess the country or the state finds itself in is directly chargeable to the women. Of course they don't like it; lots of men don't like it either. But the men have an alibi; they're outvoted. In a democracy the majority wins, must assume responsibility, and is entitled to the prerogatives and perquisites. If the women want to let the men keep all the honors, that's all right with the men; but when they try to put all the responsibility on the men, it won't work. The constitution and the laws of the land and the laws of nature took care of that when they combined to give every man and every woman equal share of responsibility and made more women than men to do the composite job. If the womenfolk want more recognition in North Carolina politics and government, all they have to do is demand it—and go after it. The menfolk are pretty well satisfied.

**BREVARD** — A net income of \$5,000 from his 22-acre dairy farm within the next five years is the challenging goal which C. C. Garren, a test demonstration farmer of the Calvert-Cherryfield community, has set for himself.

J. A. Glazener, Transylvania County farm agent for the State College Extension Service, says Garren's goal is not as much of an idle dream as it might seem. Garren more than reached the halfway mark in 1951, when his 10 cows produced an average of 7,500 pounds of milk.

The Transylvania farmer, who made only \$300 from his cows in 1949, hopes to increase his herd to 12 high-producing cows, with ample pasture, hay, and silage from the farm to feed them, leaving only supplement and some grain to be bought.

## Drew Pearson

(Continued From Page Two)

great ovation and boost at their convention in New York on May 30, 1944. Communists unanimously greeted 'three great men,' who were: Joseph Stalin, Marshal Tito and Dwight Eisenhower."

"The Soviet gangsters decorated Eisenhower with the Order of Suvorov which is given to those who serve the Soviet cause. What service did Eisenhower perform to warrant this great (?) honor? We remember that Roosevelt selected Eisenhower over 335 senior officers. Roosevelt knew that other generals would refuse to perform the pro-Soviet role which Eisenhower so obediently played."

"In the last stages of his career as president of Columbia University, Eisenhower again revealed his peculiar pro-Soviet bias. The case in point is the acceptance of \$300,000 subsidy from the Communist government of Poland by Columbia University. This subsidy was donated to further Communism."

Lester Maine's Sen. Owen Brewster, a member of the Taft inner circle, got hold of the above smear sheet and helped to have it circulated in Maine.

Note — Actually the man the Kremlin fears most is the man now organizing a United Europe—General Eisenhower.

## Winchell

(Continued From Page Two)

That recalls the time Charley Michelson (FDR's genius) was called in to help run a campaign in a nearby state. . . The Democrats were worried about a new personality in the opposition. He was going over very big as Election Day

near. . . "He's got to be stopped," Charley yelled. "Go out and dig something up on him."  
Two days before election, a lieutenant dashed into headquarters and breathlessly reported: "We've got it! We've got it! He's got a mistress!"  
"Good Heavens!" almost wept Michelson. "Don't let THAT get around! It'll get him another 100,000 votes!"

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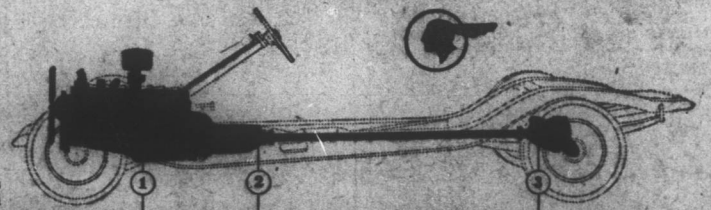
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