

(An Editorial.)

## MCDONALD "CROSS - EXAMINATION" CONTINUES

Q. Doctor, do you admit that a candidate for Governor of North Carolina should be like Caesar's wife—above suspicion?

A. I certainly do.

Q. Do you believe the Democratic party could afford to be put on the defensive in the fall campaign?

A. I do not.

Q. Then you concede that the Democratic party should be careful to nominate a man against whom the breath of scandal or defamation has never blown, whose ability and integrity are unquestioned, and whose public and private life are above reproach?

A. Why, certainly.

Q. Please define a "political machine?"

A. It is an aggregation of corrupt bosses exploiting the masses of the people for its own selfish advantage.

Q. Would you say the political machine is dishonest, corrupt and debased?

A. Absolutely I do say so.

Q. Then each part of its mechanism naturally partakes the nature of the whole?

A. Beg your pardon?

Q. I say if the machine is vicious, dishonest and debased, its members, its candidates are the same?

A. I see your drift. I claim that my opponents for Governor are fine gentlemen.

Q. But you would have the people believe they are crooks?

A. I have never called them crooks. I refrain from personalities in my campaign.

Q. I ask you, doctor, if you have not yourself started a campaign of personalities in N. C.?

A. Oh, no. My opponents began by charging me with being a citizen of Illinois. It was only then that I mentioned machine candidates.

Q. Do you consider the charge that you are from Illinois damaging to your character?

A. Why certainly not, I am very proud of my Illinois nativity.

Q. Then why, when your opponents said you were from Illinois, which you say you are proud of, did you come back at them and charge them with something which you admit yourself is very damaging to their characters. Does this not make you the author of the campaign of personalities now looming?

A. I do not think so.

Q. Are you proud of your sales tax?

A. You should be aware that I consider it an unmitigated curse.

Q. Then why did you vote for this unmitigated curse and then try to deceive the people of North Carolina by telling them if elected you would repeal it?

A. The people of North Carolina know that I led the fight in the legislature against the sales tax.

Q. But the House Journal of the 1935 General Assembly, page 788, shows that Dr. Ralph McDonald, of Forsyth county, not only voted for the sales tax but he voted for a tax on the poor man's meals and lunches in the cafes. Do you deny it—answer yes or no.

A. I repeat that I led the fight in the legislature against the sales tax and my thousands of friends will bear me out in this.

Q. Then do you confess to political duplicity when you "led" the fight against a bill that the record says you voted for? If you "lead" an army and then go around and shoot it in the back, what kind of a soldier do you claim to be?

A. I deny it.

Q. Illinois has a large negro vote, does it not, professor?

A. Chicago has a large colored voting population. The colored people in that city are very intelligent?

Q. Do you believe in white supremacy for North Carolina?

A. Why do you ask me this question?

Q. Because it is stated by O. L. Pulliam, registrar, and other election officers of Winston-Salem that you tried to induce them to register negro teachers in South Third ward of Winston-Salem, and because they refused, you became very angry at them. Do you deny that

you tried to get these negroes on the registration books?

A. This is the first time I have heard this charged. It is another hatch-up of the Democratic machine.

Q. If you become Governor will it be your policy to restore negroes to the ballot in North Carolina?

A. I do not believe there is any danger of negro registration on a large scale.

Q. What is your record on whiskey in North Carolina doctor? Are you in favor of letting the counties have their liquor back?

A. I stand for a referendum.

Q. Your adopted county of Forsyth is 7,220 dry, and the good people and the churches and the women and the prohibitionists sent you to the legislature trusting you to shield them from impending liquor legislation, did they not? I ask you, doctor, if you did not betray them? Will you answer yes or no?

A. No.

Q. I ask you, doctor, if you did not ask your colleague Hal Alsbaugh when the Pasquotank liquor bill was up to "put Forsyth in," and on the amendment you voted "yes." But when Paul Ervin demanded a record vote, you ran out on Hal. Now tell the people of North Carolina if this is not your shady record on liquor, quite as shady as your record on the sales tax. Please answer yes or no, doctor.

A. The people of Forsyth county know my record in the General Assembly and believe in me, and as the straw vote is now indicating, will vindicate me at the polls by a large majority.

Q. Do you believe that the people of Forsyth county and the Democratic party of North Carolina can afford to assume you as a liability when their great traditions and the immortal dead Vances, Glens, Aycocks, Kitchens, Craigs and Bicketts plead for a man above reproach, and honest and unsmirched in his public and private record? How shall we answer the attacks of the Republicans who are already laughing and shouting over the State at your charges that the Democratic party is foul and corrupt and machine-ridden? Tell me where is the corruption and the dishonesty and the trickery?

A. I defy the machine or its candidates to show that my record is not clear in North Carolina.

Q. Clear on what—for heaven's sake not on the sales tax and the poor man's bread and meat, not on whiskey and your promises and representations to the dry citizens of Forsyth county, not on white supremacy. I ask you if your whole program to ride into the governor's office is not based on deception, I ask you if your boasted tax-philosophy is not faked up to fool uninformed people?

A. I deny your inferences, and I appeal to the people.

Q. Have you noticed the published statement of Gordon Gray that his father Bowman Gray paid more than 62 per cent. of his income in taxes, when you stated in your Winston-Salem oration that this respected and honored man's name did not even appear on the tax books of Forsyth county?

A. I read the Gordon Gray explanation. I can easily explain my position.

Q. Then tell the people of North Carolina that in your campaign of deception to get in the Governor's office, you have even invaded the sacred precincts of a death-stricken home to carry your points, and that you dishonored the name of a splendid and law-abiding citizen. Is this Illinois strategy, is this Chicago politics that you would teach us in our simple and reverential North Carolina?

A. You are picturing this unimportant incident in a strained light. I have promised my friends a full and clear explanation.

Q. Why, doctor, do you know the amount of the total incomes of North Carolina citizens with net incomes of over \$25,000 after paying their federal income taxes, and if you do know, I ask you is such an amount sufficient to pay the in-

creased costs of State government advocated by you, after repealing the sales tax?

A. Oh, I have various other sources of taxes in prospect.

Q. Did you or did you not make the statement in your Winston speech that corporations pay less taxes in N. C. than any other State, and did you not make this statement to mislead the people, and is it not a fact that corporations in N. C. pay more taxes than any other State in the Union, if not, cite ONE State that has a higher corporate tax than N. C.? Answer, if you please.

A. There is a billion dollars of untaxed wealth in N. C. My program proposes to reach it and take the tax off the poor man.

Q. Like you took it off his bread? Doctor, you claim to be a professor and a philosopher, why evade my simple and earnest questions, and why side-step the truth to the people of N. C.?

A. Your questions seek to involve me in error. My deductions as published in my speeches are irrefutable.

Q. Doctor, I ask you again, if it is not a fact that a citizen of N. C. having sufficient income to pay the maximum federal income tax, would under the bill passed by the House recently, pay the federal government 79 per cent. of his net income, and if your proposals go through, any corporation that he held stock in subject to N. C. income taxes would pay 10 per cent. of its net income, and such individual pay 10 per cent. more of his net income? Answer, please.

A. I have not checked your figures, but I consider them inaccurate.

Q. I notice, Professor, you say you are opposed to a land tax. Do you not know that NOW there is not one cent levied on land by the State of N. C., and that the tax on land has been taken off by the "Democratic machine?" Do you not mean to leave the impression on the ignorant people that there is NOW a tax on land, and that you propose to take it off? Do you not know that when your wild program falls down, as down it must fall, that the only recourse to save the schools and the credit of the State would be to PUT A HEAVY TAX BACK ON LAND?

A. Oh, I am known to be opposed to a land tax.

Q. Now, my dear doctor, be fair, and tell the people if it is not a fact that if you divide the total sales tax collections in North Carolina by the number of citizens, that you have only a per capita tax of \$3.48 per annum? Is it not true also that there are hundreds of corporations in the state paying a part of this sales tax which would further reduce the actual per capita sales tax? In other words if a citizen of North Carolina had to pay income tax on \$100 of net income, such tax would equal his or her share of the sales tax?

A. My reply to all this may or will be found in my speeches. I cannot go into it here, but in general I deny your implications.

Q. You appear to be adept at denials. Do you deny that you tried to evade your own personal taxes in North Carolina?

A. Beg your pardon?

Q. Did you or did you not pay any taxes in North Carolina until you became a candidate for Governor, evading listing for several years, and finally forced to list, evaded payment until garnishee was threatened against your salary at the college? Please answer.

A. I was not aware that this campaign should descend to the level of personalities. I believe it should be conducted on a higher plane.

Q. But you have admitted that you began the personal attack on the private characters of Hoey and Graham, when you charged them with being machine candidates with all the racketeering, graft, corruption, and dishonesty which "machine politics" implies. Did you not start the personalities yourself?

A. I refuse to be drawn into undignified campaigning.

Q. But have you been too dignified to stoop