

UNIVERSITY POLITICAL LEADERS STAND HIGH IN STATE AND NATION

James K. Polk, John J. Parker, Charles B. Aycock, Edward K. Graham, O. Max Gardner, Josephus Daniels, John Motley Morehead, G. B. Stockton, All Served As Campus "Bosses."

By H. M. WILSON

(Released by Univ. News Bureau)

To be called a good politician is nothing to fight shy of on the University of North Carolina campus these days, if you should judge by the interest taken in the recent elections held by the 2700 boys who compose the student body.

On the contrary, it would appear that being rated as a political boss has come to be one of the most cherished of campus honors. As one evidence of this fact, it may be stated that the bosses who were successful in this year's campaign confessed that they would raise no objections to a proposal to expose their likenesses to the public through the newspapers.

If you question their motives or tactics, the boys who run the political machines on the Carolina campus point with pride to the distinguished men of the state and nation who got their first training in politics here.

They will tell you, for instance, about James K. Polk, President of the United States, who was twice elected president of the Dialectic literary society and who got his first taste of politics as a student here. They will refer you to the youthful heyday of John J. Parker, who at one time or other held nearly every office on the campus while a student. They will refer you to such educational giants as the late Charles B. Aycock, the late Edward K. Graham; to such governors as the former Angus McLean and the present Max Gardner; to such newspaper publishers as Josephus Daniels, E. B. Jeffress, and George Stephens; to such Supreme Court judges as the present five—Stacy, Connor, Brogden, Clark and Adams; to such diplomats as John Motley Morehead and G. B. Stockton, recently appointed as ministers, respectively, to Sweden and Austria.

These and hundreds of others who will go down in the pages of history as political immortals, you will be informed by the present-day politicians, got their first start on the highway of achievement here on the Chapel Hill campus.

For several years now the students have used the Australian form of secret ballot in their voting, and they say this has made for cleaner elections.

Their professors regard these political scraps as excellent training for future citizenship.

Regular System of Training

As far back as graduates can remember student politics on the Carolina campus had been under machine control. As fast as student political dictators were graduated new ones have taken their places. Students choosing to enter campus politics find it wise to start serving the campus parties early in their freshman year. The most industrious and sagacious of the sophomores are appointed as lieutenants and "ward heelers." During the year they serve as organizers, publicity agents, intelligence men, and orators. By a gradual process of elimination the "chosen few" emerge at the end of their junior years into the charmed circle of campus political captains and generals.

The whole system is modeled after the national political scheme. The chief difference lies in the looseness of party lines. A fraternity or a group of non-fraternity men are just as likely to be in two or three line-ups in as many years. The whole system depends upon col-

lective bargaining for its perpetuation. A group will band together and bargain with the leaders of the opposing line-ups, and usually align themselves with the party which appears to be the strongest and which promises the most.

Independents Have Little Chance

The extraordinary outcome of all the bargaining, campaigning, and electioneering is the uniform selection, with few exceptions, of the fittest officers that the student body provides. The leaders have learned from the long history of Carolina politics that the best qualified, and those who have served the University the most make the best candidates.

Candidates running independently, due to the size of the student body, have little chance of being elected, and therefore the most able and ambitious men fight for a chance to run on machine tickets.

The last decade in Carolina politics has seen seven strong men rise to the leadership of campus affairs. Back in 1921-22 Joe Erwin of Morganton, a member of the A. T. O. fraternity, joined his forces with Obie Harmon, student manager of Swain hall, University dining hall, and elected a majority of the student officers through the membership of the Di and Phi societies, the source of political power at that time. Erwin is at present a candidate for the state legislature from the Morganton district.

Some Hot Campaigns

The next year, 1922-23, with the single exception of the current year, witnessed the hottest political campaign of the last decade. The Kappa Sigs and Swain Hall "got-together" and chose Sam Cathey, a blind student, to lead them. Cathey is now prosecuting attorney for the city of Asheville. That year Taylor Bledsoe, who also came from Asheville, served in the party as a freshman. Harmon was the Raskob of the party. Cathey succeeded in electing only half of his ticket. The fight was so closely contested and so bitter that it was necessary to recount the ballots twice.

Cathey downed all opposition the next year and together with Bledsoe and Floyd Griffin succeeded in putting in all their candidates with the exception of a few men running for minor offices.

In 1924-25 Floyd Griffin inherited the mantle cast off by Cathey. Bledsoe acted as a captain. Due largely to his influence Bill Cocke of Asheville was elected president of the student body. The candidates for the major positions that year were largely unopposed.

The next year Bledsoe succeeded Griffin in the management of his party, while Mac Covington, a sophomore, together with "Shorty" Madry, a law student at the time, upset Bledsoe's plans by electing all but three of the offices. Charlie Price acted as lieutenant under Bledsoe.

Taylor Bledsoe's Machine

In 1926-27 Bledsoe inaugurated a three-year regime with Covington and Price as captains which literally swept its opposition away each year, and culminated in the uncontested election of 21 out of 31 officers before a ballot was ever dropped. Of the remaining 10 offices Bledsoe and his two captains put over nine.

Campus Political Leaders



Numerous political leaders have gotten their start in campus politics at the University of North Carolina. The two boys who acted as bosses for the successful machine in the recent campus elections are pictured above. They are Charles Price, of Salisbury, (at left), and Mac Covington, of Linden. Both are descended from politically-minded ancestors.

Then came this year and the elections on April 4. The campaigning was begun in the early fall with Mac Covington and Charlie Price as joint leaders. However, they soon struck opposition in a group, who organized what they termed an "insurgent" party and waged one of the hottest campaigns ever waged at the University on two issues; i. e., that the non-fraternity element were insufficiently represented, and that the campus would be benefitted by two parties.

Both parties went to the polls April 4 confident of scoring an unprecedented victory, but it was not the insurgent party which rode on the crest of victory that day. Mac Covington and Charlie Price, political managers par-excellence, swept the day by electing 30 out of 31 possible officers by surprisingly large majorities running from

more than 500 in the case of the major officers to 150 in the case of the minor candidates.

The two leaders—Mac Covington of Linden and Charles Price of Salisbury—both are descended from politically-minded ancestors. Covington's grandfather was a sheriff of Marlboro County in South Carolina for many years. Covington's three uncles have been in politics for years. W. C. McAlister, a graduate of the University, is chairman of the state election board of the state of Oklahoma, a member of the state senate, and has twice refused to run for the governorship of the state because of health. Another uncle, A. G. McAlister, is chief justice of the supreme court of the state of Arizona.

Price and Covington

Covington has served as president of the University dormitory council for two years,

president of the summer school student body last year, and debated in his undergraduate years. He is a member of the Sigma Zeta fraternity.

Charles Price is the namesake of his grandfather who successively served the state of North Carolina as president of the State Bar Association, as a captain in the Confederate army, and as speaker of the state House of Representatives. His father, Augustus Hobson Price, attended the University, and later became an assistant United States attorney, an elector at large to Republican conventions, and a referee in bankruptcy.

Price, himself, has served as chairman of the executive committee of the senior class of 1928, and has been elected president of the third year law class of the University law school for next year. He was actively connected with the Di Senate during his undergraduate years. He is a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity.

Goldsboro Victorious On Both Sides Of State Debate Query

(Continued from first page)

Rankin, director of the University extension division, served as secretary. The judges, all prominent University faculty members, were R. D. W. Connor, C. F. McCormick, N. W. Walker, D. D. Carroll and H. W. Odum.

At the conclusion of the speeches Horace H. Williams, University professor, made the presentation of the Aycock cup to Goldsboro's winning team. The academic contest cups were presented to the winning schools by Dean Hibbard, while R. B. House awarded the cups and medals to the winners in the interscholastic track meet held

here yesterday afternoon. The tennis award was not made last night as the tournament has not yet been completed.

Wickersham Sees Gain in Enforcement, reads a head-line. But it didn't say who for.—Leesburg Commercial.

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