

The Chapel Hill Weekly

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Speculations about Nixon

The performance in office, the bearing and behavior, the character and ability, and specially the future of Richard M. Nixon continue to stir the interest of writers on politics. They assess him, some favorably, some unfavorably; they remark upon the fact that, if he is elected, he will gain in power because the only man ahead of him in the government will be ineligible for another term; and they speculate upon how he will use the increased power.

The latest comment upon Nixon that I have seen is one by Frank Kent in the Baltimore Sun. He writes:

"The Democratic propagandists have been making a violent anti-Nixon campaign for four years and apparently intend to continue it till election day. It has been one of insinuation and utter vagueness. Yet it has been cleverly conducted by well-paid experts aided by a good many volunteers in the journalistic, political and radio fields. It has been a dirty campaign. In four years it has certainly had an effect, and there are a number (no one knows how many) of people in the country who have a feeling that there is 'something wrong' with Nixon.

"The extraordinary thing about this long-sustained smear of Mr. Nixon is that so few of them can offer a reason for their hostility. Asked why, the reply is almost always vague and inconsequential.

"Mr. Eisenhower and the convention delegates were not influenced by the campaign against Nixon. The Democrats will, of course, continue to use him as a target, but his friends believe he has emerged a stronger and better man than he was in 1952."

"Stronger and better man" These words applied to Nixon, and the article in last week's New Yorker by the magazine's Washington correspondent, Richard H. Rovere, remind me of a conversation I had with the late Charles A. Beard, the celebrated historian, when he and his wife were in Chapel Hill several years ago. (Conversation is hardly the right word, though. He was no monologist—he was ready and willing to listen to anybody—but I had nothing to tell him. I was quite content to do nothing but put in questions enough to keep up the flow of his fascinating talk.)

Mr. and Mrs. Beard stayed here three or four weeks after he delivered the Weil lectures and sometimes they would drop in at our home. We would ramble along on any subject—incidents in the current news, sport, travel, politics, anything—and I remember that once he talked of growth in famous men in history. One of the examples he gave was Abraham Lincoln. I can't repeat his exact words, but the substance of what he said was that ten or fifteen years before the Civil War Lincoln was just an ordinary run-of-the-mine country politician; that he had in him, unbeknownst to himself or anybody else, the seeds of greatness; that observation, thought, struggle, the pressure of events, caused these seeds to burgeon and produce the Lincoln that is known to history. Mr. Beard gave other examples to enforce his point. His studies had convinced him of the possibility of remarkable growth in men. Never feel sure, he said, that a man who has made a poor record in his early years is going to keep on going that way—he may undergo a development that people who have known him from his youth thought impossible.

"Speculation about the kind of President that Nixon would make," writes Richard H. Rovere in the New Yorker, "has taken on a new meaning and urgency. The impressions one gathered at the convention in San Francisco were

those who thought that love for the Republic demanded his early elimination.

"There has always been a certain lack of specificity about these fears; people have been bothered by Nixon without being able to say precisely why. There are doubtless many people who continue to feel that way about Nixon, despite the fact that he has lately been laboring with great zeal to remove any possible reasons for being unloved. He has been very much on his dignity. In his meetings with the state caucuses, he recommended that the 1956 campaign be conducted on the highest possible moral level, and gave the delegates his opinion that Adlai Stevenson and Estes Kefauver were honorable and patriotic Americans who should in no circumstances be accused of having base motives.

"His acceptance speech was close enough to liberal orthodoxy to qualify him—ideologically, at any rate—for membership on the national board of Americans for Democratic Action. He seemed to stand far to the left of where Henry Wallace stood in 1934. He had barely sat down when his detractors began to explain that it was all subterfuge.

"His detractors, however, are slightly fewer in number than they were a while back, and there are some people here who think that the new Nixon is an authentic creation. They think that the temper of the times and the magic of the Presidency are at work upon him. The temper of the times seems to demand that any man in or approaching a high administrative office talk and act like some species of liberal, and the magic of the Presidency, to which he is now so near, seems capable of creating maturity and a sense of responsibility in some of the least promising of men."—L. G.

The School Amendment

(Continued from Page 1)

talk about it is familiar with all the arguments for and against it, I will not repeat them here. The Governor, the members of the Advisory Committee, and other advocates have called the plan a "safety valve." I believe that to be a fair term for it and that it is the best move the State can make under the circumstances.

In my opinion Mr. Pearsall talked sense when he said at a recent meeting in Rocky Mount: "The plan takes into consideration the emotions, customs, mores, and traditions which the Advisory Committee found to be genuine and powerful. Whether good or bad, pleasant or unpleasant, the fact remains that these feelings do exist and must not be ignored. Those who would wear blinders and refuse to recognize and admit the existence of these feelings would do public education an injustice."

In the same tenor is the statement by D. Hiden Ramsey of Asheville, long-time educational leader and now chairman of the State Commission on Higher Education:

"The Pearsall plan should spare us the disorders which have developed in other states and which have embittered the relations between the two races.

"I do not believe that North Carolina has ever had a chief executive more sincerely interested in the public schools than Governor Hodges. I am confident he can be trusted to do whatever is necessary, in the troublous month ahead, to preserve them.

"North Carolina cannot set itself in defiance of any decision, however abhorrent, of the Supreme Court. Unhappily there is no obvious road we can choose in the confidence that it will carry our public school system safely through the present crisis. We must take calculated chances, never losing sight of the supreme objective of saving the schools for the children of both races.

"The Pearsall plan is not a perfect solution of our problem, but it appeals to me as the best solution that has been suggested."

The Raleigh News and Observer, which opposes the Pearsall plan, says, "all extremists will vote for it." Obviously this is something nobody could know; the statement is a mere supposition. Of course saying that all the extremists will vote for the Pearsall plan is not the same thing as saying that all who vote for the plan are extremists, but by implication it comes close to identifying approval of the plan with extremism. It is pertinent to recall, in this connection, that the plan has been formally endorsed by the Directors of the North Carolina Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Directors of the North

Carolina Education Association, the Directors of the Association of School Boards, the Association of School Superintendents, the Association of County Commissioners, the State Board of Education, and the North Carolina General Assembly. When I reflect upon the

make-up of these bodies and others which have taken the same stand, and upon the character of the men and women of my acquaintance who have told me they favor the Pearsall plan, I am persuaded that it does not depend for support upon the extremists.—L. G.

On the Town

By Chuck Hauser

THE NEWS AND OBSERVER, which makes a lot of people (including me) angry from time to time, has to be given credit for tenacity in its current campaign to remind Governor Hodges of a statement which I'm sure he wishes he had never made.

Every day for weeks (maybe longer, but I just got back in the country and I might have missed it) the Raleigh newspaper has been printing the following reminder on its editorial page:

"Just one year ago Governor Hodges said: 'Abolition of the public schools and their replacement to a most uncertain extent by private ones is a last-ditch and double-edged weapon. If that weapon is ever used in North Carolina, its result will be appalling in ignorance, poverty and bitterness.'"

This year-old comment by the Governor rather succinctly states my reasons for fearing the Pearsall Plan amendment which is to be voted on by the people of North Carolina tomorrow.

Proponents of the Pearsall Plan insist that the "safety valve" provisions will probably (they say this quite bravely and hopefully) never be used. I am afraid they are kidding themselves. If the Plan is adopted, I have a nervous feeling in the pit of my stomach that it will provoke more test cases than it will quash, and we will see schools closing their doors in many places in North Carolina. The children will suffer, and, of course, the state will suffer.

I am against eliminating the constitutional provision to require the state to provide a free and uniform system of schools.

I am against eliminating the compulsory school attendance law.

I am against gambling the education of the children of North Carolina on a system of private schools which will be supported with state tax money but which will not be under the supervision of state educators.

I am against risking the fate of North Carolina's schools to popular shotgun referendums in which emotions can sway 51 per cent of the voters to deny to 49 per cent of the voters the right to send their children to public school.

I don't think the Pearsall Plan is constitutional, and I think it will have died a violent judicial death long before the helpful provisions of the school assignment law, passed in 1955, are fully appreciated by the people of the state.

I don't believe any children can receive a decent education for \$135 a year, and I don't believe the majority of school districts in the state will vote generous enough school tax supplements to increase that \$135 to a reasonable level. (And if they did vote sufficient supplements, they would be in the position, again, of voting public tax funds for private educational purposes, which is a shaky proposition at best.)

In short, I don't believe the Pearsall Plan will work. I credit its backers, for the most part, with sincerity and an honest desire to find a solution to one of the most critical problems ever to face us in the South. But the fact that they are sincere doesn't mean that they are right.

Chapel Hill Chaff

(Continued from page 1)

years old), Carroll (8 years old), and Amanda Kay (nearly 4 years old). They ornament our neighborhood and they gladden it with their gaiety and good manners. How sweet it is to have such people come back home!

We are all prone to think that the season that is with us is giving us unusually rough treatment, in heat or cold or winds or dryness or wetness. I have been saying, and have been hearing others say, that not for a long time have we had a summer that could match this one in the number of very hot days. I asked Max D. Saunders, director of the local weather bureau, to look up the records of this summer and last summer and tell me what he found. This is what he re-

ports on the maximum temperatures in the 3-months period of June, July, and August.

96 or over: 6 days in 1955, 8 days in 1956... 90 to 95: 34 days in 1955, 41 days in 1956... 85 to 89: 31 days in 1955, 22 days in 1956.

Combining the 85-to-89 and the 90-to-95 maximums: the number of 85-to-95 days was exactly the same in 1955 as in 1956; that is, 65.

There was no day this year on which the mercury in the official thermometer went up to 100. The single 100-degree day last year was in June.

Of course there are exceptional years in respect to weather, but when the record is consulted it shows that there is not nearly as much difference between one year and another as we thought.

Welsh Educator's Explanation of Eisenhower's Popularity

The Manchester Guardian publishes a letter, entitled "Why Is It That Ike Is Liked," from Alan Conway, a member of the faculty of the University of Wales:

"Why does President Eisenhower enjoy such popularity? With no pretension to good looks, almost bald, a competent speaker but no orator, Eisenhower has secured an emotional hold upon the American people unequalled by Franklin Roosevelt even at the peak of success.

"Still a major contribution to this popularity is his military career. Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, Grant, Theodore

Roosevelt and Truman found their military exploits no hindrance in their political careers, and Eisenhower has the added advantage of having been the victorious commander-in-chief of the Allied forces in a war which secured for the United States world leadership. Linked to this is the Cromwellian sense of destiny with stress laid upon duty and service in the context of a Christian conscience.

The second strand of his popularity is the log-cabin pioneer tradition, the ability to be folksy without being a 'hick.' This is a virtue that Eisenhower shares with Lincoln. He is also the 'ordinary guy,' like Truman, but without the shadow of the Pender-

From Our Files

5 Years Ago

James R. Farlow was reelected president of the Orange County chapter of Young Democrats at a recent meeting here. The population of Glen Lennox—men, women, and children—is 975.

10 Years Ago

The Chapel Hill Swimming Club won the boys and girls Mid-South Championships and finished second in the junior women's division last Friday and Saturday at Wilson in the Mid-South Invitation Swimming Meet.

15 Years Ago

Grady Pritchard, star lineman on the University team twenty years ago, is going to help coach the Chapel Hill high school football team this year. When I was at Miss Alice Noble's Sunday afternoon I heard her make what seems to me an excellent suggestion for the saving of gasoline in this community; let the University students be forbidden to use automobiles.—Chapel Hill Chaff.

gast machine in the background. Like both Roosevelts he has great charm—not the polished charm of the drawing-room but the barefoot, Huck Finn charm of the American boy going fishing.

"Thirdly, Eisenhower is essentially a family man, and in spite of the high divorce rate in the United States the family is a strong and highly respected unit in American life. Finally, it may be most significant that not only could Eisenhower have had the nomination from either party in the 1952 election but also that he stands midway between Democrats and Republicans in that no man's land of the vitally important uncommitted voter."

You can use a hammer as a mallet by slipping a rubber crutch tip over the hammer head.

I Like Chapel Hill

By Billy Arthur

Some folks were kidding Ben Crutchfield about trying to save his money. "You can't take it with you when you die," he was told.

"I'd better," replied Ben, "because I'll sure run into someone I owe."

Tony Jenzano was commenting on how red the planet Mars is now in the early evenings.

"I haven't seen it," I told him.

"That I can understand," quipped Tony. "You're not as close to it as the rest of us."

Bob Bartholomew has been working on a novel for some time now which, he says, is being written for the "cigar store and pool room trade." A young lady here in Chapel Hill heard about the book and asked Bob if she could look at the unfinished manuscript. He consented. She read one chapter, laid the manuscript down, and said, "There's no need to worry about who will take the place of the late Dr. Kinsey—you'll fit in nicely."

Another good story I heard recently concerned the salesman who had just completed a course in salesmanship and had tried out the principles he had learned. Later he was asked how the course had helped him. "Well, I did everything I was told," he said. "I greeted the customer warmly, I smiled at him, asked him a lot of questions about himself and I listened to him for hours and agreed with everything he said, and when we parted, I knew I had made a friend for life. But, brother, what an enemy he made."

Didn't I mention something herein recently about eating at the second table when I was a kid?

Anyway, when we went up to our grandparents for Sunday dinners, there were so many relatives around that we kids had to wait until they ate first. Our dinner was called the "second table."

It's already been said that some kids ate at that shift so much they were adults before learning a chicken was composed of anything except wings, backs and necks.

But the newest along that line came from my Missus, who had a relative who was the youngest of 13 children and outlived almost all of them. "I was the last to be fed," he explained, "therefore, I was the healthiest, because I got all the vitamins—the pot likker that was left."

She recalls that her parents were beset with relatives every summer. "They always knew when we had plenty of chickens and ham, and they'd come in droves for dinner. But daddy fixed 'em," she says. "He didn't like their coming down to visit him just to get their fill of ham and chicken, so every time a batch of relatives showed up during the summer, he waited until about an hour before it was time for dinner, and then cut three or four big watermelons. The kin folks couldn't resist digging into them, and got too full to eat much chicken and ham. Dad was smart."

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