

Editorial

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AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

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DON'T LET IT HAPPEN IN '50!

In 1938, 42 million citizens DIDN'T vote. Result: Defeat of 71 liberal Congressmen... Preservation of our armed forces by only one vote... Death of WPA... Refusal of President Roosevelt's request for public works program... Start of Republican-Dixiecrats coalition.

In 1942, 55 million citizens DIDN'T vote. Result: Defeat of 51 liberal Congressmen... OPA turned over to industry... Refusal to help farmers... Removal of curbs on excessive war-time salaries... Passage of "relief-for-the-greedy" tax bill over President's veto... Approval of anti-labor Smith-Connally Act.

In 1946, 55 million citizens DIDN'T vote. Result: Defeat of 49 Congressmen and election of terrible 80th Congress... Wage-Hour Act gutted... Farm price supports damaged... Department of Labor and Federal Security Agency weakened... Taxes for the rich slashed... Action on housing, aid to education, civil rights, excess profits and big prices killed... TAFT-HARTLEY ACT PASSED.

Such has been the voting pattern and the resulting legislative dress every four years since the big liberal vote of 1934. Don't let it happen in 1950!

Congress won't change just because you plead or threaten its Members. Congress will change only when you send new faces to Washington.

STRONG APPROVAL

Sen. Edward Martin (Pa.) is a bitterly anti-Truman Republican. But listen to what he says about the war in Korea:

"The great victory that is being achieved in Korea is the result of a magnificent retirement... It is one of the greatest things ever to be achieved in military history."

Martin is a former commanding general of a World War II division. He knows something about how wars are won. Sen. Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio), who knows nothing about how wars are won, has, by contrast, been extremely critical of the manner with which the Truman Administration has handled the Korean war.

Taft's sidekick, Sen. Kenneth Wherry (R., Nebr.) has been saying that President Truman and his military aides were just "bumbling and blundering."

Whom do you believe—a former major general of the United States Army or two gents who never heard a shot fired in anger?

FOOT-IN-MOUTH DISEASE

Sen. Alexander Wiley (R., Wis.) tells the Milwaukee Kiwanis Club that the "anti-Communist issue" and "appeasement or sternness with Russia" are two of the most important issues in this fall's elections.

They certainly are, Senator. And on Sept. 22, 1949, you voted against sending military aid to Korea and on May 25, 1950, you voted against sending economic aid to Korea.

Were you fighting Communists in September of last year? Were you being stern with Russia in May of this year?

HEARD EVERYTHING?

William Schmidt of Chicago is managing editor of Free Enterprise, the weekly paper of the Property Owners' Association of America. He explained the Korean war to a group of Milwaukee property owners the other night this way:

"The war in Korea," Schmidt said, "is merely an incident. It was started by the maneuvering of bureaucrats in Washington for one purpose—the extension of rent control!"

FARM INCOME DROPS

In the first nine months of 1949, farmers received \$19.5 billion for their products.

In the first nine months of this year, they received only \$18.7 billion—in spite of the Korean war which drove up the prices of everything else. So reports the Department of Agriculture.

Do the reactionaries still say the farmers are getting rich off the war?

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CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

RALEIGH.

Technically, the congressional district rallies are being held to promote peace and harmony within the Democratic party and to inspire party members to roll up a record Democratic vote in the November 7 election.

State leaders and officeholders are journeying over the State for these sessions, and are putting their arms around each other to sing of party harmony—for public consumption, at least.

But back of the scenes—in smoke-filled rooms and on wind-swept corners—the boys are trying to get their ducks in a row for a conservative-liberal fight that will get into full swing the day after the election, November 8.

Some of the maneuvering, in fact, makes you wonder if they really know there is a general election coming up in less than a month.

Out of the first week's tour—with big rallies at Sylva, Marion and Morganton—comes an indication that the conservatives are getting jumpy. The public touting of Bill Umstead of Durham as "the next Governor" is an indication of this. The first mention of Umstead in this vein came after an indication at Sylva that Governor Scott, titular head of the party and leader of the liberals, is gaining in popularity.

The tossing of Umstead's name in the gubernatorial pot was done by Monroe Redden, 12th district Congressman, at Sylva. Redden was introduced by Umstead—for no apparent reason. The reason showed up when Redden began to talk. He called Umstead the next Governor, and pledged his support.

The heaving of Umstead's hat in the ring caused some raised eyebrows. Although the Durham man has been repeatedly mentioned as a conservative entry, it's a long time until the race starts for the next Governor. Some folks remembered Charlie Johnson's failure being attributed to too early a start. Some folks wondered if Umstead isn't being thrown to the wolves; others thought his backers were trying to sound out opinion as to the strength of the old east-west tradition (Umstead being a definite eastern man); and some folks were wondering how the conservatives would counteract their own claims last spring that Umstead had failed to run against Graham because of a "deal" with Scott.

Despite Umstead's host of friends on both sides of the fence in the Democratic party, some of the liberals believe that he would be the easiest of any conservative candidate to beat. Having lost once (being beaten by Broughton), and with his failure to run for the Senate against Graham because of ill health—despite the stories—they feel that Umstead would have trouble getting a majority.

Meantime, others mentioned as gubernatorial candidates in 1952 were much in evidence on the district rally circuit. Secretary of State Thad Eure had a red face and a ready answer when the AP carried a report that he had announced his intention of running for Governor. Somebody just got the wrong idea from some kidding that was going on, Eure said. That fasco is being tabbed by some as a trial balloon. Others think it was just what Eure said, a slip. Even if Thad decides to run—and it's no secret that he would like to be Governor—his friends think the hand-shaking Secretary of State has too much political savvy to come out this early.

Others mentioned in the Governor's derby—Agriculture Commissioner Stag Ballentine, Highway Commission Chairman Henry Jordan, and State Treasurer Brandon Hodges—are keeping quiet on the tour, at least they're having nothing to say for public consumption.

The clique in Raleigh that predicted and hoped for an unbalanced budget are worried. Instead of a deficit, that they hoped would discredit Kerr Scott's administration, a surplus is certain for the biennium. So just as soon as the election is over, they are planning a big anti-administration campaign.

It's not that they mind being proven wrong as it is that they

fear the gaining popularity of the Governor, and even his severest critics admit that Kerr Scott right now is riding high in the minds of a big share of Tar Heel voters.

Battle lines are being drawn, but the ironical fact is that it isn't just on two fronts. In the early stages there apparently will be about four camps jockeying for position in the coming fight for political control—and the Governorship. After the General Assembly is over, and the cards on the table, there likely will be a consolidation move.

The big question right now—and one that his opponents would love to see answered—is "will the Scott administration back a candidate?" Up to now the Governor has been tending to his own knitting and been an onlooker in the preliminary skirmishes. Several obvious attempts to draw him out have failed. Questioned last week at a press conference about rumors that he or his assistant Ben Roney and Private Secretary John Marshall were (1) promoting D. Hiden Ramsey of Asheville and (2) pushing Highway Commissioner Jordan for the 1952 Governorship race, brought only a chuckle from the Governor.

Meanwhile, the opposition growls and Kerr Scott's popularity increases with the people. His gains, believe it or not, are not confined to original Scott supporters.

During the last month at least three boards of county commissioners have passed resolutions endorsing Scott's road program, and his drive for more rural electrification and telephones has grown into one of the most potent political weapons in North Carolina political history.

Republican Gavin could have rolled up quite a vote, possibly won the election, with a different sort of campaign. A great number of Democrats in the State, who supported Frank Graham, were bitter about the type of campaign waged against the former UNC president. A lot of them were talking about voting Republican, others about writing in Graham's name on the ballot, and still others about not voting at all.

A non-partisan campaign, such as Gavin advertised, with an appeal to vote against bigotry could have put a Republican in the Senate for the first time in many years.

But Gavin apparently got some bum advice from somewhere and has used practically all of his speeches to cuss the Democratic administration, both State and National.

Despite this, there still is a strong possibility—from reports from over the State—that the Republicans will run up their biggest vote in years this November.

If they do, it will be the fault of the conservatives—winners in the primary—who still are on the defensive about their campaign methods and are trying to discredit the State administration via a whispering campaign that is going on right now.

If State Chairman Jordan and his cohorts don't change their tactics, and start really working for a united Democratic front November 7, there still is a remote possibility—and it's in the miracle class if it does happen—that Sanford's E. L. Gavin could be the next U. S. Senator from North Carolina.

Willis Smith's failure to show up at the Alamance County YDC rally last Friday evening didn't help things.

The rally was deliberately staged at Governor Scott's Haw River farm in an effort to boost Smith's stock. Alamance is about evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, and some observers see a likelihood that the county's vote could go to GOP standard-bearer E. L. Gavin of Sanford, despite the Governor's personal popularity.

Around the fringes of the crowd of some 6,000 who ate barbecue and listened to the speeches, there was a distinct tone of disapproval of Smith's failure to be on hand.

Smith sent a telegram of regret, stating that he had a previous engagement with the State Bar association at Pinehurst.

THE AUTO CLUE (?)



From the reports of the bar meeting, Smith's duty was to introduce the main speaker at the bar association's annual banquet. The senator-nominee was defended on all sides for not appearing, but there were a lot of folks present who seemed to think that it was more important to carry Alamance County for the Democrats than it was to put on a dress suit and introduce an outsider at a banquet.

All of which comes back to this: the conservatives are in charge of the Democratic campaign. The liberals, who fought them bitterly in the primary, are calling for a united front and a big Democratic vote for Smith. Governor Scott and defeated-Senator Frank Graham are doing all they can to assure the party of a bigger-than-ever majority in the general election.

If the vote falls off, with the Republicans getting more than a normal 21 to 30 per cent of the ballots, it will be the conservative faction which is to blame—no matter how hard they may try to pin it on the Scott-Graham-Daniels group.

First things should come first, but State Democratic Chairman Everette Jordan, Willis Smith and fellow conservatives apparently consider the election in the bag and not worth worrying about. They seem to be more interested in a victory in the 1952 gubernatorial campaign.

From Washington via Raleigh comes word that Selective Service is seriously considering establishment of draft deferments for essential occupations in agriculture. Farm labor, already a critical item in some areas, is expected to be on the short side throughout the nation come spring. The United States Department of Agriculture already is considering a list of proposed essential occupations. This is not expected to be put into effect until after the age limit is upped, however. Actually, few able-bodied men between 19 and 25 will be deferred in 1951 regardless of developments in the Korean war.

School teachers will get the official word October 27 on the supplemental pay raise question and it's certain to be yes. Nearly three weeks ago the Advisory Budget Commission said that the pay boost could be made if general fund revenue continued at the then present level through October.

Revenue Commissioner Eugene Shaw has indicated that his department will have a pretty clear picture of October collections by October 27, when the Budget Commission meets to continue its study of requests for the next biennium.

Last week, Shaw announced general fund collections for September showed an increase of \$932,602 over collections for the same month last year. That was a boost of 13.71 per cent. Average increase for the previous two months was 13.5 per cent, which brought the total increase for the first quarter of the fiscal year to 13.61 per cent, or more than \$3,100,000.

This rate of increase—if it continues—will mean that the State will have a surplus of more than six and a quarter million dollars by December. Add to that the \$800,000,000 the budget commission declared surplus as of last June 30, and it runs the total to the \$7,000,000 needed to put something in the pot for the teachers.

Meanwhile, machinery is being set up for issuing the bonus

personnel changes being made wherever there is even suspicion of wrong doing.

From down Hertford county way comes word of road trouble. Seems the County Commissioners claim that some roads are being hardsurfaced that they hadn't recommended. So, they've asked the district engineer (W. N. Spruill) for an explanation. The Commissioners say they were supposed to name the roads to be surfaced first out of road bond money. Now they claim a five-mile stretch which they did not okay—but which runs by the farm of T. E. Browne, a retired agriculture department worker and strong Scott supporter—has been hardsurfaced. Don't suppose it's possible, but wouldn't it be nice if they could keep politics out of the road-building programs?

Ironically, over at Greensboro last week the N. C. State Highway Employees Association voted almost two to one against a motion that would have barred association members from taking part in politics.

State Department heads are denying it, but that same old election story is making the rounds. That's the one where pressure is supposedly being put on State employees to make them contribute to the Democratic party's war fund. Department heads have received letters from State Democratic Chairman Everette Jordan politely asking for a donation.

Reporters have been unable to find State employees who can prove they were put on the spot for a campaign fund shakedown, but the usual story of someone coming by with a list of names and a "suggested" amount for the employee to give is going around.

Scott forces were charged by the conservatives with doing the same thing during the road-bond election campaign and the senatorial primary. This time the shoe's on the other foot, with the conservative (or Old Guard) boys being accused of asking for the money.

There hasn't been an election in recent years that the same charge does; others say that the job-holders wouldn't be working—or should I say drawing pay—if it wasn't for the Democratic party, so they should be happy to donate to the cause.

Workers should be chosen for their ability, not their political connections, and should be free to donate or not as they see fit. But that's just a beautiful dream.

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