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Isn't It About Time?

Not since Pearl Harbor has this nation faced so grave a crisis. It probably is no exaggeration, in fact, to say that in all its history America has never been in such danger as it is today.

Yet a few of us would tear this nation apart over an issue of civil rights!

Should we lose our war with Russia (and it is war, except that the shooting hasn't begun), how many civil rights would the Negro, or any one else, have left?

And what would state's rights amount to then? How much would any of those rights Americans prize be worth at the end of a long shooting war—even if we won it? For what would rights mean in a ruined world?

Yet we are doing the one thing most likely to tempt Russia to war—advertising our disunity!

Isn't it about time we middle-of-the-road Americans, of whatever section or party or race, told off some of these leaders of ours?

Nor can you and I avoid responsibility by saying there is nothing we can do. The political life of every politician depends upon public opinion—no body knows that better than the politician. And if enough of us say enough, and say it loudly enough—if there are enough communications sent to newspapers, enough letters and telegrams sent to Mr. Truman and Mr. Dewey and Mr. Thurmond and Mr. Wallace, enough petitions and protests and mass meetings—we can get action, and get it quickly.

Isn't it about time the intelligent, patriotic Negroes of America say to the extremists of their race: "We are making progress by evolutionary methods. But, even if we weren't, this is no time for social revolution. This is the time to preserve those rights we have; not to fight for new ones—and possibly lose all. We are Americans first!"

Isn't it about time the Republicans who are citizens first and partisans second say to Mr. Dewey, and the Democrats say to Mr. Truman: "Our task now is to preserve America and the things America stands for. We certainly cannot do it if we lose the war with Russia. We probably cannot do it if the cold war becomes a hot war; there will be too little left. . . . More civil rights for the Negro?—that is a minor detail now."

Isn't it about time we in the South say to our leaders, high and low: "We've battled to save state's rights and our way of life for decades. This decade is for something more important. Today we must fight to save America."

Isn't it about time for all of us, north and south, white and black, conservative and liberal, to open our eyes? Isn't it about time for us to act like men? Isn't it about time were were Americans?

The Beer Election

Shall we continue to license Macon County dealers to sell beer, under the conditions set up by state law, or shall we make it illegal to sell alcoholic beverage within the borders of this county?

The voters will answer that question in a special election to be held Saturday of next week.

In seeking the right answer, most voters will ask themselves: Which would be better for Macon County? And that, of course, is the main consideration; every other issue is distinctly secondary.

It is a many-sided question, however, and an intelligent decision can be reached only by careful examination of every phase of the problem. In other words, we can answer this main question honestly only by asking ourselves a lot of the secondary questions; for most "wets" will agree that alcohol is an unmixed evil, and most "drys" will agree that outlawing the sale of beer will not automatically end drinking in Macon County. Under present conditions, neither system is a final solution; it appears to be a question, then, of which is the lesser of two evils.

It is not the function of this newspaper to at-

the duty of a newspaper, however, in any such election, to raise some of the secondary questions that bear upon the main one.

First, however, here are two suggestions, offered for what they may be worth:

1. This is an issue that calls for thought; it should not be decided by prejudice or emotion—and there is too much of both, on both sides.

2. We should not permit resentment, no matter how justified it may be, to influence our thinking. Reference is made to the legal maneuver by which the wet forces prevented the voters from passing upon this issue at the special election that had been called for last February. The Press condemned that maneuver at the time; it still condemns it. But it isn't the actions of wet leaders that we are to pass upon at the election August 28. The question is: What is best for Macon County?

The answer to that question depends, to a large extent, upon the answers to those that follow.

Is the issue simply one of right and wrong? or is it a question of which is the lesser of two evils?

Unless we can materially improve the situation by voting out legal beer, does it make sense to vote out the some \$30,000 a year this county receives from the state in revenue—revenue we will receive only so long as sale of beer is legal in the county?

On the other hand, can a good citizen, if he is convinced that alcohol is an evil, assume the responsibility of sanctioning its legal sale?

With beer legal, and whiskey illegal, is the total consumption of alcohol less than it would be if those who insist upon alcoholic beverage of some kind were not permitted to buy beer? In other words, it is desirable to continue the legal sale of beer as a means of reducing the drinking of hard liquor?

Or would there be less drinking of all alcoholic beverages, including beer, were less convenient to get?

If we prohibit the sale of beer, will we thereby increase bootlegging? And if so, will the unwholesome attitude of disrespect for law that widespread bootlegging begets, be as serious an evil as alcohol itself?

Finally, there is a very practical consideration. The present state laws permit the importation of alcoholic beverages in considerable quantities into dry counties. Under those laws, how dry can we make Macon County by legal prohibition?

LETTERS

DEPLORES ALCOHOL, SPEED

Editor, The Press: Here is what I believe—

I believe Macon County would be better not to have alcoholic beverages. We have as good county to raise good food to eat as any other place. I believe that with chronic alcoholism, we will lose our taste for the good food of this land. I believe if we were rid of it our taste would gradually come back to us.

I believe we could sleep better at night. I believe men and women are drinking more beverages than ever before. I believe more youth have been stung by the cobra, intemperance, and the scorpion of criminality. I believe the drink habit is one of the greatest curses that has descended upon mankind.

I believe we would be safer on the highway back in our horse and buggy days. We moved along very slow. Now men seat themselves in a brand new car and watch the speedometer climb to 45 and 60; then we think we're not going to get there in time to see it all.

We read in the Bible that if a man did flee from a lion and a bear met him, or when into the house and leaned his hand on the wall and a serpent bit him; we need not try to hide behind the wall. Let us say, as did young David when he faced the giant, Goliath, "The battle is the Lord's." Now may we pray "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven."

ARTHUR HICKS.

Nantahala Star Route, August 9, 1948.

Others' Opinions

LET 'EM VOTE

The State Board of Elections has ruled States Rights Dixiecrats out of the right to vote in North Carolina in the November election, although petitions bearing 18,881 signatures were presented.

The board may be following the law, the board's rules and regulations, but denying a person the right to vote is contrary to our Democratic form of government.

A court test has been invited and there is yet a possibility that the States' Rights candidates will have their names on the ballot.

The Star wants fairness and justice done the 18,881 signers and others who might choose to vote in the November election. We can't believe the States' Rights party has any chance whatever of electing its standard bearers to office. What we are thinking, however, is that American citizens who can read and write and vote intelligently for the choice of men who are to govern this country, should not be disfranchised by a rule of regulation of an election board.

Of course, the board takes the position that when a voter affiliates with the party of his choice in the primary, he should support the nominee of that party in the November election. But conditions are different now. The country is in turmoil. National party platforms were not written nor were national party candidates chosen when the May primary was held in North Carolina, so a voter should have the privilege of reaching a decision as to his choice after these candidates are in the field and what they stand for is established.

The Wallace party has nothing in it that appeals to us and we are amazed at the following it has mustered right here in North Carolina, but be that as it may, we should bear in mind that this is a democracy, and the November election should reflect the will of the people, regardless of what party affiliation they bear.

The decision of the election board appears to be contrary to the Constitution. Certainly it is contrary to the spirit of the law, and we hope the supreme court will lay aside its other duties to give due consideration and hand down a decision before ballot printing time, so the electorate will have the choice of four party candidates in the November election.

—Shelby Star.

BLOODHOUNDS BRING THEM IN

Bloodhounds are proving almost daily their value in tracking down escaped prisoners. Last week a prisoner serving a life sentence decided to gain his freedom by breaking away from the Haywood State Prison camp.

Although he had a 12-hour start, officers using bloodhounds,

tracked the prisoner and recaptured him in Fines Creek.

Over in Avery county recently five prisoners broke loose and headed for the tall timbers of Pisgah National Forest in that section. In short order they were rounded up and put back under bars.

Man has been mighty successful in making many useful inventions, but thus far nothing has been found that is as good as the nose of a bloodhound when it comes to tracking down people.

The modern lie detector might be of use after the prisoner is apprehended, but it takes the old faithful, and well trained bloodhound to get the prisoner back behind the bars.

—Waynesville Mountaineer.

FENCES

Almost everything runs in cycles, including fences. A generation ago there was a fashion for taking fences down and allowing open vistas, especially where garden impinged on garden or lawn upon lawn. Not to have a fence between you and your neighbor may have been a pledge of faith in the brotherhood of man. The peak of this movement was more than a generation ago, when the twentieth century was young, and it was deemed wise and progressive to change former ways. But fences have come in again. The brotherhood of man idea was good for a while, but it did not work out. Those who had put up solid stone walls in the beginning and stuck to them, and saved them from road machines and vandals, were lucky in the long run.—Vineyard Gazette.

POETRY CORNER

Conducted by

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE

Weaverly, N. C.

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Women

TO THE SCARLET LILY

(The "Other Mary")

Your crimson gown is lovely now. Is lovely now as heaven's blue. The jeweled tears that crown your brow, Have bought this beauty rich, for you.

These jewels make your gown so fine, These jewels make your red dress fair. Won't you, for this red robe of mine, Give me just one small gem to wear?

CORA TALLEY.

Franklin, N. C.

SHINING BONDS

Hands that are full for love's own sake Are served by many fingers; Hearts too empty are sure to break: Only devotion lingers.

Feet that run in happy choice Of serving may remind us, Love in the eyes, love in the voice: These are the bonds that bind us.

LENA MEARLE SHULL.

Asheville, N. C.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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National Forest Timber For Sale

Sealed bids will be received by the Forest Supervisor, Franklin, North Carolina, up to and not later than 2 p. m. September 7, 1948 and opened immediately thereafter for all the merchantable live and dead timber designated for cutting on an area embracing 800 acres within the Jarrett Creek Unit, Nantahala River watershed, Macon County, Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina, estimated to be 1000 cords (128 cubic feet) of chestnut extractwood, more or less. No bid of less than 45 cents per cord will be considered. \$200 must be deposited with each bid, to be applied on the purchase price, refunded, or retained in part as liquidated damages, according to conditions of sale. The purchaser will be responsible for the maintenance or for his share of the maintenance of Forest Service roads used in the hauling of timber and/or timber products removed from the sale area. The right to reject any and all bids reserved. Before bids are submitted, full information concerning the timber, the conditions of sale and the submission of bids should be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, Franklin, North Carolina. A5-2tc-A19

National Forest Timber For Sale

Sealed bids will be received by the Forest Supervisor, Franklin, North Carolina, up to and not later than 2 p. m. September 7, 1948 and opened immediately thereafter for all merchantable live and dead timber designated for cutting on an area embracing about 400 acres within the Branch Unit, Little Tennessee River watershed, Macon County, Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina, estimated to be 1200 cords (128 cubic feet) of chestnut extractwood, more or less. No bid of less than 60 cents per cord will be considered. \$200 must be deposited with each bid, to be applied on the purchase price, refunded, or retained in part as liquidated damages, according to conditions of sale. The right to reject any and all bids reserved. Before bids are submitted, full information concerning the timber, the conditions of sale and the submission of bids should be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, Franklin, North Carolina. A5-2tc-A19

the deceased to make assets to pay debts and the said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court in the courthouse in Franklin, North Carolina on the sixth day of September, 1948 to answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint. This 5th day of August, 1948. J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE, Clerk of the Superior Court A12-4tc-JJ-82

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of Mary Esther Huger, III, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of July, 1949, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 19th day of July, 1948. Charlotte Barnwell Elliott, Executrix

Jly22-8tp-Aug26

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT BEFORE THE CLERK NOTICE OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NORTH CAROLINA MACON COUNTY GILMER A. JONES, Administrator of the Estate of ROBERT SCRUGGS, deceased.

vs. ADDIE SCRUGGS, et al. The defendants, Harley Scruggs, Claudia Scruggs, Charles B. Scruggs, Alice Scruggs, Dora Woodward, Richard Woodward, Sally Keith, Laura Jean Jackson, Thelma Jackson and Robert Scruggs will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina to sell lands of

C A G L E S C A F E