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SEPTEMBER 11, 1952

How Long?

"It is worse now than it was five years ago..."

That was the remark last week of a member of the Macon County grand jury that recently reported deplorable conditions at the County Home.

Said this grand juror:

"I was on a grand jury committee that visited the County Home five years ago. We reported then on the terrible situation we found. But nothing happened!

"It is worse now than it was five years ago."

How long must we in Macon County wait before we do something about such a situation?

Doesn't Make Sense

This newspaper is all for Macon County. It is for the most prosperity for the most Macon County people. That, of course, includes the miners of mica.

But we are not for Macon County at the expense of the nation; nor do we believe that any real prosperity can be bought at the price of stupidity. And the federal government's mica program strikes us as having all the earmarks of an almost incredible stupidity.

It is no doubt wise, in the present international situation, for the government to stockpile strategic materials, such as mica. But why, so long as we can buy mica in India, should we pay three times the Indian price to domestic miners? And especially why if, as the miners allege, they cannot make money, even at this high price?

More to the point is a second question, raised by a Macon County man who is engaged in mica mining here:

"Why", he asked, "as long as we can buy mica from India, should we deplete our American mica mines? Wouldn't it make better sense to hold our own mines in reserve for the time when we can't get Indian mica? Are we trying to make sure that there will be plenty of mica in India for the Russians, if and when they take over that country?"

The Dry Trend

Last week the voters of Haywood county outlaid the sale of beer and wine. They did it by a margin of something like 3½ to 1.

Haywood having voted out legal beer and wine, the entire area from Asheville west to the Tennessee line now is bone dry.

Nor is the trend toward dryness a strictly mountain phenomenon, for Haywood was the 48th North Carolina county to vote dry since 1948. In fact, of the 51 wet-dry elections held in this state in the past four years, the wets have won only three.

Why this trend back toward prohibition? What is the explanation?

This newspaper always has taken exception to the attitude of some fanatical dries that all wets are either drunkards or liquor dealers. We have equally little patience with the attitude of some fanatical wets that all dries are either hypocrites or fools.

There are those, of course, among the dries who "drink wet and vote dry". But do such people predominate, 3½ to 1, in Haywood county? Do they predominate, in a much larger proportion, in other counties, including Macon? Are the majorities of

voters in 48 North Carolina counties either hypocrites or fools?

We do not think so. If we did, we'd be advocating a change from the democratic to some other form of government!

You can't dismiss all these dries with a cynical sneer any more than you can dismiss all the wets with a self-righteous snub. Dry fanatics no doubt are among these majorities, but the majorities are so great that it is obvious they are made up chiefly of average citizens—and the average North Carolina citizen is not only honest and conscientious, but has a considerable store of common sense.

Many of those who vote dry probably would agree that prohibition does not prohibit; that certainly it doesn't prohibit anything like 100 per cent. Why, then, do they vote for prohibition?

The chances are they would answer that they are offered nothing better. The chances are they would tell you that the consumption of alcoholic beverages is, in itself, an evil, and that the alternative to prohibition—legal, controlled sale—is a purely negative approach; that legalizing the sale of wine and beer and operation of liquor stores is not an honest effort to solve the real problem, but a mere stop-gap. If they were completely honest, they probably would add that they resent the rather smug assumption, among some wets, that legal control is the final and perfect answer.

The chances are they would tell you that they are looking for a way to reduce the consumption of alcoholic beverages. They would admit that there is no way to compare drinking under prohibition with drinking under legal sale, for the reason that no figures on consumption under prohibition are available. But they would quickly add that the evidence is that legal sale does not discourage drinking—on the contrary.

As proof, they would cite the fact that revenue from legal sale is constantly growing—and that that means that consumption is growing.

Bouquet

Flowers to Mr. Lewis Patton!

Blinded during World War 2, he could have been sorry for himself; he could have decided to lean back and live on his government disability allowance; he could have been a useless wreck of war.

But he is not sorry for himself—far from it! He is not satisfied to lean back. He is determined to be a useful member of society.

And so, following graduation from the University of North Carolina, he has gone to work here in his home town. And, in the good American tradition of taking a chance, he has opened his own business.

There is just one word that describes such courage. Lewis Patton has shown once again that he has guts.

The Democrats are scouring around for a campaign song to boost Gov. Stevenson. Why not, "Sweet Adlai-line"?

Our American Civilization

Definition of "dialect": The way the other fellow talks.

Urging higher schoolastic standards—for everybody's child but ours.

Boasting of our vast industrial production, which usually means boasting of how fast we are exhausting our natural resources.

Other's Opinions

MEANING OF 'MESS'

(Asheville Times)

We're all aware of the psychic phenomenon whereby a man can make himself see only what he wants to see, hear only what he wants to hear, and remember only what he wants to remember.

So when President Truman says he is unaware that any mess exists in Washington we must be patient and tolerant and remember about psychic phenomena.

But at the same time we happily are free to point out that he is wrong, dead wrong. Many millions of American citizens also appear to think that way. Among them are all the Republicans, a very large proportion of Democrats, and Gov. Adlai Stevenson, the Democratic presidential nominee—who has flatly declared that a mess does exist in Washington that he is going to clean it up. The Times thinks that if Stevenson is elected in November he would come mighty close to doing just that.

Furthermore, newspaper readers and the radio and television audience—lacking the psychic compulsion to forget cer-

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

CONSTITUTION DAY SEPTEMBER 17

"THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION RANKS ABOVE EVERY OTHER WRITTEN CONSTITUTION IN ITS ADAPTATION TO CIRCUMSTANCES, ITS SIMPLICITY, BREVITY AND PRECISION, ITS MIXTURE OF DEFINITENESS IN PRINCIPLE WITH ELASTICITY OF DETAIL."
—JAMES BRYCE



AFTER 165 YEARS, THE CONSTITUTION FRAMED FOR A NATION OF 4 MILLION PEOPLE, SERVES, WITH LITTLE BASIC CHANGE, TO PRESERVE OUR FREEDOM AND TO GUIDE US IN DIRECTING THE DESTINY OF A WORLD POWER WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN 150 MILLION.



WHAT BRYCE WROTE, MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS AGO, IN HIS "AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH," IS TRUE TODAY—AND, IF WE PROTECT ITS PRINCIPLES AND PRESERVE ITS SPIRIT, WILL BE TRUE TOMORROW.

tain things—recall all too vividly the big Washington stories about corruption, graft, bribery, influence peddling.

And they recall just as well the ineffectual measures taken by the Administration to stamp out these evils. The people have no reason to want to forget these things. On the contrary—shocked and deeply offended by them—the people have every reason to want to remember them. And they want positive, determined steps to eradicate them.

There is just one more point to take up here and that is that maybe President Truman doesn't know what the word "mess" means. You find people sometimes who go through life with an imperfect understanding of a fairly common word.

Like, for instance, you'll sometimes find a fellow who thinks a tycoon is one of those big storms out around the South Pacific; that a typhoon is a big, fat captain of industry; that a buffoon is something you jab into whales; and a harpoon is a jokester.

Webster's New International Dictionary, a fat, authoritative tome weighing as much as a bucket of rocks, has a whole list of meanings for the word "mess."

Most of them have to do with meals, particularly as applied to the ones seamen eat. That's not the meaning we have in mind, Mr. President. Meaning No. 2 says mess can mean the milk given by a cow at one milking. Not that one, either, Mr. President. Nobody's sore about the milk some cow gave in Washington.

Meaning No. 3 says mess can mean the food given to a beast at one time. Nobody's begrudging a horse his hay. But with meaning No. 4 we begin to get some place. In fact, we arrive.

Meaning No. 4 says mess can mean, "A confused, inharmonious, or disagreeable mixture of things; a medley; a hodge-podge; hence, a situation resulting from blundering or from misunderstanding; a state of confusion, embarrassment, or the like; a muddle; a botch."

That's what we mean by mess, Mr. President. All those things.

We fancy that between now and the Nov. 4th election untold millions of American voters want to be told—with some real authority—about what is going to be done about cleaning up that mess—M-E-S-S, that is.

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Remember the old days in Macon County when...

A lot of the women still wore calico dresses and poke bonnets?

And a man's low-quarter shoe was a "slipper"—something sissy, for dudes?

And putting on long pants was a major milestone in life

And the work day was 12 hours and the work week six full days, and the pay 50 cents or maybe a dollar a day?

And people were supposed to settle their store accounts once a year? And what a disgrace it was if they couldn't? (It was unthinkable that anybody who was anybody wouldn't if they could.)

And there were stepping stones across Franklin's Main street—somewhat precarious insurance against stepping in the mud?

And Mr. Tom Angel went around to the homes of prospective travelers to wake them, so they'd be ready when the hack to Dillsboro left at 3:30 or 4 a. m.?

And there were bowls and pitchers and slop jars in every bedroom? (How in the world

does a whole family get along today with just one bathroom? Maybe they don't bathe as much as people once did!)

And the story went the rounds that a Macon County resident, when "water works" first came in, had the commode installed in a corner of his living room?

And the first automobile arrived in Macon County, and how people were reported to have stood behind trees as it passed, for protection in case the thing exploded? (Moderns, comparing present-day models with that old White Steamer, probably would agree that the tree-hiders of that day maybe had something, at that.)

Ah, those were the days!

Or were they...?

That all depends.

If you're over 60, you'll probably say they sure were; much better than today's crazy way of living.

But if you're between 40 and 60, you may wonder; might be wise to ask somebody else's opinion.

Try the young fellow of 20. He'll tell you, right off. And he KNOWS. He'll tell you so himself.

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

There are three observations I would like to make concerning the campaigns being conducted for the office of president of the United States by Adlai Stevenson and Dwight Eisenhower.

1. As the two men unfold their views on the various questions there is one man above all others who must be chuckling to himself as he looks down on this struggling world. By now many of his "crack pot" schemes were to be abandoned. The man, Franklin Roosevelt, must enjoy seeing practically every major legislative idea that he introduced, endorsed by the candidates of both major parties. If they are honorable men, his policies are here to stay. And the reason they are here to stay is that the American people found that instead of "crack-pot" schemes they were sound ideas. Yes, Mr. Roosevelt probably likes the idea that the people are in favor of seeing that the government is an instrument which is used by the people to improve their way of life.

2. Is Mr. Eisenhower really doing much to create a two party system in the South when he comes through our countryside proclaiming the same program that the Democratic party has been running on for the past 20 years? The only measure I can find the General has differed with Mr. Stevenson on is the Tide Lands Oil issue. But, for example, take the Social Security program. His only change would be to give higher payments. On the farm program; he adopts the parity concept. In fact, he advocates including many perishable products under price supports which are not now included. This idea was first mentioned by the Democratic secretary of agriculture, Charles Brannan, but has not been enacted into law. It seems that the General has decided to run on Roosevelt's platform.

3. With the above thoughts in mind it seems safe to say that the real issue is not between the candidates but between the parties. If both are advocating virtually the same thing, then the people should look at the voting records of the parties and see which will support more closely these New Deal measures. There is no need electing a man who is advocating a program that his party will not back.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The highwaymen who held up and robbed a bakery in Kansas City was evidently out of dough.

The Franklin High school now has 144 pupils.

Mr. Thos. Liner, who lives at the mouth of Tessaenta creek, Smith's Bridge township, raised two watermelons of the Jumbo variety, which he sold last Monday, that weighed 57 and 58 pounds.

Mrs. Perry Gaston and daughter, Addie, of Buncombe county, are visiting relatives here.

25 YEARS AGO

Macon county is to have a new courthouse and jail, the two to be combined in the same building. This was decided by the Board of County Commissioners at a called meeting on Monday.

The present county farm should be sold and a decent home built for the poor, near the city limits.

Miss Elizabeth Deal left Sunday for Burnsville, where she will begin teaching in the Burnsville High school.

Miss Margaret Cozad left Thursday morning for Weaverville, where she will be in college.

10 YEARS AGO

Dr. Frank T. Smith, who with Mrs. Smith will spend the winter in Richmond, Va., last Sunday was honored by the Masons for his 58 years of membership.

The following notice was inserted in a weekly newspaper: "Anyone found near my chicken house at night will be found there next morning". (Frankie Macon).