

NOVEMBER 6, 1952

OUR President

This is written on Friday, four days before the election. But what is said below can be said as well before the balloting as after the votes are counted:

The man elected by the people of the United States November 4 to be their President is the choice of the majority; and it is an honored tradition in America to accept the verdict of the majority graciously. But merely to accept the result is not enough today.

After January 20, the man chosen in Tuesday's voting will be something more than the standard-bearer of a great party—he will be the President of all the people of the United States.

As such, he deserves the loyal support of all Americans—at least unless and until he proves himself unworthy of support. And good Americans of both parties will pray that he may prove worthy—the fate of all of us may hang upon that.

The greatest among our Presidents have publicly vowed their dependence upon divine aid. Surely he man who must make the fateful decisions of the next four years, the man who must bear the terrible burdens of the Presidency during the next our years, will need such aid—yes, and the prayers of all of us that he may have the wisdom and the strength to measure up to the great responsibility you and I have placed upon him.

Still With Us

The election is over.

But some of the trends of thinking—rather, of nthinking—that the campaign revealed unfortunately remain with us.

Adlai Stevenson and Dwight Eisenhower were, and are, both big men. To seriously question the character of either was not only criminally false but childish stupid. Yet it happened repeatedly.

Take this scene, for example:

The place, a swank banquet hall in Chicago. The me, a week before the election. The speaker, a United States senator. The chief sponsor, the head of one of America's great businesses. The audience, a group of leaders from half a dozen mid-Western states, who paid \$50 a plate to attend the meeting.

At that gathering of presumably intelligent people, the speaker's text was "The Stevenson Story"—deliberate attempt, by suggestion and innuendo, half-truth and dishonest logic, by tone of voice and half-truths and dishonest logic, by tone of voice and intellectual trickery, to tie the Democratic nominee for President to Communist elements. The fact a victim happened to be Stevenson is not the point; what took place would have been equally arming had the speaker been a Democratic senator and his subject "The Eisenhower Story".

Nor was it what the speaker said and did that made the gathering significant; after all, the speech as in character for Senator McCarthy. What was significant was the reaction of his audience.

To those watching by television and listening by radio, there was no hint of thinking on the part of this top-strata audience, no evidence of any critical examination of what the speaker said. The entire response was emotional.

When Senator McCarthy mentioned Stevenson's name, the reaction was boos. When he charged Stevenson or his associates with actions that, in themselves, are in no sense crimes, the crowd was roused. And when he resorted to the trick of an parent slip of the tongue to call Stevenson "Algie" (Hiss), and then correct it to "Adlai", the crowd roared with laughter. No mob engaged in a lashing could have been a less reasoning group.

Nothing quite like it has happened since a madman harangued noisy crowds in Germany in the 1930's.

Welcome, Strangers!

To Mr. and Mrs. William V. Costello, of Greenville, S. C., The Press extends a welcome to Western North Carolina, and especially to Western North Carolina newspaperdom.

The Costellos, experienced young newspaper folk, have just bought The Cherokee Scout from Miss Addie Mae Cooke, who has published the Murphy newspaper for the past 10 years.

We can think of no more fitting language in which to make our mountain manners to the newcomers than the good, strong, colorful phraseology of the mountains—a language we grew up with, and which they, no doubt, will learn to appreciate, too. Speaking in that language of the mountains, we say to our new neighbors:

Welcome, strangers! You've come a right smart piece. Well, we're proud to have you. 'Light and come in! And now you're here, we hope you'll set a spell!

Here Are Winners

IN LIONS CLUB ESSAY CONTEST

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Below are the three winners, chosen from 47 entries, in the Franklin Lions club's Macon County high school essay contest on the subject, "Why Vote?" While it is unfortunate that the winning entries were not available for publication before this year's election, the lessons in good citizenship, outlined by these young people, are worth pondering, for the future.)

FIRST PLACE

Every person who is 21 years of age or over has the right to vote. As a citizen it is the duty of each individual to cast his vote in the county, state, and the national elections. Our government officials are picked by the vote of the American public. If we are to have good governing bodies we must study the current situations and cast our vote honestly.

Government policies, especially national ones, are generally believed to be corrupt in some departments. If this is true, it is of the highest importance that each person, providing he is eligible, take a part in the coming elections. Our future depends so much upon our choosing the country's leaders wisely that we cannot afford not to vote.

Let us suppose that every farmer, laborer, and common working employee decided not to vote. The nation would fall into the hands of the big business men of the country. Before we had a chance to realize what was happening, the chief leaders would concern themselves only with the troubles of financiers. Gradually, the voting would be in the hands of these few leaders. After only a few elections they would be divided among themselves and soon the stronger party would smother out the remaining weaker party. Our nation would then be thrown into the hands of a dictatorship or a socialist regime. Thus we must exercise our privilege to vote.

Imagine trying to support a family and educate children outside a democracy. Our sons and daughters would not be free to choose their own life work and their intelligence would be used by the government.

The voting population can make or break this great nation of ours. It is the solemn duty of every person to follow closely the political trends and think seriously about what could be done to bring further prosperity and harmony to our country. We are far better off economically today than we have ever been before. We cannot hope to continue in this present condition if we do not help pick capable leaders.

Every intelligent person should be able to realize that war is inevitable. Neither party is responsible for the aggression of other nations. The common mistake of people today is blaming our governing personalities with the unavoidable misfortunes of the country; however, some politicians have destructive views on our economic situation. That is why every person should take a definite stand on the political issues.

Our young people who are not yet of voting age should study and learn all they can in order to be able to choose wisely when the time comes.

The United States of America is enjoying freedom of speech, the press, and freedom of religion today. It is up to every red-blooded American to do his or her very best to keep the country on the forward movement. This can be achieved largely through the honest and sincere voting of each citizen.

BRYAN HURST

SECOND PLACE

What country in the world today offers her citizens more privileges than America? In what other country besides America is there the privilege of voting for whomever and whatever we wish?

The citizens of America should realize that not too many years ago the privilege of voting democratically was not theirs. They should take pride in this privilege and should try to influence those who feel irresponsible about voting to uphold this privilege and duty.

If we want to have honest, dependable men in our government, we must vote for the person or persons who we feel are the best qualified to fill the public offices.

The person who does not go to the polls and vote when he has the opportunity to do so has no right to complain if the wrong man or men are elected to fill public offices. The voter should realize that it is his duty and also his privilege to help put the best qualified persons into public offices. Only by his influence and by his vote can the voter obtain this purpose.

Unless everyone casts his vote, we cannot have a true representation of the people. For the will of the people is known by their vote.

Only by voting can we hope to win and to keep a good government. We must have a good government in order to be progressive. Unless we are progressive we will become weak and we might lose our privilege of voting.

American citizens will have the opportunity to exercise their voting privilege and duty in the big election in November. American citizens will be able to elect the man whom they want for President of the United States in November.

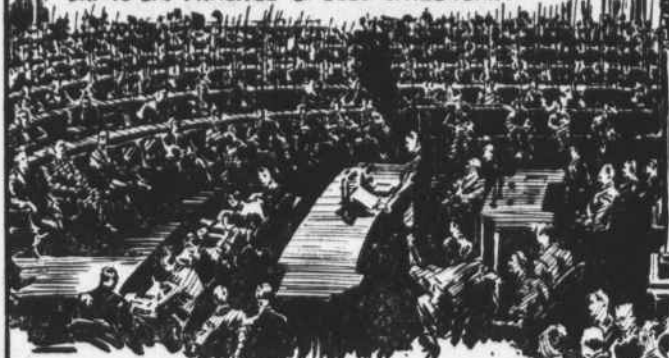
Every citizen in America should realize that voting is not only his privilege but also his duty. American citizens should

The humblest citizen in all the land, when clad in the armour of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of evil.—William Jennings Bryan.

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

AMERICANS ALL

ELECTION DAY OVER, WE CAN, HAVING DISCHARGED A PRIMARY DUTY AS CITIZENS, SETTLE DOWN TO THE DAY-TO-DAY PRACTICE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP.



ON THOSE CHARGED WITH CARRYING FORWARD OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT RESTS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SERVING THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE—AND A RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION CAN HELP SHAPE THAT COURSE.



ON EACH OF US TOO—AS CITIZENS—RESTS AN EQUAL RESPONSIBILITY: FOR TAKING AN ACTIVE, INFORMED INTEREST IN NATIONAL AFFAIRS. SO WE CAN BEST DEMONSTRATE BEFORE THE WORLD THE VITALITY, STRENGTH AND HIGH PURPOSE OF OUR DEMOCRACY.

be proud of the privilege and should always be faithful to their country by voting for whatever they believe is right.

MYRA CRAWFORD

THIRD PLACE

Yes, Americans are quick and energetic, but they strangely resemble the tortoise in certain respects. You can probably guess what at least one of these is. Americans are slow in attending to government matters. If any employee should be as slow and inefficient in attending to his work in the factory or in the office as most men are about their work as citizens, he would certainly find himself without a job. There is no one to discharge the citizen who does slow, poor work for the nation.

Voting is like pressing a button; but because it takes a few extra steps to press the button, sometimes half the people do not do it. They are slow about it—slow to get ready to vote, slow to follow up the act of voting. In the critical year of 1942, more than a third of the citizens entitled to vote in the November elections failed to go to the polls.

The act of voting is only one tiny part of running a democracy. Even if every citizen voted at every election, that alone would not make a strong democracy. Many other things are necessary. One is to see that the best possible persons are elected to office, and that they do their duty in a way to benefit the people. This double duty of all citizens is so difficult that sometimes it seems impossible. How can a busy person know all the candidates for office? How can he watch the hundreds of government officials at their work?

There is only one way in which you can elect the right officials and see that they do not become corrupt. It is a simple way. You must form an organization of voters whose work is to keep you informed about the candidates for office and about the men who are already in office. This is the only way, but it is not easy. That which is easy is seldom successful. It will cost time and money to belong to such an organization, but this you can call a part of the taxes you pay for living in a democracy.

There is another point worth considering. We in the United States elect a great many public officeholders, important and unimportant. A small number of them, when they get in office, have something to say about how the government is going to be run. They are the policy-makers. The smart voter pays special attention to these key candidates. These officials we should choose both for their character and for the program they represent. It is on the basis of these ideas and not because of their war record, their family life, or their boyhood poverty that they should be elected.

Study the situation, decide on your candidate, and when November 4th arrives be prepared to vote.

JOYCE BALDWIN

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Perhaps the most richly rewarding part of an editor's job, especially the editor of a small town newspaper, is the letters he receives.

Some of them are for publication, but a far larger number are personal. Some come from personal friends, some from mere acquaintances, and some from persons the editor has never met. And because Maconians are scattered all over the world, they come from everywhere, and represent widely varying viewpoints.

There is an occasional letter of abuse. Many thoughtful persons take time out to write a complimentary note about something the paper has done or said. And an even larger number are private discussions with the editor of subjects of public interest—ranging from the need for recreation for Macon youth to tidelands oil and foreign aid.

They are heart-warming and stimulating; and they are vastly encouraging, in the way they show the earnest, honest thinking of so many people in so many different circumstances. Two that came last week were

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News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

This is being written on Monday before the election, but by the time it is printed Dwight Eisenhower will be elected president of the United States by an electoral vote of approximately 290 votes to 243 votes for Stevenson. This isn't my wish—only my opinion.

My chief concern is a hope that after being elected General Eisenhower will not let his promise to "Bring the boys home" cause him to withdraw American support from the United Nations thereby wrecking the hopes for world peace for many years to come. Just as the United States has kept peace on this continent so is the only hope for an eventual world peace a strong United Nations.

Let us hope and pray that before we pull out of Korea thereby wrecking the United Nations, that we realize that to do so will mean that the casualties and deaths our men have suffered will then be rendered meaningless.

However, General Eisenhower is now in the middle. He has just been elected partly because of a promise to "Bring the boys home" and yet deep in his heart he must know that this will be the undoing of much of the work he has spent the last few years doing in building a strong international organization in Europe.

Maybe I am wrong, maybe the election will go the other way. If so, I hope every American bends every effort to supporting the cause of the United Nations and world peace. I believe that the men who are fighting in Korea are fighting for a cause and a principle as much as the men who fought in Valley Forge. I am sure, too, that the cause looks no more hopeless to them than it did to that tattered and ragged army which General Washington knelt in the snow to pray for.

Regardless of the result of the election, let's not let our bickering and quarreling so divide us that we all cease to work for the cause of world peace through the most practical medium available—the United Nations.

Before the campaign began we realized that this struggle in Korea was a United Nations effort, then for campaign purposes by some it was branded "Truman's War." Let's now get back in to the proper perspective.

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
Mr. Ralph and Miss Mary Beal, of Murphy, were visiting relatives in this county last week.

The election yesterday was very quiet. The dispensary had been closed since Friday evening which shows that if no liquor was sold here there would be less trouble.

Rev. Frank Siler came over from Asheville yesterday. He will take his little baby girl back with him as the new parsonage is ready for occupancy.

25 YEARS AGO

Cullasaja Council No. 158, Junior Order United American Mechanics, Friday afternoon formerly presented the local school with an American Flag and a Bible.

Talk about climate! There are raspberries ripening in Franklin now, also apple trees in bloom.

The Scott Griffin roof garden was beautiful Monday evening with decorations of yellow and black crepe paper and bright autumn leaves which carried out the Halloween idea for the masquerade ball.

Mrs. D. D. Rice and daughter returned Saturday from a visit to Mrs. Rice's parents in Atlanta.

10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. J. E. S. Thorpe returned recently from a visit to her children, Mr. and Mrs. Foster Brown Thorpe, in Westport, Conn., and to her new grandson, John Forgrave Thorpe, who was born in September.

The congregation of the Franklin Methodist church gave a pounding to their pastor, Dr. J. L. Stokes II, and Mrs. Stokes on Dr. Stokes' return from conference in Asheville.