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MARCH 26, 1953

Who Knows Best?

Is the North Carolina legislature or the Macon County board of commissioners the proper body to determine what the proper salary would be for the Clerk of the Superior Court of Macon County, the Register of Deeds of Macon County, and the sheriff of Macon County?

The North Carolina legislature is best able to determine the proper salary for these and other elective and appointive officials and how much the people of Macon County want to pay for their services, in the opinion of Representative Walter Dean of this county.

At the request of Mr. Dean, Macon County was exempted from a state-wide bill which would permit the county commissioners to fix the salaries for county officials—elective and appointive.

Frankly, we believe that Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Roane, and Mr. Edwards, the present board of commissioners, are better acquainted with the work these people perform and thereby better able to determine the salary they should receive than some gentleman from Dare or Pender counties.

Granted, that the legislature probably accepts the recommendations of the local representatives, wouldn't it be better for a body of three local men to pass on a question like salaries than one man?

Guns Alone If Necessary

Can the United States afford a policy of "Guns and Butter"? If not, should we face today's tense and troubled world with an inadequate defense, or tighten our belts, live more frugally, and pay the cost for sufficient modern weapons and material to create a proper defense for our nation?

These are among the main questions brought to mind by a recent study of the air defense problem undertaken by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology not long after the beginning of the Korean War. According to the conclusions of this report, which some of America's finest scientists have been three years in making:

Today we have no air defense. Two-thirds of an attacking Russian air fleet would reach the target, according to our own military experts.

In two years time Russia will have both the atomic bombs and the planes to transport them within sufficient quantities to annihilate large sections of this country. Up until as late as 1950 we did not have the knowledge to perfect a defense against an air invasion.

At a cost ranging from 20 to 27 billion dollars we can achieve a much stronger defense.

Due to very recent scientific progress we will receive much more air defense per dollar spent than in the past.

The report goes on to state in essence, that even with this great outlay of funds we will only be buying time. In the years to come offensive weapons will be perfected which will make this proposed defensive line as meaningless a barrier as today's air defense. But until mankind in all the nations of the world begins to practice more of the teachings of the One who preached the Brotherhood of Man, can we afford not to buy the time?

* * *

Looking at another facet of the Guns or Butter problem, in Korea today we seem to be spending sufficient funds to hold our own, but not enough to furnish the material and equipment necessary to stage a big offensive to end the war there, according to the testimony of Generals Van Fleet and Collins. The former Korean field commander stated that he did not have enough ammunition. Underlying his statements was the thought that the way to

end the war was to drive the Chinese Communists north of the Yalu river. He was never able to do this because, among other reasons, he lacked ammunition in sufficient quantities to stage such a large scale offensive. Collins indicated, on the other hand, we had sufficient ammunition since we had been able to hold our present positions. Through the great pipe line of supplies there is flowing enough material to maintain the status quo. To change the situation one of the things we will have to do is increase the supplies. This will cost more money.

If, as some recent news stories indicate, Congress has already provided sufficient funds to make available ammunition and material in large quantities, so much the better, but let's see that it gets to Korea.

* * *

Wouldn't America rather have a sound defense program than a lower tax rate and a piecemeal defense?

Doesn't America want to see the boys come home from Korea? Then "Give them the tools" and let them get on with the job.

Surely the world's wealthiest nation can afford an adequate defense and the supplies necessary to defeat in battle a far poorer nation. But, perhaps we can't do it and live as we are living today.

So People of America, it is really up to you. Let's tighten our belts, give up the Butter, and provide the Guns we need for the security of this country. Let's do without the luxuries we enjoy and provide our forces with what is necessary to win in Korea as we did in World War II against a much mightier force.

Others' Opinions

TALKING AND DOING

(Joseph Hulham, in Whiteville-News-Reporter)

During World War I, after America entered, I barely missed getting into the army because I was too young. But I was tremendously interested in it and read each news article concerning it with avid interest.

When the boys had begun returning victoriously, I collared first one, and then another, of my acquaintances as they came back, hoping that I would find at least one who would tell me about what had happened "over there."

But I quickly learned that the boys who had been in the midst of hottest battles had very little to tell me. I couldn't get a single one to go into minute detail. They wanted to forget the horror of it all. But I kept on trying until I found one who had been "over there" who was ready to talk and tell me everything I wanted to know. He made my eyes bulge and my ears ring as he unfolded one story of horror right after another.

And then, sometime after he had held me spell-bound, I learned that he hadn't been in a single battle, and that all the time he had been far behind the lines peeling onions for the mess camps.

And the same is true of many who have great stories of what hardships they have endured in keeping in the service of the Lord. Usually those who talk the most have done the least. Perhaps these have forgotten that it is written of Christ that when He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, he opened not His mouth.

HITS AND DODGES

(Southern Pines Pilot)

The former opposition columnists, as well as the former opposition administration, are going to have to get used to the fact that they now are the ones to do the dodging. Where they used to rear back gleefully and throw stones or less solid missiles of attack, now they are the targets for others to aim at.

David Lawrence, of the Herald-Tribune, is one of the first to wax plaintive about this new condition. He objects to the part of the recent Stevenson speech in which a few mild slurs were tossed in the direction of Secretary Dulles' "new, dynamic" foreign policy. Lawrence, in fact, accuses Stevenson of giving

Poetry

Editor
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, North Carolina

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Women

MARCH

The winds of the world,
O the winds of the world,
The winds of the world for me!

Deep and strong
They sweep along,
Glad and mad
And wild with song . . .

Clean and high
They glean the sky—
Call and run
And call and cry . . .

Wind of the hill
And wind of the lea
Wind of the sky
And wind of the sea—

The winds of the world,
O the winds of the world—
The winds of the world for me!

BESS HINSON HINES

Highlands and California.

Newspaper Shop Talk

Mostly About Us



Shown above is the home of The Franklin Press at about the turn of the century. The building located on Main street is now occupied by Sanders Cafe. Note the kerosene lamp mounted on a post in front of the building. (Photo courtesy Grover Jamlson, Jr.)

aid and comfort to the enemy in his references to dollar diplomacy, and the advantage, in dealing with our Allies of an attitude of cooperation and partnership as opposed to ultimatums and threats of time limits.

Coming from the columnist who during the campaign gave the Republican candidate his strongest support in the latter's slashing attack on every phase of Democratic foreign policy, Mr. Lawrence's ruffled feathers look rather funny. We can't recall that he worried even a little bit, during those days, about the possible damage to American policy and prestige from the Eisenhower attacks, though they were a thousand times more violent than Stevenson's restrained chiding.

Actually, it seemed as if it was high time some one did a little talking about partnership as opposed to the one-man show. Stevenson's words were timely and well-chosen. It may be noted, too, that the more favorable climate observed in Europe, and commented on in the press this past week, appears to stem from the Stevenson speech, more than from the Dulles visit.

To date, it would appear that while in domestic matters the administration had gotten off to a good start, in foreign affairs it's a different picture. The business of the Seventh Fleet has turned out to be a fizzle, with the State Department hastily reassuring our anxious and puzzled Allies that it was never meant to be anything much but an attempt to scare Stalin and the Chinese Communists with a largely non-existent threat. As we think of the cheering Republicans in Congress, the whole thing seems doubly unfortunate, especially since our enemies certainly know as much about Chiang's inability to mount an unaided offensive as we do.

As for the president's sudden repudiation of the "secret pacts," that also, we are now told, means nothing. Secretary Dulles has assured everyone that we do not intend to try to oust Russia from the Kuriles, awarded to her at Yalta in return for her entry into the Japanese phase of the war. He continues: "The declaration does not involve any actual repudiation of any legally effective agreements." Which leaves us all just about where we were to start with.

This kind of thing seems inept and unnecessarily humiliating. It is to be hoped that it may at least accomplish the good result of emphasizing the futility and the danger of hasty, unilateral action by this nation. What it most certainly does do is to point up the advantage of having a sharp-eyed former Democratic candidate hanging around.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

I WONDER WHY . . .
Women buy the monstrosities
stylists decree, without refer-
ence to what becomes THEM

Women who long since have
lost any figure they ever may
have had persist in wearing
slacks, or even blue jeans?

Women, when they make up,
nearly always overdo it — so
much rouge and lipstick it ob-
viously IS rouge and lipstick,
hair so curly anybody knows it
didn't GROW that way, and
fingernails a shade never seen
on land or sea . . . all of it so
obviously artificial that a man,
when he passes, doesn't turn
his head to exclaim, "My, what
a beautiful woman!" but goes
right on, muttering, "Wonder
what she looks like without all
that make-up?"

I wonder why . . .
But being a mere man, I
probably never will know.

Once upon a time—actually,

it was in the very recent past,
but that "once upon a time"
still is the best way to start
any story . . . Once upon a
time a Franklin man went to
visit his relatives, who live on
Long Island.

Now Long Island is just out-
side New York City, and the
place his relatives live is, itself,
a big city, and so, because this
man sleeps poorly, he dreaded
this visit. With all the night
noises he expected, he resigned
himself to sleep little while he
was away.

To his amazement, he found
himself sleeping better than he
did at home. There just weren't
any night noises to keep him
awake.

The explanation, he found,
was twofold:

(a) It was against the law, in
that Long Island City, to blow
an automobile horn at night.

(b) The law forbade any dog
ever to run at large.

Continued On Page Three—

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Since the beginning of the 20th century, much sorely needed progress has been made in the field of conservation. Most of this work has been done under the sponsorship of the Federal government. Leaders in getting legislation enacted which made this possible have been among others: Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, Franklin Roosevelt, Hugh Bennett, and George Norris.

However, today, there are forces at work which would turn back the clock and open our resources to the uncontrolled exploitation of man. Our country experienced this through the 19th century at a time when our forests were laid bare with only the heart being extracted and unlimited waste accompanying the exploitation; our fertile slopes were laid bare to ruthless gutting by erosion.

Due to the work of such agencies as the United States Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, TVA and other conservation minded agencies we are today beginning to make progress toward preserving our priceless heritage — the land, the rivers and the forests.

Some congressional leaders would stop this by limiting funds to such an extent that the work can not be carried on. I hope that they will not be successful, because with me conservation is part of my religion. With this in mind I would like to conclude my writing by quoting scripture and verse to show that conservation is in the heart of God's teachings.

" . . . (for the tree of the field is Man's life). Deuteronomy 20:19.

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass . . . and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth and so it was." Genesis 1:11.

"Therefore, as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness and their blossoms shall grow as dust." Isaiah 5:24.

"How do the beast groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate. O Lord, to thee will I cry: for the fire devoured the pastures of the wilderness and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field." Joel 1:18-19.

"And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree . . ." Revelations 9:4.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
Mrs. M. A. Love has had a new picket fence put around her front yard. The sons of rest do not choose to sit on top of it as they did the old one.

Miss Fannie Rankin, of Union, S. C., is on a two weeks' visit to relatives and friends here.

Bring your corn to R. L. Parter's and get 75 cents for it.

25 YEARS AGO
The Governor of North Carolina has appointed Miss Elizabeth Kelly, of Franklin, a member of the State Equalization Board, which has charge of the distribution of funds for school purposes to the poorer counties.

Charles Roper and children, of Burningtown, who recently made some vocal records for the Columbia Phonograph Company, are becoming better known as singers. Listeners last Saturday night heard one of their records broadcast over the radio.

Mr. Jenkins, president of Daventon College, held services at the Methodist church Sunday morning.

10 YEARS AGO
Fourteen barrels of asphalt burned at the state prison camp Wednesday afternoon and an unestimated number of gallons of rationed gas was needlessly consumed by civilians bent on enjoying the excitement of seeing black smoke roll skyward.

Mrs. Howard H. Valentine and young son, of Winston-Salem, spent several days last week with her mother, Mrs. C. C. Cunningham.

Miss Connie Thigpen left Thursday morning to accept a position in Charlotte. She has made many friends during her residence here as secretary to the Rev. A. R. Morgan.