

The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

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FEBRUARY 25, 1954

A Letter To The Editor

Dear Mr. Jones:

On the editorial page of your Press dated Jan. 7, 1954, I cast my eyes upon three huge letters, WHY (an editorial on "why the newspapers keep on talking about McCarthy and McCarthyism"). You state that Senator McCarthy and McCarthyism are spearheads that threaten American freedom.

The Communists who read this writing like this, in my opinion, would have every reason to smile smugly to themselves. They will realize that they have succeeded in "brainwashing" some of our newspapermen to the extent of forgetting the main objectives that Joe McCarthy and his bipartisan fellow senators were and are trying to reach. McCarthy's original purpose was to expose Communists in any and all places that they happen to be. He has not altered his course.

Joe McCarthy is the "Communists' number one enemy. The very word you used, "McCarthyism", is a device which originated May 3, 1950 by Owen Lattimore before a senate committee. The next day the Daily Worker (number one Communist paper in the United States) had it splashed all over the front page. Whether Lattimore got the idea from the Daily Worker or vice versa it is not known but one thing is sure and certain I have never heard of any 140,000 casualties being caused by McCarthyism. I wonder if the same could be said for Trumanism. I would say McCarthy's actions have probably saved at least 140,000 at the present time to say nothing of lives saved in the years to come.

I think the immunity idea, which has been advanced by Attorney General Brownell, would not be a threat to freedom but would be a spearhead to preserve our freedom and national security. The Fifth Amendment, when originated, was to protect our freedom and now it seems to be protecting spies and traitors holding back valuable information vitally needed to break up these Communist rings in our government.

How in the world you consider it a threat to our freedom to have a man state whether he is or not a Communist or is operating in any other corrupt organization is beyond me? I think you will agree that no law was ever perfect. Actually only the fundamentals of any law is perfect, this is true in our whole government. This not only solves your stated problems on mobs but furthermore it will protect our security and personal freedom. To my way of thinking this is what McCarthy stands for and I think you should more closely examine the true facts before again stating that our freedom is endangered by "McCarthyism".

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Let the facts be known and the world will be saved". I am wondering if you will print this and give the readers of your fine paper a chance to make up their own minds as to the true facts. I might also suggest that you procure for yourself Bill Jenner's sub-committee findings of interlocking subversion in governmental departments. I will be glad to furnish you with a copy.

Patriotically yours,

Kokomo, Indiana.

W. J. DARNELL.

The Editor's Reply

Dear Mr. Darnell:

We are always glad to receive and publish letters dealing with public questions. Yours is no exception.

Because I am in complete agreement with your thought that the people can be trusted to make wise decisions, if and when they are given ALL the facts, I should like to point out one fact your letter did not:

Senator McCarthy, who has concentrated on the State Department, has exposed not one Communist in the State Department. That is not a typographical error; "not one" is correct.

In fact, so far as I have been able to learn, he has exposed not one Communist in any department of the government.

Such Communists as have been exposed have been exposed by others than McCarthy. (It is worth noting that every "security risk" is not a Communist. Many persons who are not even suspected of Communism or any other kind of disloyalty are security risks, so considered because they talk too much, or drink too much, or are susceptible to blackmail because of past personal misconduct.)

Senator McCarthy has done a lot of things, but exposing Communists is not one of them.

One thing he has done is to dig up old cases and old facts, published long before—if they were facts rather than mere hearsay—and grab the headlines with screams of "Look what I have found!"

The thing he has done most often and most consistently, though, is to make wild charges—charges that still are unproved.

Typical was the charge, four years ago, that the State Department was then employing 205 "card-carrying Communists".

He later revised the figure downward. But to date he hasn't proved the existence of one.

Also typical was his charge that General George C. Marshall, then Secretary of Defense, had "consistently advanced the designs of Soviet Russia since 1942". In explanation, McCarthy asked the question: "How are we to account for our present situation unless we believe that men high in this government are concerting to deliver us to disaster?"

It is hardly necessary to say that that one remains unproved!

If you will go back through the newspaper files for the past three years, you will find similar charge after similar charge, but you will look in vain, in the newspapers or in government records, for evidence that McCarthy proved his charges.

Yet can you recall a single instance where he has retracted such a charge? You can judge for yourself the honesty and fairness of that attitude.

How the term "mccarthyism" originated, it seems to me, is of little importance. What is important is what it is and where it is leading.

Probably the best way to find out what it is to ask the people who defend it. Almost invariably, they will preface their defense with some such statement as this:

"Maybe McCarthy's methods are wrong, but . . ."

That is to say, his methods are wrong, but the situation is so serious we must resort to any methods, no matter how bad. Which is just another way of saying:

"I am afraid. I am afraid our traditional ideas of justice and fair play and our American system of government are too weak to stand up in the same world with Communism."

Which is still another way of saying:

"I am afraid Communism has something that makes it stronger than Americanism. So, in order to defeat Communism, we had better adopt the very methods that make us hate Communism."

McCarthyism is fear—a fear inflamed by McCarthy, and others of his ilk, by the big lie.

Every good citizen should recognize the danger from spies and traitors.

But every good citizen also should recognize the even greater danger of hysterical fear.

A case in point, it seems to me, is the inference in your letter that the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution should be repealed because "now it seems to be protecting spies and traitors".

The idea back of that amendment, and back of other safeguards written into our laws, was that it is "better ten guilty escape than that one innocent man suffer".

In our fear, aren't we moving toward the opposite attitude—that it is better ten innocent men suffer than that one guilty escape?

And isn't that trend only one of many similar symptoms?

And don't they all add up to the conclusion that the fear we call mccarthyism is leading us to do, and to permit to be done, a lot of foolish things that constitute a far greater threat to freedom than all the Russian spies?

Sincerely,

Chapel Hill, N. C.

WEIMAR JONES.

Others' Opinions

HONOR DECLINED

(Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier)

A French publisher says American magazines are far more sexy and pornographic than French magazines. And being a Frenchman, he probably thought he was paying American magazines a high compliment.

WHAT IS A YANKEE?

(Chicago Daily Tribune)

Foreigners call all Americans Yankees.

Southerners say that Yankees are Northerners.

Northerners say Yankees are from the New England states.

People there say it's the Vermonters who are Yankees.

And Vermonters say a Yankee is just someone who eats pie for breakfast.

VOICE FROM THE GRAVE

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

In the Mary Martin-Charles Boyer play, "Kind Sir," one character makes a significant remark. Washington, D. C., is referred to as "Washington, first in war, first in peace, and last in the American League." Time was when St. Louis would have risen as one man to give the correct version of that old saying: "St. Louis, first in shoes, first in booze, and last in the American League." Time being what it is, we check it up to the City of Baltimore for appropriate action.

HISTORICAL NOTE

(Raleigh News and Observer)

Congressional Committees have not always been investigating Communists. Once they were enthusiastically investigating Southerners.

In his "Tar Heel Editor" Joseph Daniels spoke of that in connection with Colonel William L. Saunders, politician, scholar and soldier. Colonel Saunders was a Confederate veteran. He edited The Colonial Record of North Carolina. He was Secretary of State of North Carolina from 1879 to 1891. Also, according to Mr. Daniels, he was "the dean of the State administration and of the Democratic Party in North Carolina."

and "the reputed head of the Ku Klux Klan during Reconstruction." Mr. Daniels added:

When the State returned to normal government by its people, he and other patriotic men who had used the Klan as Californians used the Vigilantes when government did not furnish protection, dissolved the Klan. However, Congress investigated and was obtaining much testimony until Colonel Saunders was called. Then he locked the wheels by refusing to testify on the Constitutional ground that no man could be forced to incriminate himself.

Some historians have thought that Colonel Saunders of North Carolina was the first American to invoke this Constitutional right before Congressional committees. That is an interesting historical item in these times.

DR. ODUM'S THREE NEW SOUTHS

(Greensboro Daily News)

The South is many Souths; it is the Old South and the New South; it is the Southeast and the Southwest, though you might have some trouble fitting Texas into the Southwest, or into anything else, for that matter; and the South is many more things. But anyway you slice it, it's still the South.

Dr. Howard W. Odum of Chapel Hill slices the New South three ways:

1. The South from the end of The War to about 1900, or Henry Grady's South, which despite fits of laziness, indifference and despair, pulled itself up by its bootstraps and furnished its people something more than a hole for burial purposes;

2. The South from 1900 to 1932, or from the turn of the century to the new deal. In this era the South built economic foundations but didn't have much to show for it, except the unenviable designation of the nation's "Economic Problem No. 1";

3. The South from about 1932 to 1952, or from new deal to mid-century. In this period the South has been cashing in on its three M's—Men, Materials and Markets—and its hard work and productivity. The South has begun to acquire capital, appreciate the benefits of research, diversify in both industry and agriculture, and welcome wealth and culture as long-lost friends. It is becoming industrialized and is taking industry away from other sections of the country. In general, however, Southern industry has tended to turn raw materials into only semi-finished forms—thus we tend to make textiles rather than evening dresses, tables rather than typewriters—and so have lost the higher wages and profits that more skilled industry would bring in.

If we have had three New Souths, what will the Fourth South, which is now emerging, be?

We'd like to hear what Howard W. Odum and Rupert B. Vance at Chapel Hill, Calvin B. Hoover and B. U. Ratchford at Duke think about this, even if they aren't professional prognosticators.

Our guess would be that the South is moving into another phase, like an automatic-gear-changing automobile; that its industrialization will continue, bringing with it more diversification, capital, wealth and culture; that our industries will become more complicated, bringing higher wages and more profits; that our markets will expand; and that the new phase in industrialization will put more stress on what Dr. Ratchford calls the "housekeeping" services, such as research engineering, finance, personnel, marketing, advertising and designing.

But we'd like to hear what the experts think.

Little Bits

Concerning Lights And Dogs

J. P. Brady

The new four-way traffic light system installed by the Town of Franklin several weeks ago is still inoperative—in fact the system is really snafu things for the lowly motorist. Take, for example, the traffic jam around the courthouse this past Saturday.

Believe it or not, but things were even worse than usual and, of all things, the unlighted traffic lights were responsible for a constant jam of cars that would make a canned sardine feel like he was romping through a 10-acre field with sneakers on.

What was the trouble? Just this—poor harassed drivers were unable to tell if the lights were working. Result: about a half-minute pause at each light to see if it was going to do anything.

Now a half-minute pause on Main Street is like taking a vacation, especially on Saturday, when every vehicle capable—and some incapable—of motivation descends upon Franklin. So, there they were, pausing under the traffic signals, brows knitted in wonder and frustration, while long lines of traffic piled up behind.

Shucks, time was when any capable driver could negotiate the block from the postoffice to the courthouse in a minute or so. But not this past Saturday; by the clock it took this writer 15 minutes to bridge the short trip. Then, of course, once at the courthouse, finding a parking place proved to be impossible.

So what did we do? Around the block we went, back to the postoffice, consumed another 20 minutes from that point to the courthouse amid a booming din of honking horns and four-letter words from anguished

drivers, paused from force of habit to see if the lights were working, failed to find a parking place, and just plain out-and-out gave up and went home.

Please, Mr. Aldermen, won't you get someone to hook in the juice on those traffic lights.

Franklin's amiable chiropractor, Dr. G. R. McSween, always seems besieged with problems of some sort. The most recent is the theft of his two prize Beagle pups; or at least he says they are prize hounds. (Having hunted with the good doctor and his "prizes", however, we are inclined to predict that his noble animals would shy away from squirrel's tail adorning an auto radio antenna.)

Anyway, "Doc" has been most upset over the loss of his animals and he even coughed up enough money to run an ad in this newspaper offering a reward for their return. We don't like to admit it, but he failed to get results—but that is beside the point.

Last Friday night, while this reporter was pounding this typewriter into submission, the phone rang.

"Hello", we say in our characteristic nasal drawl.

It's "Doc": "Brady", he begins, "I want to run another ad in the paper—about my dogs."

Since ads are our bread and butter we pledged our immediate attention.

"Whatta ya wants say?"

Here was his ad:

WILL THE PERSON WHO STOLE MY DOGS PLEASE COME BACK AGAIN AND STEAL SOME MORE. OUR FEMALE HAD A LITTER OF NINE TONIGHT. Bye Now!

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

There should be some special award or medal made to present to Secretary of the Army Stevens for his firm stand against the un-American ways of Senator McCarthy. In this day when so many have cowed before the slander slinging senator from Wisconsin, it is indeed heart warming to see one in public life who has the courage to stand against McCarthy. I am writing this on Monday and I hope that my faith in Mr. Stevens is borne out when he appears before the McCarthy Committee Tuesday. This hearing will be more in keeping with American justice since it will be a public hearing and will be before the full committee. Often times McCarthy has conducted hearings at which he was the sole representative of the committee and these hearings were held in secret. How would you like to be subject to such a witch trial?

Local dairy farmers will probably soon feel the effects of the administration's change in farm policy. A representative of one of the chief purchasers of milk on a wholesale scale recently told local farmers that the price would probably be cut 50 cents on the hundred weight. He implied that this reduction was brought about by the recent announcement that price support on milk would be reduced from 90 per cent of parity to 75 per cent of parity. The local dairyman will be hurt because the government is still paying price supports based on 90 per cent of parity on corn, wheat, soybeans and other ingredients that go to make up dairy feed. He is selling a commodity that is based on 75 per cent price support and buying ingredients that have a 90 per cent price support. To me, that seems a rather hodge-podge for an administration that was supposed to be so business like.

One of the chief weapons of the Lennon forces in the Scott-Lennon senatorial race may be a television program showing pictures of the new road which runs by Kerr Scott's farm at Haw Creek. Well that is alright, but I don't think they should

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Mr. Furman Jarrett has gone to Waynesville to establish headquarters in the insurance business. He will read The Press weekly while there.

We hear it rumored that there are two or three blockade stills within a short distance of Franklin. The proprietors are liable to get into trouble.

The squirrels up towards Tri-mount were very much amused yesterday afternoon. Dr. Smith and Dr. Rogers went up there squirrel hunting. The doctors came back. The squirrels resumed business at the old stand as usual.

25 YEARS AGO

The finding of a skull just beneath the top of the ground in the garden of Pine Tree Inn at Franklin has created no little conjecture here as to the identity of the man who met his death. The Pine Tree Inn is now owned by S. A. Munday and was originally built a number of years before the Civil War by the late Jesse Siler.

The trains back in and the cars back out. It's about time for Franklin to have a forward motion of some kind.

Some want the cannery canned, but the cannery can can more canned goods than can be canned by five hundred families canning by the home canning method.

The sheriff has his seal on the door of the Farmers Federation. We do not know what the outcome will be.

10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. I. B. Sutherland, of Winston-Salem has accepted the position of case worker with the Macon County Department of Public Welfare to succeed Elmer Crawford.

Dr. J. L. Stokes, II, preached his farewell sermon to his congregation at the Franklin Methodist Church last Sunday morning. Dr. Stokes and his family are leaving for Elkin.