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JANUARY 26, 1956

Another 'Brink'

As we understand Secretary of State Dulles' policy, as outlined in a Life magazine article, he repeatedly has led this country to the brink of war—in order to keep the peace. And as we understand the magazine article, he now has led us to the brink of partisan war over what should be a bipartisan foreign policy — in order to keep the Republican party in power.

Old Error, New Twist

"Manufacturers, looking for new sites, now are putting the presence of a four-year college on their list of 'musts'. Therefore, we'd better get busy and build a four-year college."

So runs the argument seriously advanced in Asheville.

Well now, we wonder . . .

Not that some industry is undesirable — it isn't. And surely not that education isn't desirable — it is. But are they desirable for the same reasons? One makes products, the other builds people. Is there really any connection between the two? And even if there were, shall we build people so they can make products, or ought it to be the other way around?

This is a new twist to an old misconception—that we educate people so they can make money. Unhappily, a major part of the blame for the misconception lies at the door of some educators; those well meaning but timid and short-sighted teachers who have thought they had to give education a dollars-and-cents price mark to make it respectable.

Except for vocational and technical training, education has nothing to do with making money—or attracting industry. Education is meant to build an individual who will have some understanding and appreciation of the world he lives in. And in a democratic country such as ours, it also is meant to build citizens with the intelligence to analyze facts and reach sensible conclusions, and the character to urge the validity of those conclusions. When education fails to do that, democracy is finished—and there no longer will be any excuse for the support of schools by taxation.

* * *

Attract industries so we can build educational facilities? Well, maybe . . .

But build educational facilities so we can attract industry . . . ?

No Cause For Gloom

Unrelieved gloom has greeted a recent report to the State Board of Conservation and Development.

The report said, in substance, that North Carolina's success in attracting industry from without the state diminished in 1955 to a point below all other years since the end of World War 2, and that indications are the movement of industry into the South has passed its peak. In short, it's going to be tougher, hereafter, to get some mammoth plant from Massachusetts or Michigan to move to North Carolina.

That's a change. But is it necessarily a bad change? Is the gloom really justified?

We don't think so. For is industry that comes to North Carolina from elsewhere better than industry we develop within the state? And is there any reason why we can't develop the industry we need and want? Is North Carolina without capital? Are North Carolinians lacking in enterprise and vision? Have we no skilled workers in this state?

The change may prove a blessing in disguise—a great blessing. For it is almost sure to mean, among other things, more home ownership of industry, in contrast to absentee ownership; more industries

that fit into North Carolina resources, its needs and skills; and, far from least, more diversification and more small plants.

Into that situation, that opportunity, Governor Hodges' plan for the encouragement of small North Carolina industries fits admirably. The North Carolina Business Development Corporation, a splendid idea at any time, comes just when it is most needed, and when its chances for service and for success are greatest.

Let's Start At The Top

The Justice Department has under consideration a request that it investigate the white Citizens Councils in the South.

This newspaper has consistently maintained that each of these racial organizations was one too many; such an investigation might be a good idea. But if a racial organization is wrong, the more powerful it is, the more wrong it is likely to be.

We would suggest, therefore, that the department first study another, similar racial organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It should come first, it seems to us, because it is much older and is far more powerful. (A few years ago, before the N. A. A. C. P. transferred its emphasis from Congress to the courts, it was listed as one of the top lobbying organizations in the country, in amount spent to influence legislation.)

Such questions as these, it seems to us, might be in order:

Where and how does the N. A. A. C. P. obtain the huge sums it formerly spent in legislative lobbying and now spends in court activities? How is it spent? To whom does the organization account for this money? Who controls the N. A. A. C. P.? To whom does it pay salaries, and how much? And, most significant of all, perhaps, what are its future objectives? It has attained a large measure of its original program. When the program is complete, will the N. A. A. C. P. disband? Or is there so great a vested interest in such things as jobs, salaries, and power as to make that virtually impossible?

Letters

Problem Needs Discussion

Editor, The Press:
The various reactions to the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court concerning segregation in the schools indicate the need of mature and careful thinking. The suggestion of the Rev. Sam Moss, which appeared in The Press recently, is very much to the point. Those who are interested need to think together. Each one of us needs the give-and-take made possible in group discussion. In such an atmosphere pertinent available information could be considered calmly and thoughtfully.

I should like to join such a group, and am sure there are others in Macon County who would like to do so. Let's come together!

Faithfully yours,

Franklin.

(REV.) A. RUFUS MORGAN.

Others' Opinions

Definition

(North Carolina Education)

A flood is a river too big for its bridges.

They Would!

(Pensacola, Fla., Gosport)

Two pessimists met at a party. They shook heads.

Depends On The Age

(Greeley, Colo., Booster)

At 20 you know you'll be rich. At 50 you know you won't. At 65 it doesn't matter.

The Gardener's 'If'

(Quoted by Morganton News-Herald from Blum's Almanac)

If you can watch the rains undo your planting,
Then do your seeding over with a smile,
If you can face a drought that leaves you panting,
Yet feel that gard'ning still is well worth while,
If you can care for plants all sere and yellow
And hill again the corn, the peas, the squash,
You're one of Nature's noblemen, old fellow,
And not, I vow, a bit like me, by gosh!

Editor Raises A Question

(Albemarle Stanly Press)

The glasses through which the editor is looking today must be dark and gray. He is a bit irked at the economic theories of those who would be overly optimistic, and base further progress and development on unsound principles.

"Business is bound to be good for many years to come"

Our Great America ☆ by Woody



declared the optimistic soul whose glasses carry a rose tint. "Look at the babies who are being born. Families are getting larger. The babies must be fed and clothed. And that will certainly keep business humming."

But the editor is not impressed. Pushing his dark glasses down on his nose, he raises a question.

"Have you ever heard about China and India?" he asks sourly. "You know hundreds of babies die in those countries every day from starvation."

The Senior Illiterate

(Windsor, Colo., Beacon)

At Lake Placid, N. Y., the chamber of commerce desired to send a Christmas card to each visitor who had signed the guest register during the season. So the secretary counted 1,931 signatures on the register and bought that many cards. Then he discovered that only 681 of the names were legible.

And so, now that everybody knows Why Johnny Can't Read, could someone maybe get out a book explaining Why John Sr. Can't Write?

Doctors Of Divination

(Washington Post)

A number of doctors who have never seen President Eisenhower, and know no more about his exact physical condition than you or we, have expressed an opinion, based possibly on a reading of tea leaves, that he is physically able to serve a second term in the White House. The magazine U. S. News & World Report asked 444 heart specialists this question: "Based on what you have read about the nature of the President's illness and assuming a normal convalescence in the next few months, do you think Mr. Eisenhower can be regarded as physically able to serve a second term?" The American Medical Association condemned the poll, observing most moderately that "consultation without examination is absurd." Among those polled, 169 had sufficient respect for the medical profession, if not for the President, to decline an answer. Nevertheless, 141 said yes and 93 said no. The most significant conclusion to be drawn from this piece of research, as we see it, is that heart specialists tend to be Republicans by a preponderance of about 3 to 2.

Growing Body Of Ignorance

(Chapel Hill News Leader)

Los Angeles is in Missouri; Denver and Boston are in Wisconsin; the Appalachian Mountains are in the Oklahoma Panhandle, and Chesapeake Bay is in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Daily Tar Heel cites these as answers to questions propounded to a class in geology at the university. They have enraged The Richmond Times-Dispatch, which asks: "Could idiocy be more complete? What are our secondary schools teaching the youth of the land when such answers as these come from college students?"

It cannot be said that the schools, secondary or otherwise, are wholly to blame. It has been the steady complaint of college teachers for years that the students coming up each fall for entrance have no body of general information.

They don't know the Bible, they don't know English, they don't know mathematics. Whose is the fault?

The schools, with enormous demands made on them and with efforts thus spread thin, may be partly to blame, but the primary guilt must be laid on influences that work against the American home.

Any observer can testify that the home is no longer a center for teaching for learning, for culture, or for the general information which a youngster must have in order to meet the demands of current life.

The forces that once operated in the USA were centripetal—that is, they tended to make youth seek its normal center, the home. Nowadays, the forces are centrifugal and dispersive. The automobile and other agencies take the young people away from the piano and the center table out to night clubs, honkytonks, and other resorts, while parents either sit alone or go out themselves in search of amusement.

To maintain a home which will act as a center of information and development means a constant struggle with interests which tend to nullify its influence or break it apart. The schools are not entirely to blame, nor are the parents. Modern influences make for dispersal, which is the enemy of concentration. But without concentration, what learning can there be?

IEWS

By

BOB SLOAN



In the Carson community they have a nice community building, built by the combined efforts of the people there.

In the Carson community there is a community development program, but in Franklin there isn't any.

In Franklin, although there seems to be general agreement that there is great need for a community youth center building, we haven't been able to build one.

Holly Springs also has a community building and there, as in most of our other rural communities, everyone has a mail box, neatly marked with their name, in front of their home. In Franklin, despite the efforts of one of the civic clubs, we haven't even been able to get the houses numbered. But our rural communities have a planned program of development; while Franklin doesn't.

Practically in every community in the Rural Development Program there are wayside parks and picnic areas, but Franklin doesn't have a single one, and there are many other improvements which have been made all over Macon County, but Franklin, even though it's larger than any of the others, hasn't kept pace with the rest of the communities.

It looks like, unless Franklin wants to become the cow's tail of the county, as far as developments and improvements are concerned, that we had better start a development program—and start it soon. We are willing, but so far, we aren't doing any planned community work.

Isn't this a challenge to the Franklin Chamber of Commerce?

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Some repairs have been made on the courthouse roof within the past two weeks.

Mr. John C. Wright is now taking lessons in banking under the instruction of cashier, J. G. Siler.

Dr. S. H. Lyle left last Wednesday morning on a business trip to Tarboro, N. C.

The Press learns that Mr. R. L. Green, of Mars Hill, N. C., and Miss Eva Higdon, of Ellijay, N. C. are assistant teachers in the Macon County High School.

25 YEARS AGO

Messrs. Raymond and Sidney McCarty left Highlands last Monday for Augusta, Ga.

Mr. Jack Sanders spent several days last week in Baltimore, buying new spring goods for his store.

10 YEARS AGO

Highlands was visited by snow and ice on Wednesday of last week and more snow on Sunday, and today's lowering skies indicate still more snow.—Highlands item.

Miss Lane Porter, Girl Scout field director for Charleston, S. C., district, spent last week-end here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Porter.

Mr. and Mrs. Dillard Brown and two sons Edwin and Allen, and Mrs. Faye Stackhouse, all of Asheville, recently visited their mother and grandmother, Mrs. F. E. Brown, at her home on West Main Street.