

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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FEBRUARY 9, 1956

Politics Is YOUR Business

It's time for some talk about politics.

The primary election is less than four months away, and it's time, we think, for some consideration of candidates.

Locally, we elect a surveyor and representative and nominate members of the county board of education this year. Who are they to be? If we don't start giving thought to that question soon enough, we may not get the best men for the jobs.

That is not to suggest that the incumbents, if they should stand for reelection, are not qualified. It is to suggest that the voters should have some choice as between candidates — preferably, some choice as between a number of A-1 candidates.

The surveyor's post, of course, has ceased to have the importance it once had. Not so with the representative in the General Assembly and the members of the board of education.

For representative, the ideal thing would be to elect a young man who would be available to go back to the Legislature a number of times, assuming his record warranted his reelection. It takes a man most of his first term to learn his way around in the Assembly; besides, influence in that body is based on committee assignments, and committee assignments are based on seniority — on how long the man has been there. Hence the more often we send a man back, the more influence Macon County will have in the Legislature; and the opposite is equally true.

Under the new law, enacted by Rep. G. L. Houk two years ago, the board of education is made up of three persons, instead of five. If we are to have a good county, we must have good schools; and the kind of people we have on the school board largely determines the kind of schools we have.

If it is true that politics is for the politicians today, it is because you and I have tended to abdicate our rights and responsibilities as citizens. Politics is our business. It's high time we looked after that business.

Mrs. F. S. Johnston

It has been a long, long time since Mrs. F. S. Johnston came here as a bride. But not too long for her influence still to be felt in Macon County.

When she came to make her home in the mountain hamlet Franklin was then, she brought with her traits and talents this community needed; she used them unstintingly for the enrichment of the life of people here.

Her outstanding contribution, perhaps, was her high standard of excellence, especially in the field of music. She was never content with anything less than what she considered the best; and in the marvelous manner in which human influence spreads — like the unending waves from a pebble dropped in a lake — her insistence upon excellence still is at work here, even among members of a generation that never knew her.

Good Politics, Too

Faced with a huge deficit, the Post Office Department proposes to increase postage rates. That may prove necessary. We'd suggest, though, that first the Department try eliminating the expense of all these issues of special stamps.

We don't pretend to know how much that reform would save in dollars; but we do know it would save a lot in frayed tempers, on the part of us run-of-the-mill stamp lickens. For it's got to the point you almost have to use a magnifying glass to decide whether you are using a U. S. 3-

cent postage stamp or one of these bonus stamps so many of the stores are giving now.

On second thought, we recommend elimination of these special issues of postage stamps as a smart political move for the Eisenhower administration, as well as a way to balance the postal budget.

Well, Governor Hodges has announced what everybody knew already — that he is going to run for reelection. Now when President Eisenhower does likewise, we can all go on about our business.

Letters

Industry And Education

Dear Weimar:

As usual, I thoroughly enjoyed your editorial page of 26 Jan. As usual I admired the sincerity of your feeling and the straight forward manner of expression. And as usual I felt that your conclusions were founded more in emotional intuition than in fact. Now usually I go along with your conclusions because I have more respect for your intuition than my own. But occasionally you write about something that I know something about. Then the conflict between your obvious integrity and known fact make for real frustration.

For example, let's take your editorial titled "Old Error, New Twist" wherein you belittle industry's need for nearby educational facilities. This brought on a particularly severe attack of frustration.

During the past eighteen months, five of us have had the opportunity to work with top management in five of the country's leading industries. Within each industry we've been privileged to talk with all of the various members of the management team from chairman or president down to the assistant superintendent level — including men like Mr. Clarence Randall of Inland Steel, Roy Ingersoll of Borg-Warner, McCaffrey of International Harvester, and P. D. Gavlin of Motorola. Almost without exception all of these managers believe that the biggest problem in industry and the biggest problem in management, is people. You state that industry builds products and that education builds people. You'd be surprised, Weimar, for since your generation and mine went to school, industry has long since recognized that people build products. So the first problem in building a product is the people who are going to do the job. And you can measure an industry by the people who make it up. If you can get the right kind of people, the products come almost automatically.

You state that "except for vocational and technical training, education has nothing to do with making money."—You don't learn to handle people, you don't gain a sense of fair play and the ability to recognize individual human needs, you don't learn to put together a group of highly individualized talents and come up with an efficient cooperative team by learning a trade. The necessity for building the team runs all the way from foreman to president and the broader your education, from Shakespeare to calculus, the greater your chance for making the team work, and incidentally qualifying for president. No, Weimar, successful industrial leaders are not narrow, grasping, petty masters of a trade forever plotting a Scrooge like scheme for exploiting the poor consumer. Mostly they are big men with interests, education, and a breadth of curiosity greater than yours and mine.

Beyond the need for wide experience and education in industry's top leaders is industry's chronically acute need for an ever higher level of training among all the people in industry. Have you ever observed all the ramifications involved in the operation of the modern industrial enterprise? The scientists, the engineers, the economists, the accountants, the lawyers, the psychologists, the industrial engineers, the marketing experts, the training directors, etc., all people requiring college training. And going further down the line, the automaton that daily reduces the need for direct labor and greatly in-

SOME STARTLING STATEMENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Below are high points of a recent address by Rear Admiral H. G. Rickover to the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation, Inc. Admiral Rickover was in charge of the building of the atomic submarine, "Nautilus", one of several assignments he has had that brought him into contact with the need for trained young scientists. The address was summarized by William H. Stringer in The Christian Science Monitor.

On the engineering side some experts believe the United States is not even graduating enough trained people to sustain, to fertilize, its present rate of technical expansion beyond the year 1970. To maintain present living standards in the face of rapid population growth, industry must produce 10 years from now 40 per cent more than it does today.

The United States has used up in minerals and fuels since 1914 more than the entire world consumed in all of history before 1914. A similar growth in consumption simply cannot occur in the next 30 years "unless we make profound changes in technology." This requires

more and more laboratory and engineering skill.

It is well known that the Soviet Union is going to pass the United States in scientific and engineering education unless something is done. The United States today has about 800,000 engineers, the U.S.S.R. 650,000. Between 1950 and 1960 the Soviet Union will have graduated 1,200,000 engineers and natural scientists, the United States 900,000 as presently programmed. The Soviet engineers will be as expert in their fields as the Americans are. The Russians are educating as many women as men in the professions; far fewer American women enter the great professions.

"Perhaps the most insidious weakness a nation can have is the belief . . . that it can do everything better than other people. We are subjected to this kind of propaganda in various media, such as the slick advertisements of our magazines. . . ."

The present-day American school pupil has a school year twice as long as the pupil of 1870, and nine times as much per pupil is spent on education. The question is whether he is adequately trained for the demands of today's society.

creates the need for people who can understand and operate the automatic machines that reduce the costs to you and me. If you have seen all this you can readily understand why industry seeks a location with nearby educational facilities. People and the training of people is their biggest problem. The limitations on what they can accomplish are the limitations of people.

Now you may argue that these skills are not really a product of education. If you do, then you rule out nearly everything taught in our greatest universities, including literature, philosophy, and teaching itself, for they are all needed in modern industry.

No, Weimar, let's don't scoff at industry's seeking educational facilities, let's be thankful for their recognizing the need.

NEVILLE SLOAN, JR.

44 Fir Street,
Park Forest, Ill.

Others' Opinions

Yes, Isn't It?

(Yuma, Colo., Pioneer)

It's nice for children to have pets until the pets have children.

Time To Begin

(Colorado Transcript)

The time to begin to form character in a child is the day its great-grandmother is born.

Students, Not Editors, On Trial

(Smithfield Herald)

Are Co-Editors Louis Kraar and Ed Yoder of the Daily Tar Heel, UNC campus newspaper, fit to hold their editorial positions? That is a question which will be answered in a recall election scheduled by Student Government at Chapel Hill. But it is not the greater question which will be answered by that election. The greater question is whether UNC students have a proper understanding of democracy—in particular, a proper understanding of the part which freedom of the press plays in democracy.

The petition for a recall election was prompted not by any immoral conduct of the student editors, nor by any display of incompetence on their part. The "wrongdoing" of these young editors is that they expressed opinions which were not popular. For one thing, they have stood for integration. But even that position was not enough to set off the movement for a recall election. What really fired up the critics of the co-editors was their editorial criticism of the appointment of Jim Tatum as coach of football at the University.

One of the Daily Tar Heel editors (Yoder) has declared: "The real motive of the petitioners, I would say, is that they want everybody to think the way they do . . . The important effect of an editorial is not the agreement it receives but the thought it receives."

This is a point so often missed by many Americans. The opinion is all too prevalent that newspapers should only reflect majority opinion. If this had been the function of American newspapers since the founding of the republic, the free progressive America we are so proud of today would not exist. For the trail of freedom and progress always is blazed by pioneers who are not content to seek safety in a conformity with majority opinion.

It is to the credit of Coach Jim Tatum that he does not go along with his admirers who would silence the UNC editors. He has sought to put a stop to the recall movement, declaring that the editors have a right to their opinions.

Editor Yoder, striking back at student critics, noted that the UNC campus "has always had as much freedom of expression and dissent as a college campus needs to stay alive." The hope is that such a statement can be made after the recall election.

Too many graduates consider their degree merely as a ticket to a job and a pass for security. "This desire for security in terms of money rather than in opportunity for self-improvement is hard to understand in a society where security is so readily available."

The United States is spending about 2 1/2 per cent of its national income on education. In contrast, it spends more than 4 per cent on recreation. In 1951 the amount spent for advertising was \$199 for every family in the United States, but the amount spent for primary and secondary education was only \$152 per household. The national outlay for educating citizens is substantially less than the outlay for educating customers.

Industry, which already has made special contributions of scholarships, could help still more by contributing directly to education—say a percentage of gross sales — and by loaning physicists and engineers for one-year teaching periods to schools and universities (more "people's capitalism").

It is more important to have better teachers than better school buildings. The main, the fundamental problem is that

VIEW

By
BOB SLOAN



Franklin is a town endowed with a beautiful natural setting, and that makes it the more shameful that we are not an outstandingly pretty town. In fact, while the words, "Franklin, North Carolina", could be words that made people think of one of the most attractive communities that they have ever visited, they instead bring memories of a dirty, unplanned, careless town. But the rural communities of Macon County have shown us a way to make our community worthy of the surrounding countryside — the Rural Community Development Program.

Franklin could be divided into sections, East Franklin, Georgia Road, Harrison Avenue, Bonny Crest, etc., with all sections competing against each other to make their part of town the most attractive. I believe that we would get some amazing results. It would be fine if the Chamber of Commerce would tackle the job and find out what would happen.

Revlon, Inc., counted record profits of \$3,500,000 for this past year. Yet, some people wondered if the expensive \$64,000 Question Television program paid off. Inland Steel, Republic Steel, and Pittsburgh Steel all had record years this past year. Bethlehem Steel had, perhaps, the most impressive profit record, with a profit of \$180 million vs. \$132 million for 1954.

Business conditions have been so favorable for the large industries that even the large railroads, long considered one of the sick cows of our economy, had an outstanding profit year. The Association of American Railroads estimated that overall profits for Class 1 roads for 1955 may hit \$915 million, the highest year on record. The New York Central profits of \$52 million were 400 per cent higher than the previous year.

Only a year ago President Eisenhower, the Republican party and a few conservative members of the Democratic party said that our tax structure was such that it was stifling to the development of growth in the large industries. Changes in our tax laws were made to lighten the burden on these big concerns. At the same time, a bill, to raise the amount granted for basic exemption for each dependent a taxpayer

(See Back Page, 1st Section)

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
John French, of Whittier, and Chotesska, of Birdtown, two Cherokee Indians, were in town Thursday.

Mr. N. H. Parrish has the frame for a new building up on Iotla Street, just beyond George Oliver's house. It is said that it is to be used for a store house.

Messrs. Frank and Claud Conley, of Almond, N. C., were here Friday and Saturday.

25 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Belle Bingham, the former Miss Belle Waldrop, and small child are here from the West, visiting relatives and friends.

Mrs. Ethel Munday Rhea and Mrs. Boyce Munday have returned to their home in Tennessee, after spending several days visiting relatives.

Major S. A. Harris left Monday for Moultrie, Ga., to visit his family, as well as to take a fishing trip.

10 YEARS AGO

Capt. Jack H. Potts returned home Friday, after 4 1/2 years of army service, one year of which was spent in Panama, and one year in the Philippines.—Highlands item.

Miss Gladys Hannah, who is employed in Washington, D. C., has been home to visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hannah, at their home on Franklin, Route 1.

George Moore, who has been working on a defense project at Cedar Point, Md., is spending a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Moore, at their home on Iotla Street.