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NOVEMBER 1, 1956

Who Elects Bad Officials?

This idea, suggested by the Indianola, Iowa, Herald, is both sensible and timely:

Bad officials are elected by the voters who stay at home on election day.

Not Quite True

"New and expanding industry is the answer to North Carolina's greatest economic problem — which is lower per capita income than 42 other states".

So reads an advertisement (captioned "Blessed With Opportunity"), signed by the State of North Carolina, that appears in this issue of The Press.

The advertisement is one of a series that members of the North Carolina Press Association are publishing without charge.

This newspaper is glad to have a part in this project, in helping to tell the story of industrial opportunity in North Carolina. It does not follow, however, that we necessarily indorse what the ads say, or are under obligation to keep quiet about what may appear to us to be less than the full truth.

The quotation above is an example. The unqualified statement that "new and expanding industry is the answer" to North Carolina's low per capita income just isn't quite true. And it has been proved untrue by North Carolina's own experience. For North Carolina, 43rd in per capita income, is even lower down the scale in average wages paid by industrial plants. In other words, the low wages paid by many industrial plants in North Carolina have lowered, not raised, the per capita income. More of the same kind of industries would not solve our low per capita income, therefore, but would aggravate the problem.

Which brings us around to saying something that has been said by this newspaper before, but which cannot be said too often:

(a) North Carolina's economic objective should be not industry per se, but an economic **balance**.

(b) The best industrialization, however desirable, is no cure-all; indiscriminate industrialization is more likely to prove a curse than a blessing.

(c) We should be as discriminating about our industries as industry is about its employees. We don't want too many industries, just as an industry doesn't want too many employees; and we should select our industries with as great care as an industry selects its employees.

For Western North Carolina, we suggest these tests:

1. Our industry should be home-owned; not necessarily by the people who now live here, but by people who will live with and in the industry. Absentee factory ownership is quite as great an evil as absentee land ownership.

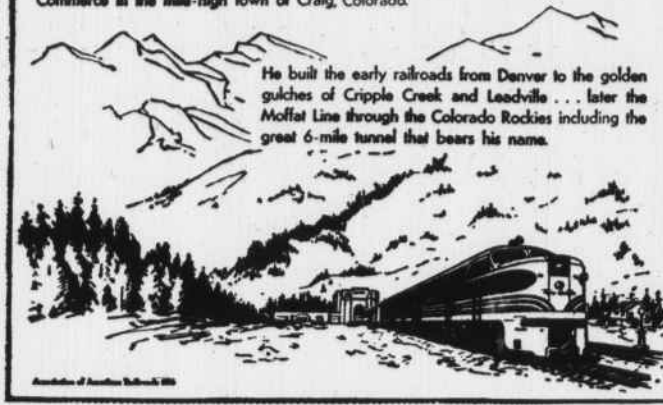
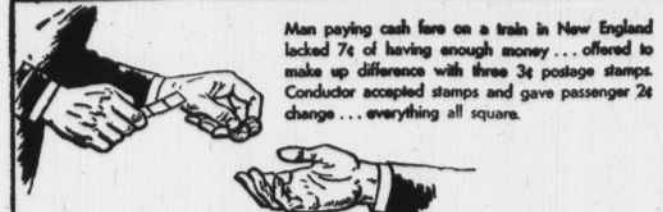
2. Western North Carolina industries should be small—so that no one can dominate the community; and diversified—so that a single shut-down cannot paralyze the community's economic life.

3. They should fit into the natural economy of the community, preferably manufacturing raw material already present; that would seem to make sense economically, and socially it would create fewer changes and frictions.

4. They should employ local labor. There certainly would be little advantage in a factory that brought its labor from elsewhere, with our own leaving home in search of employment.

5. The community should select the management

Rail oddities



of its factories as carefully as it selects the type of industry. It is not enough that the plant management should be a good citizen—in its labor, as well as in its community relations; the management should be able to understand and fit into the community.

6. Our industries should be those that will not destroy the God-given, irreplaceable things we have here in Western North Carolina. Our mountains have been marred and our air and water polluted enough already.

7. Each industry should be fitted carefully into the particular community it is to serve, and each should have just enough to give a proper balance with farming, the tourist business, etc. Too few would be much better than too many.

8. The final test, in every instance, should be the question: Will the coming of this industry make a better community in which to live?

It is only the very wisest and the very stupidest who do not change.—Han Suyin in her novel, "A Many-Splendored Thing".

A CHALLENGE TO LEADERSHIP: 4 FRIGHTENING TRENDS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is from an address by the Rev. James Perry, Jr., rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Waynesville, to the Franklin Rotary Club October 11.)

The qualities of leadership is something that interests me tremendously because I feel that our world, our nation and our communities need it so desperately that unless it appears soon in sufficient measure, it will be the undoing of us all. We do not need to be reminded that we are triggering a global earth-quake, that the age of science has placed in man's hands power to destroy himself, that we have a lot of maturing to do morally and spiritually if we are to walk away from the brink of disaster where we now stand, and feel that there will be a tomorrow. In our honest moments, we know all of this—in fact I believe the edge of it has been dulled because we have been told it so much.

And yet although our dilemma, our predicament has been analyzed and re-analyzed as to location and danger, we have not been told much why we are there and how to get out of it. Although the location has been charted, the map out has yet to be drawn.

I want to share with you a few trends, a few indexes of our society that we need to be aware of as trends that do not build those qualities of leadership necessary if a society is to be virile instead of decadent, if a society is to be healthy instead of sick.

The first is that we have pretty well come to the conclusion that the possession of externals is to be equated with an ennobled character. We are a nation of new-rich all dressed up and no place to go because we have become satiated with material goals that can't take us beyond our own noses. A full fist indicates to us a fine spirit. Prestige is interpreted in terms of who owns a Cadillac

and distinction in terms of who drinks Lord Calvert whiskey. The spotlight is on wealth, or who we happen to know who is wealthy, with the rags to riches dream deeply entrenched in our slide-rule of success. Our town's leading citizens are usually interpreted to mean those who bulk largest at the bank and wield the most influence. This has led us to read worth and value entirely from a material way of looking at things.

The second trend is that our culture seems to be based upon the conviction that to be comfortable is utterly indispensable if man is to fulfill his destiny. The philosophy of ease has permeated to the roots of our thinking and to the point where we can be completely thrown off balance by a several mile walk if we become stranded on a highway, our telephones go dead for an hour or two, or the furnace breaks down and we become chilly for an hour or two.

It occurs only to a few that this whole cult of comfort is petty, ignoble and unworthy of human nature. All too few ask whether it can possibly be that since our primeval ancestors crawled from the slime of the sea, first in the animal world, then in the human race, men have fought, bled and died, suffered pain and hardship, been through, all of this merely that modern men can sit down and be comfortable. And it occurs to a very few that comfort has moved into our lives as servant but has remained as master.

The third trend is the ridiculous notion that whether a man be good or bad, wise or foolish, matters less than that he should conform to the pattern set by the over-grown and de-personalized masses. We live in an age where it seems to be a sign of good manners and magnanimous tolerance for a person to say, "I never argue with a man about his religion and politics" and thereby relegates two of the most vital topics of conversation and ideas to the hazy background of vague and woolly thinking.

We have gotten to the place where we abhor the very idea of being different, or ridiculed,

and much prefer to submerge ourselves into the colorless mass and remain unnoticed. There is no value put on being independent any more and most of us don't even have the guts left to wear a suit of clothes that happens to be out of fashion. We all know in dealing with our children that everybody goes through a period when we have to dress, look, talk and think alike. But never to get beyond this is a definite sign of immaturity.

The fourth trend is that our crowd-mindedness makes us suggestible, manipulatable, easy meat for almost any propagandist who is willing to flatter, encourage animality, promise ease and opulence with a minimum of labor and freedom from responsibility. It is a very explosive thing to say, but I am going to say it anyway, that it is very possible that the coming national election will be won by the party that can promise the most in material rewards to this or that pressure group rather than any ideals of political philosophy it cares to promote.

These conditions and more which one can find from reading a daily newspaper make it an absolute necessity for groups like Rotary to exist and more-over to realize their responsibility and potential good in society. Without too much flattery, you represent a privileged class of men and you are daily making the decision by your lives whether higher privilege means greater responsibility or freedom from responsibility.

Now let us look back over these trends we have mentioned and see how the qualities of leadership react to them.

Leaders of men have never been primarily interested in possessions. They never make the fatal mistake of swapping their manhood for thinghood. Leaders of men know that no society of men and women, common or preferred, can exist on bread alone, or even cake, no matter how widely distributed gadgets and trinkets are. The heaven of washing machines, deluxe driers and fast moving automobiles of themselves never have made a man nor never will. Our Lord

wouldn't swap his Cross for a bake-shop no matter how much men needed bread, for he knew that there were some things more valuable than that, and principle was one of them. Leaders of men have known that life read from a material view-point always ends up in a glorified ten-cent store no matter if there is wall-to-wall carpeting. Leaders of men never seek comfort for themselves. Though we might question his objectives, Alexander the Great showed this indispensable quality of leadership on one of his campaigns to conquer the then known world. Going through Macedonia, his army had been without water for several days when they met up with some traveling Macedonians who had several goatskins full of water. He was such a revered leader, such an idol of his men, that they, seeing that the water was not enough to quench their thirst, brought it to Alexander for him to drink. Looking into their haggard eyes, their drawn faces, their parched lips, he took the water and poured it on the ground, saying: "If I alone drink, my men will lose heart". Leaders are always willing to identify themselves with those they seek to serve.

Leaders are non-conformist, for they are never satisfied with things the way they are. They are willing to be different.

I get amused sometimes at our organizations founded to perpetuate the memory of our country's founders and fathers, for they tend to forget the revolutionary aspect of their lives. Can you imagine what would happen if old Samuel Adams, slovenly dressed, would appear at some meeting of a patriotic group of professional descendants and spurt forth of the blessedness of rebellion! Or Tom Paine, stone bruised, come upon a meeting which was trying to lash the present to the past, losing sight of the spirit which was the cause of their formation in the first place.

Leaders are not those who are easy meat for fast talking demagogues, for they have integrity of thought, a capacity for dreams and vision, and they refuse to be strapped by the thought patterns of the masses.

Others' Opinions

(Opinions expressed in this space are not necessarily those of The Press. Editorials selected for reprinting here, in fact, are chosen with a view to presenting a variety of viewpoints. They are, that is, just what the caption says—OTHERS' Opinions.)

What! No Index!

(Platteville, Colo., Herald)

The Oxford University Press is still trying to figure out how to answer a letter they received six months ago complaining that their new Universal Dictionary does not contain an index!

Problem There, Too

(Windsor, Colo., Beacon)

We sympathize with merchants along the South St. Vrain highway who complain because road construction has reduced their summer profits. But just what do they expect roadbuilding authorities to do about it?

It's too bad that mountain roads can't be rebuilt during the winter when tourist traffic is low. But that's one of the hazards of the tourist business. When the new road opens, increased traffic will soon reimburse the merchants for their summer losses, whereas if the road had not been rebuilt, their business would have dwindled year by year as travelers learned to avoid the old road.

A Modern Courthouse

(Greensboro Daily News)

The world is full of contrasts. And for North Carolina's contribution this month we nominate a scene depicted in a photograph in the Hertford County Herald.

On one side of the picture was the new Hertford County courthouse at Winton—low pitched, flat-topped, ultramodern, largely glass fronted—and on the other side the traditional monument of the Confederate soldier at port arms.

To those who remember the present courthouse's white porticoed predecessor, built to replace the one burned by Yankee marauders, the contrast is startling.

The new building has the appearance of so many of the new classroom additions and county health centers one sees about the state or the factories shown in ads put out by the State Department of Conservation and Development to publicize North Carolina's "accessible isolation."

Not that we're one whit critical. Hertford County citizens have the fullest right to choose modern architecture even in ancient Winton. One must keep up with the times, and in the context of modern architecture the new Hertford County Courthouse is a beautiful building.

But we can't help wondering what that Confederate soldier thinks of it all.

VIEWES

By
BOB SLOAN



The football game with Swain High will be a landmark in my memory for many years. First, it was one of the best played football games I have seen in the best traditions of sport. It was fiercely competitive and yet cleanly played for the most part. Although outweighed on an average of from 15 to 20 pounds to the man, a game Franklin eleven played Swain High to a standstill, barely losing 13 to 7.

Something that happened that filled me with as much of that warm glow of pride as the fine display of spirit by our own team, was the attitude of the Franklin fans after the game.

It was a tough one too, and with a few breaks we could have won, but the fans came away proud, and justly so, of our boys.

In the past, however, sometimes we have been poor losers, prone to cry after such a game that the referees cheated us, or some other excuse.

I believe that the recent lean years have caused sportsmanship to grow at Franklin and this was a fine example.

Soon Christmas shopping will be in full swing. Let's buy at home. Remember that to have a better shopping center here we must shop more here. Also remember that it is the local merchants who support the county fair, put the roofs on churches, and help hundreds of other local causes.

My only prediction concerning the election is that there won't be one hundred twenty-five electoral votes difference between Ike and Adall, and that's way out on a limb because many things can happen in two weeks and I am writing this October 24.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

A short cut and good road up the river to Highlands, assures to Franklin a prominence as a center of trade and influence. Let the present opportunity pass and she must be satisfied with second place in the grand march of prosperity, which is sure to come in time, with the railroad.

Automobile owners in Franklin are advised to steer clear of Lyle Street in rear of the Methodist Church.

25 YEARS AGO

The Angel Building on Main Street has been sold for "one dollar and other considerations" by Dr. Furman Angel to M. L. Dowdle. It is regarded as one of the most valuable pieces of business property in Franklin.

Franklin High School football team tasted its first blood of the season last Friday, defeating Hayesville, 26 to 6, on the local gridiron. Touchdowns for Franklin were made by Stewart, fullback; Hauser, quarterback; Vinson, halfback, and Barnard, right end.

Coffee, 25 cents for two pounds; heavy brooms 30 cents.—Farmers Supply Company advertisement.

10 YEARS AGO

The Macon County 669-pound Aberdeen Angus steer that won the reserve championship at last week's Asheville Fat Stock show brought the highest price ever paid for a steer in N. C. Owner Hayes Gregory received \$1,169.60 for it from the Bank of Franklin.

Henry W. Cabe is the new president of the Western Carolina Telephone Company.

Spare Stamps No. 9 and 10, used for home ganning sugar, will continue good throughout November instead of expiring Oct. 31 as scheduled.