

# LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

—Continued From Page Two

counties and the less populous areas. For the present system, since it bases representation in the senate solely on population, not only gives the populous areas an advantage in that chamber; it also gives the large counties a 20-seat advantage in the house.

Instead of correcting this over-emphasis on population, the majority report would compound the error by giving the big counties still more house seats.

### THEN CANCEL IT OUT

3. To cancel that out, it would violate the sacred principle that representation in at least one chamber must be based on population alone—violate it twice. It would limit to two the number of senators from any one county, no matter how populous; and limit to four the number of counties in any one senatorial district, no matter how small the population.

The majority report, in short, would merely put more patches on an already patched and long outgrown pair of pants — presumably on the theory the boy might refuse to wear any others!

4. Legislative representation is a political matter; and it is a basic concept in representative government that the minority must have a voice on vital matters; under that concept, surely the minority party in North Carolina should have a say-so in determining how legislative representation shall be allotted. But, the state's political complexion being what it is, the net result of the majority report proposal for a commission would be to make that an all-Democratic body. That is wrong in principle. In practice, it would have the effect of further undercutting the citizen's confidence in the honesty and justness of his state government.

### PROPOSALS

I propose that the 1957 General Assembly pass and submit to the people a constitutional amendment that would:

1. Base representation in one house on population alone, in the other on the county unit. Since it is immaterial which chamber represents which, and since it is traditional in North Carolina for every county to be represented in the lower house, I recommend that the senate represent population, and the house the counties.

Specifically, the house would be made up of 100 members, one, and only one, from each county. The senate would have 50 members, allotted on a basis of population, as the constitution now provides.

### GIVE MINORITY SAY SO

2. Provide for a three-member commission, authorized and directed to redistrict for the senate as soon as practicable after the adoption of this amendment, and in future after each decennial census; the members to be appointed as follows: One by the chairman of the state Democratic executive committee, one by the chairman of the state Republican executive committee, and one by the Governor of North Carolina. And give the N. C. Supreme Court authority to compel this commission to per-

form its duty within a reasonable time.

If we are to have a democratic form of government, honest and just legislative representation is fundamental. A single set of figures suggests how far we are from that today:

One group of senatorial districts, containing only 10 per cent of the state's population (1950 census) elects 12 senators, or one-fourth of the senate. Another group of districts, containing about 25 per cent of the state's population, has only seven senators, or one-seventh of the senate. And that in the

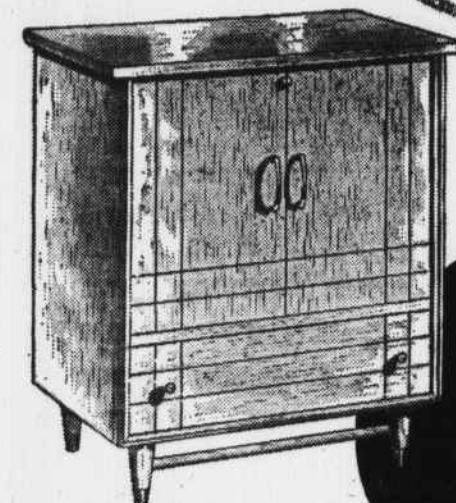
chamber that is supposed to reflect population!

### FAVORS EARLY ELECTION

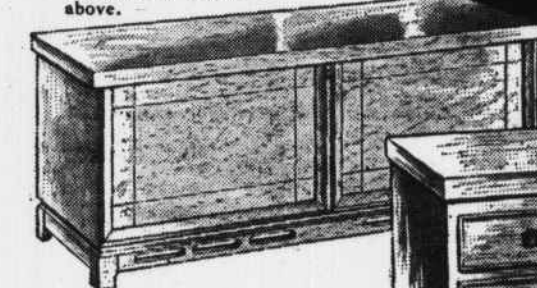
Such a situation demands remedying without further delay.

I therefore recommend that this General Assembly provide for an election in 1957, submitting this amendment to the people; so that, if they approve it, its provisions will become effective in the election of members of the 1959 General Assembly.

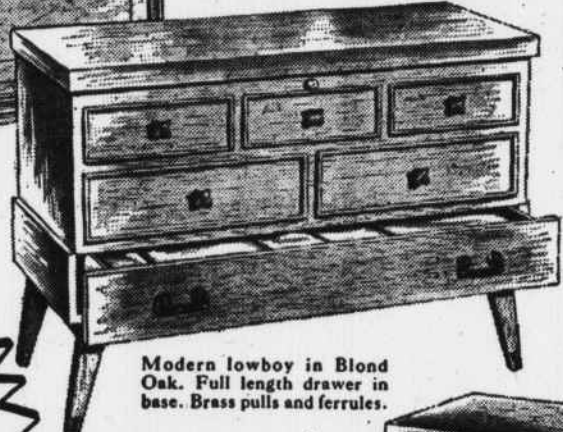
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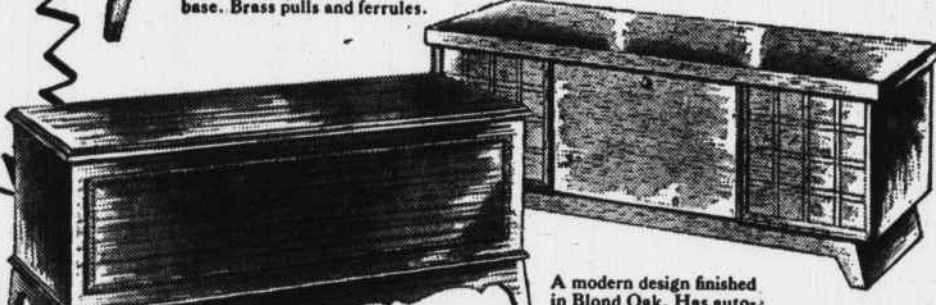
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"Catholics," they have heard it said, "go to church because they are obliged to do so. The priests keep telling them it is a sin if they don't... that they risk eternal damnation if they don't obey the Church. Catholicism is a religion of fear."

It may be possible to "fool all of the people some of the time." But it is not unbelievable that literally billions of people could have been deceived over a period of nearly 2,000 years? Could Catholicism have held the loyalty of eminent philosophers, scientists and other intellectuals down through the centuries if all it offered was a doctrine of fear and superstition?

No, your Catholic neighbor does not go to Mass and Confession and participate in other religious devotions merely because of an obligation imposed by the Church. It is, he believes, an obligation imposed upon him by God; and it isn't fear, but the desire to serve God that prompts his religious life.

Religion to a Catholic is not merely a worthy and virtuous activity. It is an absolute duty. It is, we believe, the means provided by God for the fulfillment of the God-given purpose of our lives. It is the channel through which we acknowledge our utter dependence upon God, and by means of which we give expression to our love, faith and gratitude.

Catholics believe further that we must honor God in the way revealed through his true Son, Jesus

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