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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1958

Should Be Defeated

When Macon County voters go to the polls Tuesday, they not only will choose between the Democratic and Republican nominees for federal, state, and county offices. They also will vote on a proposed amendment to the Constitution of North Carolina.

The amendment would increase the jurisdiction of justice of the peace courts.

We need inferior courts in North Carolina, to dispose of minor infractions of the law, and thus avoid clogging the superior courts; and it may be the justice of the peace courts are the answer to that need.

There is, moreover, considerable force to the argument that justices of the peace should be given enough authority to dispose of traffic cases involving out-of-state defendants.

There are, though, several good reasons, it seems to us, why this amendment should not be adopted—at least at this time.

First of all, it is generally agreed there are many abuses in the justice of the peace courts. Most of them, perhaps, grow out of a bad system. To cite just one example, a justice of the peace gets no compensation for his services, unless he finds the defendant guilty or binds him over to superior court. Obviously, a man dispensing justice should be paid a salary, not required to convict in order to get paid. Before we give the justices of the peace more authority, we ought to eliminate the causes of the abuses already present in the system.

In the second place, the Bell committee has made an exhaustive study of North Carolina courts, and will present recommendations to the General Assembly for reforms, of all the courts. It would seem logical to wait to see what happens to that plan for general reform before we do it piecemeal, in a single judicial area.

Finally, a commission is at work on proposed general revision of the state's constitution. Again, it would seem to make sense, since there is a possibility of a wholesale revision of the constitution, to dispose of that general plan before we adopt a single amendment—especially since that amendment is of doubtful wisdom.

This proposed amendment should be defeated.

Buy What We Want

At a Budget Commission hearing in Raleigh, it was brought out that the University of North Carolina is losing many of its best professors because institutions in other states pay higher salaries.

Commenting on the problem, Governor Hodges said he hoped the day will come "when we won't have to talk in public" about such a situation. It's bad psychology, he said; and suggested that the state institutions ought to handle their "own specific problems without calling attention to how poor we are."

Then the Governor added:

"... and we are poor".

This newspaper has great respect for Governor Hodges. It always has felt he is both dedicated and intelligent. But this time we believe he must have spoken without thinking.

Because we are not poor. North Carolina is a rich state.

If you doubt that, count the new cars on the highways; count the thousands at Saturday football games; count the millions spent for alcohol and tobacco and a score of other non-essentials.

North Carolina is not poor, in money. We buy what we want and value. We don't pay our pro-

"Amen, Brother! But—Uh—Firsh Gimme A Li'l S-Snort T'Build Up My S-S-Strength"



fessors more because we rate these other things higher than we do education.

If we are poor at all, it is in our sense of values.

And that, Governor, is cause for shame.

The 'Republic Party'?

In a speech in Los Angeles last week, President Eisenhower lit into the political opposition. For that, we have no quarrel with him; for this is an election year.

And, after all, Mr. Eisenhower is a Republic; he is the leader of the Republics; and it is only natural for him to seek victory for the Republic party. But . . .

Why the misuse of that word "Republic"? was it a twice repeated typographical error? No. It was used deliberately—to call attention to what we do quarrel with the President about; his misuse of a word. For throughout that speech, he is reported to have referred to the opposition as the "Democrat party".

The word "Democrat", of course, is a noun, and only a noun. When the term is placed before the word "party", to tell what party, it becomes an adjective. And the adjective, and the only adjective, says Webster, is "Democrat".

It's the "Democratic party". It's no more the "Democrat party" than the opposition is the "Republican party".

Next thing you know, we'll be hearing a member of the Socialist party referred to as a "Socialite".

Fudging On Ourselves

(Chapel Hill Weekly)

A woman said, "I'm going to the hospital the week of the 14th and so won't be able to come to your party. I wish that you were having the party this week or the week of the 21st because then I could help you with it."

The woman wasn't sick. She was going to the hospital for her annual physical examination. Her doctor could easily perform the same diagnostic check-up in his office or in the private diagnostic day clinic.

The woman is going to the hospital for her examination because in this way her hospitalization insurance will pay for her hospital bed, her X-rays and for some other diagnostic aids that will be used. This practice is widespread. In fact, it is almost universal among holders of hospitalization policies.

The first major consequence of this practice is that it increases the need for additional hospital beds. Hence the plea that North Carolina needs 4.5 beds per 1,000 population and has only 3.4 per 1,000.

The second major consequence of the practice is that it raises the rates of hospital insurance. The insurance companies get all their money from the policy holders. When the cost rises, the premiums must go up.

Many hospitals were given to the communities by wealthy people. Only in recent years have the taxpayers been asked to build hospitals. Even now many people are not aware of the money they pay for the building and maintenance of hospitals since it is all part of their state taxes, or in some cases city taxes. It is also part of their federal taxes.

Hospitals and hospital beds are expensive. All the nurses and doctors and other aids needed to care for a single hospital bed are expensive. All those expenses must be paid by the people.

If the X-rays and other diagnostic equipment is readily available in the doctor's office, is it smart to use a bed? Is that the best use to which I can put my dollar? In the end our practice is only cheating our own pocketbooks and the people who really need the hospital beds we use.

Then there are some people who think a joke must be bad to be good.—Granite City, Ill., Press-Record.

STRICTLY PERSONAL By WEIMAR JONES

In our relations with others, of whatever race, age, class, or condition, it's a good idea not to carry too many chips on our shoulders. Usually I've found it wise, in fact, to assume the best about the other fellow. At the least, we do well to wait and see, before we damn another human being.

I had that brought home to me the other day.

I was making a trip by bus. The bus was crowded, and I had to go well toward the back to find a seat.

At a rest stop, I got off. First, though, I took down a brief case, from the rack above, and left it in my seat, to make sure somebody didn't get my place.

When I returned, the seat was occupied by an elderly Negro woman. I saw no sign of the brief case, though; and so thought maybe that wasn't my place, after all. I looked in other seats; still no sign of the case.

Puzzled, I said, half to myself: "I left a brief case here somewhere."

A Negro man across the aisle pointed to the elderly colored woman. "It's behind her," he said. I looked, and sure enough, there it was, standing upright in the seat, just as I had left it, with the woman leaning against it.

That was my seat. The presence of the luggage in it proved it was my seat. The woman must have known it was occupied, I thought. And so I stood and waited.

She didn't offer me my seat. She didn't apologize for having taken it. She didn't make a move, even, to give me the case. She just sat, and stared straight ahead.

At last I leaned over, grasped the case, and pulled it from behind her. Then I started looking

for another seat, and finally found one, still farther back in the bus.

Sitting there, I fumed. That was my seat. I had a right to it. I was being a fool, I told myself, to give it up.

I started to go demand it. I thought of all the nasty things I'd say if she refused to move. I even considered taking it up with the driver.

Then I realized, a little ashamed, that this was much too small a matter to make a scene over; much too small to get my blood pressure up about. So I leaned back, looked out the window, and turned my thoughts to other things.

Was I annoyed because it was a Negro who took my seat? I asked myself, as I tried to analyze my feelings later. I couldn't be sure until I happened to think of another passenger. She was a young white woman, load-mouthed and gum-chewing. When it came time to board the bus, at the start of the journey, she had been the last person to arrive; but, instead of taking her place at the end of the line, she had pushed ahead—pushed ahead of elderly men and women and at least two women with babies in their arms—and so had been one of the first to get on.

IN OUR OWN BACKYARDS

There is a famous story about two children who set out in search for the Bluebird of Happiness. They traveled to many places over the world but they never found it. Finally, they gave up their search and returned home. To their great surprise, they found in their own back yard, the Bluebird, singing away loud and clear.

The moral of this story to Americans is that there is a real touch of magic all around us—figuratively, right in our own back yard. One of the easiest ways to discover it and explore it is by drawing a circle of any radius, using your home as the center point for the compass. Your magic circle can be fifty, a hundred, two hundred miles, in diameter and your magic carpet to all of the pleasure and adventure in this circle is your automobile.

Actually, you'll discover, if you look around you, many scenic and historic places in your own community that certainly warrant a visit. And sometimes, too, driving nowhere in particular and just letting the road be your guide can be the best fun of all. You'll discover all sorts of interesting things about our countryside that perhaps you hadn't realized before. It can be fun and education for the entire family.

Like the children in the story, you'll discover the real joy of life isn't as far away from you as you once might have thought. —Industrial News Service

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1893)

This year's chestnut crop here is said to be the largest ever known.

Our new sidewalks will soon be done. The curbing and sand are all down, the brick burnt and are being hauled in and put in place. People will soon be able to keep out of the mud.

There is one thing Congress or a Village Corporation can't do. That is keep children from being born barefoot. As long as they are thus born, they will need shoes, and to meet the emergency I have just received a line of first glass shoes for women, men, and children.—Adv.

25 YEARS AGO (1933)

The United States Forest Service road from Kyser's store on Highway No. 28, eight miles west of Franklin, through the Nantahala National Forest to Nantahala station, is to be widened to at least 16 feet all the way and surfaced with stone.

10 YEARS AGO

Miss Clyde Berry was married to Richard Slagle Saturday afternoon at St. John's Episcopal Church on Cartoogechay. Approximately 100 members, representing the 10 Home Demonstration clubs in Macon County, attended the Achievement Day program at the Agricultural Building last Thursday.

Learning From The Presidents

(The New Republic)

The last three Presidents each taught us something—Franklin Roosevelt that one man can be President indefinitely; Truman that anybody can be President; and Eisenhower that we can get on without having any President.

Meat And Potatoes

(Colorado Bulletin Free Press)

What are the meat and potatoes of good government? It's not as complicated as you think . . . Good government is dependent on good men in government. It's as simple as that. If we continue to let our political campaigns degenerate to the level of cat and dog fights or hillbilly road shows, we're asking for the messes in government we've got right now. Slinging the most mud or strumming a guitar are poor qualifications for dog catcher, let alone running the biggest business in the state and nation.

Seek Racial Dispersion

(Trends In Housing, Publication of National Committee Against Discrimination In Housing)

Aimed at developing city-wide patterns of racial dispersion, action groups in a number of communities are developing carefully planned programs for the specific purpose of bringing together white sellers and non-white purchasers of housing far removed from ghetto areas. The majority of the projects are spearheaded by church groups.

In one city of about 200,000 population, the group successfully put 40 non-white families in contact with private sellers or landlords within a period of 24 months (39 Negro, 1 Oriental; 36 purchasers, 4 rentals). The significant point is that the new homes of the non-white families are located in 12 different sections of the town—outside of the three general areas in which Negroes traditionally have resided.

In this particular community, the group describes its activities as follows: 1) it gathers data on the private housing market—available buyers, sellers, cooperating brokers, possible sources of funds, etc.; 2) it puts the prospective buyer in touch with the seller; and 3) it gives advice as to timing and planning, and undertakes to help solve any community problems which may arise.

Brokers who are prepared to show and sell houses without regard to race are sought out and good working relationships developed, where possible. Also, a search is made for cooperative banks and lending agencies. In some cases, financing must be found outside of the local lending market.

This quiet social action process is under way in a score or more towns and cities in various sections of the country. All the programs are directed at establishing a pattern of racial dispersion over the entire community.

MAY REVOLT FLOURISH!

Trend To Conformity, Unchecked, Will Muzzle Free Speech

(Asheville Times)

About 75 years ago Walt Whitman said that the function of the American poet was "to cheer up slaves and horrify despots." Those were glorious words then and even more so today in view of the decline of our nation's influence in a confused and dangerous world. They are as true in a democracy as in totalitarian despotism, into which democracies degenerate when an invisible, painless despotism is exercised over the mind.

When the bold and brilliant columnist Dorothy Thompson retired from journalistic work a short time ago she said: "What has disturbed me most in America since World War II is what seems to be a frightful uniformity of thinking, as though there were only one respectable and permissible viewpoint on any larger public question, this pressure toward conformity coming from regimented groups and organizations bent, not merely on expressing their own convictions,

but on suppressing all others." A new book highly critical of today's America, written by Drew Pearson and his assistant Jack Anderson, has for its title, "USA—Second Class Power?" In it there is this challenge from the authors:

"The emergence of Russia from the wheelbarrow age to the atomic age is the greatest miracle of modern times. The walls of the Kremlin are not like the walls of Jericho. They will not come tumbling down after seven statements by John Foster Dulles. Nor will they yield to a way of life or a social system in which Elvis Presley makes more money than the President of the United States, in which one-third of all prescriptions filled at drugstores are for tranquilizing pills. The road to comfortable conformity and alleged security is not the road to victory over the vigorous and unscrupulous tyrannical government that rules Russia."

If this strange and definitely un-American trend continues unchecked, in this supposed land of the free and the brave, it will eventually herald the end of free speech and the disappearance of the great public debate on vital issues of all kinds which marks vigorous free societies.

It will also deprive those who make policies in government, education, and religious and civic organizations, of the reasoned criticism that holders of power require if they are not to be carried away by the sound of their own voices.

This kind of criticism requires those in position of great power and influence over the masses to give good reasons for what they do, reasons that are acceptable to deliberative intelligence.

We agree with Dorothy Thompson that our nation needs more public debate and discussion on all important controversial questions, not less. "And if we can do with more faith," she says, "we can also do with more skepticism toward the powers that be. These, on analysis, are often revealed as erecting verbal facades over a vacuum of thought and moral courage, and are 'powers' only because of public apathy, the public fear of 'sticking one's neck out,' and the modesty of individuals toward problems that they are warned are too complicated for the ordinary citizen. Such problems, however, when reduced to essentials, are often very simple."

Both Miss Thompson and Drew Pearson are encouraged by indications of a growing revolt in America—among housewives, workers, businessmen, professional people—a revolt against mass thinking and mass opinions, which are always manipulated.

May this revolt flourish, and may our statesmen, educators, clergymen, editors, business and political leaders who prefer to do their own thinking, and to speak their honest opinions, aid and abet the revolt.