

TIME TO ACT
A Gross Injustice

This newspaper is in no position to pass on the accuracy or inaccuracy of a report that links the proposed Nantahala-Duke deal with prior approval of a power rate increase for this area.

Nor do we know the reason for the long delay in seeking State Utilities Commission approval of the proposed sale by Nantahala Power and Light Company of its distribution system to Duke Power Company.

What we do know is that the delay is doing a gross injustice to this whole region. Any uncertainty always is demoralizing; uncertainty about so important a thing as power is seriously demoralizing. In view of that, the length of the delay seems both unreasonable and unconscionable.

The delay has now stretched out to more than a year. Yet the people of this region are told it is still planned to go ahead with the deal, but they are left in the dark about when application for its approval will be filed. It may be another week or another month or another year.

It is time for Nantahala and Duke either to file their application, so the issue can be settled, or to publicly announce that the deal is being abandoned. Elementary fairness demands that.

Here's OUR Chance

For years, a few people here said, and kept on saying, we ought to have a county fair. It was a long time getting going, though, and there were two things that held it back: First, inertia; and, second, doubt that Macon County would support a fair.

Finally, back in 1955, the fair was established; rather, a fair was held that year, as a sort of feeler to see if we could have one.

Since then, the growth of Macon County's fair has been phenomenal. In 1955, for example, there were 300 exhibitors; last year, there were 1,500. And this year — October 13-15 — the fair will be held in its own building; a structure has been erected on a plot, at the old county home, donated by the county commissioners.

The new building, which is so constructed it can easily be enlarged as the demand dictates, and the money makes it possible, will have cost, when the finishing touches are put on, close to \$12,000.

Where did the money come from? Well, it hasn't all come yet; there is a debt of close to \$6,000 on the fair building. Much of the other \$6,000 came from contributions, most of them fairly large contributions.

Where is the rest to come from? Well, the most likely source is the small contributors, the men and women who can't give \$25 or \$10 or even \$5, but can donate \$2 or \$1 or 50 cents. Lincoln said the Lord must have loved the common people, he made so many of them; it also could be said He must have loved those who can make only small contributions to worthy causes, for He made a lot of us like that. There are enough like that, that if even half of them made their contributions, the fair building probably would be paid for. Furthermore, those of us who do give our \$2 or \$1 or 50 cents will feel mighty good about the fair. We can honestly say it is our fair.

Want to help? Then see Mrs. Grace Tatham.

Just The Thought Makes Us Drool
SYLVIA HERALD

Thanks to a favorable season, the busy little bees have produced the biggest crop of sourwood honey in this section since 1947, according to beekeepers. We believe the truth of the statement from the amount of this delicious honey now available. As a usual thing, good, pure sourwood honey is about as hard to come by as money at income tax paying time.

Not only is there a big crop of sourwood but other flavored honey too, say the beekeepers. John Ford, down on Log Cabin Association property, can scare up some 3,000 pounds of fine honey this season. Two of his colonies produced 300 pounds each, and others did almost as well. George Sherman, Fred Hooper and Luther

Fair Association treasurer, at the A. S. C. office in the Agricultural Building; or you can hand your donation to any agricultural worker.

Less Than Convincing

Voting a plea for national unity, Vice President Nixon last week asked for a moratorium on criticism of the present administration's foreign and defense policies, so long as the Red dictators are gathered in New York at the United Nations.

Why just while the dictators are in New York? Does anybody doubt that every word spoken in the campaign is reported to Mr. Khrushchev, wherever he may be?

Mr. Kennedy, as a matter of fact, in an earlier statement, addressed directly to Khrushchev, made it completely clear that criticism by no means implies disunity. As has always been true in this country, we Americans insist upon the right to criticize, but always politics stops at the water's edge.

Since foreign policy and defense are generally conceded to be the major campaign issues, what Mr. Nixon really was asking for was a moratorium on Democratic politicking — while the Republican campaign proceeded apace.

In view of the fact that whatever is said in the campaign is reported the world over, Mr. Nixon's argument against criticism while the dictators are in New York seems a bit thin. His political self-seeking, in the name of national unity, seems more than a bit hypocritical.

Why Not Act As One

It's too late for this year. It's probably too late, even, for next year. But it's not too early to start planning for the year after.

Macon County is a unit. The needs of each part of the county are much the same as those of every part. If one area lags, it holds back all the rest of the county. If one area goes forward, it pulls all the rest of us forward. And so the future of every part of the county is tied in with the future of the county as a whole; and the future of the whole county is tied in with the future of every neighborhood.

Why, then, shouldn't we be working together as a single unit?

Why not a single chamber of commerce for the entire county — a Macon County Chamber of Commerce?

Such an agency not only should and could promote the county as a whole; by adopting some long-range goals, it should and could make sure that the promotion would help build a better, as well as a bigger, community.

The letter from Mr. Fred H. Stewart on this page indicates how ready people of one part of the county are to cooperate with the people of another.

Decline And Fall

In 1874 Gibbon completed his notable work, "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." Here is the way he accounted for the fall of the empire: (1) The rapid increase in divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society. (2) Higher and higher taxes and the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the populace. (3) The mad craze for pleasure, sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal. (4) The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, in the decadence of the people. (5) The decay of religion — faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people.

MINORITY REPORT

Have Schools Shifted Too Much Emphasis To Math And Science?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Gray is director of the Department of Art, East Carolina College, Greenville, N. C.

By WELLINGTON B. GRAY

The nation's press has recently been jammed to overflowing with articles having to do with the need for more education in mathematics and the sciences. This hue and cry from all quarters is the result of increases being made in these two fields, particularly by countries having different political ideologies from that of the United States, notably Russia. To those of us in the field of education, but not particularly in the areas of mathematics and the sciences, this tune is beginning to grow monotonous. While we are the last to say that these two areas are not very important, we do say that there are other areas of learning in the educational world which are just as important to the individual, to his country, and to the free world.

We are living in a very technical age, an age in which distances have shrunk to the point where we are no longer isolated, regard-

Productive

(Asheville Citizen)

Mountain farmers aren't lacking in resourcefulness when it comes to making their farms more productive.

Two years ago, due to a labor shortage, Macon County 4-H'er Jimmy Taylor and his father collected pine cones. They processed, treated and then sowed seed from the cones on cutover woodland. Today the Taylors have a good stand of young pines.

In Swain County, R. Dan Morris converted a section of his poultry house to trout rearing pools, and now has about 30,000 fast-growing fingerlings.

Both are examples of what is being done in modern-day agriculture and what can be accomplished with ingenuity.

Is Foreign Policy THE Issue?

(Ralph McGill in Atlanta Constitution)

The presidential campaign so far has been a careful one of feeling out the country. Neither Nixon or Kennedy, nor their fellow citizens, for that matter, are sure about the mood of the country.

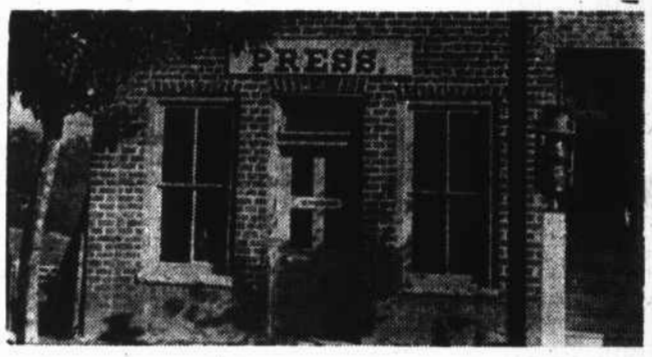
There is unanimous belief there are more undecided voters than at any time in history. The farmers are not yet enthusiastic about the agricultural plans announced by either candidate. The religious issue remains, although Dr. Peale is presently lacking in peace of mind and condemns as "unwise" his participation in the statement against a Catholic for president. The effect of Sen. Kennedy's Houston statement is not yet possible of evaluation.

There is a growing belief that foreign policy is more important than political strategists had anticipated. Both candidates find audiences most responsive to it.

You can straighten a worm, but the crook is in him and only waiting.—Mark Twain.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1895)

H. G. Trotter left Monday with a drove of cattle for market.

Mr. J. Lee Barnard sings "Rock-a-by-Baby" to a new boy.

Major W. H. Higdon, of Ellijay, pressed our pavements with his brogans Saturday.

Last Wednesday a party belonging to the U. S. Geological Survey went into camp at the old Camp Ground one mile from town.

The wire fence men left last Thursday, after selling the rights for all the townships in Macon. They carried away perhaps \$500. Our people will soon be ready for the next patent fake that comes along. But we are a progressive people, you know, and bound to keep up with the procession.

35 YEARS AGO (1925)

Headline: ANOTHER GREAT DEVELOPMENT IN PROSPECT FOR FRANKLIN—Mr. W. D. Almazov and Miss Sophie Albert Purchase from Loner Heirs 2,300 Acres Five Miles West of Franklin on Siler Mill Creek—Plan Magnificent Development—Work to Start at an Early Date.

15 YEARS AGO (1945)

Officials of the Snow Hill Methodist Church have been elected as follows: Carl T. Sorrells, charge lay leader; Clyde N. West, Sunday school superintendent; and Mr. West, Mr. Sorrells, Joel Dalton, Ernest Cabe, Lee Hurst, Mrs. J. L. West, Jr., and J. L. Brogden, stewards.

5 YEARS AGO (1955)

The Franklin Lions Club this week is taking another step toward obtaining house delivery of mail here. Teams from the club are measuring 25-foot lots on, each side of all streets within the corporate limits.

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

These are the opinions and conclusions of one man—and he may be wrong.

They were arrived at, though, over a period of years, after much reading, much thought, much conversation (with Catholics as well as Protestants), and after much honest effort to be objective.

Some people thought, this time, there'd be no "religious question", as there was in 1928. Many people have hoped the issue would just go away. Most people are surprised that, instead, it has assumed a bigger and bigger role in the campaign, more and more loaded with emotion—emotion, incidentally, that is not confined to the partisans of just one side.

Why has it happened?

I think a major part of the explanation lies in a mistaken effort to over-simplify the situation.

We've either said, "The religious question is THE issue". Or we've said: "There IS no religious issue."

We've either said: "NO Roman Catholic should ever be elected President". Or we've said: "EVERY person who even raises the question is a bigot".

Is it as simple as that? I don't think so. I don't think it's a simple question at all, but a complex one.

To analyze the two opposing statements, two paragraphs above: Suppose it were possible to prove that their religion unfitted 99 out of every 100 Catholics. Would it follow that the 100th Catholic was unfitted?

On the other hand, does anybody honestly believe that all who have reservations about a Catholic for President fit Webster's definition of the word "bigot"—"One obstinately, irrationally, often intemperately, devoted to his own church, party, belief or opinion"?

Because partisans on both sides assume it is a simple question—or maybe because they want it to be a simple question, so it can be simply disposed of—many people proceed from premises that I think are inaccurate, if not downright false.

Among the premises that I, personally, reject are these:

1. The Roman Catholic Church is an evil and designing institution, consciously plotting to capture this and all other governments.

I know too many good Catholics who are patriotic enough to oppose such a plot, if they knew about it, and are intelligent enough to know about it, if it existed—I know too many such Catholics to swallow that one.

2. The Catholic Church and clergy never will try to influence government in this country.

I think they will try to influence government in this country —with or without a Catholic President. They will if they're as honest in their convictions as I think they are; they will, certainly, whenever what they consider moral issues get over into the political sphere.

After all, Protestant churches and clergy seek to influence government. Some of them tried, on the prohibition question. And some of them are trying, right now, on a question they may consider a moral one, but which has become a distinctly political question—racial integration. While I have my own reservations about the advisability of churches, as churches, taking part in politics, there is no question in my mind about their right to do so. That

3. A candidate's religion is a purely personal matter—it is none of the voters' business.

Religion is a purely personal matter, for the private citizen. But when a man seeks public office, he forfeits many of the rights of privacy that go with private citizenship. And when the highest office in the land is involved, the voters have not only the right to know everything possible about the candidate, but the duty to consider its influence on him in the past and its possible influence in the future. And since nothing influences most men more than religion, a candidate's religion—or lack of religion—definitely is a proper matter for the voters' consideration.

4. The Roman Catholic Church is "just another sect", differing no more from Protestant churches than one Protestant denomination differs from another.

Ask any Catholic about that! If he's a good Catholic, and if he's honest, he'll be the first to say that the Catholic Church is wholly different from Protestant sects. There is one fundamental difference, as I see it. That difference is this:

Among Protestants, the final decision and the final responsibility, even on spiritual and moral questions, rest with the individual—that is the whole basis of Protestantism. The individual may, and often does, disagree with his church's teaching—usually, he may disagree and still stay in the church.

No Catholic, on the other hand, is permitted by his church to make major decisions, on spiritual and moral matters. The decision, and the responsibility for making it, lies with the church. And Catholics are taught it is their duty to accept their church's decisions as law and as the ultimate truth.

"Ah! but Senator Kennedy," says a pro-Kennedy partisan, "has explicitly said he will not permit his church to influence him in political affairs. Do you think he is a liar?"

No, I don't think he is a liar. I believe he is honest in that statement. I believe he is determined that his political decisions shall be completely free of church influence.

I think there is a legitimate question, though, as to how successful a Catholic may be in carrying out that determination. Not because I think the Pope will give him orders. But because it is impossible for a man to escape the effect of religious training he has had from the cradle; and because a Catholic's training from the cradle has been that, in spiritual and moral matters, he has no right to make his own decisions; and because what are purely moral matters today often are political matters tomorrow.

I do not say that no Catholic could be objective, in the political realm, on such matters as divorce and birth control. But because all Catholics have been taught that divorce and birth control are sinful, and taught that the church's pronouncements on such matters are the law and the truth, I think it would be harder for a Catholic to be objective on such issues.

That brings me to my own, personal conclusion:

I do not rule out Mr. Kennedy, just because he is a Catholic. But in this and future elections, I'll take a hard, second look at a Catholic before voting for him.

I feel about a Roman Catholic for President much as I do about a professional military man for that office. (Whether General Eisenhower, a professional soldier, has made a good or a poor President it is much too early to say) Both are conditioned by authoritarian philosophies—the decisions (in some areas) come down from the top, to be accepted and obeyed without question. Theoretically at least, that is in direct opposition to the democratic concept, where decisions come up from the bottom.

Either a Catholic or a professional military man, it seems to me, has one strike—maybe two—against him. But not three!

His assets, as a man, and as a political leader, should be carefully balanced against that one or those two strikes. Furthermore, after a balance has been struck there, the net result should be as carefully compared with the assets vs. liabilities of his opponent.

Kennedy's Catholicism, in short, is AN issue, but not the only issue. Nor, to my mind, is it the chief issue.

If we could get away from the two conflicting extremes — "no Catholic ever" and "only bigots raise questions"—if we could get away from those attitudes, I believe much of the emotion on this question would evaporate.

Unfortunately, I fear that is not likely to happen.