

WEIMAR JONES
Editorial Page Editor

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ELECTION LESSON

Question Settled

Except in the voting for President—and there all rules failed this year—Macon County went Democratic down the line—for governor, for U. S. senator, for congressman, and for all state officials.

The lone exception was the race for representative.

Mr. J. M. Raby, the Democratic nominee for that office two years ago, received 60 per cent of the total vote cast. Mr. W. A. Cox, this year's Democratic nominee, polled slightly less than 49 per cent. Why the 11 per cent change?

Since Macon normally is about 60 per cent Democratic, it is obvious that Mrs. W. N. Cook, the Republican nominee, was elected by Democrats. Why did so many Democrats cross the party line in this race?

In such contests, the result often is due to a variety of factors. That may be true in this case. It's a good guess, though, that, basically, it was the school issue that defeated Mr. Cox.

Under state law, members of county boards of education are nominated in the Democratic primary, and are appointed by the Legislature. The law says those nominated "shall" be appointed. That is not a good law; it should be changed to provide for election of school board members. But until it is changed, it is the law—the only law we have on the subject.

Mrs. Cook promised to appoint those nominated. But Mr. Cox proposed that a committee recommend school board members, and said he would abide by the committee's decision, regardless of whether it recommended those nominated. Thus the Democratic nominee, a would-be law maker, proposed to ignore the law.

Beyond that, under the Cox plan there was at least the possibility of a complete change in the county school administration, with the disruption of the schools themselves that almost certainly would have followed.

The people didn't want that. They didn't intend to have it happen. They were so determined that it shouldn't happen that a lot of good Democrats voted Republican in this contest.

Should settle that question, once and for all, so it will never arise again. It probably would have been settled last week when voters last week proved that they were for a candidate to even suggest that they were with the schools.

For Optimism

Believed that Nixon won't be the president of the United States—but deeply disappointed by the result.

That slightly flippant comment probably expresses accurately the immediate reaction of millions of Americans when they learned the result of last week's voting. For all the evidence suggests that millions were skeptical of the merits and abilities of both Presidential candidates.

Now that the election is over, these skeptical ones can find many reasons for faith and optimism.

First of all, there is the oft-demonstrated fact that almost any man possessed of conscience strives desperately, when he is given responsibilities, to measure up to them. Except for his apparent lack of any sense of humility, there is every reason to believe Mr. Kennedy will so strive.

There is the prompt offer of President Eisenhower to work with the President-elect toward a smooth change of administrations, and Mr. Kennedy's prompt acceptance of the offer.

There is the way the election result has been accepted by the losers, from Mr. Nixon down to the lowliest voter. This characteristic American willingness to abide by the result suggests that, after January 20, Mr. Kennedy will become, to even the most skeptical, "MY President".

There is the probability that every American, including the skeptics, will hope that Mr. Kennedy proves the skeptics wrong. In view of the gravity of the world situation, in fact, most good Americans will pray that he proves them wrong.

Finally, there is cause for optimism that the question of whether a Roman Catholic can be elected President has been answered. Hereafter, voters will be relieved of their self-consciousness in considering a Catholic candidate.

Now that the question has been answered in the

affirmative, there will be no valid reason for Catholics to vote—as many of them undoubtedly did—for a candidate just because he is a Catholic. Nor will there be valid reasons for Protestants, in order to prove their lack of bigotry, to vote for a candidate—as many Protestants undoubtedly did—just because he is a Catholic.

Old Problem, New Idea

For three-quarters of a century, people have been crying that too many of the young folks were leaving Macon County—yes, and North Carolina and the South.

In all that time, so far as we know, nobody has come up with a really new idea on the subject. In all that time, one idea has been shouted from the housetops: We must make more jobs.

Sounds fine. But somehow it hasn't worked out. There are more jobs in Macon County—and in North Carolina and in the South. But still we're losing young people.

Now, out of Eastern North Carolina, comes a brand new idea. It's so new, it sounds so revolutionary, at first we thought the editor of the Goldsboro News-Argus was writing with his tongue in his cheek. On second reading, we concluded he is serious.

In any case, it's an idea that's new, and so it warrants consideration. The editorial, "Population Loss May Be Good", is reprinted on this page.

Population Loss May Be Good

(Goldsboro News-Argus)

We have been taking a second look at North Carolina's outward migration. We have decided that it may not be as bad as we had thought.

We lose a great number of our people to other states. The census reports begin to tell the story in detail.

And we, along with others, have put on sack cloth and sent up lamentations decrying this outward migration. We have beat our breasts and covered our hair with ashes.

Actually we should have been saying go and peace go with you.

We are all concerned with raising our level of living. To do that we must raise the average income.

To raise the income we must have more jobs. Our high birth rate produces job seekers more rapidly than jobs of any importance have been developing in a changing world.

If we have to divide too few jobs among too many people, we keep the average pay down. For the job pays what the market will carry, it is supply and demand working in the labor market.

We have cried dark tears of regret over the fact that the engineering graduates turned out by North Carolina colleges didn't stay home in sufficient quantity. We said how sad it was that such a big per cent of them went in other states and in other parts of the nation.

But they went because they could get better pay and better opportunity for growth and advancement in their fields. If they had stayed among us, a high percentage of them, the pay for an engineer or scientist in North Carolina would have been less than what it is.

Actually isn't this worth discussing? Couldn't North Carolina raise average income by this approach?

Export an even greater number of our people to other states. Let them go places where they could better themselves, where pay was higher and jobs more plentiful?

It is a crazy suggestion but a state fund to finance displaced families in moving to other areas far from us where jobs are more plentiful, couldn't this relieve some of the expenditures for welfare and relief?

Successful Way To Fail

(Arapa, Colo., News)

The most successful way to achieve failure is to never take a chance.

Vision Of An American

(By Struthers Burt)

Were I to have a vision of a full-fledged American it would be something like this: A man who, with sufficient knowledge of the past, would walk fairly constantly with the thought that he was blood-brother . . . of Washington and Lincoln; of Jefferson and Lee, and of all the men like them. Who would walk, because of this, carefully and proudly, and also humbly, lest he fall them. And with a keen sense of the present and the future would say to himself: "I am an American and therefore what I do, however small, is of importance.

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printing, in this space last week, an article by Thurmond Sensing, we commented it presented a viewpoint that must be taken into account for any real understanding of the South. Expressed below is another and different viewpoint, which also must be taken into account to understand today's South. What follows is excerpts from a recent speech by Gov. Leroy Collins, of Florida, before the Executives' Club of Chicago.)

Economically, Southern standards of living are rising and sectional differences in wages are fast disappearing. And the South and its people, for the first time since the Civil War, now are rapidly acquiring the means by which they can make their full contribution to the national well-being.

It is this story, so often unseen, which demands that Southerners discard the widow's veil, put their lives in still better order and prepare to meet greater and

greater opportunities.

Our days of economic provincialism in the South have ended. Our days of political provincialism are numbered—provided we accept our position as a part of the mainstream of national life, and the leadership responsibilities that go with it.

The South, like any other part of America, cannot grow just in economic wealth. We must also grow in conscience, in moral strength, in dedication to democratic ideals, in loyalty to the nation's goals. These are the ingredients of competent leadership.

Our new dollar potency must be matched by political potency—not the kind that measures its strength by its noise, or by its capacity to produce headlines, but by its influence in achieving national, as well as the regional, well-being.

Out of mankind's gravest perils and struggles have always emerged its finest leadership. —Moses out of Israel's captivity.

LETTERS

Those Court Decisions

Editor The Press:

Your recent editorial ("Confusion Confounded") concerning the Supreme Court's versatility at legal juggling was most interesting. But it should be remembered that, although these conflicting decisions may be as real as they are apparent, there are other considerations.

The original desegregation decision opened the door to sociological and psychological suits for emotional equity. The Supreme Court docket is probably flooded with pending cases of this nature. In a few years, (perhaps even now) children may be instigating legal proceedings for permanent court injunctions, ordering their parents to cease and desist from segregating them from certain playmates. And the parents may retaliate when they are barred from the tennis courts.

As of 1954, any sociological inequity is a potential Supreme Court case. On the part of the justices, this involves a great deal of listening, deciding, and justifying the decision in written reports. The justices, being human, also have their limits beyond which the quantity of their decisions cannot be increased except at the expense of quality.

In addition to the psychological cases, there have also been other matters for decisions . . . censorship of immoral movies, postal distribution of the unedited version of "Lady Chatterly's Lover", authorization of Baltimore health officers' search (without a warrant) of private homes for rats' nests and debris, etc. There is also the extra-legal, and as yet unsolved, problem of effectively discouraging a stubborn flock of starlings from roosting in the apertures of the Supreme Court Building.

These harassments should be kept in mind before condemning the Court for what appears to be an erroneous decision. To him whose case was dropped because his constitutional right to face his accuser could not be complied with, "Be glad you live in America". To the man who is convicted without the slightest idea as to who accused him in the first place, "Better luck next time".

Sylvia, N. C.

C. OWENS

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1895)

Apples are dull sale here now, on account of an over supply. Mr. and Mrs. William Barnard returned Monday from a five weeks' visit to Buncombe County.

Miss Virgie Crawford has been engaged to teach short-hand at the Franklin School, and has a good class.

Mr. W. B. Merritt closed his meat market here last week on account of the time for hog killing having come.

On account of wet and disagreeable weather, there was no preaching at the Methodist Church Sunday.

35 YEARS AGO (1925)

Bill Cunningham and Steve Porter have decided to join forces (merge their stores).—Adv.

Western North Carolina (that part of it lying outside Buncombe County) is seeking to raise its quota of \$150,000 for purchase of land for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

15 YEARS AGO (1945)

Mrs. J. E. S. Thorpe is chairman of the Woman's Division of the Macon County War Loan Drive. The county has a quota of \$150,000.

Anyone having dogwood to cut for shuttles should contact W. H. Waldrop or Gilmer Setser for specifications. Highlands Briar, Inc.—Adv.

5 YEARS AGO (1955)

A. W. Reid, of Franklin, has been appointed by the Department of the Interior to an advisory committee on mica.

Miss Emma Watson, Franklin High senior, is the winner of the Jaycee-sponsored Voice of Democracy contest this year.

TO SEE WHO'S BEEN CAUGHT

A small town is a place where everybody knows what everybody else is doing, but they read the local paper to see if they've been caught at it.—North Carolina Education.

WHY THERE'S NO CONCERN

The American public really isn't concerned about atomic fallout, because so far its has not affected television reception.—Albany Knickerbocker News

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

It was my first box supper, and I was attending it largely through accident. Since I was there, though, I decided I'd be a sport and join the bidding fun.

In those days, nobody here had much money. But being a "town boy," I had more, undoubtedly, than the country boys who attended that school; and I must have made myself highly unpopular as, flaunting my wealth, I bid up the price of box after box. (I had secretly counted my small horde, without taking it out of my pocket, to make sure I didn't bid more than I had.)

At last, the auctioneer announced I had made a purchase. How much I paid I don't remember—something under a dollar, probably; but however much or little it was, it seemed a big price for that day.

It was a shoe box, tied, if I'm not mistaken, with ordinary twine, without wrappings of any kind. Inside were biscuit sandwiches. The biscuits, understand, were good, and so were the sandwich materials. But the box bespoke poverty; nothing in it was "store bought."

It must have been the little girl's first box supper, too, for she was even shyer than I. I can still remember how embarrassingly long were the pauses in the conversation, as she and I ate that lunch.

When I next saw that girl, fortune's wheel had turned. It was only two or three years ago. A resident of the West for many years, she was in Franklin on a visit, and came to the Press office to subscribe for the paper, a fine looking woman, smartly dressed, her whole manner bespoke success.

When she told me her maiden name and that she formerly lived in the Higdonville community, I immediately asked if she remembered the box supper. She immediately replied that she did—and described her box as "a pitiful little thing."

I later learned—nobody would have learned it from her!—that now she was a person of wealth, while I still figuratively must count the money in my pocket before I buy anything!

The best part of this success story—the timid little mountain country girl who had become wealthy—is not that she had been almost fabulously successful. Nor even that, despite her success, she remained a plain, simple, unpretentious person.

The best part of the story is that when Mrs. Jeanette Moses Daley died the other day, there were hundreds, perhaps thousands, who were living fuller, richer lives because of Mrs. Daley's benefactions.

Many of those benefactions, probably, were known only to her. But it is known that, over a period of many years, she contributed generously of her time and her money to a home for girls; a project that invariably excited her ready sympathy.

It is known, too, that she and her late husband, who had no children of their own, reared some two score. When one group of varying ages had grown up, they'd take another group into their home, and then another.

When she died, many, many children, from tots to young adults, lovingly referred to this woman, who was no blood kin, as "Grandmother."

Time For South To 'Put Aside Widow's Veil', Look Ahead

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Out of mankind's gravest perils and struggles have always emerged its finest leadership. —Moses out of Israel's captivity.

—Gandhi out of a great people's spiritual and economic hunger.

—Washington, Jefferson, Madison and the rest of our founding fathers out of colonial oppression and revolutionary birth-pangs.

—Lincoln out of a new nation's attempted self-destruction.

—Churchill out of Britain's hour of impending annihilation.

—Roosevelt out of America's economic collapse.

—DeGaulle out of France's humiliation and despair.

The South will not be impoverished politically. The same necessary circumstances that produced Washington and Jefferson, Madison and Monroe, Marshall, Jackson and all the rest in the South and for the nation are now at work again.

The South will not be content to rely for its primary strength in the nation's political councils upon how long its congressmen have been in office. The South will produce new leaders—lead-

ers tempered on the anvil of adversity and strong in competence and courage.

They will look forward, not backward.

They will be our region's pride.

But more importantly, they will be America's front-line strength.

I have no doubts about the ability of the Southern people to respond to this challenge, to respond to the type of leadership which is capable of bringing out the best in the South.

The people of the South are like the people anywhere else in America—they can, they do, and they will, rise to the occasion, if only given the opportunity.

For they are, above all else, Americans.

I contend this nation—in all its regions and all its states—is ready for the kind of leadership which will restore America to its proper position of preeminence. For the same forces which are at work in the South, developing new leaders, new hope, are also at work

in every region of this land.

I have complete confidence that America can find its true course, that it can unite, that it can regain its self-assurance, that it can surpass itself—and that it most assuredly will.

I have expressed concern about America, and have been severely critical of the failure of our generation to produce the leadership it should have provided. But it is not because I love my country, or my region, any less, but because I love them more.

I believe deeply the greatest service a Southerner can render the South, or that an American can render America, is to seek the fulfillment of the motto of the Episcopal Seminary of the University of the South at Sewanee: "Seek the truth, come whence it may, cost what it will."

The truth is, we have been failing.

The further truth is, we have every reason to be hopeful for the future if we set ourselves to the task.