

THE PILOT

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ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER.

TOWN LIMITS

It used to be the custom here to have town meetings when any big step was proposed in town affairs. Sometimes the meeting was well-attended and really got somewhere in the discussion held, sometimes hardly anyone came and no real expression of opinion was obtained; too often the occasion served merely as a platform for a few opinionated citizens and no real meeting of minds was achieved.

The big step being discussed this year seems to be the matter of extending the town limits and instead of calling a meeting the Town Board has, apparently, acquiesced in the suggestion of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce to hold a straw vote. A map outlining the proposal under discussion was placed in the postoffice and postcards for registering approval or disapproval were mailed to all voters.

This may be a good scheme, and the two organizations deserve credit for cooperating to assist the town in its complicated decision. They may be performing a definite service to their local government and as such will be carrying out one of the purposes, it would seem, for which both groups were organized.

But there is a certain disadvantage, as well as an advantage, to this system of getting an expression of public opinion: It does not allow for any questions to be asked and answered or give an opportunity for discussion. The clear-cut "for" or "against" answer required will be very hard for some to comply with.

Several points appear to need further study. The map placed on the bulletin in the postoffice, shows the extension of town limits which had been considered some time ago. It takes in some of the newly built-up section around the Country Club, but carefully circles the club itself; it takes in a portion of the new development south of town on Highway 1, but not all; on the east side of town it reaches all the way to the road which crosses from the Morganton Road to the Ark School as an extension of the Old Bethesda Road, including several hundred acres of woodlands. This is the map referred to in the Chamber of Commerce letter and therefore must be the property to which the town is ready to extend all city services, according to the statement on the postcard.

When this map was drawn up, the cost of the proposed extension was estimated at around \$100,000. That was a good many years ago, and there is no doubt that the cost would be more than double, now. It was given up then because the cost was thought to be prohibitive, involving as it did reimbursing property owners for all improvements made by them for the services which the town was going to supply. The question of expense, therefore, is bound to arise again: are we any more able to finance such a proposition now than we were then?

The present town limits include areas which are not getting the improvements in town services which have been promised to the proposed new sections. Is it right to go ahead and take on more commitments if the town has not been able to afford the improvements to which it was already pledged?

In looking at the map, doubt arises as to why the Country Club was so carefully left out. This is now a private concern like any other in town; why then the discrimination? Granted that the golf course might well be exempted it is hard to think of any reason why the buildings should be.

What about the extensive woodland areas where there are only a few scattered houses? This is surely not in the same class with the thickly built-up districts such as the Pinedene section. Our community needs a diversity of development, room for the man who wants a big country place, with wild land around him, space for paddocks for his horses and dirt roads for them to exercise on, as well as the man who wants to live in a city block. We ought to have room for both. Also, to leave

out the big eastern section of this proposed extension would measurably reduce its expense to the town. That is a question that needs further study.

So, in asking for a straw vote instead of holding a town meeting, we may have run into a few snags. Perhaps they can be ironed out by the town board, but in any event every opportunity should be offered citizens with varying opinions to express themselves.

For ourselves, we believe we would favor doing the thing by degrees: taking in the thickly settled, obviously "town" sections first where control and zoning is so badly needed. And surely the people already in town who expect town services should get them, regardless of tax valuations, as soon as any new section is admitted.

INJUSTICE

A few weeks ago, a fourteen-year-old Negro boy received a sentence of thirty years for burglary.

There is something terribly wrong here. Surely it is beyond all reason to exact such a heavy penalty for burglary, while to put a young boy into State Prison for any offense at all is an outrage. What chance has he to grow into anything but a criminal and probably a warped, perverted individual as well? How does it happen that a young boy can be thus deprived of any chance to reform and to make something of his life?

David Bryant's history is typical of juvenile delinquents. His parents were separated and he had no home. He had been up for truancy in New Bern, but nothing was done about it. Then, when he was twelve, he was caught and charged with breaking, entering and larceny and was sent to a reform school, from which he escaped to become involved in crime that culminated in the burglary for which he was sentenced. Apparently nothing was ever done in his early years to help him to a decent life. Yet the solicitor who prosecuted the case against him said he "seemed a decent sort of colored boy."

We talk a lot about our progressive country, we boast of our Americanism and claim that injustice and cruelty is not tolerated here, but surely we have something to answer for in such a case as this.

Our state puts millions of dollars into building highways: how much does it put into welfare work, into hiring competent psychiatrists, doctors, social workers, how much into cleaning up slums, into the training of law officers and into hiring men of high type for supervisory work? And how much do we spend on our reform schools and the men who run them?

Governor Cherry has instructed the S. B. I. to investigate David Bryant's case, with the hope, presumably, that additional facts may come to light and enable him to reverse or at least lighten his sentence. This is probably all he can do, but it is doubtful if it can do much good. What is really needed is an investigation of the circumstances that made this boy what he was.

The S. B. I. is hardly the agency to compile the case history of David Bryant and what other state body is qualified to do it? Yet it should be done.

For it is time that we be clearly shown such problems as this, that we realize our responsibility for their occurrence. For such tragedy will go on, young lives will be ruined and society will suffer until we find a better way to watch over and to help the children in the poorer strata of our society.

LIES AND TRUTH

The action of a small group of Tobacco workers in Winston-Salem in writing to Italian workers denouncing American policy in Italy is a sad example of how easy it is for Communist influence to take hold of ignorant men.

Local 22 comprises some of the workers, mostly negroes, of the Reynolds Tobacco Company. The action taken, we are informed was headed by two co-chairmen of the Union, both of whom had been suspected of being Communists. It appears clear that the members of the Union had little notion of what they were voting for or why, or of the immense harm to their country's foreign policy which their act might effect. Their leaders appealed to them on the grounds of prejudice and the long struggle of labor to obtain their just deserts in wages and working conditions.

The message sent to the Italian workers by this Winston-Salem local union was full of lies and it was full of half-truths, and of all the lies the impression it was intended to convey: that it represented the majority of American labor, was the biggest lie of all.

William A. Davis, former head of the War Labor Board, told a Pilot reporter that he considered American labor was this coun-

try's strongest bulwark against communism. Mr. Davis certainly knows whereof he speaks and the actions of all the big labor leaders testify to the accuracy of his statement. But this action of a small local union shows that labor must clean house throughout its ranks.

The labor leaders are trying to do it, but they need help, help in the form of constructive action by employment to remedy conditions that give the communist agitator his toehold in the ranks. For along with all the lies in the statement of the tobacco workers was this paragraph: "Those who make profit out of low wages bred by disunity and hate have kept alive the remnants of slavery and race prejudice. . . we are demanding of our government that they act to bring political freedom and economic justice to the Southern States. . ."

This is clear evidence of the ammunition furnished to communists by the injustices still existing in our body politic.

It is infuriating to every American to read the lies in this statement sent to the Italian workers, but to see that one true statement there in the middle of the lies adds a bitter touch to our otherwise just indignation.

DP BILL, S. 2242

On March 2, 1948, Senator Alexander Wiley (R Wis.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, introduced a bill into his committee entitled "The Displaced Persons Act of 1948." Dean Earl G. Harrison, chairman of the Citizens Committee on Displaced Persons, in a statement to the press, scored the bill as an "unsatisfactory solution" and "insufficient."

Provisions Analyzed

Here are some of the provisions which he emphasized make the Wiley bill dangerously defective:

1. The Wiley Bill provides that 50,000 displaced persons be admitted each year for two years. The bill is so worded that there can be no carry-over from the first year to the second in the event the full number cannot come here the first year. Since the first year starts on July 1, 1948, it will require almost superhuman efforts to get administrative machinery rolling to obtain entrance for the full number, particularly in view of other provisions which make administration extremely difficult.

2. No displaced person may be considered eligible unless he is assured in advance of arrival of suitable employment and decent housing which will not displace anyone else, from a job or a home. There is no doubt that adequate housing and job opportunities exist for displaced persons. But to insist that an individual 3,000 miles away can be employed and housed sight unseen, is to pose an enormous difficulty. Multiply that difficulty 100,000 times, and the task of administration becomes formidable.

3. Perhaps the most objectionable provision of the Wiley Bill is that which states that to be eligible a displaced person must have entered the American, British, or French zones of Germany, Austria and Italy between September 1, 1939 and December 22, 1945. December 22, 1945 is the date on which President Truman directed that visas for the Central European countries be used for displaced persons. The State Department has since changed that date to April 21, 1947 to include later arrivals who qualify in all other respects as displaced persons. To revert to the December 22, 1945 date means that both the Jews who fled anti-Semitic terror in Poland early in 1946, and refugees from Communism in the last two years, are excluded from admittance to this country.

4. At least 50 per cent of the visas granted must be to displaced persons formerly engaged in agriculture. This provision means that if each DP farmer brings one dependent with him, the entire quota, is used by farmers and their families. As farming represents but one-eighth of the useful occupations of displaced persons, this is a clearly discriminatory clause.

5. Another preference, operating independently of the agricultural preference, is that at least 50 per cent of the visas must be given to persons whose place of origin or country of nationality was "annexed by a foreign power." This is equally discriminatory, for it gives to a minority of the DPs who come from the Baltic States and Eastern Poland half the visas. But it has an even more far reaching effect—it recognizes the annexation of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Eastern Poland. Since it is this country's established foreign policy not to recognize these annexations, the Wiley bill contravenes our country's foreign policy.

In short, the Wiley bill discriminates against displaced persons on grounds of religion, nationality and occupation. If such a bill were passed it would be

Dawson To Be Presiding Officer At NCEA Meet, Asheville, April 15-17

More than 2,000 teachers, principals, and superintendents, representing 18,000 white teachers of the state, are expected to attend the 64th annual state convention of the North Carolina Education association to be held at Asheville, April 15, 16, 17.

Three general sessions, four major divisional meetings, and 29 departmental meetings will be held, in addition to the usual luncheons, banquets, and social events. Outstanding state educators and visiting guest speakers will appear on the various programs.

Acting President A. C. Dawson, Jr., Southern Pines high school teacher, and lone candidate for the presidency, will preside over all general session meetings, which will be held in the Asheville municipal auditorium. State divisional and departmental heads will preside at the meetings scheduled for superintendents, for principals, for classroom teachers, for the division of higher education, and for the subject matter groups.

The first general session will be held Thursday at 8 p. m. Acting President Dawson will call the convention to order and Fred Bishop, Roxboro Bible teacher, will deliver the invocation. Greetings will be extended by Mayor Clarence E. Morgan, Asheville, and J. W. Byers, superintendent of Asheville city schools.

An added feature to all general session programs will be group singing and entertainment by Cullen Johnson, announcer and entertainer of radio station WRAL in Raleigh. Johnson is a former teacher and principal, and is well known for his popular radio feature, "Hymns of Faith."

Two addresses will highlight this first general session. Dr. W. H. Plemmons, State Education Commission executive secretary, will report on the work of his commission. Dr. E. B. Norton, deputy commissioner, U. S. Office of Education, will address the convention on the topic, "Teacher

clear evidence that we do not practice the democracy we preach. We would be giving Soviet Russia another weapon in the "cold war."

Congressional supporters of constructive legislation for displaced persons have promised that when the Wiley bill reaches the floor, they will try to get it amended in such a way as to eliminate the discriminatory clauses. It is to be strenuously hoped that they will carry out their promise. Passage of the Wiley bill in its present form would be a betrayal of these people so tragically situated. As such it would constitute a betrayal, as well, of American principles of decency, honor, and kindness.

GRENVILLE CLARK SAID:

"With us, it is too commonly assumed that it is Russian perversity alone which stands in the way of world order. I do not minimize their obduracy, born of many elements, including deep fears and suspicions. I do not even know—no one does—that the Russian rulers will not try for world domination. How foolish to deny that this may be so. But how foolish and also irresponsible to assert that it must be so and that the cause of peace is hopeless until after the atomic war.

"In any case, however grimly we choose to view the Russian attitude, we ought to recognize that it is not merely the Russians but also ourselves whom we have to persuade."

CORD MEYER, JR. SAID:

"This transformation of the U. N. from a weak league into an effective federation requires deep changes in our traditional ways of thinking. It will not be easy, and we have very little time. I do not say that war will occur next month or next year, but I think we all must recognize that we are rapidly approaching a critical point when competing programs of national propaganda and preparedness will have swept us past the last hope of escape. We who are alive today have a brief period of grace in which we must decide the fate of generations to come."

JUSTICE RUTLEDGE SAID:

"The federal principle, applied to create liberty under law, is the basic tool by which our people have attained this goal. I believe that it may be used for satisfying the universal need now so apparent. May we and others have the vision, the will, and the courage of the founding fathers to do this." (From "A Declaration of Legal Faith")

of addresses by Dr. Edwin Mims, Vanderbilt University, and Josephina Niggl, lecturer and author, Chapel Hill. The convention will adjourn at noon Saturday, April 17. Other departments will likewise build their programs around materials of special interest to the members of the respective groups.

It's a Mariane Carol shirtdress perfection.

stitched in detail the undateable goodness is all there . . . yoked shoulders, Shirred for action; an easy, gored skirt; nice lean lines. Lots of geometric stitching to underscore its well-made look. Celanese* rayon crepe or Pima combed cotton in a handful of springtime colors.



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